

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1072

Recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day of March 10, 1959, and condemning human rights violations related to the hydro-power dam construction project in Derge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2024

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day of March 10, 1959, and condemning human rights violations related to the hydropower dam construction project in Derge.

Whereas for more than 2,000 years the people of Tibet have maintained a distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity;

Whereas 2024 marks the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day of 1959, ensued by the flight from Tibet to India of the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people, Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, who was forced to flee due to fear for his safety as the Chinese Communist Party's People's Liberation Army prepared to commence an assault on his residence;

Whereas, upon his arrival in India, the Dalai Lama declared that he could do more to champion the rights, including the right of self-determination, of the Tibetan people in exile than by remaining inside territory occupied by the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of China (PRC);

Whereas in the intervening years the PRC has persistently sought to erase the religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people;

Whereas this attempt at erasure includes separating up to 1,000,000 Tibetan children from their families and forcing them to enroll in schools that teach principally in Mandarin, seeking to undermine the transmission of Tibetan language and alienate Tibetan youth from their culture, which if successful would contribute to the erosion of the identity of the entire people;

Whereas, as a result of PRC policies, at least 1,800,000 Tibetan nomads have been forced into concentrated settlements without compensation nor guarantees of income or employment, contributing to their vulnerability to coercive labor programs;

Whereas the Government of the PRC routinely interferes with religious practices of the Tibetan people thus violating the right to freedom of religion which is vital to Tibetan spiritual education and expression;

Whereas Freedom House's "Freedom of the World 2024" report scores Tibet as 0 out of 100, the worst rating in at least 8 years;

Whereas a notable and recent instance of Chinese suppression of Tibetan rights is the decision of the PRC to undertake a hydropower dam construction project in the eastern Tibetan area of Derge that would reportedly

cause the displacement of approximately 2,000 Tibetans from their homes and destroy 6 historical monasteries holding numerous artifacts of religious significance, including murals that date back to the 13th century, prompting mass protests against the project;

Whereas in response to the protests in Derge, on February 23, 2024, Chinese authorities forcibly detained more than 1,000 Tibetans;

Whereas the judiciary in the PRC is not independent;

Whereas cases of arbitrary detention, disappearance, and torture of Tibetans are frequent and well-documented; and

Whereas, over the years, Congress has consistently and strongly condemned the Chinese Government's repression of the human rights of the Tibetan people: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 65th anniversary of the flight
3 from Tibet of Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th
4 Dalai Lama, in response to the People's Republic of
5 China's military aggression;

6 (2) confirms its longstanding support for the
7 human rights, including the right of self-determina-
8 tion, of the Tibetan people;

9 (3) condemns the People's Republic of China's
10 persistent efforts to erase the Tibetan people's dis-
11 tinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical
12 identity, most recently through the proposed hydro-
13 power dam construction in the eastern Tibetan area

1 of Derge that would reportedly cause the displace-
2 ment of approximately 2,000 Tibetans from their
3 homes and destroy 6 historical monasteries and arti-
4 facts of religious significance;

5 (4) condemns the arbitrary detention on Feb-
6 ruary 23, 2024, of those protesting the hydropower
7 dam construction project in Derge;

8 (5) expresses grave concern for the well-being of
9 the protesters and those who provided video and
10 photographic evidence of the events as they un-
11 folded;

12 (6) demands that the People's Republic of
13 China immediately release all prisoners of conscience
14 in China, including those detained in the February
15 2024 protests against the hydropower dam construc-
16 tion project in Derge;

17 (7) demands that the People's Republic of
18 China publicly apologize for the violations of the
19 rights of those who protested against the hydro-
20 power dam construction project in Derge, provide
21 immediate redress for physical and emotional trau-
22 ma, and expunge from the detainees' official records
23 any mention of the arrests or charges;

24 (8) calls upon the Biden administration to urge
25 authorities of the People's Republic of China to halt

1 the hydropower dam construction project in Derge
2 until the views of the local Tibetan residents are
3 taken into account in accordance with the provisions
4 of autonomy provided to Tibetans under People's
5 Republic of China law, and to cancel construction
6 unless authorities obtain the genuine consent of local
7 Tibetan residents;

8 (9) calls on the Biden administration to insist
9 that the Government of the People's Republic of
10 China abide by its commitments to safeguard cul-
11 tural heritage made at the February 2023 review of
12 the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social,
13 and Cultural Rights; and

14 (10) calls upon the Biden administration to
15 fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22
16 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the Tibet Project Prin-
17 ciples which require Tibetan input into development
18 projects, to ensure that the People's Republic of
19 China fully respects all the human rights of the Ti-
20 betan people.

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