

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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India: Concern over detention of peaceful Tibetan protesters

Amnesty International today expressed concern over the detention of around 100 peaceful Tibetan protesters in the north of India who were attempting to march to the Indo-Chinese border to highlight human rights violations in Tibet and mark the 49th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight from Tibet after his failed rebellion against Chinese rule.

The protesters commenced their march from Dharamsala on 10 March. The Indian authorities later declared the march "illegal."

According to reports, the protesters are being detained in Dharamsala after being arrested in Jwalamukhi and sent back. Reports also indicated that 50 Tibetans were arrested for peacefully protesting in the Indian capital of Delhi.

"The demonstrators have a right to protest peacefully. The denial of their freedom of assembly and freedom of expression amounts to a violation of international human rights standards," said Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Deputy Program Director Pia Oberoi.

Amnesty International calls on the Indian authorities to immediately release all those detained for peacefully exercising their human rights.

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