



## H.Res. 1077 – Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1077 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) on April 3, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1077 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1077 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protestors and its continuing cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression inside Tibet;
- Calls on the Chinese Government to begin a results-based dialogue, without preconditions, directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people and provide for a long-term solution that respects the human rights and dignity of every Tibetan;
- Calls on the Chinese Government to allow independent international monitors and journalists, free and unfettered access to the Tibet Autonomous Region and all other Tibetan areas of China for the purpose of monitoring and documenting events surrounding the Tibetan protests and to verify that individuals injured receive adequate medical care;
- Calls on the Chinese Government to immediately release all Tibetans who are imprisoned for nonviolently expressing opposition to Chinese Government policies in Tibet;
- Calls on the United States Department of State to publicly issue a statement reconsidering its decision not to include the People's Republic of China among the group of countries described as "the world's most systematic human rights violators" in the introduction of the 2007 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; and
- Calls on the United States Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State "seek to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet to monitor political, economic and cultural developments in Tibet", and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies, and further urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government office in Lhasa.



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## BACKGROUND

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Tibet is a region within China. Tibet was an autonomous region within China until shortly after the conclusion of the Chinese civil war on October 1, 1949. When the Chinese Communist Party won the civil war Tibet lost its independent status and became part of mainland China again. It was at this time that the ruler of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, was forced to escape into exile in India. March 10, 2008, marked the 49th anniversary of his escape. Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns are routinely suppressed by Chinese authorities from staging demonstrations on this anniversary date. On March 14, 2008 riots occurred in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. According to the AP, 22 people were killed. Incidents of rioting continued to be reported throughout the region, with the last major incident occurring on April 4, where 8 people were killed.

Six rounds of dialogue between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials have yielded no meaningful results. The Dalai Lama's officials and Chinese officials met for the first time since 1993 in September of 2002. President Bush has called on Chinese President Hu Jintao to resume talks amid the renewed protests.

With the 2008 Olympics being held in China, Tibetan monks have increased their calls for independence and have planned several protests along the route of the Olympic torch run. The International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge has called on China to peacefully end unrest in Tibet. Some world leaders have also discussed the possibility of boycotting the opening ceremonies in China if the unrest is not settled in a peaceful manner.

The Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal on October 17, 2007. He was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1989 for his contributions to world peace. He has continually sought a peaceful separation of the Tibet from China.

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## STAFF CONTACT

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