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*for the South East of England*



Commissioner Cathy Ashton  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

13<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Commissioner Ashton,

I am writing to express my concerns about the ongoing situation in Eastern Tibet, particularly the issue of self-immolation in the region in protest against Chinese government oppression. I have also received several letters from constituents who are also concerned about this issue.

As you may be aware, several people have set themselves on fire in a desperate protest against oppression in the Ngaba region of Tibet. The response from the Chinese government has been extreme, with reports of brutal repression and the stationing of armed police around the Kirti Buddhist Monastery.

In October last year, the European Parliament adopted a resolution (P7\_TA-PROV(2011)0474), *Tibet, in particular self-immolation by nuns and monks* stating these concerns and calling on the Chinese government to respect the human rights of Tibetan people. This sent an important message that the EU stands up for human rights but I believe that more can and should be done. The situation in Tibet remains tense and unresolved, with 3 further instances of self-immolation already in 2012, all 3 of whom are believed to have died. The continued use of self-immolation and its spread to more provinces is extremely concerning.

I would like to reiterate my own and the Green/EFA group's strong support for human rights across the world and to ask you to publicly request that the Chinese government take the following action:

- confirm the well-being and location of the surviving self-immolation protesters: Lobsang Kalsang, Lobsang Konchok, Norbu Damdul and Kalsang Wangchuk.
- Withdraw the security personnel from Kirti Monastery
- Allow the Tibetan people to practise their religion freely
- Allow independent international media and human rights monitors to visit Ngaba

I urge you to take this action and to do anything else that you can to raise this issue and end any human rights abuses that are occurring.

Kind regards,



Keith Taylor - Green Party MEP, South East England.