



20 May 2024

To Honourable G7 Leaders,

Re: Urgent action against China's crackdown in Tibet

We, a coalition of over 146 Tibet-related rights groups and over 17,400 Tibet supporters, are writing to you ahead of the G7 Leaders Summit in Italy on 13-15 June 2024, urging you to take firm joint action concerning China's relentless crackdown on Tibet and attempts to eradicate Tibetans' distinct identity.

Over the past 18 months alone, multiple UN human rights bodies have raised the alarm at the escalation of human rights violations in Tibet, including the colonial boarding school system¹; an extensive labour transfer programme²; the relocation of millions of rural Tibetans from their lands; the imprisonment of Tibetan environmental defenders³; and increased restrictions on the provision of Tibetan-language education. Tibetans who criticise or protest these policies or even peacefully express their Tibetan identity continue to face arbitrary detention,⁴ enforced disappearances, torture, and death in custody⁵ at the hands of the Chinese state.⁶

In February 2024, Freedom House gave Tibet a global freedom score of zero out of a hundred; an explicit charge of the worsening situation in occupied Tibet under China's failed policies and another clear sign that global leaders must take stronger action.

Occupied for over seven decades, China's rule in Tibet is one of the last remnants of 20th-century colonialism. This is epitomised by a vast and alarming system of colonial boarding schools and preschools housing close to one million Tibetan children; this equates to more than 80 percent of all Tibetan children from ages 6 to 18 - together with at least 100,000 four and five-year-olds - now estimated to be living in Chinese state-run boarding schools and boarding preschools across Tibet.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/02/china-un-experts-alarmed-separation-1-million-tibetan-children-families-and>;
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2FC12%2FCHN%2FCO%2E3&Lang=en ;
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2EC%2FCHN%2FCO%2E9&Lang=en
² <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27776>
³ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28246>
⁴ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28160>
⁵ <https://tibetnetwork.org/free1/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UPDATED-BRIEFING-DEATH-TORTURE-AND-ILL-TREATMENT-IN-CHINESE-CUSTODY-2.pdf>
⁶ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26506>

By intentionally uprooting Tibetan children from their families and culture, making them live in state-run boarding schools, the Chinese authorities are using one of the most heinous tools of colonisation to attack Tibetan identity. While China claims to be educating Tibetan children, the world knows what it looks like when children are pushed into boarding schools run by a state that wants to wipe out their culture, including high levels of alienation, loss of identity, and intergenerational trauma.

China's interference in Tibet's freedom of religion is also a call for much concern. The Chinese government imposes tight controls on Tibetan Buddhism, and monks and nuns who try to observe their faith outside of these narrow confines face extreme repression. The Chinese government's control of freedom of religion extends to matters of reincarnation, with the CCP asserting that the Party, rather than Tibetan Buddhists themselves, will determine the identity of the next Dalai Lama. Meanwhile, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Panchen Lama and the world's youngest political prisoner when he was abducted in 1995 as a six-year-old, still remains missing after nearly 30 years.

Furthermore, China's megadevelopment plans across the Tibetan plateau pose wide-scale and significant threats to the fragile environment and ancient and culturally important Tibetan Buddhist monasteries. Recent protests by Tibetans in Tibet opposed to the construction of a large hydropower dam - that would submerge several entire villages and displace thousands of Tibetans whose livelihoods have flourished alongside the river for many generations - led to a major crackdown against peaceful protesters with Chinese police arresting hundreds of residents, including monks from local monasteries who had been protesting.⁷

Protests on this scale in occupied Tibet are rare due to the Chinese government's extreme punishment.

We welcome that a number of your governments raised the grave situation in Tibet during China's Fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in January 2024, but more is needed. China's flagrant disregard for fundamental human rights and its violent and systematic assault on the Tibetan people must be condemned by global leaders and we urge that G7 leaders openly address the attack on Tibet with a robust joint statement of concern. We urge that you:

- 1) Echo the UN human rights experts recommendations and call on China to immediately abolish the coercive colonial boarding schools for Tibetan children; as raised by multiple G7 States at China's Fourth UPR in January 2024.
- 2) Call for an end to all State interference in the selection and installation of Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including any future reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, which must be determined **solely** by the Tibetan people, following international human rights law. Tibetan people's right to freedom of religion and belief was raised by G7 states; France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and United States at China's Fourth UPR in January 2024.
- 3) Press China to immediately stop all megadevelopment projects in occupied Tibet until Tibetans are given the right to free, prior, and informed consent to decide upon the future of projects affecting Tibetan culture, religion, and the environment; and to urgently end the crackdown in Dege and unconditionally release all detained Tibetans.

⁷China: Free Detained Tibetan Demonstrators', Human Rights Watch, February 2024 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/28/china-free-detained-tibetan-demonstrators>

Together your governments are uniquely positioned to exercise strong and direct influence on China's leadership and we call on you to take this key multilateral opportunity to address the existential threats to Tibetans' identity and culture.

We look forward to your urgent response on this request.

Signed,

Mandie Mckeown

International Tibet Network

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Tashi Samdup

Tibetan Community Italia

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Students for a Free Tibet- France

Yoko Ishii

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Marcelle Roux

France- Tibet

Han Vandenabeele

LUNGTA - Actief voor Tibet

On behalf of:

Aide aux Refugies Tibetains

Alaskans for Tibet

Amigos de Tibet, Colômbia

Amigos de Tibet, La Unión Chile

Amigos del Tibet, El Salvador

Amigos del Tibet, Santiago de Chile

Anterrashtriya Bharat - Tibbet Sahyog Samiti

Asociación Cultural Peruano Tibetana

Asociación Cultural Tibetano Costarricense

Association Cognizance Tibet, North Carolina

Association Drôme Ardèche-Tibet

Australia Tibet Council

Balijara Foundation - Maharashtra

Bay Area Friends of Tibet

Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch

Bharat Tibbat Samanvay Sangh

Bharat Tibet Sangh - India

Bharat Tibet Sangh - Jammu

Bharrat Tibbat Samvad Manch, India

Boston Tibet Network

Briancon05 Urgence Tibet

National Democratic Party of Tibet

Objectif Tibet

Passeport Tibetain

Phagma Drolma-Arya Tara

RangZen: Movimento Tibete Livre, Brasil

RBA Réseau Bouddhisme et Action, France

Roof of the World Foundation, Indonesia

Sakya Trinley Ling

Santa Barbara Friends of Tibet

Save Tibet, Austria

SFT Taiwan

SFT-India

Sierra Friends of Tibet

Students for a Free Tibet – Canada

Students for a Free Tibet Denmark

Swedish Tibet Committee

Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association (GSTF)

Taiwan Friends of Tibet

Tashi Delek Bordeaux

The Global Alliance for Tibet & Persecuted

Minorities

CADAL
 Casa del Tibet – Spain
 Casa Tibet México
 Centro Cultural Columbo Tibetano
 Centro De Cultura Tibetana, Brazil
 Centro para la Apertura y el Desarrollo de América Latina
 Circle of Friends (Philippines)
 Comité de Apoyo al Tibet (CAT)
 Committee of 100 for Tibet
 Core Group for Tibetan Cause, India
 Czechs Support Tibet
 Dream for Children, Japan
 EcoTibet Ireland
 Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H. H. the Dalai Lama
 Free Indo-Pacific Alliance
 Friends of Tibet Costa Rica
 Friends of Tibet in Bulgaria
 Friends of Tibet in Finland
 Friends of Tibet New Zealand
 Ganasamannay Kolkata
 Grupo de Apoio ao Tibete, Portugal
 Himalayan Committee for Action on Tibet - Kinnaur
 Human Rights Network for Tibet & Taiwan
 India Tibet Friendship Society
 India Tibet Friendship Society - Bihar
 India Tibet Friendship Society - Dashthrapuni
 India Tibet Friendship Society - Delhi
 India Tibet Friendship Manch Hazaribagh Jharkhand
 India Tibet Friendship Society NAGPUR
 India Tibet Friendship Manch- Nagpur
 India Tibet Friendship Society - Muzaffarpur
 International Society for Human Rights Munich Chapter
 International Tibet Independence Movement
 Israeli friends of the Tibetan People
 Jal Kalyan Seva Samiti, Rajasthan
 Japan Association of Monks for Tibet (Super Sangha)
 Le Club Français - Paraguay
 Les Amis du Tibet Luxembourg
 Liberté au Tibet (Colmar, France)
 Lions Des Neiges Mont Blanc, France
 Maison des Himalayas
 Maison du Tibet – Tibet Info
 National Campaign for Free Tibet Support, India
 The Norwegian Tibet Committee
 The Youth Liberation Front of Tibet, East-Turkestan, Manchuria & Inner-Mongolia
 Tibet Action Group of Western Australia
 Tibet cesky (Tibet in Czech)
 Tibet Committee of Fairbanks
 Tibet Friendship and Cooperation Society
 Tibet Group, Panama
 Tibet Lives
 Tibet Patria Libre, Uruguay
 Tibet Rescue Initiative in Africa
 Tibet Society of South Africa
 Tibet Support Association Hungary
 Tibet Support Committee Denmark
 Tibet Support Group – Netherlands
 Tibet Support Group Adelaide - Australia
 Tibet Support Group Ireland
 Tibet Support Group Kenya
 Tibet Support Group Kiku, Japan
 Tibet Support Group, Costa Rica
 Tibetan Association of Germany
 Tibetan Association of Ithaca
 Tibetan Association of Northern California
 Tibetan Association of Philadelphia
 Tibetan Community Austria
 Tibetan Community in Australia (Queensland)
 Tibetan Community in Denmark
 Tibetan Community in France
 Tibetan Community in Ireland
 Tibetan Community in Japan
 Tibetan Community of Australia (Victoria)
 Tibetan Community Sweden
 Tibetan Cultural Association – Quebec
 Tibetan Programme of The Other Space Foundation
 Tibetan Women's Association (Central)
 Tibetan Youth Association in Europe
 Tibetans of Mixed Heritage
 Tibetisches Zentrum Hamburg
 TIBETmichigan
 TSG – Slovenia
 U.S. Tibet Committee
 V-TAG - Austria
 V-TAG - India
 V-TAG - Netherland
 V-TAG - United Kingdom
 Voces de Tibet, México
 World League for Freedom and Dem

Annex: State Recommendations at China's Fourth UPR in January 2024

Canada:

1. Implement the recommendations set out by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and end all coercive measures imposed on Uyghurs, Tibetans, and other ethnic minorities, including forced labour, coercive labour transfers, forced sterilisations, and mandatory residential schools.
2. Grant the UN, including the OHCHR and special procedures, full and unfettered access to all regions of China, including Tibet and Xinjiang.

France:

1. Guarantee the protection of freedom of religion, particularly for Uyghur and Tibetan people

Germany:

1. Respect the right of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including in Xinjiang and Tibet

Japan:

1. Protect the rights of minorities, including the Tibetans and Uighurs, including their rights to enjoy their cultural and religious practices as recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

United Kingdom:

1. Cease the persecution and arbitrary detention of Uyghurs and Tibetans, and allow genuine freedom of religion or belief and cultural expression without fear of surveillance, torture, forced labour, or sexual violence, and implement OHCHR recommendations on Xinjiang.

United States Of America:

1. Cease harassment, surveillance, and threats against individuals abroad and in China, including Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.
2. Cease discrimination against individuals' culture, language, religion or belief, end forcible assimilation policies, including boarding schools, in Tibet and Xinjiang.
3. Permit the UN unhindered and meaningful access particularly in Xinjiang and Tibet