

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index: ASA 17/009/2009
5 March 2009

Tibet: 50th anniversary of uprising and Dalai Lama Exile

10 March 2009 is the 50th anniversary of the failed Tibetan uprising in 1959 which led to the Dalai Lama fleeing to India.

Last year's anniversary saw widespread protests across the region that led to arbitrary arrests and numerous reports of human rights violations. These violations included prolonged detention and imprisonment, torture and other ill-treatment.

Based on official statistics, the Chinese authorities have released 3,027 of the 4,434 detained in March 2008. Testimonies of those released, tell a story of desperate prison conditions, including beatings, refusal of medical treatment, and inadequate food and drink.

To mark the 50th anniversary, Amnesty International is offering:

A Media Briefing document which will provide background as well as Amnesty International's recommendations to the Chinese authorities.

Spokespeople will be available for interviews or background briefings:

UK Time Zone: Anu Kultalahti - Amnesty International China Campaigner

Asia Time Zone: Roseann Rife, Deputy Programme Director, Asia-Pacific Region

Public Document

For more information or interview requests please call Tom Mackey in Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5810 or email: tom.mackey@amnesty.org

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