



Betty Williams, Ireland - 1976  
Máiread Corrigan Maguire, Ireland - 1976  
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala - 1992  
Prof. Jody Williams, USA - 1997  
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran - 2003  
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya - 2004

*united for peace with justice and equality*

## **AN OPEN LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY HU JINTAO**

March 20, 2008

His Excellency Hu Jintao  
President, People's Republic of China  
Beijing

Dear President Hu,

We six women Nobel Peace Laureates are deeply concerned and dismayed by your government's violent crackdown on recent protests in Tibet. We are writing in solidarity with our fellow Nobel Laureate, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, whose commitment to nonviolent struggle on behalf of the Tibetan people is unwavering and unquestionable. In these difficult days, we stand with him, and with the thousands of Tibetans who have peacefully demonstrated to express their legitimate concerns.

We have received reports of widespread violence, and threats of mass arrests and severe punishment by the Tibet Autonomous Region High People's Court. We urge you to exercise restraint in dealing with the protests in Tibet, Beijing and elsewhere in the country.

We call on you to engage in meaningful dialogue with the men and women of Tibet to address their legitimate concerns and genuine grievances. The Dalai Lama has called for an independent United Nations team to visit Tibet and assess the current situation on the ground. We urge you to allow entry of such a group, and to fully cooperate to enable a thorough investigation. We also urge you to allow full access and entry to China by foreign journalists.

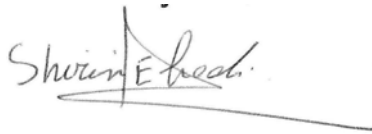
Your government was granted the right to host the Olympic Games after it vowed to adhere to the Olympic charter and improve its human rights record. Governments of the world and the International Olympic Committee argued that granting the 2008 Games to China would help open up the country and improve China's human rights record.

Your government's response to the Tibet uprising, the reported crackdown on dissidents within China in the lead up to the Games, and China's continued economic, political and military support for the brutal regimes in Sudan and Burma, contradict this vision of a

more open and responsible China. In this context, we hope your Government will change course immediately, act responsibly, and show accountability and transparency in its treatment of the Tibetan people.

While the world is watching, while the Tibetan people are rising for their freedom, we hope you will walk the path set by His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, and reject the use of violence.

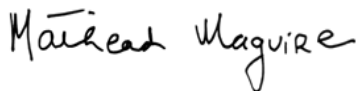
Sincerely,



Dr. Shirin Ebadi  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, Iran, 2003*



Professor Wangari Maathai  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, Kenya, 2004*



Mairead Corrigan Maguire  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, Ireland, 1976*



Rigoberta Menchú Tum  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, Guatemala, 1992*



Betty Williams  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, Ireland, 1976*



Professor Jody Williams  
*Nobel Peace Laureate, United States, 1997*