

## **Request to Politicians and Celebrities to Stay Away from Beijing 2008**

Please send the letter below to any politicians, celebrities, or other influential people in your country who you have heard plan to attend the games. You could start by searching through online news coverage of the Olympics over the last 2-3 months - there have been several stories of high-profile people who plan to attend. (There might even be articles on the Beijing 2008 website, [http://en.beijing2008.cn/.](http://en.beijing2008.cn/))

Please send the second letter to anyone similar who might be considering going to Beijing, even if they have no public plans to attend. You might want to make public the names of people who you have asked not to attend in your media releases or other materials to increase the pressure on them.

### **Letter 1**

Dear Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_,

I understand that you are planning to attend the upcoming Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The world has watched this week as thousands of Tibetan monks, nuns, and laypeople have taken to the streets in protest of China's rule in Tibet, to be met with tanks, guns, tear gas, and hundreds and thousands of Chinese soldiers and armed police. As the bloody crackdown on Tibetan protesters continues, I am writing to ask you not to endorse\*\* China's actions by attending the Games.

After years of repressive policies and repeated denunciations of the Dalai Lama, China's violent response to peaceful protest has triggered the desperation felt by Tibetans and led to escalated protests in Lhasa and throughout greater Tibet. In Lhasa and other cities, troops have fired live ammunition into the crowds of protesters. At least 80 - 100 people have died in Lhasa, and many more in other cities where demonstrations have occurred. Hundreds have also been arrested and imprisoned, and will likely be tortured, as is standard in Tibet.

To attend the Beijing Olympics - which will include showcases of Tibetan culture aimed to demonstrate Tibetans' satisfaction with Chinese rule - less than five months after the Chinese government has forcibly suppressed thousands of Tibetans trying to peacefully express their opinions can only be seen as an endorsement of China's brutal tactics. As the Chinese government presses ahead with its political aim of using the Olympic Games to gain international approval, Tibetans and Tibet Support Groups around the world are calling for politicians and celebrities to hand back their invitations and show that, in the case of Beijing 2008, business cannot go on as usual after China's bloody crackdown on Tibetans.

While we do not wish to punish athletes by having the Beijing Olympics canceled, we call on you and all people of influence not to give China's cruel policies a stamp of approval by attending what should be recognized by all people as the Games of Shame.

Please feel free to contact me more for more information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Letter 2**

Dear Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to appeal to you not to attend the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

The world has watched this week as thousands of Tibetan monks, nuns, and laypeople have taken to the streets in protest of China's rule in Tibet, to be met with tanks, guns, tear gas, and hundreds and thousands of Chinese soldiers and armed police. As the bloody crackdown on Tibetan protesters continues, I am writing to ask you not to endorse China's actions by attending the Games.

After years of repressive policies and repeated denunciations of the Dalai Lama, China's violent response to peaceful protest has triggered the desperation felt by Tibetans and led to escalated protests in Lhasa and throughout greater Tibet. In Lhasa and other cities, troops have fired live ammunition into the crowds of protesters. At least 80 - 100 people have died in Lhasa, and many more in other cities where demonstrations have occurred. Hundreds have also been arrested and imprisoned, and will likely be tortured, as is standard in Tibet.

We apologise for taking up your time should you have no plans to attend this summer's Olympic Games, but we felt it was important to contact you and let you know of our concerns. To attend the Beijing Olympics - which will include showcases of Tibetan culture aimed to demonstrate Tibetans' satisfaction with Chinese rule - less than five months after the Chinese government has forcibly suppressed thousands of Tibetans trying to peacefully express their opinions would only be seen as an endorsement of China's brutal tactics.

While we do not wish to punish athletes by having the Beijing Olympics canceled, we call on you and all people of influence to make it clear that they have no intention of giving China's cruel policies a stamp of approval by attending what should be recognized by all people as the Games of Shame.

Please feel free to contact me more for more information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely