



PRESS RELEASE

Tibetan Youth Congress to observe the year 2009(Tibetan year 2136 of Earth Ox) as Black year.

Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), at the onset expresses its solidarity with our brothers and sisters inside Tibet who for the past fifty years have suffered and valiantly endured the torment of separation from their most beloved leader and government.

China began its invasion of Tibet in 1949 and a decade later Tibet was completely occupied by the communist forces, leading to the agonizing partition of the Tibetan people. Since then our brethren in Tibet have suffered under china's oppressive regime where the fear for one's life and security is clear and present at all times. Yet in these most difficult times, Tibetans inside Tibet have steadfastly upheld the truth of our history in its most pristine form and committed in securing the future of our nation by standing firm in our rightful fight for independence. Being in the vanguard of our struggle to reinstate our nationhood, tens of thousands of Tibetans have sacrificed their precious lives.

Furthermore, the year 2008 saw the glorious, peaceful and widespread uprising of Tibetan from the entire plateau against China's occupation and oppression. In doing so, our Brethren unequivocally presented the case of Tibet's sovereignty to the world and a genuine aspiration of the Tibetan people to free themselves from the shackles of colonialism. China responded to the huge embarrassment that it face internationally by clamping down hard on the peaceful Tibetans, killing hundreds and imprisoning thousands more. The situation inside Tibet shrouded with massacre, torture and repression since March, 2008 continues to this day. China has started its "Strike Hard" Campaign inside Tibet and thousands have been already rounded off in the capital city (Lhasa). PRC authorities have deployed additional troops all across the Tibetan plateau and arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and killings are already taking place in Dege, Zogang, Lithang, Nagchuka and other places for slightest peaceful expression of aspirations or resentments.

So as to recognize and honor the sacrifices of our martyrs and to express our solidarity with the brave men and women of Tibet who continues to withstand unimaginable hardship to uphold the sovereignty of our nation and identity of our people, TYC declares that it will not celebrate the Tibetan New Year 2009. This year also marks the 50 years of China's occupation of Tibet and on 10th March, when we are commemorate the 50th anniversary of our National Uprising Day, China will surely turn Tibet into pageantry for its so-called "Serf Emancipation Day." While we prepare to honor the tens of thousands of Tibetans who were killed in last five decades, and the

hundreds who were killed in last year's protests, China seeks to turn them into pawns, even if posthumously, in their propaganda of lies and deceits about Tibet. The regional Tibetan Youth Congress, Portland /Vancouver is organizing the following campaigns to show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters inside Tibet:

1. 02/25/09 (Day one of Tibetan New Year): TYC will be holding Prayer session at Pioneer Courthouse followed by a rally from 03:00PM to 05:00PM in downtown Portland. This will be followed by Candle light Vigil from 05:00PM to 08:00PM.
2. 02/26/09 (Day two of Tibetan New Year): Prayer and Vigil from 05:00PM to 08:00PM at Pioneer Courthouse.
3. 02/27/09 (Day three of Tibetan New Year): Prayer and Vigil from 05:00PM to 08:00PM at Pioneer Courthouse.
4. 03/14/09 (Martyr's Day): Anniversary of 2008 Uprising in Tibet. Hunger Strike from 09:00AM to 06:00PM at Pioneer Courthouse followed Candle Light Vigil from 06:00 PM to 08:00 PM.
5. MARCH 10th 2009: National Uprising day:
This year RTYC Portland/Vancouver will be joining the San Francisco Tibetans and Supporters to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of National uprising day. We are urging all Tibetans to travel down to San Francisco for this important day in our history. Because of the magnitude and importance of this day, Tibetans in North America and Canada are observing this Day at specific and important locations to send the loudest possible message to the world.

In recognition of the historical truth of Tibet's independence and the ultimate aspiration of the Tibetan people, through this campaign, TYC calls upon China to end the illegal occupation of Tibet and to immediately release all political prisoners of Tibet. TYC also appeals to the world at large, the UN and United States government to lend their invaluable support to bring forth constructive development in the Tibetan freedom struggle movement.

Even after 60 years of China's repressive regime, the underlying courage and indomitable spirit of the Tibetan people has kept the Tibetan struggle alive and succeeded in lessening the distance between Tibetans inside and outside Tibet.

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