



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

UN Human Rights Council urged to ask China to allow an investigation into the coercive labor program in Tibet by independent human rights experts

<https://savetibet.org/un-human-rights-council-urged-to-ask-china-to-allow-an-investigation-into-the-coercive-labor-program-in-tibet-by-independent-human-rights-experts/>

March 15, 2021

Today at the 46th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Kai Mueller delivered a statement on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR), asking it to ask China to allow an investigation into its coercive labor program in Tibet by independent human rights experts, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Following is the text of the statement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth Regular Session
March 15, 2021

Item 4: General Debate - Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Statement delivered on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Madam President,

We believe the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet warrants serious concern and action by this Council.

Large-scale mandatory “vocational training” programs in the Tibet Autonomous Region pushed more than half a million rural Tibetans off their land and into military-style training centers last year. After their coerced training, Tibetans were sent into low-wage factory and construction work in other parts of Tibet and China.

This coercive labor program is based on discriminatory assumptions about Tibetans’ “backwardness” and the need to “reform” their thinking and cultural identity, while making them loyal to the Chinese Communist Party. It seeks to reduce the influence of Tibetan Buddhism, and to force Tibetans to abandon their traditional way of life under the pretext of poverty alleviation. This program mirrors similar policies in Xinjiang. While the objective of elimination of poverty is commendable, policies should not use force or coercion, and should consider the needs and desires of affected individuals and communities.

The Chinese Government should be held accountable by this Council for these grave human rights violations.

We request this Council urge China to allow an investigation into the coercive labor program by independent human rights experts, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thank you.



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