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TIBETAN YOUTH CONGRESS

Statement of the Tibetan Youth Congress on the 49th Tibetan National Uprising Day

We commemorate with pride the 10th of March, in the annals of our freedom struggle as a glorious reflection of the unwavering courage and nationalism of our people in upholding the sacred values of Tibet's independence against the tyranny of China.

Communist China began the invasion of Tibet in 1949 with the evil design of changing Tibet's course of history and by the end of the next decade had already conquered Tibet's capital Lhasa, imposing a direct threat to the being of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Tibetan people realizing the threat to their sovereignty and freedom rose up against the oppression of China in an uprising of over tens of thousands of Tibetans in the capital city of Lhasa on March 10, 1959. We commemorate today, the 49th anniversary of the pledge that our brethren made with their invaluable sacrifice. TYC salutes and pays profound homage to those brave Tibetan men and women who laid down their lives for our freedom and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Tibetan freedom struggle.

The aspiration and desire for complete independence in the heart of every Tibetan, despite Chinese atrocities, found its greatest expression in the recent instances of utmost sacrifice by Rungye Adrak and the young students of Borei school in Tibet and Implement of Order no 5 on china new Religious measure of reincarnation. And the continuous sacrifices made by our brethren in Tibet serve as a resilient reminder for Tibetans all over the world to re-dedicate our efforts for the triumph of our struggle.

Founded with the goal of achieving an independent Tibet, TYC for the past 38 years has fought all odds and eventualities and steadfastly stood by its goals. And to achieve these goals, TYC continues to launch various campaigns in our exile community and strive to raise the issue of Tibetan independence at every international platform.

Our enduring freedom struggle not only stands testimony to the history of Tibet and the past 60 years of struggle against Chinese oppression but also forms the only hope for Tibet to exist as a separate people and entity. TYC believes that the unity of Tibetan people with the true realization of our responsibilities and the adversaries forms the crux of our freedom struggle. We therefore urge Tibetans all over the world to merge and consolidate our forces in the restoration of our nationhood.

Even after more than six rounds of confidence building talks between the Tibetan government and its Chinese counterparts, the sincere efforts on the Tibetan side have been countered with intensified repression in Tibet and an unwarranted escalation in the constant vilification of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. To the knowledge of the Tibetan people, the ongoing engagement process has yielded no positive change or progress so far. Keeping in mind Kalon Tripa Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche's recent emphasis on the advent of the time for making historic decisions in the course of the ongoing dialogue process, we beseech our leaders to give utmost importance to the truth of history and not to lose our invaluable time.

In stark contrast to the Chinese propaganda of developments, prosperity and freedom in Tibet, the ground reality of the killing of over 1.2 million Tibetans, gross repression and human rights violation, wanton illegal and arbitrary arrest of Tibetans, closure of religious institutions, censor of websites and media, exploitation and destruction of mineral resources in Tibet warns of the onset of a second Cultural Revolution in Tibet. The recent completion of the Gormo-Lhasa railway too has intensified China's destructive and imperialist mission in the exploitation of natural resources and an unimpeded population transfer in Tibet. This has further created an upsurge and proliferation of the ethnic assimilation of Tibetans.

Today we are at the threshold of a historic moment. The forthcoming Olympics provide us an invaluable opportunity to unveil the true face of the Chinese repression and to highlight the grim situation inside Tibet. TYC believes that the Olympics primarily provide a great opening to reinvigorate our struggle for the restoration of an independent Tibet.

On this 49th commemoration of Tibetan National Uprising day, we must remind ourselves of our glorious history wherein Tibetans have emerged as one of the most successful and prominent races in Asia. We must take great pride that even in this worst period of our history; we have successfully challenged China's tyranny with absolute perseverance and determination. TYC therefore calls upon every Tibetan to rededicate oneself to our goal of freedom struggle with greater commitment and sacrifice.

BOD GYALO....

Central Executive Committee
Tibetan Youth Congress

