



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Washington, D.C., June 4, 2021

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to you ahead of the upcoming G7 summit in Cornwall from 11 to 13 June regarding the deteriorating situation in Tibet. The G7 countries are currently discussing their approach to China, as the country has become more assertive on the global stage. We are convinced that any strategic policy deliberation with regard to the People's Republic of China must include an approach to the conflict between Tibet and China and its meaning for the people of Tibet and China, and for the entire region and beyond.

This includes a renewed call for dialogue with representatives of the Dalai Lama, and advocacy for the protection of human rights of the Tibetan people and the fragile environment on the Tibetan Plateau. We welcome the G7 Foreign Minister' statement from 5 May which expressed its deep concern about the human rights violations in Xinjiang and Tibet.

Tibet's human rights situation has gravely deteriorated, particularly after Xi Jinping became President of the People's Republic of China. Religious and cultural rights, freedom of expression, of assembly and association as well as social and economic rights are extensively curtailed. The survival of an authentic and freely striving Tibetan culture is threatened by aggressive policies of "sinicization" implemented by the Chinese government. The international community should address the systematic and widespread violations of human rights in Tibet with renewed vigor. The Chinese government has closed off Tibetan areas systematically and denies unfettered access to diplomats, parliamentarians, independent media and international civil society. This veil of silence must be lifted.

The state of human rights in Tibet is inextricably connected to the peaceful development of South and Southeast Asia. Tibet is of strategic importance as gateway between South and Eastern Asia. True peace in the region can only be achieved through true peace on the Tibetan Plateau. If compromise and mutual understanding, based on the acceptance of universal rights, are part of the political culture of those who govern, this would have without a doubt a restraining effect and could open pathways for peaceful conflict resolution in the region. It is therefore of essential importance to urge the Chinese government to embrace such political culture in Tibet.



The conflicts in the region, as it is known, are manifold. We would like to recall, for example, the border conflict between China and India, or the looming questions of water security in South East Asia and South Asia, as Asia's most important rivers originate in Tibet. Therefore, to call for the rights of the Tibetan people is not just a call for rights of a group or of individuals. It is advocacy for peace in a globally important region.

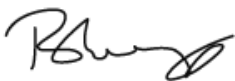
His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in 1987, has presented a "5-Point Peace Plan" for Tibet. Given the many conflicts in the region, we believe that this vision is more relevant than ever before. The plan suggests the transformation of the whole of Tibet into a "zone of peace", respect for the Tibetan people's fundamental human rights and democratic freedoms, the protection of Tibet's environment, and the commencement of earnest negotiations on the future status of Tibet and of relations between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples.

In 2008 representatives of the Dalai Lama have presented the "Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People", which, along the principles of the Chinese constitution, suggested an amicable solution of the Sino-Tibetan conflict, based on effective rights based guarantees for autonomy, while Tibet would remain in the People's Republic of China. The newly elected President of the Central Tibetan administration in exile, Penpa Tsering, has expressed his full support to the resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue and to the vision of Dalai Lama on the genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people. The International Campaign for Tibet is convinced that this approach would benefit both Tibetans and Chinese. It offers the prospect of lasting peace in Tibet, and in the People's Republic of China.

Given the strategic importance of Tibet in the region, we would like to therefore kindly urge our government to include Tibet into the deliberations at the G7-summit, and beyond. The resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue and the rights of the Tibetan people should be an integral part of any China related strategy.

We wish for a successful summit and thank you for your interest and concern.

Yours sincerely,



Bhuchung Tsering
Interim President
International Campaign for Tibet

Postal address:
International Campaign for Tibet
1825 Jefferson Place NW
Washington, DC, 20036
USA

