



TIBET LOBBY DAY

March 2024 | Washington, DC

2024 Lobby Day Letter to Congress (HOUSE)

Tibetan-Americans and friends of Tibet call on the US Congress to build on its bipartisan leadership in supporting the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a better future. We are thankful for your decades-long commitment to providing programmatic and political support for the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile.

This year, there is a special impetus for Congress, as it marks the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising as well as of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet in the face of the Chinese Communist Party's military aggression.

Reps. Jim McGovern and Young Kim are seeking cosponsors for a resolution condemning China's decades of oppression, including the ongoing suppression of Tibetans in eastern Tibet protesting a hydropower project that will displace many from their ancestral homes and destroy ancient monasteries and other religious artifacts from the 13th Century.

HOUSE ASK

Join as a co-sponsor of Representative Jim McGovern and Representative Young Kim's upcoming Resolution condemning China's decades of oppression, including detainment of those protesting the Dege hydropower project that will displace up to 2,000 Tibetans from their ancestral homes and destroy six ancient monasteries and other religious artifacts from the 13th Century. The Resolution demands that the PRC release all those detained in the February 2024 protests; that the PRC publicly admit and apologize for the violations of the rights the protesters; provide immediate redress for physical and emotional trauma, and expunge from the detainees' official records any mention of the arrests or charges; and calls upon the Biden Administration to sanction PRC officials responsible for violating the rights of the Tibetans involved, among other provisions.

WHAT THE HOUSE RESOLUTION WILL DO

In response to the 65th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet and the ongoing protests against a hydropower project in Derge that would displace hundreds of Tibetans from their ancestral homes and destroy six monasteries, the upcoming resolution:

- recognizes the 65th anniversary of the flight from Tibet of Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, in response to the People's Republic of China's military aggression;
- confirms its longstanding support for the human rights and self-determination of the Tibetan people;

- condemns the People’s Republic of China’s persistent policies of oppression which seek to erase the Tibetan people’s ancient and unique civilization;
- condemns the arbitrary detention on February 23, 2024, of those protesting a hydropower dam construction project in the eastern Tibetan area of Derge;
- expresses grave concern for the well-being of the protesters and those who provided video and photographic evidence of the events as they unfolded;
- demands that the People’s Republic of China immediately release all those detained in the February 2024 protests against the hydropower dam construction project in Derge;
- demands that the People’s Republic of China publicly admit and apologize for the violations of the rights of those who protested against the hydropower dam construction project in Derge, provide immediate redress for physical and emotional trauma, and expunge from the detainees’ official records any mention of the arrests or charges;
- calls upon the Biden Administration to sanction PRC officials responsible for violating the rights of Tibetans involved in the Derge protests;
- calls upon the Biden Administration to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the Tibet Project Principles which require Tibetan input into development projects, to ensure that the People’s Republic of China fully respects all the human rights of the Tibetan people.

THE SITUATION IS URGENT

The Resolution comes at a critical juncture in the Tibet-China dispute. The Xi Jinping regime has tightened its iron fist and the Tibetan people’s suffering is only increasing. This includes unlawful or arbitrary killings; disappearances; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment by the government; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners; transnational repression; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media, including censorship; serious restrictions on internet freedom including site blocking; substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; severe restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, forced separation of children from their families threatens to uproot children from their mother tongue; and the inability of citizens to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections. Unabated, these human rights violations aim to erase the Tibetan civilization.

To be an original cosponsor of the Resolution, the contact is Kim Stanton at Kimberly.Stanton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you in advance for your support.

