



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

H.Res.1072

COMMEMORATING THE DALAI LAMA'S ESCAPE FROM TIBET AND CONDEMNING THE URGENT HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN DERGE, TIBET

Introduced on March 11, 2024 by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Young Kim (R-CA), H.Res.1072 marks the 65th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's escape from Chinese-occupied Tibet and condemns the Chinese Communist Party's decades of oppression of the Tibetan people. It focuses on an unfolding situation currently taking place in the town of Derge in eastern Tibet, in which over 100 Tibetans have been arrested for protesting a hydropower project that will displace many from their ancestral homes and destroy ancient monasteries and religious artifacts dating to the 13th century.

2024 marks the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising of 1959, a popular rejection of Chinese rule that led to the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet in the face of violent repression by the Chinese Communist Party. March 31 marks the day on which the Dalai Lama crossed over into freedom in India.

H.Res.1072 sends a strong political message to Beijing that the United States will never abandon the Tibetan people's quest for self-determination and will continue speaking out about ongoing human rights violations like the mass detentions and physical violence occurring now in Derge.

DERGE PROTESTS

Beginning on February 24th, 2024 Tibetans, including monks, nuns, and laypeople alike, held protests against a Derge hydropower project that will displace up to 2,000 Tibetans from their ancestral homes and destroy six ancient monasteries and other religious artifacts from the 13th century. The Chinese authorities responded with mass arrests, beatings, and the deployment of armed police.



- Protesters face imprisonment terms ranging from 5 to 15 years.
- Organizers like Tenzin and Tamdin, pictured above, are highly likely to face the longest terms and harsh treatment.

The Derge issue is critical and we remain deeply concerned about the fate of the detainees and the brave individuals who released the evidence.

LAW ON GUARDING STATE SECRETS

A recent legal revision by China's National People's Congress adds additional risk to the Derge detainees and other Tibetans. The change grants extraordinary leeway to deem any information as a "state secret." "Leaking state secrets" is a common spurious charge used by China to detain and control Tibetans, and it is quite possible that the authorities will use this law against the Tibetan protesters in Derge. Greater support and prompt passage of this resolution could help shape how China treats the Tibetan detainees.

WHAT THE HOUSE RESOLUTION WILL DO

- recognizes the 65th anniversary of the flight from Tibet of Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, in response to the People's Republic of China's military aggression;
- confirms its longstanding support for the human rights and self-determination of the Tibetan people;
- condemns the People's Republic of China's persistent policies of oppression which seek to erase the Tibetan people's ancient and unique civilization;
- condemns the arbitrary detention on February 23, 2024, of those protesting a hydropower dam construction project in the eastern Tibetan area of Derge;
- expresses grave concern for the well-being of the protesters and those who provided video and photographic evidence of the events as they unfolded;
- demands that the People's Republic of China immediately release all those detained in the February 2024 protests against the hydropower dam construction project in Derge;
- demands that the People's Republic of China publicly admit and apologize for the violations of the rights of those who protested against the hydropower dam construction project in Derge, provide immediate redress for physical and emotional trauma, and expunge from the detainees' official records any mention of the arrests or charges;
- calls upon the Biden Administration to sanction PRC officials responsible for violating the rights of Tibetans involved in the Derge protests;
- calls upon the Biden Administration to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the Tibet Project Principles which require Tibetan input into development projects, to ensure that the People's Republic of China fully respects all the human rights of the Tibetan people.

