
TO: His Excellency Mr. Hemant Krishan Singh
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Your Excellency,

I have long admired India's generosity in providing refuge to Tibetans in exile. However, I must protest your government's recent decision to stop the Tibetans' return March to Tibet and to sentence the marchers to 14 days in detention.

I am joined by tens of thousands of Tibet supporters worldwide in asking you to immediately release the marchers and to permit the March to Tibet to continue through India. The March to Tibet is a peaceful march inspired by the great non-violent tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian people, which is admired around the world. Stopping the march makes it appear that India, the largest democracy in the world, is sacrificing its principles because of pressure from the Chinese government, which is trying to polish its image in the lead up to the Beijing Olympics.

The Indian authorities issued a restraining order against the marchers on March 10th, alleging that their actions could lead to a breach of public peace. This is simply not the case. The Tibetan people have demonstrated their commitment to nonviolence time and time again and the Tibet movement is recognized worldwide as one of the greatest peaceful struggles of all time. These marchers have undergone strict nonviolence training and have stated their dedication to this approach.

This non-violent march does not violate the requirement that Tibetans not engage in anti-China activity in India; it is simply a peaceful march. I hope India will support the Tibetan people in their just cause and facilitate, rather than obstruct, their journey.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(signature)
