



LAWASIA

THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Founded in 1966

GPO Box 980 Brisbane Queensland, AUSTRALIA 4001

Level 1, Law Society House, 179 Ann Street, Brisbane, Queensland, AUSTRALIA 4001

Tel: +61 7 3222 5888 Fax: +61 7 3222 5888 E-mail: lawasia@lawasia.asn.au Web: www.lawasia.asn.au

LAWASIA STATEMENT ON UNREST IN TIBET

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, in noting international concern at recent violent unrest in the Tibet Autonomous Region, adds its voice to those who are encouraging the avoidance of unnecessary force by authorities to maintain order. While LAWASIA condemns the use of violence or force by demonstrators, it urges the Chinese authorities to respect the right of the people of Tibet to freedom of expression and of assembly consistent with internationally recognised human rights standards and principles.

LAWASIA endorses the views of the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, in stressing the importance of a peaceful resolution to the situation.

Furthermore, it emphasises the importance of observing universally-accepted standards of human and legal rights in dealing with those who have been detained as a result of the current unrest. In particular, LAWASIA calls on authorities to ensure that detainees are not subject to ill-treatment and are afforded access to legal representation and to a fair and prompt trial.

Whilst recent news that some press and diplomatic access to Tibet has been granted is encouraging, LAWASIA reiterates calls to allow immediate independent international access to the region.

Additionally LAWASIA calls upon the Nepalese government to ensure that police do not resort to the unnecessary use of violence, including beatings of demonstrators, when dispersing street protesters in Nepal. Recent television footage has shown that Tibetan monks and other demonstrators have been severely beaten with sticks by Nepalese police when breaking up the peaceful demonstrations.

MAH Weng Kwai (Mr)

PRESIDENT

April 7, 2008