

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

In preparation for the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations, scheduled for January 2024, we write to ensure that the U.S. delegation will highlight the increasingly severe human rights violations the PRC is perpetrating against the Tibetan people.

As you know, the UPR is a UN Human Rights Council mechanism designed to review and assess the human rights records of all UN member states. Every four to five years, the UPR analyzes each member state's compliance with its human rights obligations as set out in the UN Charter; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; human rights treaties ratified by the state concerned; voluntary pledges and commitments made by the state; and applicable international humanitarian law.

Since the third cycle of the PRC's Universal Periodic Review in 2018, the situation with regard to the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Tibet has deteriorated significantly. PRC policies are eroding Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan language, and the Tibetan way of life in ways that are widespread and systematic and constitute a fundamental threat to the survival and well-being of the Tibetan people. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes the coercive relocation and resettlement of Tibetans away from their traditional homes; labor transfer and training schemes that are changing the demographic balance in the Tibet Autonomous Region; a boarding school and pre-school system imposed on Tibetan children; a "bilingual education" policy that replaces Tibetan with Mandarin as the medium of education; policies of "sinicization" that eradicate core tenets of Tibetan culture; and threats, attacks, harassment, and intimidation against Tibetan human rights and environmental defenders. These alarming developments have been documented by United Nations treaty bodies, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,¹ and by independent UN special procedures.

¹ These committees are charged with monitoring implementation, respectively, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. China is a state party to all three treaties.

The fourth UPR cycle for the PRC, scheduled for January 23, 2024, offers an important opportunity for the United States to shine a light on the human rights violations committed by the Chinese government in Tibet and against the Tibetan people. The U.S. delegation should raise the situation in Tibet in its advanced questions and offer specific recommendations to the PRC government during the process. By doing so, the United States can play a pivotal role in the protection of human rights and the preservation of the full range of human rights of the Tibetan people.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
Select Committee on the CCP



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



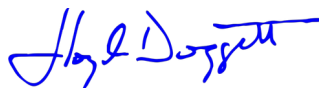
André Carson
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
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Ted W. Lieu
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Haley M. Stevens
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Seth Moulton
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Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress