SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES

swiss-tibetan friendship association
gesellschaft schweizerisch-tibetische freundschaft
gstf

TFOS

Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein
Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Verein Tibeter Jugend in Europa
Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

PETITION

Protecting the fundamental rights of Tibetans – also in Switzerland!

Five years after Switzerland signed a free trade agreement with China, Tibet organisations and the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) are expressing concern about the Chinese government's exertion of influence. To an increasing extent, the closer economic ties between Switzerland and China are affecting the fundamental rights of Tibetans in Switzerland, whose need for protection is not being sufficiently acknowledged by Switzerland. This is resulting in violations of the right to free expression, the right to a distinct identity, the right to freedom of movement and the right to privacy:

- **Free expression:** In Switzerland, it is not always possible to freely express an opinion on the situation in Tibet. Increasingly, restrictions are being imposed in connection with demonstrations and events (e.g. Xi Jinping's state visit in 2017).
- **Right to a distinct identity:** Switzerland no longer recognises Tibetan origins in identity documents and now just specifies „China" as the country of origin.
- **Freedom of movement:** In recent years, it has become more difficult for Tibetans in Switzerland to obtain travel documents. Persons whose applications for travel documents are rejected cannot leave Switzerland.
- **Right to privacy:** China's exertion of influence and surveillance of the Tibetan diaspora in Switzerland are increasing. This is also confirmed by the Federal Intelligence Service.

The Demands:

We call on the Federal Council to do the following:

- To proactively take a stand, internationally and towards China, for the observance of human rights in Tibet and the protection of Tibetans' culture and language
- To officially receive His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his next visit to Switzerland

We call on politicians and authorities to do the following:

- To guarantee unrestricted freedom of expression in Switzerland with regard to the situation in Tibet
- To find alternatives to „China" for the designation of origin in identity documents
- To actively support the observance of freedom of movement by acknowledging the need for protection and by issuing passports to those affected
- To take tangible measures that protect Tibetans in Switzerland from surveillance and that ensure their privacy and to intervene with the Chinese authorities if necessary

First name / Surname	Address	Signature

Thank you for supporting our petition. It can be signed by anyone, including minors and those who are not entitled to vote.
Please return the petition by 1/9/2018 to: Society for Threatened Peoples / Schermenweg 154 / CH-3072 Ostermundigen

More information on the Tibet campaign: **www.gfbv.ch/rights-for-tibetans**