



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND TIBET

Non-violent movement for
human rights and genuine autonomy

INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET



WHAT IS THE SITUATION TODAY IN TIBET?

The 2008 Tibetan protests and Chinese repression

Beginning on 10 March 2008, more than 100 overwhelmingly peaceful protests against the Chinese Government swept across the Tibetan plateau. Tibetans have risked their lives and safety to express their fundamental discontent with policies imposed by Beijing. This has been met by a violent crackdown by the Chinese authorities, who have engaged in a comprehensive cover-up of the torture, disappearances and killings that have taken place across Tibet. Tibetan people are experiencing the harshest wave of repression since the days of the Cultural Revolution.

The lack of progress in the dialogue process

In September 2002, following a nine-year impasse, communication between Beijing and representatives of the Dalai Lama again opened up. At the eighth round of talks in Beijing in November 2008, the Envoys of the Dalai Lama presented a 'Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy' which respects the Chinese Constitution and the territorial integrity of China. The memorandum was rejected in totality by the Chinese Government, as it was unwilling to engage in sincere and results-based negotiations.

WHAT HAS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DONE FOR TIBET?

- Involved the Dalai Lama to give several statements at plenary session or at the Foreign Affairs Committee (most recent one on 4 December 2008).
- Adopted several resolutions on Tibet (e.g. 15 February 2007, 10 April and 10 July 2008, 12 March 2009).
- Held hearings and debates in the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee for Human Rights (e.g. DROI: 26 November 2007, 1 April 2008, 6 May 2008; AFET: 26 March 2008, 31 March 2009).
- Included Tibet and the Sino-Tibetan dialogue in several annual reports (Foreign Affairs, Human Rights).
- Held monthly meetings of the Tibet Intergroup in Strasbourg
- Awarded the 2008 Sakharov Prize to Hu Jia on behalf of 'all silenced voices in China and Tibet'.
- Hosted an European interparliamentary conference on Tibet (Brussels, 12 November 2007).
- Sent several MEPs to visit Dharamsala, India, and/or to Tibet.
- Originated exhibitions, conferences and various cultural events on Tibet.

Meeting between members of the Tibet Intergroup and the Dalai Lama, Brussels, 3 December 2008. On the right: Samdhong Rinpoche, Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile.



'I thank the European Parliament for the consistent display of concern and support for the just and non-violent Tibetan struggle. Your sympathy, support and solidarity have always been a great source of inspiration and encouragement to the Tibetan people, both in and outside of Tibet.' Address of the 14th Dalai Lama at the European Parliament, Brussels, 4 December 2008

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR TIBET NOW?

Many options are available for you to express active support on Tibet:

- Reestablish and join the new Tibet Intergroup, first founded in 1989, and be a visible and vocal member (www.tibetintergroup.eu).
- Engage members of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) in regular discussion of Tibetan issues as part of the EP/NPC parliamentary exchange initiatives.
- Pressure the governments of member states to invite the Dalai Lama to address the EU Foreign Affairs ministers at a session of the Council.
- Support the nomination of an EU Special Representative for China/Tibet.
- Interact on Tibet with members of national parliament(s)
- Follow-up on previously passed EP resolutions and launch or support new resolutions on Tibet.
- Support the organization of regular hearings and debates on Tibet in relevant committees (AFET, DROI).
- Work with EU officials to develop a joint, holistic and effective strategy to press Beijing on dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives.
- Support programs that address chronic needs of the Tibetan people (education, work force development, environmental protection, and sustainable development).
- Meet with Tibetan officials in Brussels or Strasbourg and visit members of the Tibetan institutions in exile in Dharamsala, India.
- Participate in European and World Parliamentary meetings on Tibet.

Founded in 1988, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) is a non-profit organization with offices in Washington D.C., Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin and field offices in Dharamsala, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal. ICT works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

ICT Brussels // 11, rue de la linière
1060 Brussels // Belgium
Phone: +32 (0)2 609 44 10
Fax: +32 (0)2 609 44 32
e-mail: info@save-tibet.eu
www.savetibet.org // www.tibetpolicy.eu

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