



**Open letter to G20 ahead of G20 Summit on 30-31 October 2021**

To H.E. Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy in the capacity as president of the G20

**RE: Joint diplomatic boycott action of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics**

We, a coalition of over 250 global campaign groups representing Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hongkongers, Chinese, Southern Mongolians, Taiwanese, and other affected and concerned communities. We are writing to you, ahead of the G20 Summit concerning the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, to urge for a joint diplomatic boycott of the Games in light of China’s extreme and worsening human rights situation.

The attendance of world leaders and diplomats at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will put governments at serious risk of being complicit in China’s plan to ‘sport wash’<sup>1</sup> their human rights abuses and embolden the actions of the Chinese authorities.

**As you descend on the G20 Summit we urge you take the opportunity to commit to taking strong multilateral action by way of a joint diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games.**

The Chinese government has publicly stated that Beijing 2022 will be “open and inclusive”, create a “harmonious world” and promote “social progress” - just as it did ahead of the Beijing 2008 Summer Games, but to no avail. For those living under China’s oppressive rule, daily life is anything but; it is instead characterized by a merciless crackdown on individual and collective rights and freedom, an all-out assault on cultural diversity, and a tearing apart of community cohesion through sophisticated methods of surveillance and control.

The Uyghur people are facing active genocide, with at least two million Muslims - including Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks - locked in “re-education camps” undergoing systematic torture and political re-education.<sup>2</sup> The situation in occupied Tibet has dramatically deteriorated and in 2021 it was ranked by Freedom House as the least free place in the world for civil and political rights, alongside Syria.<sup>3</sup> In Hong Kong, where Beijing has implemented a draconian National Security Law that bans acts of “splittism, subversion, foreign intervention, and terrorism”, freedom and democracy are under

<sup>1</sup> “Sports washing” is the practice of an individual, group, corporation, or nation-state using sport to improve its reputation, through hosting a sporting event, the purchase or sponsorship of sporting teams, or by participation in the sport itself. At the nation-state level, sportswashing has been used to direct attention away from a poor human rights record. While at the individual or Corporate level sportswashing is used to cover up and direct away attention from said person’s or company’s vices, crimes, or scandals.” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sportswashing>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-uyghur-prison-camp-suspected-locations-maps-2019-11?r=US&IR=T>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores?sort=asc&order=Total%20Score%20and%20Status>

attack, and youth activists are being rounded up and imprisoned en masse.<sup>4 5</sup> In China, the Chinese authorities routinely disappear government critics, feminists, and academics, as they attempt to stifle all forms of peaceful dissent. At the same time, Beijing has intensified its decades-long tactics of bullying and military threats and intimidation of democratic Taiwan.<sup>6</sup>

Much like in 2008, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has attempted to counter concerns about human rights abuses in China by asserting that the Games will positively affect China's rights record. The IOC also pledged to take action should China fall short in meeting its human rights promises.<sup>7</sup> Subsequent developments showed this faith to be misplaced as the Chinese government repeatedly backtracked on the human rights pledges it made to secure the right to host the Games and there was no accountability by the IOC and the international community. Instead, China was given a free pass to wantonly violate human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Given the failure of the IOC to provide any due diligence around the preparations for the 2022 Beijing Olympics, or evidence on how to manage the human rights risks connected to the Games - despite having multiple opportunities when Beijing 2022 progress reports were being conducted<sup>8</sup> - it falls on governments to prove that the political will to stand up against China's despicable human rights abuses is enacted.

We, therefore, call on like minded governments to urgently commit to a joint multilateral diplomatic boycott of Beijing 2022.

Yours sincerely

**Mandie McKeown, Executive Director, International Tibet Network** - on behalf of:

**Dorjee Tseten**

Students for a Free Tibet

**Dolkun Isa**

World Uyghur Congress

**Frances Hui**

We The Hongkongers

**Rushan Abbas**

Campaign for Uyghurs

**Jenny Wang**

Keep Taiwan Free

**Tashi Shitsetsang**

Tibetan Youth Association Europe

**John Jones**

Free Tibet

**Dr Zoe Bedford**

Australia Tibet Council

**Teng Biao**

China Against the Death Penalty

**周锋锁 Zhou Fengsuo**

Humanitarian China

**Mattias Bjornerstedt**

Swedish Tibet Committee

**Bhuchung Tsering**

International Campaign for Tibet

**Lhadon Tethong**

Tibet Action Institute

**Omer Kanat**

Uyghur Human Rights Project

**Enghebatu Togochoq**

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center

and the following organisations:

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<sup>4</sup> <https://unpo.org/article/22064>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/23/hong-kong-apple-daily-symbol-of-pro-democracy-movement-to-close>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/06/04/1025774/china-tiananmen-anniversary-protest-censorship/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/08/22/china-hosting-olympics-catalyst-human-rights-abuses>

<sup>8</sup> June 2020 - <https://www.olympic.org/news/ioc-coordination-commission-praises-beijing-2022-s-progress>; December 2020 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8gQLn\\_tOjs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8gQLn_tOjs)

<p>Action Free Hong Kong Montreal  Aide aux Refugies Tibetains  Alberta Uyghur Association  Amigos de Tibet, Colombia  Amigos del Tíbet, Chile  Amigos del Tíbet, El Salvador  Anterrashtriya Bharat – Tibbet Sahyog Samiti  AREF International Onlus  Asociación Cultural Peruano Tibetana  Asociación Cultural Tibetano Costarricense  Association Cognizance Tibet, North Carolina  Association Drôme Ardèche-Tibet  Associazione Italia-Tibet  Association of the New School for Democracy  Atlas Movement  Australia China Watch  Australian East Turkestan Association  Australian Uyghur Association  Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women’s Association  Austria Uyghur Association  Bath District Tibet Support Group  Bay Area Friends of Tibet  Belgium Uyghur Association  Bharrat Tibbat Sahyog Manch, India  Birmingham Stands with Hong Kong  Boston Tibet Network  Boston Uyghur Association  Briancon05 Urgence Tibet  Bristol Tibet  Burst the Bubble UK  Canada Tibet Committee  Canadian Coalition Against Communism  Captive Nations Coalition  Casa del Tibet – Spain  Casa Tibet México  Centro De Cultura Tibetana, Brazil  China Alarm  Circle of Friends (Philippines)  Citizen Power Initiatives for China  Comité de Apoyo al Tibet (CAT)  Comité pour la Liberté à Hong-Kong  Committee of 100 for Tibet  Core Group for Tibetan Cause, India  Cornell Society for the Promotion of East Asian Liberty  Covenants Watch  Czechs Support Tibet  DC Chapter of China Democracy Party  DC4HK - Washingtonians Supporting Hong Kong  Defend Democracy  Dream for Children, Japan  Dutch Uyghur Human Rights Foundation  East Turkistan Association in Finland  East Turkistan Association of Canada  East Turkistan Education Center in Europe  East Turkistan New Generation Movement  East Turkistan Nuzugum Culture and Family  Organization  East Turkistan Press and Media Organization  East Turkistan Union in Europe  Eastern Turkistan Foundation  Eastern Turkistan Uyghur Association in Netherlands  EcoTibet Ireland</p>	<p>Maison du Tibet – Tibet Info  Mavi Hilal Humanitarian Organization  McGill Hong Kong Public Awareness and Social Service  National Campaign for Tibetan Support, India  National Democratic Party of Tibet  Netherlands for Hong Kong  Never Again Right Now  Northern California Hong Kong Club  Norwegian Uyghur Committee  NY4HK  Objectif TibetPasseport Tibetain  Ontario Hong Kong Youth Action (OHKYA)  Perth Anti-CCP Association  Phagma Drolma-Arya Tara  Power to Hongkongers  RangZen: Movimento Tibete Livre, Brazil  Regional Tibetan Association of Massachusetts  Roof of the World Foundation, Indonesia  Sakya Trinley Ling  Santa Barbara Friends of Tibet  Save the Mongolian Language  Save the Persecuted Christians  Save Tibet Foundation  Save Tibet, Austria  Shukr Foundation  Sierra Friends of Tibet  Society for Threatened Peoples International  Society Union of Uyghur National Association  STAND Canada  Stand With Hong Kong Vienna  Stop Uyghur Genocide Canada  Students for a Free Tibet – Canada  Students for a Free Tibet – UK  Students for a Free Tibet – Denmark  Students for a Free Tibet – India  Students for a Free Tibet – Japan  Students for a Free Tibet – Taiwan  Students For Hong Kong  Sweden Uyghur Education Union  Swedish Tibet Committee  Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association (GSTF)  Switzerland East Turkestan Association  台灣永社 Taiwan Forever Association  Taiwan Friends of Tibet  Taiwan East Turkistan Association  Taiwan New Constitution Foundation  Taiwan Association for Human Rights  Taiwan Labour Front  Tashi Delek Bordeaux  The Norwegian Tibet Committee  The Youth Liberation Front of Tibet, Mongolia and  Turkestan  Tibet Action Group of Western Australia  Tibet cesky (Tibet in Czech)  Tibet Committee of Fairbanks  Tibet Group, Panama  Tibet Initiative Deutschland  Tibet Justice Center  Tibet Lives, India  Tibet Mx  Tíbet Patria Libre, Uruguay  Tibet Rescue Initiative in Africa</p>
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<p> Étudiants Pour Un Tibet Libre  Euro-Asia Foundation: Teklimakan Publishing House  European Uyghur Institute  Federation for a Democratic China  Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong  Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H. H. the Dalai Lama  France-Tibet  Free Indo-Pacific Alliance  Free Tibet Fukuoka  FREE TIBET ITALIA  Friends of Tibet in Costa Rica  Friends of Tibet in Finland  Friends of Tibet New Zealand  Friends4Tibet  Germany Stands with Hong Kong  Global Alliance for Tibet &amp; Persecuted Minorities  Global Solidarity with Hong Kong - Chicago  Grupo de Apoio ao Tibete, Portugal  Hong Kong Committee in Norway  Hong Kong Affairs Association of Berkeley (HKAAB)  Hong Kong Forum, Los Angeles  Hong Kong Liberty  Hongkongers At McGill  Hong Kong Outlanders  Hong Kong Social Action Movements in Boston  Hong Kongers in San Francisco Bay Area  Human Rights Solidarity  Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan  Ilham Tohti Initiative  India Tibet Friendship Society  International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC)  Institute for China's Democratic Transition  International Pen Uyghur Center  International Society for Human Rights- Sweden  International Society of Human Rights, Munich Chapter  International Support for Uyghurs  International Tibet Independence Movement  International Uyghur Human Right and Democracy Foundation  Isa Yusup Alptekin Foundation  Israeli Friends of the Tibetan People  Japan Association of Monks for Tibet (Super Sangha)  Japan Uyghur Association  Jewish movement for Uyghur freedom  Justice 4 Uyghurs  Justice For All Canada  Kazakhstan National Culture Center  Le Club Français, Paraguay  Les Amis du Tibet – Belgium  Les Amis du Tibet Luxembourg  Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine  Lions Des Neiges Mont Blanc, France  Lungta Association Belgium  Maison des Himalayas </p>	<p> Tibet Society of South Africa  Tibet Support Committee Denmark  Tibet Support Group Adelaide  Tibet Support Group Kenya  Tibet Support Group Kiku, Japan  Tibet Support Group Netherlands  Tibet Support Group Slovenia  Tibetan Association of Germany  Tibetan Association of Ithaca  Tibetan Association of Northern California  Tibetan Association of Philadelphia  Tibetan Community Austria  Tibetan Community in Britain  Tibetan Community in Denmark  Tibetan Community in Ireland  Tibetan Community of Italy  Tibetan Community of Victoria  Tibetan Community Sweden  Tibetan Community, Queensland  Tibetan Cultural Association – Quebec  Tibetan Programme of The Other Space Foundation  Tibetan Women's Association (Central)  Tibetans of Mixed Heritage  Tibetisches Zentrum Hamburg  TIBETmichigan  Toronto Association for Democracy in China  Torontonians HongKongers Action Group  U.S. Tibet Committee  Uigur Society of the Kyrgyz Republic  Umer Uyghur Trust  United Nations for a Free Tibet (UNFFT)  US Hongkongers Club  Uyghur Academy  Uyghur American Association  Uyghur Association of Victoria  Uyghur Association of France  Uyghur Center for Human Rights and Democracy  Uyghur Cultural and Education Union in Germany  Uyghur Education Union  Uyghur Projects Foundation  Uyghur Refugee Relief Fund  Uyghur Research Institute  Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project  Uyghur Support Group Netherlands  Uyghur Transitional Justice Database  Uyghur U.K. Association  Uyghur Youth Union in Kazakhstan  Uzbekistan Uyghur Culture Center  Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society  Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement  Viktoria Uyghur Association  Voces Tibet  World Uyghur Congress Foundation </p>
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