

Tibetan self-immolations raised in UK Parliament

[25 October 2011] In light of the self-immolations in Tibet, the British government was questioned in Parliament by Fabian Hamilton MP.

Tuesday 25 October

Oral Answers to Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East) (Lab): I should like to declare an interest.

Following the self-immolation of nine Tibetan monks in the past few weeks, what representations have the British Government made to the Chinese authorities to stop the consistent and systematic eradication of Tibetan culture, religion and language, and to give the Tibetan people their much needed and correct desire for self-determination?

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): The Government continue to have the same policy as the previous Government with regard to Tibet's position in China, but we still make representations on a regular basis with respect to human rights and the conditions of the Tibetan people.

Fabian Hamilton's question received support from MPs in the chamber as mutters of "hear hear" were heard as he sat down. However, the Minister's reply was shockingly weak and bland and made no acknowledgement or reference to the current situation in Tibet. Tibet Society will be following this up directly with the Minister.

Supporters are encouraged to write to their MPs asking them to call for a strong condemnation from the British government on China's repressive policies in Tibet.

Video of question & response (Fabian Hamilton's question is at 15.28) | Take Action

Note: Fabian Hamilton is the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet and recently visited the Tibetan Parliament in exile as part of an MP exchange programme facilitated by Tibet Society.

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