

*Director-General of the Education Department of the Qinghai Province  
Wang Yubo  
No.35 Wusixilu  
Xining  
Qinghai 810008  
People's Republic of China*

Your Excellency,

I express my serious concern to the Chinese authorities about proposals to restrict teaching in the Tibetan language in Qinghai, and ask that the proposals be retracted. I appeal against this planned implementation of Qinghai government policy to change the medium of instruction from native Tibetan language instruction to Chinese language. I am outraged to learn that China forces Tibetan students to abandon their own language and study exclusively in the Chinese language.

This policy is not only a blatant violation of Article 4 of China's constitution that guarantees the right for minorities to use their language in education but it also threatens the survival of Tibetan language and culture. There are provisions in China's Constitution and the Law on Regional National Autonomy which guarantee nationalities in autonomous areas the right to use and develop their own spoken and written languages.

Furthermore, this proposed new policy which is already implemented in the Tibet Autonomous Region has resulted in Tibetans being disadvantaged in education and employment. Tibetans struggle to follow classes in Chinese which is not their first language and are at a disadvantage with their Chinese classmates resulting in high drop-out rates and the highest illiteracy rates in China's regions.

I urge you listen to the Tibetan students and

**\*Abandon** the proposed reform in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures in Qinghai Province,  
**\* Ensure** that Tibetan language is the primary language of education in Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures, and **\* Guarantee** that no reprisals will be taken against students, parents or teachers who protested against the proposed reforms.

Please mind the following articles of **your Constitution and Law** on the Regional National Autonomy and do not act against your own laws.

**Constitution - Article 4:** All ethnic groups have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their own folkways and customs.

**Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional National Autonomy - Article 10:** The organs of self-government of national autonomous areas shall guarantee the freedom of the nationalities in these areas to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and their freedom to preserve or reform their own folkways and customs.

Yours faithfully,

*Party Secretary of Qinghai Qiang Wei*  
*No.35 Wusixilu*  
*Xining*  
*Qinghai 810008*  
*People's Republic of China*  
*Fax: + 86 971-6310576*

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Yours faithfully,

*State Ethnic Affairs Commission  
Minister Yang Jing  
No. 252 Taipingqiao Dajie  
Xicheng District  
Beijing 100800 / People's Republic of China  
Fax + 86 10 66084063*

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Feng Lan  
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Yours faithfully,

*Ministry of Education  
Minister Yuan Guiren  
No.37 Damucang Hutong  
Xidan  
Beijing 100816 / People's Republic of China  
Fax + 86 10-66020743*

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Yours faithfully,

*Mr Sun Xiaobing  
Director-General of the Policy and Regulations Department  
Ministry of Education  
No.37 Damucang Hutong  
Xidan  
Beijing 100816  
People's Republic of China  
Fax + 86 10-66020743*

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Yours faithfully,

*UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education*  
*Mr Kishore Singh*  
*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*  
*Palais des Nations*  
*CH-1211 Geneva 10 / Switzerland*  
*Email: sreducation@ohchr.org*

Dear Sir,

I express my serious concern about the Chinese government's proposals to restrict teaching in the Tibetan language in the province of Qinghai, and I ask you to demand that the proposals be retracted. There have been recently a number of protests by Tibetan students in autonomous areas of Qinghai against this new policy. I appeal against this planned implementation of Qinghai government policy to change the medium of instruction from native Tibetan language instruction to Chinese language. I am outraged to learn that China forces Tibetan students to abandon their own language and study exclusively in the Chinese language.

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The Chinese government should listen to the Tibetan students and abandon the proposed reform in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures in Qinghai Province. It should ensure that Tibetan language is the primary language of education in Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures. It should guarantee that no reprisals will be taken against students, parents or teachers who protested against the proposed reforms.

Please refer to the following articles from the Chinese Constitution and Law on the Regional National Autonomy and admonish China, not to act against its own laws.

Constitution - Article 4: All ethnic groups have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their own folkways and customs.

Law of the People's Republic of China on Regional National Autonomy- Article 10: The organs of self-government of national autonomous areas shall guarantee the freedom of the nationalities in these areas to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and their freedom to preserve or reform their own folkways and customs.

Please take up this matter with the relevant department of education in China and ensure that the Tibetan language will be protected as ordained by national and international law.

Yours faithfully,