

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Media Release

Unrest in Lhasa

15.03.2008

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) condemns the acts of violence directed against demonstrators in Tibet, which resulted in a number of deaths. The FDFA recalls that compliance with international human rights law is of the utmost importance.

Switzerland appeals to the Chinese authorities to refrain from any disproportionate use of force and to respect human rights, in particular the right of physical integrity and of the free expression of opinion. It reminds the Chinese authorities that all arrested persons must be treated in strict conformity with relevant international human rights standards, and that those arrested while demonstrating peacefully must be released immediately.

To improve the human rights situation in Tibet and, finally, to come to a lasting and peaceful solution to the Tibet question, dialogue with the Tibetan community cannot be avoided.

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