



Mr. Thomas Bach
President, International Olympic Committee
Route de Vidy 9
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

8 September 2020

Dear Mr. Bach,

We, a coalition of human rights groups representing Tibetan, Uyghur, Southern Mongolian, Hongkonger, Taiwanese, and Chinese people, along with other international human rights organisations, write to you ahead of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board meeting on 9th September 2020, to urge the IOC to reverse its mistake in awarding Beijing the honor of hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2022.

As a member of the IOC in the period 2001 to 2008, you will no doubt recall the extensive dialogue human rights campaigners held with your Presidential predecessor, Jacques Rogge, and senior IOC staff over the controversial decision to award Beijing the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. The result was failure: the IOC's reputation was indelibly tarnished by its mistaken belief that the 2008 Olympics would work to improve China's human rights record. In reality the prestige of hosting the Olympic Games merely emboldened the Chinese government's actions and, since then, we have witnessed a gross increase on the assault on communities living under its rule: the construction of an Orwellian surveillance state in occupied Tibet,¹ the incarceration of between 1.8 to 3 million Uyghurs,² the recent demolition of 'One Country Two Systems' in

¹ Tibet is one of the most heavily-restricted countries in the world. In March 2020 Freedom House ranked Tibet as the 2nd 'least free' place in the world for the fifth consecutive year; only Syria ranks as less free: <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tibet/freedom-world/2020>; Human Rights Watch, 'China Delves into Past to Police Tibet's Future': <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/07/china-delves-past-police-tibets-future>

² Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviews the report of China <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23452&LangID=E>

Hong Kong that breach multiple international laws and the UN Declaration of Human Rights,³ the erasure of Southern Mongolian culture and language,⁴ the ongoing military intimidation and geopolitical bullying of Taiwan, and the detention, disappearance and death of countless Chinese lawyers, feminists, democracy activists, and anyone else deemed a threat by the Chinese Communist Party.⁵

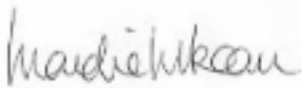
Despite appeals from frontline communities and human rights groups, the IOC has repeated the same mistakes as the past and remained unresponsive to evidence of the sharp decline in human rights protections before and after the 2008 Games in Beijing; evidence that illustrates that the 2022 Games will also have no positive impact on China's adherence to human rights standards, and could even contribute to more repression.⁶

The IOC must recognize that the Olympic spirit and the reputation of the Olympic Games will suffer further damage if the worsening human rights crisis, across all areas under China's control, is simply ignored.

We implore the Committee to reverse its past mistakes and to urgently demonstrate that it has the political will to abide by the Olympic Charter's core principles about "human dignity." The IOC must not allow its moral authority to be put in jeopardy again.

We request the opportunity to meet with you, and other Committee Members, to discuss our serious concerns and receive your assurances that you will revoke your decision to allow Beijing to host the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Please contact us via mandie@tibetnetwork.org to discuss a meeting with coalition representatives.

Yours sincerely



Mandie McKeown, Campaigns Coordinator, International Tibet Network, on behalf of the following 165 global organisations:

Asia: Anterrashtriya Bharat – Tibet Sahyog Samiti Bharrat Tibbat Sahyog Manch, India Circle of Friends (Philippines) Core Group for Tibetan Cause, India Dream for Children, Japan Foundation for Universal Responsibility Free Indo-Pacific Alliance	Australasia: Australian Association Uyghur Academy Australia Tibet Council Australian Uyghur Association Defend Democracy Group East Turkistan Australian Association Friends of Tibet New Zealand
---	---

³ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25487>

⁴ http://www.smhric.org/news_679.htm

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/global>

⁶ Beijing 2022: Another Gold for Human Rights Abuse? <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hKcRiyHyrY7vc-8x8yhmmViraf5hEGe/>

<p>Gu Chu Sum Movement Association of Tibet 西藏台灣人權連線 Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan India Tibet Friendship Society Japan Association of Monks for Tibet (Super Sangha) National Campaign for Tibetan Support, India National Democratic Party of Tibet Roof of the World Foundation, Indonesia 世界南蒙古大會 South Mongolia Congress Students for a Free Tibet Japan Students for a Free Tibet India Students for a Free Tibet Taiwan Taiwan Friends of Tibet 台灣廢除死刑推動聯盟 Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty 臺灣東突厥斯坦協會 Taiwan East Turkistan Association Taiwan Association of Human Rights Taiwan Forever Association 在台西藏人福利協會 Taiwan Tibetan Welfare Association The Youth Liberation Front of Tibet, Mongolia and Turkestan Tibet Lives, India Tibet Support Group Kiku, Japan Tibetan Youth Congress Tibetan Women's Association (Central) North America: Association Cognizance Tibet, North Carolina Bauhinia Project Bay Area Friends of Tibet Boston Tibet Network Campaign for Uyghurs Capital Area Tibetan Association Canada Tibet Committee China Against Death Penalty Chushi Gangdruk Citizen Power Initiatives for China Committee of 100 for Tibet Free Kazakhs Humanitarian China Inner Mongolia Party Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars International Campaign for Tibet International Tibet Independence Movement Keep Taiwan Free Lamp of Liberty Lion Rock Cafe Santa Barbara Friends of Tibet</p>	<p>Sakya Trinley Ling Tibet Action Group of Western Australia Tibet Support Group Adelaide – Australia Tibetan Community of Victoria Tibetan Community, Queensland Africa and Middle East: Israeli Friends of the Tibetan People Tibet Support Group Kenya Tibet Society of South Africa Tibet Rescue Initiative in Africa Europe: Africa HongKong France Movement Aide aux Refugies Tibetains Association Drôme Ardèche-Tibet Associazione Italia-Tibet Briancon05 Urgence Tibet Casa del Tibet – Spain Comite de Apoyo al Tibet (CAT) Czechs Support Tibet EcoTibet Ireland Fight for Freedom, Stand With Hong Kong France-Tibet Free Tibet Free Tibet Vienna Friends of Tibet in Finland Grupo de Apoio ao Tibete, Portugal Hong Kong Committee, Norway International Society for Human Rights - Sweden International Society of Human Rights, Munich Chapter (IGFM) Les Amis du Tibet – Belgium Le Comité pour la Liberté à Hong-Kong Les Amis du Tibet Luxembourg Lions Des Neiges Mont Blanc, France Lungta Association Belgium Maison des Himalayas Maison du Tibet – Tibet Info Norwegian Tibet Committee NOW! Objectif Tibet Passeport Tibetain Phagma Drolma-Arya Tara Save Tibet, Austria Save Tibet Foundation Society for Threatened Peoples International Students for a Free Tibet Denmark Students for a Free Tibet – France Students for a Free Tibet – UK Swedish Tibet Committee</p>
--	--

<p>Seattle Uyghur Association of Victoria Sierra Friends of Tibet Southern Mongolian Human Right Information Center Students for a Free Tibet Students for a Free Tibet – Canada Stand With Hong Kong Tibet Action Institute Tibet Committee of Fairbanks Tibetan Community of New York and New Jersey Tibet Justice Center Tibetan Association of Ithaca Tibetan Association of Northern California Tibetan Association of Philadelphia Tibetan Cultural Association – Quebec Tibetans of Mixed Heritage TIBETmichigan Torontonion HongKongers Action Group San Francisco Hongkongers U.S. Tibet Committee United Nations for a Free Tibet (UNFFT) Uyghur American Association Uyghur Human Rights Project Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag Movement, We the Hong Konger 青年宪政会 Youth for Free China</p>	<p>Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association (GSTF) Tibet cesky Tashi Delek Bordeaux Tibet Initiative Deutschland Tibet Society Tibet Support Group - Ireland Tibet Support Group – Netherlands Tibet Support Group – Slovenia Tibet Support Committee Denmark Tibetan Community Austria Tibetan Community in Britain Tibetan Community in Denmark Tibetan Community of Italy Tibetan Community in Ireland Tibetan Community Sweden Tibetan Association of Germany Tibetan Programme of The Other Space Foundation Tibetan Youth Association in Europe Tibetisches Zentrum Hamburg World Uyghur Congress Latin America: Amigos de Tibet, Colombia Amigos del Tibet, Chile Amigos del Tibet, El Salvador Asociación Cultural Peruano Tibetana Asociación Cultural Tibetano Costarricense Associação Pachamama Casa Tibet México Centro De Cultura Tibetana, Brazil Friends of Tibet in Costa Rica Le Club Français, Paraguay RangZen: Movimento Tibete Livre, Brazil Tibet Mx Tibet Group, Panama Tibet Patria Libre, Uruguay Voces de Tibet World League for Freedom and Democracy</p>
---	--