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Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
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Dharamsala  
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INDIA

LISSE: 19 August 2004  
INZAAL: Tibetan refugees

Your Holiness,

Respectfully I ask your attention for the following matter.

As you might know, about 120 refugees are currently staying in the Netherlands, some of who are represented by us with their asylum procedure.

On the general, the Dutch Immigration Services apply very strict criteria for obtaining asylum. This is also true for Tibetan refugees. First of all they are considered as Chinese citizens. Furthermore, refugees from China are generally considered not to fear persecution or treatment in conflict with human rights.

In a few (rare) cases, monks are granted asylum whenever they were able to provide sufficient prove of the fact that they were persecuted by the Chinese authorities. In almost all the other cases, asylum is denied.

A couple of our clients have shown their devotion to you and the Panchen Lama, in monasteries and public places. They fled the region and the country after they had heard from others that Chinese police was looking for them. Understandably, they did not wait around to see if the police would indeed come and arrest them. Unfortunately, in most of the cases this is used against them. Because it is almost impossible to imagine let alone find out how the situation for these people would have turned out, and sufficient valid prove is scarce, the asylum procedure is doomed to fail.

It is our opinion that a thorough and specific knowledge is necessary to help Tibetan refugees. This is all the more true, now that the Dutch Immigration Services are not (well) informed about the situation in Tibet. It is therefore up to the legal counsel to be familiar with the situation and provide the necessary information in the course of the procedure.

In our work with and for Tibetan refugees, we encounter various problems. As the spiritual leader of all Tibetans, we would take this opportunity and ask you the following questions we have not yet been able to answer in a sufficient way:

1. In your opinion, can Tibetan refugees return safely to Tibet?
2. Can Tibetan refugees, whose asylum has been refused by the Dutch authorities, settle in Dhamsala?
3. Would you know of any other possibility for Tibetan refugees to settle in other parts of India if Dhamsala can not welcome them?

For the sake of all Tibetan refugees in the Netherlands, please be so kind to provide an answer to fore mentioned queries, Any kind of additional information you might be able to give us, will be most welcome.

Thank you very much for the attention you have given this letter. We humbly await you reply.

Yours respectfully,  
Tashi Deleg,

~~Manöt Baaij~~

Tamara Breton

~~cc. Tibet House, 1 Culworth Street  
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07 SEP. 2004

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 PROF. SAMDHONG RINPOCHE  
 Kalon Tripa

KASHAG

Ref:- Ka 1153(197)2004-05

Dated 31st August 2004

Dear Mr. Tamara Breton,

We acknowledge the receipt of your fax letter dated 19th August 2004 addressed to His Holiness. The Office of His Holiness directed us to respond to your letter. First of all, let us thank you for taking interest in the affairs of the Tibetan Refugees in Netherlands. Yes! We are aware of situation of Tibetan refugees in Netherlands, many of whom after having exhausted their legal procedural for asylum in Netherlands are now facing possible deportation. We have instructed our concerned Office of Tibet (OoT) to look up on this matter and assess what the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) could possibly do to help them, legally.

To answer point-wise to your specific questions:

1. Yes. The Tibetan deportees will most definitely face harsh prosecution from Chinese authorities upon returned to Tibet or China. There are lots of reports and cases published by Human Rights watchers, which will testify the utter disobedience of basic Human Rights and violation of various other rights that comes naturally to every citizen of this universe. For more information and to look up the reports, you can contact the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), which has a branch office in the Netherlands. Or you can get in touch with Office of Tibet (OoT), London.
2. Every Tibetan refugee residing in any part of India is granted a Registration Certificate from Government of India to settle in India. There is no specific permission or restriction in settling at one particular area, like Dharamsala-the case in point. However, the Dharamsala being a small hill town is already overcrowded and hence there certainly is little difficulty in getting settled.
3. There are around 40+ Tibetan refugee Settlements in India. They can choose to settle in whichever settlement. But first, for the information, the official channel for seeking asylum or refuge in India for every Tibetans coming into exile is facilitated through getting registered at Office of Reception Centre in Nepal. This office picks up fresh Tibetans fleeing Tibet and helps them to exile life in India. This procedure of seeking asylum in India through the Office of Reception in Nepal is applied same to every Tibetan. So it is applicable to these Tibetans in Netherlands should they choose to come to India.

I fear if any of these Tibetan refugees does migrated (flown) to the Netherlands directly from China, they will most probably be sent back to China. There is very little we could do about it. But I believe there is no such case in here. If at all there is no other way but to deport, the Tibet Support Groups and Human Rights activist and organization in the Netherlands could plead with the Dutch government to

deport the Tibetan refugees to the place or country from which they have actually made entrance to the Netherlands.

With warm regards,

Yours faithfully,



Samdhong Rinpoche  
Kalon Tripa

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