



## STOP EXECUTIONS!

Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China  
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Your Excellency,

We the undersigned, are deeply concerned over the extensive use of the death penalty in China. China executes more people than every other country in the world put together. We welcome the recent introduction of the Supreme People's Court's review of all death sentences in China, and note official statements that this has led to a reduction in the number of those sentenced to death and executed. However, we remain deeply concerned that national statistics on the death penalty remain a state secret. In the interests of transparency, we urge you to ensure the regular publication of official statistics on the total number of death sentences and executions in China.

We are concerned that the measures taken so far to reform the death penalty system in China are limited in scope and fail to address key human rights concerns. In particular we remain concerned that the death penalty remains applicable to some 68 crimes in China, including non-violent offences. We urge you to take measures to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death, by removing economic and drug-related crimes from the scope of the death penalty.

The death penalty violates the right to life and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. It also contravenes fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter relating to the preservation of human dignity and respect for universal, fundamental, ethical principles. With a view to ensuring a positive human rights legacy for the Olympic Games in August 2008, we urge you to put further measures in place to increase transparency and move towards abolition of the death penalty in China.

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