



Hearing on human rights in China in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics
26-11-2007

The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT)
Background information

This paper contains:

- *A short presentation of the International Campaign for Tibet*
- *8 Recommendations in the perspective of the 2008 Olympic Games*
- *A presentation of ICT's Olympic Campaign 'Race for Tibet'*

The International Campaign for Tibet

The International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet. ICT

- monitors and reports on human rights, environmental and socio economic conditions in Tibet,
- advocates for Tibetans imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs,
- works with governments to develop policies and programs to help Tibetans,
- secures humanitarian and development assistance for Tibetans,
- mobilizes individuals and the international community to take action on behalf of Tibetans, and
- supports the non-violent efforts of the Dalai Lama and his representatives to reach a solution for Tibet through negotiations with the Chinese government.

Founded in 1988, ICT is a non-profit membership organization with offices in Washington DC, Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels.

More information at www.savetibet.org

ICT's Recommendations relating to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

International Campaign for Tibet
Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director
11, rue de la linière 1060 Bruxelles
Tel : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 10
Fax : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 32
vincentm@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org

In view of the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games, ICT calls on the EU Institutions and the Governments and Parliaments of the 27 EU Member States:

1. to ensure that China's actions and deeds actively contribute to the realization of the UN Olympics Truce, as passed by the UN General Assembly on 31 October 2007 (GA/10650);
2. to actively support for the dialogue between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, including through the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, in order to lead to tangible progress towards a negotiated settlement on the issue of Tibet within the framework of the PRC;
3. to encourage China to accept the visit of study groups to Tibet to look at the actual reality on the ground in the spirit of "seeking truth from the facts" in order overcome conflicting perspectives on the current situation inside Tibet between both parties in the framework of the dialogue process;
4. to support a direct meeting between the Chinese Authorities and His Holiness the Dalai Lama before the 2008 Olympic Games;
5. to encourage Officials within the EU and Member States, in particular heads of States and Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, President of the European Commission, and EU SG/HR of CFSP to meet face-to-face with His Holiness the Dalai Lama before, during and/or after the Olympic Games to show their support to the Tibetan issue;
6. to supports calls by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for China to unconditionally release all Tibetans sentenced for the peaceful exercise of freedom of speech, assembly, association and religion, on the basis of vaguely defined political crimes;
7. to encourage China to speed up the ratification of the ICCPR, including the abolishment of administrative sentencing for Re-education through Labour and similar forms of forced re-education;
8. to call on China to promote the freedom of press and independent reporting for international and domestic journalists. This should include all travel to and reporting from Tibetan areas;

ICT's 2008 Olympic Games Campaign 'Race for Tibet'

International Campaign for Tibet
Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director
11, rue de la linière 1060 Bruxelles
Tel : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 10
Fax : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 32
vincentm@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org

www.racefortibet.org



ICT launched its Race for Tibet campaign in 2006. Race for Tibet is a campaign that focuses on the opportunities that the Beijing 2008 Games offer as a platform for change. We urge the Chinese authorities to improve their human rights record in Tibet and to initiate direct negotiations with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to reach a solution to the Tibet issue. The campaign does not call for a boycott but recognizes that by accepting to host the 2008 Olympics, China has obligations to improve its human rights record in general and its actions in Tibet in particular. With less than one year to go, Race for Tibet will intensify its activities based upon the fact that the situation inside Tibet with regards to the freedom of expression, the freedom of press, the freedom of religion and other important issues related to the survival of Tibet's culture and environment has so far not improved and in many areas, instead, has deteriorated.

ICT's Race for Tibet campaign is supported by different Tibet Support Groups in different continents.

The campaign is implemented at different levels.

1 International

At a global level, the campaign collects signatures for campaigns targeting officials in the IOC, western governments and the Chinese authorities. Race for Tibet, by using the metaphor of giving voice to all Tibetans, aims to collect as many signatures as Tibetans that live in Tibet. The campaign functions as an umbrella under which campaigns are organized focusing on the release of political prisoners, for economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights, the right of religious freedom, press freedom and for the release of the Panchen Lama.

Race for Tibet works closely with other TSGs around the world on specific targets such as events during the torch relay events in London, Paris, San Francisco and Mumbai. Race for Tibet also supports the campaign of the International Tibet Support Network

International Campaign for Tibet
Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director
11, rue de la linière 1060 Bruxelles
Tel : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 10
Fax : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 32
vincentm@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org

that lobbies for the inclusion of a Tibetan team of athletes during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. ICT is forming, like other Tibet support groups, a team of high profile people that support the goals of the campaign.

2 Local

Under the banner of the Race for Tibet Campaign, local groups in different countries rally behind common themes focusing on the issues mentioned above. Campaigns at the grass root level foster political and public support for these issues. The general public works towards these goals as part of Race for Tibet through popular sports events such as marathons, baseball games, cycle events, football games, ice skating races and activities in fitness clubs. Race for Tibet organizes music festivals, rallies, cultural events, panel discussions, film festivals and thematic days. Towards the start of the games high profile events are planned that involves people from the sports, political and art scene who put themselves behind the goals of the campaign. The public is also targeted through online campaigns and petitions.

3 Tibetan empowerment

Race for Tibet provides a platform for Tibetan athletes. Through our campaign we combine the strengthening of sports in the Tibetan community and the way sport are a means to further the Tibetan cause. A special emphasis lies on the training of Tibetan athletes such as runners that participate in marathons and the training and touring of the Tibetan National Football Team that has Dharamsala in India as its home base. With the help of professional organizations ICT organizes trainings and test matches for the Tibetan football team. We also train young Tibetan football players who will be trainers in their own communities. Race for Tibet promotes the involvement of Tibetans also in other sports by organizing or participating in sports events enable Tibetans to draw attention to the issues in Tibet, while at the same time seeking to strengthen the role of sports in the Tibetan community.

Useful links

The International Campaign for Tibet:

- Website: www.savetibet.org
- Olympic Campaign Website: www.racefortibet.org
- 2007 Travel Report, Interpreting Tibet: a political guide to travelling in Tibet
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/TibetanChinaTravelGuide.pdf>
- 2007 Religion Report
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/2007ReligionReport.pdf>
- 2006 Refugee Report, Dangerous crossing
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/2006RefugeeReport.pdf>

*International Campaign for Tibet
Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director
11, rue de la linière 1060 Bruxelles
Tel : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 10
Fax : +32 2 (0)2 609 44 32
vincentm@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org*

- Incomparable Warriors: Non-violent resistance in Contemporary Tibet
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/2005ICTResistanceReport.pdf>

European Parliament:

- Website of the EP Tibet Intergroup: www.tibetintergroup.eu
- Resolution on the dialogue process between the Chinese Government and the Envoys of the Dalai Lama, 15 February 2007
<http://www.savetibet.org/news/newsitem.php?id=1099>
- European Parliament Resolution on EU-China relations 2006
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/2006EPResolutionOnEUChinaRelations.pdf>

International Tibet Support Network (ITSN):

- Olympic Campaign Website: www.supportteamtibet.org

US Congress:

- Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC), 2007 Annual Report, Tibet: Special focus for 2007, 10 October 2007
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_house_hearings&docid=f:38229.pdf
- CECC's 2006 List of Tibetan Political Prisoners
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/CECC2006ListOfTibetanPoliticalPrisoners.pdf>

United Nations:

- UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's 2005, China Mission Report: Excerpts on Tibet
<http://savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/TibetanTortureReport.pdf>