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**HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S
ATTENTION**

**Written statement* submitted by Interfaith International,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2008]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Extra-judicial Killings of Tibetans:

What witnesses are saying*

Interfaith International submits this written statement highlighting what witnesses have, many at great risks, told Radio Free Asia about the on-going urgent human rights situation faced by the Tibetan people after a brutal crackdown which reports say has taken the lives of more than 200 Tibetans:

"Choedrub, from the Hongkor monastery in the Golog [in Chinese, Guoluo] Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, was shot on April 28 by Chinese security forces. He had been involved in earlier protests and had gone into hiding. After he returned to his home to collect food some time toward the end of April, Chinese police surrounded the house and killed him. On May 4, we learned that Wangdrol, Choedrub's mother, was also shot and had two bullet wounds. Both parents, a sister, three brothers, and an incarnate Rinpoche from the same family were detained. Only two younger members of the family are left behind. Choedrub's father was shackled and brought to see the body of his son. Chinese officials have declared that all the family's property will now be seized by the government."
- A Tibetan caller from India, citing his own sources in Tibet, May 5, 2008

"I want to be very candid. Tibetans inside Tibet sacrificed so many lives in these protests. They did it for a reason, and that reason was freedom. They did it for all Tibetans. This touches me deeply. I myself am a Tibetan, but a member of the Chinese Communist Party, and I work in an office. When I saw these sacrifices, I was greatly affected. One of the reasons I have for calling your radio is to appeal to all Tibetan organizations and to the Kashag [the cabinet of the Tibetan government-in-exile] to find ways to resolve the Tibetan issue. Now, the situation in Tibet is pathetic and very urgent.

- From a caller in Tibet who said he is a member of the Communist Party, April 17, 2008

"It is very difficult to give an exact number of people who were killed. One of the main reasons is that many were killed in the area of the Jokhang, and many of these had come from the Kham and Amdo regions to Lhasa for different reasons. Most of them did not have residence permits. Therefore, because of a lack of documentation, there is no way to verify who was killed. Over 100 Tibetans were killed. Many of my friends saw Tibetans being killed. In the beginning, many injured Tibetan protesters were taken to Chinese hospitals, where they were treated. Later, when injured Tibetans were taken to hospitals, they were detained instead of receiving medical attention. In fact, on the second day of the protests, even Tibetans who had bruises were treated as suspects and detained. So Tibetans who were injured had no choice but to wait for death."

- From a caller in Tibet, April 14, 2008

"On March 14, I personally saw six Tibetans who had been killed in one day. [At] Ani Tsangku in Lhasa there is a hospital. People told me that five or six Tibetans died there. When some Tibetans went to see them, they saw the bodies along with offerings of lamps. Some Tibetans I knew were also killed. One, a Tibetan from Lophuk named Lhakpa Tsering, used to drive tourist vehicles. His friends called him by the nickname Hala Hala. He was hit in his head and died. While I was in the crowd, I heard someone shout 'I'm hit!' When he came closer, I saw that his pants had been punctured with several holes. The police used special ammunition that mushrooms when it hits its target. Later, this man

fainted, and his face turned yellow. I told the people nearby to bind his leg with a scarf. When I went to fetch some water for him, I saw another Khampa who had been hit and was bleeding. Later, I heard that the young boy died. He was only around 16. He had not even been in the protests. Even Lhakpa Tsering, who was killed, had gone to the hospital to see his mother and was shot on his way back. There was also a young girl of about 16 who had been shot. Her whole body was covered in blood—we could see only her white hand. Her mother was crying, since the girl was her only child. When other Tibetans tried to console her by putting some money in a box, she threw the box away. She said that her daughter had died in a good cause and that she had no regrets. While I was still in Lhasa, I heard that the city government had issued a wanted list of several persons. The first on the list was the Khampa who had stood on the Chinese vehicle and called on the Tibetans to rise up. Later, I heard he had been arrested at the airport. He was alive when he was taken in for interrogation, but he was brought out dead. A second person was brought out with broken arms and legs, and no one knew whether he was alive or dead. In the midst of the commotion, it was hard to tell who was alive or dead and who was taken away. I saw some Chinese with head injuries. Then, my sister told me that she had seen nine Tibetan bodies in the area of Lophuk. I myself saw a Tibetan woman and a man lying dead in Ani Tsangku hospital. When I arrived at the Lhasa City People's Hospital, I saw three Tibetans being brought in. One of the injured was Tenzin Norbu from Kham Pelbar. His sister brought him in, and I recognized him. He had been shot in the head, and the hospital suggested that he should be taken to the TAR People's Hospital. He was vomiting and may not have survived. That boy was very young—about 21 or 22—and according to his sister he was a student in a school just below Sera monastery. Another youth had also been shot in the head. He was bleeding heavily, and there was little hope for his survival. Another Tibetan youth had been hit in the hip and had about four bullet wounds. I saw them myself. I heard gunshots on March 14, 15, 16. One of those who died in Lophuk was Lhakpa Tsering. He was known to us. He is survived by a young daughter. He was from Toelung Dechen and worked as a driver. He died on Friday and his funeral was planned for the following Monday, but local officials took his body for a post mortem because of the gunshot wound to his head. Later, they handed over some ashes in place of his body. Most of the Tibetan families whose loved ones were killed could not be traced. It was difficult to know whether they were alive or dead or under detention. Most of the dead bodies were taken away and disposed of by the Chinese."

-Tibetan woman who lives in Australia who participated in RFA-Tibetan's Round Table discussion April 5. She was in Lhasa during the protests.

"They were killed by troops on March 14." -Tibetan woman in Zhuoni (in Tibetan, Chone) county (Gannan/Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Gansu province), confirming that monks were killed by Chinese forces during an earlier protest in the area, speaking with RFA's Mandarin service, March 31, 2008 "On Monday, about 1,000 people, including hundreds of monks from the Jueri [probably Chogri, in Tibetan] monastery and nuns from the Woge [probably Ngokhog, in Tibetan] nunnery, took part in a protest in Luhuo county [Ganzi/Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture]. Chinese police killed a lama. They fired shots at the lamas and killed one. He was chanting 'Free Tibet!'"

-Tibetan monk, speaking to RFA's Mandarin service, March 26, 2008

"On March 20, Chinese security forces arrived in the town of Kiku in Serthar (Seda, in Chinese) county. There were about 1,000 of them. They tried to pull down the Tibetan flag that had been raised by

protestors at the town headquarters building on the 17th, and when the protestors peacefully resisted, the security forces opened fire, killing two protestors. Their names were Kyari and Tsedo. Both were from Tseshul village. Another eight persons, including Yeshe Dorje and Tabke, were seriously wounded and were taken to Serthar county hospital. In the same county, over 1,000 Tibetans led by monks from Serthar Sera monastery began a protest march, walking about 30 miles to the point where the two Tibetans were killed. They carried Tibetan flags and pictures of the Dalai Lama and shouted slogans like 'Long Live the Dalai Lama!,' 'Human Rights for Tibet!,' and 'Tibet is Independent!' They also distributed leaflets calling for Tibetan independence. The security forces threatened them with 'serious consequences,' but the protestors are determined to continue with their peaceful demonstrations. So far, there have been no [additional] shootings."

- Source in Serthar, interviewed by RFA Tibetan service, March 21, 2008.

"There is no peace in Karze city. As of yesterday, one person was killed and nine were beaten and taken away. The families of those who were taken away have no hope of seeing their relatives alive; they are just waiting for the bodies. However, the families have no regrets and believe that they have died for a good cause. Meanwhile, seven more Tibetans were arrested: Gyurme, Penpa, Dorje, Jamyang, Kunga, Chime Gonpo, and Namsa Wangden. No Tibetan is allowed to move freely near the main Karze County Center-only the People's Armed Police (PAP) can go there. The local county government officials have no authority, and administrative control has been taken over by the PAP. Local people saw the arrival of 40 new vehicles and two planes and estimate that close to 10,000 armed police are now here."

-Tibetan witness in Karze

"A total of 18 dead bodies were confirmed in the Ngaba [Aba] protests. In Kirti monastery alone, 15 bodies were brought in for final death-rites. Three bodies were also confirmed in a neighboring nomadic area. There are many other monasteries in the Ngaba area, and other bodies could have been brought to these monasteries for final rites. So 18 deaths are confirmed for this area...They don't dare go to Chinese hospitals and are receiving treatment at home."-Tibetan witness account "More than 200 monks from Dargye monastery came out to protest, but a Chinese spy informed the Chinese authorities. So when the protesters were marching towards Karze downtown, the Chinese police stopped them on the way. The monks protested, and one monk was killed by gunfire."

-Tibetan source in Karze [Ganzi], Sichuan province

"I told you earlier about a man who died from a gunshot. Yesterday, his family had planned to take his body away for a funeral, but then the police came to their house and seized the dead body. The police told the family that they are taking away all the dead bodies to conduct post-mortem and other investigation. They were also told that all the dead bodies in the recent unrest will be cremated together, and that prior to the cremation, the individual families will be contacted and that they will be allowed to pay a visit to the cremation site after the cremation. With this, the dead body was forcibly taken away with the family powerless to do or say anything."-Tibetan eyewitness in Lhasa "Four Tibetans were killed by sniper fire while they were marching near Kirti monastery. Then a little later, another three were killed. They were shot from a distance. Before they were shot, the protesters had smashed the windows at two police posts....There looked like 5,000 to 6,000 protesters....The names of the three people killed later are Tsezin, Norbu, and Lobsang Tashi."

-Tibetan protester from Ngaba [in Chinese, Aba] prefecture, Sichuan province

"Five Tibetans succumbed to injuries at the nunnery hospital in Lhasa-it's the Tsangkhug nunnery in Lhasa. Two Tibetans who were at the hospital were injured and they complained their legs were broken. The body of a young boy is still lying here unclaimed. Several other dead bodies were brought, and many of them were claimed by relatives."

-Source inside Tsangkhug nunnery, Lhasa

"I am in the Lhasa area. There was shooting today. Many Tibetans who were dead and barely alive were collected at the TAR [Tibet Autonomous Region] Security Office area, and I heard from a reliable source that there were 67 bodies. Some were alive and most were dead when they were brought in... This included male and female, and I don't have the details. But it's confirmed that there were in total about 67 bodies collected at this place. I cannot tell you the source of my information, but 67 bodies were seen by my source. It was officially announced by TAR officials that martial law was imposed. Right now I can hear shootings. We saw many tanks. Sometimes they fire in the air to threaten the Tibetans. At some places, like the Karma Kunsel area [near Lhasa], they are firing right now. Every Tibetan is stopped and their IDs are checked. Even Tibetan government workers are checked, but the Chinese are free to move around."

- Tibetan sources who spoke with RFA on Saturday, March 15, 2008:

"It is difficult to give an exact figure for a death toll, but if we total up the deaths from different information, more than 100 Tibetans were killed. As of Saturday morning, the Chinese authorities are imposing martial law and arresting and detaining any Tibetan who comes out in the street and dumping them in jail. There is no sign of calm and stability in Lhasa at this point of time."-Source in Lhasa "Today when the Tibetans were demonstrating, many Tibetans were killed. We Tibetans had no weapons to fight back. When the Tibetans were gathered in front of the Jokhang [temple], the Chinese fired at us. I have personally seen more 100 Tibetans killed when the Chinese fired at the Tibetan crowd. It was the Chinese army who fired and that happened in Lhasa and I personally witnessed the tragedy. Many of those killed were young Tibetans, both boys and girls. ...It started around 10 a.m. ... Young kids, youths, male, female, and old, Tibetans of all ages were taken away to jail. The Tibetans who participated in the protests were from the whole Lhasa area. When I looked back all the Chinese shops were destroyed. I think not one Chinese shop is intact in the Barkhor area. All kinds of things were piled up on the main road and burned. Many vehicles were burned and destroyed. When I look right now, I can still see smoke. The Tibetans collected all the dead bodies in front of the Jokhang [temple] and offered prayers, and scarves. Those family members whose relatives were among those killed took their bodies away. None of my family members are among the killed but I was almost killed too, and many bodies looked familiar. If anybody moves around in town they get arrested and killed. I think the number of Tibetans killed could not be less than 100, as I reported earlier. Those who are dead sacrificed their lives for 6 million Tibetans."

- Friday, March 14, a Tibetan witness who joined the Lhasa protests reported.

In view of the above reports, Interfaith International expresses deep concern on the ongoing human rights violations taking place in Tibet since 10 March. Given the grave situation and lack of information coming out of Tibet, Interfaith International calls upon the Council to urge China to invite International observers especially UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to take stock of ground realities. The council must also urged China to

provide unfettered access to journalists in all affected areas in Tibet due to recent peaceful protests staged by Tibetans.

* Radio Free Asia's "What Witnesses Are Saying" is available at:

http://www.rfa.org/english/news/latest_update_tibet
