



LIGHT A FLAME FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CHINA GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION – JANUARY 26, 2022

“Free the five!” is Amnesty’s ongoing campaign to highlight the Chinese government’s systematic violation of freedom of expression.

With the organization of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the Chinese government wants to highlight China’s superpower status, and deflect attention from its abysmal human rights situation. This amounts to sportswashing. China is using the Olympics to try to improve its global image, capitalizing on the glamour, prestige and public interest of sport to gloss over its deplorable human rights record.

Now, in the run-up to and during the 2022 Olympics, the international community needs to take the opportunity to remind the Chinese government that respect for human rights and genuine commitment to the international human rights system are fundamental conditions for China to become, and to be seen by others, as a responsible world leader. China should not be allowed to use the Olympics to sportswash its human rights record. Human rights need to be a main focus of interest this winter in Beijing.

The Global Day of Action will be a day of collective activism across the globe, and we aim to show that all over the world, flames are being lit for freedom of expression in China, prior to the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics 2022.



We want to show solidarity with everyone imprisoned, or otherwise have their human rights violated, solely for exercising their freedom of expression in China. In particular, we are focusing our campaign on these five individuals: citizen journalist **Zhang Zhan**, Tibetan monk **Rinchen Tsultrim**, human rights defender **Li Qiaochu**, Uyghur academic **Ilham Tohti**, and lawyer **Gao Zhisheng**. Click [here](#) to read more about these courageous individuals.

Ideas for Activism

On January 26th, the collective action is to light a flame for freedom of expression in China. Organize a larger-scale or smaller-scale event. There are many ways to light a flame, here are a few ideas on how to do so:

- Line up tea candles in the shape of the “Amnesty candle”
- Light a candle on water, in the snow or elsewhere in nature

Invite local athletes (high school, college, professional) to participate.

Record a video or take a photo of the lighting of the flame. Email the video/photo to globalday@amnesty.no and chinacogroup@aiusa.org. Please include in the email specifics on where the flame was lit. Amnesty International will create a video compilation to share on social media.

You can also share your photos and videos on social media using the following hashtags and Twitter handles: #Beijing2022 #Flameforfreedom @amnesty @amnestyusa @AIUSACHina

Suggested text to use with your video/photo:

We cannot let the Chinese authorities use the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics to distract the world from serious human rights violations in China. That is why I light a flame for freedom of expression in China today.