



Dear President Obama:

### **A Just Solution for Tibet**

We, Tibetan Americans and Tibetan supporters across North America are writing to urge you and your Administration to work toward a solution for Tibet, as a manifestation of a principled foreign policy based on universal values and fundamental rights.

We thank you for your personal efforts to engage His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and welcome your statements, including commending the Middle Way Approach as well as urging China to have a dialogue with the representatives of His Holiness.

We appreciate that you, the Secretary of State, and other officials in the Administration have consistently brought up Tibet in discussions with Chinese leaders. The situation in Tibet is grave. More than 120 Tibetans have self immolated and their common ask has been that the Dalai Lama return to Tibet. Tibetans inside Tibet cannot freely practice their religion, their land is being taken away from them, their travel across the Tibet plateau is heavily restricted, and they are discriminated against by the Chinese. For simply praising the Dalai Lama or talking about self immolations Tibetans are being jailed and tortured.

Despite this grave scenario, we firmly believe that the Tibet problem can be solved if there is a concerted effort by the international community to stand up for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Tibetan people. Tibetans in Tibet aspire to same things that people everywhere do – the ability to live and work and travel in peace, practice their religion free from duress, to express their culture freely, and to maintain their human dignity. The United States has been instrumental in helping Tibetans know that their struggle for peace and dignity is neither in vain nor ignored. The U.S. Administration and Congress must continue to speak up for fundamental human rights and religious freedom in Tibet, and to nurture the political will to enable a negotiated solution. In this light, we urge you to:

1. Take a proactive role to press Chinese leaders to respect the aspirations of the Tibetan people
2. Make respect for universal values and fundamental human rights as the foundation of US policy toward China and Tibet
3. Take the lead in engaging proactively with partner nations to ensure collaborative and coordinated engagement with the Chinese government including but not limited to allowing access by independent and impartial monitors to assess conditions on the ground, especially by allowing the 12 outstanding requests by UN special rapporteurs.

Sincerely,

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