

**Question for written answer E-000786/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Tibet: violations of the Tibetan people's human rights and freedom of expression by the Chinese authorities

In the last six months alone, no fewer than 15 Tibetan Buddhists, most of whom were monks, have set themselves on fire in public, suffering terrible injury or even dying in the process, to make world public opinion aware of China's aggressive policy towards Tibet and the dramatic situation there.

In the most recent incident, a 40-year-old monk who ran an orphanage in Darlang set himself on fire after pouring kerosene over his body. However, faced with such acts of desperation, the Chinese authorities have responded by imposing police restrictions and tightening controls, while suicide and attempted suicide have been defined by the Chinese authorities as acts of terrorism instigated by the Dalai Lama. In addition to a police crack-down, the Chinese authorities have stepped up mandatory 'patriotic re-education' programmes for monks, i.e. coercive indoctrination of Chinese history in order to eradicate Tibetan cultural and religious identity.

Accordingly, will the Vice-President / High Representative say:

1. how she intends to tackle the long-standing issue of repeated violations of human rights in Tibet;
2. what action can be taken on behalf of the Tibetan people to protect its freedom of expression?
3. what action can be taken to ensure that China complies with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
4. what the state of EU-China-Tibet relations is?
5. whether there are EU programmes in support of the Tibetan people?