



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,<sup>1</sup> the incarceration of between 1.8 to 3 million Uyghurs,<sup>2</sup> the recent demolition of 'One Country Two Systems' in Hong Kong that breach multiple international laws and the UN Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>3</sup> the erasure of

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

Southern Mongolian culture and language,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

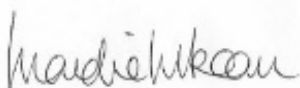
Despite appeals from frontline communities and human rights groups, the IOC has repeated the same mistakes as the past and remained unresponsive to evidence of the sharp decline in human rights protections before and after the 2008 Games in Beijing; evidence that illustrates that the 2022 Games will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

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](mailto: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:

<b>Asia:</b> Anterrashtriya Bharat – Tibbet 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 Gu Chu Sum Movement Association of Tibet 西藏台灣人權連線 <b>Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan</b>	<b>Australasia:</b> Australian Association Uyghur Academy Australia Tibet Council Australian Uyghur Association Defend Democracy Group East Turkistan Australian Association Friends of Tibet New Zealand Sakya Trinley Ling Tibet Action Group of Western Australia Tibet Support Group Adelaide – Australia
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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.smhric.org/news\\_679.htm](http://www.smhric.org/news_679.htm)

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

<sup>6</sup> Beijing 2022: Another Gold for Human Rights Abuse? <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hKcRiyHyrY7vc-8x8yhrmmViraf5hEGe/>

<p>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 <b>South Mongolia Congress</b>  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 <b>Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty</b>  臺灣東突厥斯坦協會 <b>Taiwan East Turkistan Association</b>  Taiwan Association of Human Rights  Taiwan Forever Association  在台北西藏人福利協會 <b>Taiwan Tibetan Welfare Association</b>  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)  <b>North America:</b>  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  Seattle Uyghur Association of Victoria</p>	<p>Tibetan Community of Victoria  Tibetan Community, Queensland  <b>Africa and Middle East:</b>  Israeli Friends of the Tibetan People  Tibet Support Group Kenya  Tibet Society of South Africa  Tibet Rescue Initiative in Africa  <b>Europe:</b>  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  Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association (GSTF)  Tibet cesky  Tashi Delek Bordeaux  Tibet Initiative Deutschland  Tibet Society</p>
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<p>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  Torontonians 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>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</p> <p><b>Latin America:</b>  Amigos de Tibet, Colombia  Amigos del Tíbet, 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  Tíbet Patria Libre, Uruguay  Voces de Tibet  World League for Freedom and Democracy</p>
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