



Report to Congress on Tibet Negotiations
Section 613(b) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note)

Pursuant to section 613(b) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), this report covers: (1) the steps taken by the President and Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (a)(1) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002; and (2) the status of any discussions between the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives. The Department of State submits this report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

Executive Summary

No formal negotiations between People's Republic of China (PRC) officials and the Dalai Lama or his representatives have occurred since 2010. The United States continues to encourage both sides to engage in meaningful and direct dialogue, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences. The U.S. government remains concerned by the lack of meaningful autonomy for Tibetans within the PRC, ongoing abuses and violations of the human rights of Tibetans in the PRC, and efforts by PRC authorities to eliminate the distinct religious, linguistic, and cultural identity of Tibetans. The United States believes the PRC government must address these concerns to create conditions for a sustainable settlement between the PRC and the Dalai Lama or his representatives, which is essential to the long-term stability of the region. The U.S. government has maintained close contact with Tibetan religious, cultural, and political leaders to underscore U.S. support, and has expressed its concerns regarding PRC government actions in bilateral, multilateral, and public

venues. Due to the PRC government's withdrawal of consent for operation in retaliation for the closure of PRC Consulate General Houston, the United States suspended operations of the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu (CG Chengdu) on July 27, 2020, severely restricting the United States' ability to maintain access to Tibetan areas. The following report describes activities undertaken by senior U.S. officials from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 to encourage dialogue and create conditions for a sustainable settlement.

U.S. Policy on Tibet

The United States' long-standing policy is to encourage meaningful and direct dialogue between PRC authorities and the Dalai Lama or his representatives, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences. The U.S. government believes that a negotiated resolution that leads to meaningful autonomy for Tibetans and ensures they are able to freely practice their religion, culture, and language provides the best hope for long-term stability in the region.

The United States continues to urge the PRC government to change its policies in Tibetan areas that have created tensions; respect and preserve the distinct religious, linguistic, and cultural identity of Tibetans; and permit Tibetans to express their grievances freely, publicly, peacefully, and without fear of retribution. The United States remains concerned by PRC government interference in the selection, education, and veneration of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders. The U.S. government continues to call upon PRC authorities to allow diplomats, journalists, tourists, and others to have unrestricted access to Tibetan areas.

Due to the PRC government's withdrawal of consent for operation in retaliation for the closure of PRC Consulate General Houston, the United States suspended operations of the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu on July 27, 2020. The consulate stood at the center of our relations with individuals in Southwestern China, including Tibetan areas, for 35 years. The closure of CG Chengdu has severely restricted the United States' ability to maintain access to Tibetan areas.

Information regarding human rights conditions in Tibet appears in the Department of State's annual Human Rights Report and International Religious Freedom Report. Information regarding access to the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas of the PRC appears in the Department of State's annual report to Congress pursuant to section 4 of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA) of 2018 (P.L. 115-330).

Steps Taken by Senior U.S. Officials to Encourage Dialogue and Establish Conditions for a Sustainable Settlement

Senior U.S. officials called public attention to the PRC government's violations and abuses of the human rights of Tibetans, including their right to freedom of religion or belief, and called for the PRC government to respect those rights on multiple occasions:

- On May 17, 2023, the anniversary of the Panchen Lama's disappearance, the U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues (Special Coordinator) and U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom (IRF Ambassador) issued tweets calling for his immediate and unconditional release.
- On June 20, 2023, the United States led a joint statement signed by 67 countries in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on the destruction of diverse forms of indigenous and local cultures around the world, including by forcibly assimilating children through the educational system.
- On July 6, 2023, Secretary Blinken released a press statement on the Dalai Lama's 88th birthday. The Special Coordinator also participated in a celebration hosted by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT).
- On July 9, 2023, the Special Coordinator met with the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in New Delhi, India, to discuss issues pertaining to Tibet and Tibetans, including efforts toward resuming formal dialogue with the PRC.

- On August 22, 2023, the United States took steps to impose visa restrictions on PRC officials involved in coercing over one million Tibetan children into government-run boarding schools.
- On October 17, 2023, the Special Coordinator met with Sikyong Penpa Tsering and ICT Chairman Richard Gere in Washington, DC to discuss issues pertaining to Tibet and Tibetans.
- On November 8, 2023, the United States signed the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement, which raised concerns about reported human rights violations and abuses in the PRC, including in Xinjiang and Tibet.
- On November 15, 2023, President Biden met with President Xi, where he raised concerns about PRC human rights abuses, including in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong.
- From November 28-29, 2023, the Special Coordinator led the U.S. delegation to the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance Ministerial Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, providing keynote remarks at ICT's side event.
- On December 29, 2023, Secretary Blinken redesignated the PRC as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as amended, for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
- On January 18, 2024, the Secretary awarded the Department's International Religious Freedom Award to Tibetan advocate Lhadon Tethong for promoting human rights of Tibetan Buddhists.
- On January 23, 2024, the United States participated in the PRC's Universal Periodic Review at the HRC in Geneva, recommending the PRC permit the UN unhindered and meaningful access to Tibet; release all detained individuals; cease discrimination against individuals based on their culture, language, religion, or belief; and end forcible assimilation policies, including boarding schools, in Tibet.
- On February 13, 2024, the Special Coordinator hosted the State Department's annual Losar reception, with representatives from the CTA, NGOs, foreign governments, and U.S. government officials, including Deputy Secretary of State Dr. Kurt Campbell and Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma. Secretary Blinken

also released a video message recommitting to working alongside the Tibetan community to support and promote the rights of Tibetans.

- On February 25, 2024, the Special Coordinator and IRF Ambassador released tweets expressing deep concern over the reports of the PRC's mass arrests of Tibetans protesting construction of a dam, which threatened displacement of Tibetan villages and monasteries.
- On March 12, 2024, the Special Coordinator provided keynote remarks at a University of Ottawa and Canada Tibet Committee-hosted event assessing the PRC's assimilationist policies in Tibet.
- On March 13, 2024, the U.S. Ambassador made remarks and the United States co-sponsored a Canadian-led side event at the HRC on the preservation of Tibetans' unique culture.
- On April 2, 2024, President Biden spoke with President Xi, where he raised concerns about PRC human rights abuses, including in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong.
- On April 17, 2024, the Special Coordinator met with Sikyong Penpa Tsering in Washington, DC to discuss issues pertaining to Tibet and Tibetans.
- On April 19, 2024, the United States signed the G7 Foreign Ministers' statement, which raised concerns about the human rights situation in the PRC, including in Xinjiang and Tibet.
- On April 19, 2024, Deputy Secretary Campbell met with U.S.-based human rights advocates working on China; they discussed the human rights situation in the PRC, including in Tibet.
- On April 25, 2024, the Panchen Lama's 35th birthday, the Special Coordinator and the IRF Ambassador both issued tweets calling for the PRC to provide immediate proof of his whereabouts and well-being.
- On April 24-26, 2024, Secretary Blinken traveled to Shanghai and Beijing, where he raised concerns about human rights violations in the PRC, including in Xinjiang and Tibet.