



RIGHTS RESPECTED! TIANANMEN MOTHERS

Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China
WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concern over the ongoing failure of the Chinese authorities to address the serious and widespread human rights violations committed in the context of the military crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement. We support the calls to the authorities, made by the Tiananmen Mothers group and other Chinese activists, to carry out an independent inquiry into the crackdown with a view to bringing all those responsible for unlawful killings and other serious human rights violations to justice, and to release all those who remain in prison in connection with the protests.

We are deeply concerned that activists continue to be subjected to police surveillance, harassment and arbitrary detention as a result of their peaceful efforts to bring about redress for the victims of the crackdown. We welcome that in June 2007 some members of the Tiananmen Mothers were allowed to grieve their loved ones in public and to participate in an informal seminar on the crackdown. However, we urge your administration to stop all harassment of such activists and end policies of censorship to allow full public debate about the events on 3-4 June 1989. These would be important steps towards securing justice for the victims of the crackdown in 1989 and their families.

The failure to address this tragic episode in China's recent past combined with the ongoing climate of censorship and harassment of peaceful activists, runs counter to commitments made by numerous Chinese officials that human rights would improve in the run-up to the Olympic Games in Beijing. Such abuses also contravene fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter relating to the preservation of human dignity and respect for universal, fundamental, ethical principles. We urge your administration to address such abuses to ensure a positive human rights legacy for the Olympic Games in August 2008.

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