

# **TIBET TRUTH**

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**Attention**

**Secretary Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
United States Government**

Dear Mr Secretary

We are contacting your office in regard to aspects of the recently passed Resolve Tibet legislation (RTL) which require clarification.

As you will be aware there is a key provision of the RTL which mandates the Department of State to counter China's disinformation about Tibetan history, people and institutions. A requirement which the Tibetan Diaspora were most encouraged to note.

It is our understanding that as a consequence your Department, and that of related agencies, is now required to actively set-in-motion measures and strategies to enable an effective challenge to the cynical distortions served up by the Chinese Regime in regard to Tibet.

We imagine this must be extremely welcomed by the sponsors, of the Resolve Tibet Act; Senator Jeff Merkley, Congressman Michael McCaul, Senator Todd Young and Congressman Jim McGovern

However, we wonder if they, like others who have an active interest in the issue of Tibet, will be concerned that Radio Free Asia (RFA); an agency (which we gather is funded by the Department of State), operates an editorial policy which consistently features and promotes terminology on Tibet that's come right out of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A central component of China's disinformation is to peddle the lie that Tibet is 'part of China' and has been historically, this is a dubious and fact-free claim. But one of extreme importance to Chinese propaganda.

To reinforce this deception Tibet was cynically renamed, partitioned and in parts absorbed into Chinese provinces. In addition place-names and other geographical features were changed into Mandarin versions, all designed to 'legitimize' China's cynical assertion that Tibet was an inalienable component of Chinese sovereign territory.

Such crass deceptions are commonly featured in reportage from RFA, examples include:

*"Tibetan areas of China", "Ethnic Tibetans", "Tibetans in Qinghai or Sichuan Province", Tibet Autonomous Region".*

All of these, and others promoted by RFA, are regurgitating China's disinformation and endorsing Beijing's propaganda line on Tibet and its people.

Since H.R.533 - 118<sup>th</sup> Congress (2023 – 2024) states:

**“The U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues shall include working to ensure that U.S. government statements and documents counter disinformation about Tibet by China’s government and the Chinese Communist Party..”** (Emphasis Added)

We cannot see how such reportage respects, and conforms too, the much welcomed legal requirement of the RTL for the State Department to actively and directly counter *China’s disinformation campaign regarding Tibet*. As such we would ask your office to press Radio Free Asia to urgently review its editorial policy when describing Tibet, its territories, places and people.

The second element of the Resolve Tibet legislation which we seek your response on is the assertion that:

**“...it is U.S. policy that the dispute between Tibet and China must be resolved in accordance with international law....”** (Emphasis Added)

This reference to international law naturally invites the idea of United Nation's playing a role in any future resolution on Tibet, a prospect while we imagined would be welcomed by Tibetans, raises questions. Perhaps most importantly that of 'self-determination' for Tibet and its people, a right to which, has received House support on a number of occasions,

However, Tibetans whose plight (under illegal Chinese rule) was ignored following the invasion of Tibet in 1950, will be rightly questioning the likely hood of attaining such a condition. Others will be asking why it is that the United States is so supportive of Tibetan self-determination when it's aware of United Nations resolutions and articles which deny and/or limit a people realizing self-determination?

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which Tibetans are we understand regarded as by UN bodies) is very revealing and clear on this matter, especially Resolution: 61/295. While Article 3 states that “indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination” a later adopted Article 46 exposes serious limitations and conditions on such an outcome, as follows:

**“Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign states”** (Emphasis Added)

Given that the United States is publicly committed itself to supporting self-determination for Tibetans and advocating any resolution in accord with international law it is reasonable to assume such a process would require the cooperation and participation of the United Nations. Yet, clearly, as demonstrated by the wording in the extract above, the options for Tibetans are extremely limited, while to the advantage of China.

In light of the serious implications of such shortcomings **we ask your office to clarify and confirm if in its support for Tibetan self-determination the United States government will be seeking to pursue and realize such an outcome through the United Nations?**

**That being so will the United States be doing so under the present and relevant United Nations' declarations, articles and resolutions; including the 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?**

**Lastly is it the position of the United States Government and Department of State that the present wording and limitations of UN declarations, articles and resolutions pertaining to 'self-determination' would genuinely allow for the protection, respect and rights sought by the Tibetan people, while remaining under Chinese rule?**

We are confident Mr Secretary that you share our view that these issues and questions are of immense importance to Tibetans, a people who have since 1950 been abandoned to their fate under Chinese rule by an indifferent international community.

It is hoped that the Resolve Tibet legislation is applied in full and that it truly serves the cause of Tibet.

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