

Date: 17th April 2020

Subject: Withdrawal of Mr. Jiang Duan, Minister at the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, nomination from the Consultative Group of the UNHRC

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned 82 organizations and associations, write this joint letter to express our profound disappointment over the nomination of Mr. Jiang Duan, Minister at the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, to the Human Rights Council's Consultative Group from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The consultative group which plays a key role in the appointments of independent human rights experts under special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council is expected to be composed of States that promote and protect the existing UN human rights mechanisms. On the contrary, the nomination and appointment of China to the consultative group from the Asia-Pacific Region undermines everything that the UN Human Rights Council represents and strives for.

Special procedures have played a pivotal role in bringing to fore the ground realities of human rights violations in many States including China. Mr. Jiang's appointment will, undoubtedly, give China an influential say over the screening and selection process of the independent human rights experts under various special procedures throughout the fourteenth cycle of the UN Human Rights Council. With this appointment, China will be able to weaken the 17 Special Procedures which are due for fresh appointments eventually subverting the entire system of special procedures. We cannot let a fox guard the henhouse.

Furthermore, this nomination and appointment undermines the very reason for the establishment of Human Rights Council replacing the erstwhile Human Rights Commission which was strongly criticized for having members with poor human rights records. China has undoubtedly been one of the worst human rights abusers in the world. It has consistently attempted to dismantle the existing definitions of universal human rights and the international human rights system and replace the same with "Chinese Characteristics" of abuse and violations.

China's concealment and suppression of the COVID-19 whistleblowers including Dr. Li Wenliang and Dr. Ai Fen and the *malafide* misinformation to the World Health Organization has plunged the world into unprecedented chaos resulting in innumerable hardships and sufferings to people worldwide. The current disinformation and fake fabricated propaganda by China to change the truth by changing the narrative on the Wuhan originated COVID-19 pandemic clearly evinces China's deception and dishonesty.

Despite more than six-decades of China's oppression and brutal repression against Tibetan people, Tibetans continue to resist often at the cost of their lives and pin their hopes on the UN. More than 154 Tibetans from different walks of life across the Tibetan plateau have selfimmolated in protest against China's repressive policies. The selection of China at the Human Rights Council's consultative group sends a discouraging message to the Tibetans

pinning their hopes on the UN and further jeopardizes the safety of the marginalized and vulnerable Tibetans. It also dampens the spirit of the Chinese Human rights Defenders, the Uyghurs, Southern Mongolians and the Hong-Kong pro-democracy advocates who are putting their lives at risk for basic rights of their people against the self-serving interests of the Chinese Communist Party Government.

Your Excellency, in view of the above-mentioned concerns, and to restore confidence towards the working operation of the UN Human Rights Council, we urge the Asia-Pacific Region Members to reconsider the composition of consultative group of the UN Human Rights Council by withdrawing the nomination of China's minister Mr. Jiang Duan and removing him from the consultative group of the UNHRC.

In anticipation of your serious consideration and corrective actions,

Yours Sincerely

List of Organizations Supporting the Petition in Alphabetical Order with Country name:

Central and Eastern Europe:

1. Austria, International Stupa fur den Welt-Frieden
2. Austria, Save Tibet
3. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft Osterreich-TGO
4. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft- Graz
5. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft- Kantern
6. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft- Linz
7. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft-Salzburg
8. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft- Tirol
9. Austria, Tibeter Gemeinschaft- Voralberg
10. Bulgaria, Bulgarian Friends of Tibet
11. Czech Republic, Czech Supports Tibet
12. Czech Republic, Lungta
13. Czech Republic, Tibetan Association of Czech Republic

14. Germany, Verein der Tibeter in Deutschland e.V.
15. Germany, Ilham Tohti Initiative e.V (ITI)
16. Germany, International Society for Human Rights, IGFM München
17. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - Berlin
18. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - Baden Württemberg
19. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - Frankfurt
20. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - Hamburg
21. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - Munchen
22. Germany, Verein der Tibeter - NRW
23. Germany, Southern Mongolian Congress
24. Germany, Tibet Initiative Deutschland
25. Germany, World Uyghur Congress
26. Hungary, Hungarian Tibet Support Association
27. Italy, Aref International Onlus
28. Italy, Associazione Italia-Tibet
29. Italy, Association Donne Tibetane
30. Italy, Association Il Sentiero Del Tibet A.P.S
31. Italy, Associazione di promozione sociale
32. Italy, Case Del Tibet
33. Italy, Centro Tupten Osel Ling
34. Italy, Heritage of Tibet
35. Italy, La Comunita Tibetana In Italia Onlus
36. Italy, Samantabhadra Institute
37. Italy, Trentino for Tibet
38. Switzerland, Independent Vietnamese Writers in Exile Centre

39. Switzerland, Europe Tibetan Youth Association
40. Switzerland, Gesellschaft Schweizerisch-Tibetische Freundschaft
41. Switzerland, Regional Domey Association
42. Switzerland, Regional Dotoe Association
43. Switzerland, Regional U-Tsang Association
44. Switzerland, Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein
45. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Aargau
46. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Basel
47. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Bern
48. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Flawil-Uzwil
49. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Genf
50. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Glarus
51. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Horgen
52. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Landquart
53. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Lausanne
54. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Liechtenstein
55. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Luzern
56. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Münchwilen-Wil
57. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Rapperswil-Jona
58. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Rikon
59. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Rüti
60. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Schaffhausen
61. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Solothurn
62. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of St.Gallen
63. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Ticino

64. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Turbenthal
65. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Uznach-Wattwil
66. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Volketswil
67. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Wädenswil
68. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Zug
69. Switzerland, Tibetan Community of Zurich
70. Switzerland, Tibetan Women Association
71. Switzerland, Vietnamese League for Human Rights in Switzerland

Other Countries:

72. Belgium, Unrepresented Nations and People's Organization (UNPO)
73. Taiwan, Taipei City Council, Councilor Ms. Ying-Meng Lin
74. Taiwan, Covenant Watch
75. Taiwan, Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan
76. Taiwan, Judicial Reform Foundation
77. Taiwan, Legislator of Taiwan, Mr. Freddy Lam
78. Taiwan, Permanent Peace Partnership
79. Taiwan, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, TAEDP
80. Taiwan, Taiwan Association for Human Rights
81. USA, Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center
82. USA, Uyghur Human Rights Project