

Polish Rights Group appeals China for meaningful dialogue on Tibet

TibetNet[Tuesday, May 20, 2008 16:32]

Polish Rights Group, Ombudsman, expresses concern over human rights violations in China and appeals to Chinese authorities to start meaningful negotiation with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to resolve issue of Tibet

London - The members of the polish citizen rights group - Ombudsman - have appealed to Chinese authorities to start meaningful negotiations with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in order to resolve the issue of Tibet.

A declaration concerning human rights violation in China was issued at a meeting held on the 20th anniversary of establishing the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection of the Republic of Poland in the Royal Castle, in Warsaw, on 18 May.

Some 300 participants, including representatives from foreign ministry, president, archbishop and Ombudsman in EU countries, attended the meeting.

"We must stress the universality of human rights as well as the fact that respect for human rights lies in the very heart of international community of which China is a part. We are particularly alarmed by information regarding human rights violation in China, which as we know it, do not occur occasionally," the declaration noted.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on numerous occasions appealed to the international community not to boycott the Olympic Games in Beijing.

The declaration further said: "We are convinced that dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and possibly inviting him to the Olympic Games opening ceremony would be interpreted not only as a sign of good will of Chinese authorities, but may also serve as an argument for those leaders who have refused to attend this important ceremony - a festival of sport and peace."

Polish Ombudsman is an independent central office of the Republic of Poland. The office was first established on 1 January 1988. Its functioning is regulated by the Constitution and an act of Polish parliament (Sejm) from 15 July 1987.

Following is the full text of declaration

A DECLARATION OF OMBUDSPERSONS, GATHERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE IN POLAND, CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA

The development of China as we witness it within the last couple of years-remains an admirable phenomenon. Economic growth, technological and social advance have reached a level beyond expectations. Unparalleled life-quality leap in China has also affected the Chinese. Their lives have been positively changed: both from the technological and economic perspective. These changes rightfully make the Chinese people happy and proud.

Having due respect towards civilization and historical particularly of China, and bearing in mind that the Chinese culture significantly differs in its concept of an individual, society or

the relation between the two, we must stress the universality of human rights as well as the fact that respect for human rights lies in the very heart of international community of which China is a part. We are particularly alarmed by information regarding human rights violation in China, which as we know it, do not occur occasionally.

To the contrary, entire social or ethnic groups tend to be subject to oppression. Today, in the eve of an exciting event, the Olympic Games, we must remember how ruthlessly the Tibetan nation is being suppressed in their struggle for autonomy. We must remember a million Chinese peasants whose rebellions have been violently put out. We must also remember the situation of different religious groups that are being persecuted in China, particularly in Tibet.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, The Dalai Lama, on numerous occasions appealed to the international community not to boycott the Olympic Games in Beijing. The ombudspersons, who have gathered on the 20th anniversary of establishing the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection of the Republic of Poland here in the Royal Castle in Warsaw, in the place where over two hundred years ago a Constitution of 1791 was proclaimed, appeal to Chinese authorities to start meaningful negotiation with the Dalai Lama in order to resolve the Tibet conflict as soon as possible. We are convinced that dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and possibly inviting him to the Olympic Games opening ceremony would be interpreted not only as a sign of good will of Chinese authorities, but may also serve as an argument for those leaders who have refused to attend this important ceremony-a festival of sport and peace.

Report filed by Office of Tibet, London