

City of Pasadena
Human Relations Commission

**STATEMENTS OF
THOSE RAISING
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

Agenda Report

Human Relations Commission
Attachment 1

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Press Release

Source: Avery Dennison

Rose Parade to Feature First Float Representing Peoples Republic of China and the 2008 Olympic Games

Monday May 21, 1:00 pm ET

Representatives of Beijing Olympics, Tournament of Roses, Avery Dennison and Roundtable of Southern California Chinese-American Organizations Unveil Float Design by Festival Artists Worldwide

PASADENA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--For the first time in its history, the Rose Parade will feature a float representing the Peoples Republic of China and its hosting of the XXIX Olympiad, according to an announcement by Ronald Conzonire, executive vice president of the Tournament of Roses Association.

The float is being co-sponsored by the Roundtable of Southern California Chinese-American Organizations and Avery Dennison Corporation. The announcement was made today at a meeting with a delegation from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) at Tournament Association headquarters.

Ms. Wang Hui, Director of Media and Communications - Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, noted that the 2008 parade theme, Passport to the World's Celebrations, is a perfect one for the first China float as it prepares to host the 2008 Olympic Games.

The float will launch China's Olympic year featuring the Summer Games of the XXIX Olympiad that start August 8 in Beijing, according to Sue Zhang, chair of the Roundtable of Southern California Chinese-American Organizations.

"Avery Dennison has been doing business in China for over 15 years and we are proud to co-sponsor a float that will highlight the economic success of China of the 21st century and the first Olympic Games ever hosted by Beijing," said Dean A. Scarborough, president and CEO of Avery Dennison. "Having China participate in one of our most American of celebrations demonstrates the important link between the two countries."

"It is very exciting to be part of this historic milestone," said Zhang. "Our Roundtable, a group of Los Angeles Chinese-American leaders, is pleased to be able to participate in partnership with Avery Dennison."

"It appears that after 119 years we have another first for the Tournament of Roses," said Conzonire. "We could not be more pleased to welcome these two organizations and this float entry that perfectly reflects the 2008 theme, Passport to the World's Celebrations."

"I'm thrilled about Beijing's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade, which is a long time dream of the China Committee of Pasadena Sister Cities," said Mayor Bill Bogaard. "On January 1, as history is being made by the float spotlighting the 2008 Olympic Games, Pasadena will be viewed on a global stage as a city that understands and celebrates the spirit of the Olympics."

Festival Artists Worldwide has been selected to create the historic Chinese entry and a preliminary design was unveiled today. It will capture the beauty of traditional China juxtaposed with the new China of the 21st Century.

Members of the Roundtable of Southern California Chinese-American Organizations include: Sue Zhang, president, Tsinghua Education Foundation of North America; Gareth Chang, chairman, GC3 International Corp.; Dunson

Cheng, chairman & CEO, Cathay Bank; Grace Chew, vice president, Hong Kong Association of Southern California; Leo Chu, chairman, Hollywood Park Casino & Hotel; Feng Deng, director, Tsinghua Education Foundation of North America; Michael Fulton, president and CEO, Western Market, Comerica Bank; May Hsu, president, China Electronic Commerce Association North American Office; Evans Lam, senior vice president, Citi Smith Barney; Richard Lee, chairman, Amsino Corporation; and Yuling Li, president, American International Cultural Exchanges Foundation.

The Roundtable and Avery Dennison plan a series of events in Southern California throughout the year to promote Chinese-American cooperation and showcase the Rose Parade float, noted Zhang. Kicking off the series will be a performance at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on August 9, 2007 by a group of young performing artists specially flown in from Beijing to commemorate the beginning of the "One Year Countdown" to the Beijing Olympic Games. The 2007 celebrations will culminate with two gala cultural performances entitled "Approaching the Beijing Olympic Games" at the Staples Center on December 28 and 29, 2007.

Avery Dennison's participation in these events reflects its growing presence in China, where it has invested more than \$200 million during the last decade and has operations representing each of its major business groups. It currently has 19 facilities and approximately 6,000 employees in China, including a major research facility it opened in January and a Retail Information Services manufacturing facility it opened last week to serve the apparel industry. Avery Dennison is scheduled to open a Specialty Tape plant in Kunshan, near Shanghai, in mid June that produces technically advanced pressure-sensitive tapes for industrial and consumer products.

Avery Dennison is a global leader in pressure-sensitive labeling materials, office products and retail tag, ticketing and branding systems. Based in Pasadena, Calif., Avery Dennison is a FORTUNE 500 company with 2006 sales of \$5.6 billion. Avery Dennison employs approximately 22,000 individuals in 49 countries worldwide who apply the Company's technologies to develop, manufacture and market a wide range of products for both consumer and industrial markets.

Products offered by Avery Dennison include Avery-brand office products and graphics imaging media, Fasson-brand self-adhesive materials, peel-and-stick postage stamps, reflective highway safety products, labels for a wide variety of automotive, industrial and durable goods applications, brand identification and supply chain management products for the retail and apparel industries, and specialty tapes and polymers.

Contact:

Casey Sayre & Williams, Inc.
Barbara Casey or Karen Diehl, 310-396-2400

Source: Avery Dennison

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Summary Statement

Jointly by

Caltech Falun Gong Club, Visual Artists Guild, Los Angeles Friends of Tibet, Justice for Americans in China, the Pasadena Chapter of Amnesty International, and the Conscience Foundation

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Human Relations Commission:

From the information that has been presented tonight, it should be clear that the Chinese regime's promise of improving human rights conditions for the Olympics is mere deception. The human rights condition in China has not improved, but has deteriorated to the point of systematic harvesting of organs from live victims.

What we presented here is only a sampling of the horrific human rights violations occurring in China. The human rights violations are so widespread and rampant in China that we can no longer list a few groups as targets of the Chinese regime. Instead, from farmers to factory workers, from teachers to religious practitioners, from businessman to government officials, almost no one is free of terror from the regime, and no social group is safe from abuses.

Human rights abuses are only a part of the Chinese regime's aggression against humanity. Congressman Frank Wolf has recently delivered a speech on the floor of the House, listing slave labor, weapons proliferation, exports of toxic products, destruction of the environment, support of other rogue regimes, and a range of other concerns about China. He concluded, "The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing." We have included a copy of Congressman Wolf's speech for your reference.

Why should Pasadena allow a float representing such a regime in the Rose Parade? Some people may argue that it is an Olympics float, that sports are merely sports so we should stay clear of other concerns. However, such "pure" athletic contests have never been the goal of the Olympic Games. Rather, the Olympics Charter states, "Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles." Therefore, the Olympic Games are athletic contests with ethical principles.

An Olympics which disregards ethical principles results in Olympics shame – such as the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. A Rose Parade float cynically used as a propaganda tool for the People's Republic of China would become a float of shame which would forever taint not only the image of the Rose Parade but the image of the City of Pasadena as well.

Some people have tried to downplay Hitler's exploitation of the Olympics by saying that the 1936 Olympics is best remembered for the heroics of Jesse Owens. That is similar to finding a bright spot in the Holocaust in the heroics of Schindler. It is irresponsible to hope for some heroics instead of stopping the Chinese regime's cynical exploitation of the Olympics.

Rec.
8/7/07

The Beijing Olympics has a worse beginning than the 1936 Nazi Olympics. At least when the International Olympics Committee awarded the 1936 Olympics to Germany, Hitler was not yet in power, but the 2008 Olympics was awarded to China knowing the human rights conditions were of severe concerns and needed to be improved.

The Beijing Olympics is worse than the 1936 Nazi Olympics due to the Chinese regime's blatant violation of Olympics spirit. The Olympics Charter explicitly prohibits discrimination, and even Hitler had to hide his persecution of the Jews before the torch was lit at the 1936 Games in Berlin. In contrast, the Chinese regime has recently issued instructions to prohibit 43 groups of people from attending the 2008 Olympics. The PRC regime's on-going persecution of underground Christians, Falun Gong practitioners, Tibetans, reporters, dissidents, and human rights activists is blatant and ruthless. The injustice and lawlessness is so rampant that the safety of Americans cannot be guaranteed in China.

In view of everything that has been presented here, what can the City of Pasadena do? It is not too late to persuade the Chinese organizers - who, for the most part, are also senior political officers - to release prisoners of conscience, reform repressive laws, and end censorship. It is time to add Pasadena's voice to the international outcry and to clearly proclaim to the Chinese authorities that you will not allow the Rose Parade and the City of Pasadena to be associated with an Olympics of Shame, nor to have the festivities marred by the human rights violations committed in China.

The City of Pasadena can send a letter to the Tournament of Roses Association stating the City's opposition to the hosting of the Beijing Olympics float. Pasadena should not let the world view it as a city that turns a blind eye to the promises made by the Beijing Olympics Committee and be a part of Beijing's propaganda machine. The City of Pasadena does not want to be seen by the world watching the Rose Parade that by the City paying tribute to the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games, the City is in fact rewarding the PRC for its failed promises. The City of Pasadena should also remind the Tournament of Roses Association that the Tournament's theme of "Passport to the World's Celebration" would truly be a celebration for the people in China when they receive their passports to their human rights. The City should recommend that Beijing be denied a float in the 2008 Rose Parade until it has made substantial progress in human rights.

The City of Pasadena can send a second letter to their Sister City in Xicheng, a district of Beijing, encouraging the officials to address the human rights situation in China. The City of Pasadena can explain that even though the PRC suppresses press freedom to hide the multitude of problems in China, such as corruption, food safety, persecution of various groups and organ-harvesting, the world will learn of these problems sooner or later. Instead of expending energy to hide this information, China would do better for her people and her reputation by earnestly remediating those problems.

The City of Pasadena can send a third letter directly to the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee to say that the world is expecting them to fulfill their promise to improve human rights in China. The City can remind the President of the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee of what he said in July 13, 2001 and Liu Jingmin, current Vice Mayor of Beijing and the Executive Vice President of the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee of what he said in April 2001. Both officials had promised to improve the human rights situation in China if Beijing were granted the hosting of the Games.

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**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS
FOR PRESS FREEDOM**

Mr. C.L. Keedy

Chairman of Pasadena Tournament of Roses

391 S. Orange Grove Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91105

July 10, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

As you prepare the next Rose Parade, to be held on January 1, 2008, Reporters Without Borders feels compelled to write to you to raise the issue of human rights in China. We are surprised and disappointed to learn the presence of a Beijing Olympic float at the upcoming Parade. The 2008 Summer Olympics are due to start in Beijing in just over a year's time but the Chinese government, despite its explicit promises, refuses to make improvements in basic rights and freedom.

Throughout the world, concern is growing about the holding of these Olympics, which have been taken hostage by a government that balks at taking action to guarantee freedom of expression and respect for the Olympic Charter's humanistic values.

The Chinese authorities promised in Moscow in 2001 to improve the human rights situation. The representative of the Beijing Candidate Committee said: "By entrusting the holding of the Olympic Games to Beijing, you will contribute to the development of human rights." Six years later, Reporters Without Borders has registered no lasting improvement in press freedom or online free expression. Foreign journalists obtained a temporary improvement in their status on 1 January but that will end in October. Strong pressure would have been needed to get the government to abandon the authoritarian and suspicious habits that make China one of the most backward countries for the international press.

China continues to be by far the world's biggest prison for journalists, press freedom activists, cyber-dissidents and Internet users. Nearly 100 of them are serving sentences imposed without due process. Most of them are being held in terrible conditions. The journalist Shi Tao, for example, is forced to work in the prison where he is serving a 10-year sentence. How can you accept that Chinese who have campaigned for more freedom will have to impotently watch the world's most important sports event from their cells?

China's journalists continue to have to accept the dictates of the Propaganda Department, which imposes censorship on a wide range of subjects. The state maintains broad control of news and uses authoritarian laws to punish violators. Charges of subversion, divulging state secrets and espionage continue to rain down on journalists and editors working for the most liberal media. Self-censorship is the rule in editorial rooms. Chinese-language media based abroad are blocked, harassed or jammed, preventing the emergence of any media pluralism,

The laws governing the Internet have been made even tougher in the course of the past six

years, turning the Chinese Internet into a space that is subject to surveillance and censorship. These restrictions also apply to foreign Internet companies.

Who will be able to say that the Olympic Games are a great sports event when thousands of prisoners of conscience are languishing in Chinese detention centres? Who is going to be able to believe in the 2008 Olympics slogan "One World, One Dream," when Tibetan and Uyghur minorities are subject to serious discrimination? What will you tell the relatives of Chinese dissidents in jail when they will learn about the presence of Beijing 2008 amidst the Rose Parade's festivities?

The Chinese government and Communist Party attach the utmost importance to the success of the Olympic Games for their own sakes, but without keeping any of the promises they have made.

Mr. Chairman, it is not too late to get the Chinese organizers, who are for the most part also senior political officials, to release prisoners of conscience, reform repressive laws and end censorship. It is time to add your voice to the international pressure and to say clearly to the Chinese authorities that you will not allow the Rose Parade to be associated to the Olympics and to have the celebrations marred by the human rights violations committed in China.

Reporters Without Borders knows the strength of sports and entertainment when they are put at the service of peace and democracy. Mr. Chairman, we do not doubt your commitment to freedom of expression. We believe that your convictions and those of the Rose Parade board members will enable you to quickly do what everyone is expecting of you – to take action on behalf of freedoms in China and to refuse to pay tribute to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games till the promises made by the Chinese authorities are kept.

We feel sure you will take account of our comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Ménard
Secretary-General





China - France |

Beijing Olympics human rights campaign launched

Nine French and international organisations, grouped in the French Collectif Chine JO 2008, today announced an eight-point campaign to improve human rights in China, which is hosting the Olympic Games in Beijing next year.

Marie Holzman, president of Solidarité Chine, speaking for the Collectif, said the campaign was “peaceful and rational,” in the words of the rebellious students in China in 1989. She noted that China’s leaders had made promises, including one by a member of the Chinese committee seeking to win the Games for Beijing, who said in 2001 that awarding the event to China would “help the growth of human rights.”

Former French justice minister Robert Badinter called on the Chinese government at a press conference in Paris to respect the ideals of peace and justice symbolised by the Games and to exclude all acts of violence, notably suspension of all executions and death sentences.

Political scientist Li Xiaorong said the Games were an excellent opportunity to improve the human rights situation in China. “The record is miserable and repression is increasing all the time, with the Games providing a new excuse for a crackdown,” she said

Wangpo Bashi, of the Tibet Office, deplored China’s continuing torture of prisoners of conscience. The Collectif made eight demands:

1. Free everyone who has been in prison since the 1989 Tiananmen protests, as well as all prisoners of conscience.
2. End control of the media, including the Internet.
3. Suspend all executions in China pending abolition of the death penalty.
4. Abolish the practice of administrative detention.
5. End the routine use of torture.
6. Allow free and independent trade unions.
7. Abolish article 306 of the criminal code, which allows lawyers to be arrested or banned from working.
8. End evictions from land and housing.

The Collectif has set up a blog (<http://pekin2008.rsfblog.org>) which presents (in French) its proposals and allows people to sign a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao calling for action. It also plans to approach all French sports federations, as well as athletes and politicians.

It is holding a rally on Sunday 3 June at Trocadéro Square in Paris at 15:30 to commemorate the Tiananmen Square repression of 4 June 1989.

The Collectif includes: Action des chrétiens pour l’abolition de la torture (ACAT-France), Agir pour les droits de l’Homme (ADH), Amnesty International (AI-France), the Comité de soutien au peuple tibétain CSPT), Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Ligue des Droits de l’Homme (LDH), Reporters Without Borders and Solidarité Chine.

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Human Relation Commission,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Beijing's proposed Olympics Float for the 2008 Rose Parade.

For those of you who might not be familiar with this controversy, on January 1, 2008, a Beijing-authorized Olympics float is to be paraded down Colorado Blvd in the internationally famous Rose Parade. The proposed float is meant to glorify the Chinese communist regime while ostensibly celebrating the Olympics - that is, if good men do nothing.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics will be notable as the only Olympics given to a host country based upon that host's promise of improving human rights conditions. The Chinese regime initially lobbied hard for the hosting of the millennial Olympic Games of 2000, but lost the bid in 1993 because the IOC was still stunned by the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. Knowing that human rights concerns would again be a stumbling block, the Chinese regime explicitly promised to improve human rights if the IOC would award it the 2008 Olympics Games.

This is not the first time the Chinese regime deceived the international community with cynically empty promises. The regime promised the same to get Permanent Normal Trade Relations from the United States, and promised the same to get into the World Trade Organization. Once it attained its goals, the Chinese regime has failed to reciprocate other countries' good faith by improving the human rights situation for its citizens as promised. To allow the PRC to showcase its "international achievements" to the Chinese people and to the world would mock the fundamental values and principles of the Olympic Games and of our country.

In January, the Chinese regime will crassly manipulate the good will of the Olympics to spread its propaganda through one of the world's most-watched celebrations. The PRC's media has already proclaimed the Olympics float in Rose Parade as the kick-off to the Chinese regime's Olympics propaganda. Their Olympic slogan is: "One world, one dream." If the regime's float were allowed to travel down the Colorado Blvd, it would carry the regime's message that human rights violations and the high aspirations of the Olympic Games belong together.

The City of Pasadena should not allow itself to be party to such propaganda. Pasadena should not allow itself to be associated with an Olympics that has already been likened to the 1936 Nazi Olympics.

With this brief introduction, I now turn to my colleagues who will tell you how the Chinese regime has broken its promise of improving the human rights conditions in China, and how human rights in China has continued to deteriorate.

Forty four years ago, a great man in this country had a dream that all men are created equal. The common thing we are sharing in our dreams is: Stop the persecution in China! Stop the persecution Now!

John Li

PASADENA CITY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 7, 2007

STATEMENT OF TSETEN PHANUCHARAS
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES FRIENDS OF TIBET

The invasion and occupation of Tibet by Communist China nearly 50 years ago, resulted in 1.6 million deaths; 6,000 monasteries and religious buildings destroyed and 140,000 Tibetans going into exile, including my family. The oppression and the brutal treatment of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule has been well documented.

Some, especially those who are dazzled by China's rapid economic development and by the upcoming Beijing Olympics, may argue that much of this occurred in the past and that the human rights situation is better in Tibet today than it was before the Olympics were granted to China. I am here to testify that the Chinese Government systematically seeks to destroy religion in Tibet by attacking the core of Buddhist beliefs.

Tibetans are a deeply spiritual people and they have an abiding desire to practice their religion according to their centuries-old traditions. The most basic belief of Buddhism is that of reincarnation. We believe that, to escape this cycles of births and deaths, an individual needs to accumulate merit by practicing great compassion for others. Those further along in their spiritual development, who choose to return to cyclic existence to help all beings, are called lamas or tulkus ("Living Buddhas" per the Chinese). Tibet has hundreds of reincarnate lamas, the best known of these is the 14th Dalai Lama. The search and recognition of reincarnations is both mystical and a very important part of Tibetan Buddhism; this sacred mission belongs to the practitioners of that religion and not to the State, especially not to an atheist government that believes religion is poison.

The entire history of Chinese rule over Tibet is a tragic tale of an all-consuming effort to stamp out the Buddhist religion. Every monastery has a communist party member overseer who monitors the monks' activities for the government. As you know, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has visited Pasadena several times to give Buddhist teachings. In Tibet it is a crime to own a tape of one of those teachings or to possess his picture.

Approved
The latest blow to Tibetans is the Chinese government's announcement last Friday of procedures for selecting reincarnations. According to Xinhua, the official Chinese News Agency, "All future incarnations of living Buddhas related to Tibetan Buddhism must get government". The stated purpose of these regulations is the "management" of Tibetan Buddhism by the government.

I ask you - does this appear, by any measure, that, the people of Tibet are free to practice their religion, or that human rights are improving in Tibet, just a year away from the Beijing Olympics? Should the City of Pasadena and the Rose Parade become tacit agents of such a government, which seeks to aggrandize itself through the glitz and glamour of the Olympics, while it oppresses millions of its people? I leave you to ponder these questions and decide for yourselves.

Thank you commissioners, for the opportunity to tell you a little bit about the state of religious freedom in Tibet today.

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*Rec
8/7/07*

China demands veto on Tibet's 'living buddhas'

By Richard Spencer, in Beijing

Last Updated: 12:52am BST 05/08/2007

Chinese authorities demanded the right yesterday to veto the reincarnation of "living buddhas", the holy figures most revered by the Tibetan faithful.

In a striking display of Beijing's determination to tighten control over Tibet, a 14-chapter notice published by the state religious affairs bureau set out "approval procedures" for new living buddhas and said monasteries that did not follow them would be punished.

Supporters of the exiled Dalai Lama, the pre-eminent living buddha who is 72 and currently in his 14th incarnation, will see the rules as an ominous sign that the authorities are determined to appoint his replacement when he dies.

In 1995, they put the six-year-old boy appointed by the Dalai as the new Panchen Lama, the second-highest living buddha, under house arrest, and announced their own candidate for the position.

The publication of the rules followed new restrictions placed on travel by foreigners in Tibet and widespread reports of greater intrusion into monastic life.

advertisement Pro-Tibetan rights groups and the Tibetan government-in-exile said they were intended to discourage protests and public displays of anti-Chinese feeling in the run-up to next year's Beijing Olympics. But they also coincided with rumours that the "Chinese Panchen" may have begun to resist co-operating with the authorities.

The rumours, said to be prevalent in Tibetan areas, were triggered by his failure to appear in public for three months, though he visited a temple near Beijing last weekend and overseas Tibetan representatives said they had found no evidence to back up the story.

The Communist Party has fought a running battle for control over Tibet's monasteries since the region was "liberated" by the People's Liberation Army in 1951.

Apart from the opposition represented by the Dalai Lama, some local lamas have also defied the authorities.

Many monasteries, particularly in ethnic Tibetan areas outside the officially designated "Tibetan Autonomous Region", continue to venerate photographs of the Dalai despite orders not to do so, while even in the major temples in Lhasa there are regular signs of dissent.

In 2005, the authorities began a campaign to try to force monks to denounce the Dalai in the name of "patriotic education".

The latest regulations are similar to those governing the appointment of bishops, which is the root cause of the refusal of the Vatican to recognise the official Chinese Catholic Church.

Tashing Tseri, the London spokesman for the Tibetan government-in-exile, said the new controls showed that the authorities lacked confidence in their claim that their rule was popular.

"In the past they always maintained that the people in Tibet are very happy but people can go and see for themselves," he said. "In a peaceful way people are showing their dislike for Chinese rule, and the authorities are getting desperate."

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The exiled Dalai Lama is in his 14th incarnation

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

China insists on communist government's sole right to recognize Tibetan living Buddhas

The Associated Press

Friday, August 3, 2007

BEIJING: Ratcheting up controls over Tibetan Buddhism, China on Friday asserted the communist government's sole right to recognize reincarnations of famous lamas that form the backbone of the religion's clergy.

All future incarnations of living Buddhas related to Tibetan Buddhism "must get government approval," the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing the State Administration for Religious Affairs.

China's officially atheistic communist government has increasingly sought to direct the course of Tibetan Buddhism, for centuries the basis of Tibet's civil, religious, cultural and political life. Reincarnate lamas, known as tulkus, often lead religious communities and oversee the training of monks, giving them enormous influence over religious life in Tibet.

China already insists that only the government can approve the appointments of the best known reincarnates, including the Dalai and Panchen Lamas, the No. 1 and No. 2 figures in Tibetan Buddhism.

A copy of the new rules posted to the administration's Web site said that the selection of reincarnates "must preserve national unity and solidarity of all ethnic groups."

"The process cannot be influenced by any group or individual from outside the country," it said in an apparent reference to the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader.

"The so-called reincarnated living Buddha without government approval or the approval of religious affairs departments (is) illegal and invalid," Xinhua said.

Xinhua called the rule, effective from Sept. 1, "an important move to institutionalize management on reincarnation." It said it aimed to guarantee "normal religious activities" for Tibetan Buddhism and protect the religious beliefs of Tibetan Buddhists according to law.

China in 1992 rejected the exiled Dalai Lama's choice for the latest reincarnation of the Panchen, seizing the recognized boy and conducting a search and appointment of another boy in his stead. The Dalai Lama, 71, fled to India in 1959 amid an aborted uprising against Chinese rule and Beijing has said it will pick his successor when he dies.

Xinhua said the new regulation lays out specific terms for recognizing reincarnates. Buddhist institutions applying on behalf of an aspirant must be registered with the government and reincarnations of especially well known lamas must be approved by the State Council, China's Cabinet.

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| Sunday, August 05, 2007 |

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REINCARNATION RED TAPE

Totalitarian states can be cruel and comic at the same time. The latest Chinese restriction on Tibetan Buddhism would appear to come straight from the theatre of the absurd. Come September, and Tibet's "living Buddhas" would have to queue up before religious affairs officials, application forms in hand, waiting to receive official permission to be reincarnated. The official explanation for the new restriction is that it is "an important move to institutionalize the management of reincarnation of living Buddhas". The official version itself gives away the government's lie. It must be a bizarre system that seeks not only to manage the religious affairs of its people but also to institutionalize them. But this is not the real import of the new regulation because China's "management" of Tibetan Buddhism — and of all other aspects of life in Tibet — began soon after it had taken control of Lhasa in 1951. The real target of the new law is none other than the Dalai Lama. An important provision of the 14-part regulation bars any Buddhist monk living outside China from seeking reincarnation for himself or recognizing a "living Buddha". Thus the law effectively marks the end of a tradition sustained by the Dalai Lama and the "living Buddhas", who dominated life and culture in Tibet in his name. The Chinese had earlier tried this endgame by propping up a puppet Panchen Lama, the second most important religious leader of the Tibetans. Now they want to foist their own "living Buddhas" on the Tibetans.

But totalitarian regimes are also known to do silly things out of fear. After nearly half a century of repressive measures, China has not quite succeeded in killing the soul of Tibetan Buddhism. Despite five decades of living in exile, the Dalai Lama remains the most important influence in Tibetan life. China fears that the "living Buddhas" may do at home what the exiled leader cannot. This Chinese fear is clearly born of a failure. Despite five decades of bitter campaigns against the "feudal and splittist" Dalai Lama and the "obscurantism" of Tibetan Buddhism, China has failed to wean the Tibetans away from either their spiritual leader or from their religion. Worse, the communist state is never free from the fear of Tibetan revolts. Historically, the State and religion have an uneasy relationship.

The latest Chinese attempt may therefore be defeated by its own irony. It may help tighten the State's control over the lamas and the monasteries, but it may further erode China's authority over what the writer, Patrick French, called "the Tibet of the mind". Another impact of the law may be more immediate and direct. It is likely to further cloud the talks between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama's representatives on the issue of Tibet's autonomy.

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Statement to the City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission

August 7, 2007

Honorable Commissioners

Kenneth Hardy, Chairman
Felipe O. Infante,
Vahe Atchabahian,
Terrie Ann Allen,
David Leming,
Michelle Bailey,
Stephen Macala,
Daniel Acosta,

It is a privilege for me to address you today.

Before I proceed, it is critical that we first have a clear understanding of this controversy.

People in China deserve an Olympic Games

As the most populous nation, the Chinese people has deserved an Olympics Games. Nonetheless, although China desperately sought the hosting of the millennial Olympic Games of 2000, those Games were not awarded to China. We know that it was the People's Republic of China (PRC) regime's horrific human rights violations that denied it the millennial Olympics Games. It is clear that China was only granted the 2008 Olympics Games because it promised to improve its repugnant human rights record.

Olympic Games are sports with ethical principles

The Olympics Charter states, "Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles." (see http://www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/missions/charter_uk.asp)

Accordingly, the Olympic Games are sports with ethical principles.

IOC relied upon the PRC pledge to improve human rights in China

Following China's successful bid for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, International Olympic Committee officials stated they relied upon the PRC authorities' pledged that the Beijing Olympic Games would be a catalyst for the improvement of human rights in China.

- "By allowing Beijing to host the Games you will help the development of human rights." Liu Jingmin, Vice President of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee, April 2001

- "It will help promote all economic and social projects and will also benefit the further development of our human rights cause." Liu Qi, the former Beijing Mayor & the current president of Organizing Committee for the Beijing Olympic Games, 13 July 2001.
- "We are convinced that the Olympic Games will improve the human rights record in China", Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, April 2002.

The Bid Committee's statement was an acknowledgement of the link between human rights and the Olympic Games. The promise of human rights improvement was therefore the expressed goal of both the Beijing Olympic Committee as well as the IOC.

The City of Pasadena should therefore look at any Olympics float in the Rose Parade as a reflection of progress made toward improved human rights.

The PRC government's attack on lawyers

Allow me to tell you about human rights activist Chen Guangcheng, who was named by Time magazine in 2005 as one of the world's 100 most influential people. That year, Chen heard reports that local authorities in Linyi City in Shandong Province had allegedly forced thousands of women to undergo abortions and sterilizations in an illegal effort to compel adherence to China's restrictive population control policies. Mr. Chen helped the villagers launch a lawsuit against the Linyi authorities. Authorities retaliated by subjecting Mr. Chen to arbitrary detention, beatings and intimidation. In 2006, they charged Chen Guangcheng, who is blind, with "damaging public property and gathering people to block traffic," and detained him incommunicado. In August 2006, he was convicted following a trial that lasted less than two hours. He was denied access to his lawyers. The human rights activist was sentenced to four years and three months in prison.

The case of Chen Guangcheng is but one of the many cases of attacks on lawyers and human rights defenders in China. (See Attachment K.)

The PRC government efforts at controlling information

In the waning months before the 2008 Olympics, China has redoubled its efforts at suppressing any unflattering information from being disseminated outside. From social issues to natural disasters, from poetry to food problems, no issue can avoid the censors and the public security police.

Some of the repressive actions China had taken in just last month (July, 2007) alone are:

July 4, 2007

China Development Brief, a newsletter based in Beijing and published by Nick Young, was ordered shut down. The newsletter tracked issues such as AIDS and the environment and provided information for non government non-profit groups in China to seek foreign

funding for those issues. Why the shutdown? Those issue makes the government look bad. (See Attachment A.)

Even a website that clearly has no political agenda was shut down.

July 11, 2007 The Forum of Contemporary Chinese Poetry was ordered closed. Why? Because the regime feared that poets can send subliminal messages through their poetry. (See Attachment B.)

July 13, eight members of the staff of Democracy and Legal Times, a weekly newspaper, were fired. Among those who were fired included the publisher, the deputy editor, and a member of the editorial staff. Why? Among the stories recently covered by the newspaper was a report of the case of Lan Chengzhang, a journalist who was beaten to death on the orders of a mine owner. (See Attachment C.)

July 16, Cyber-dissident and pro-democracy activist Zhu Yufu was sentenced to 2 years for allegedly pushing a police officer. (See Attachment D.)

July 19, Beijing TV reporter Zi Beijia was arrested and accused of fabricating a filmed report of workers making fake buns. Yet even the official news agency Xinhua acknowledged that many Beijing residents were skeptical about the findings of the police. The district where the report was filmed is known for having factories that produce imitation alcohol and food products. A journalist with the Hong Kong-based daily "Ming Pao" was threatened while trying to investigate the existence of these factories. (See Attachment E.)

July 23, Li Xing, an internet writer was arrested and charged with "disseminating false information and helping to create an atmosphere of panic" about the flooding in the northeast. (See Attachment F.)

As we can clearly see, as the 2008 Olympics approaches, the government of the PRC has intensified its efforts at making sure that the world sees only the sanitized version of China acceptable to the government.

PRC's executions and organ trade

The PRC has executed more people each year than the entire world combined. (See Attachment G). This has been fueled by the organ trade. (<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2006/04/25/EDGNSGUC3N1.DTL>)

In his blog, (http://newfilter.blogspot.com/2006_03_01_newfilter_archive.html)

Eric De Leon recounted his experience in having a transplant in China, his wife wrote on March 15, 2006 at 11:30 p.m. "Tony shared with us that they were doing 4 liver transplants tonight and 8 kidney transplants." The two weeks that it took to find DeLeon an organ match suggests that executions in China are carried out as organs become needed.

For the Olympics, sports and politics do mix

Some will may say that we should not mix sports and politics. However, in the Olympics, sports and politics often converge. Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics crushed Hitler's racial superiority theory. It was a personal triumph for Owens and a political triumph for those who supported racial equality.

The Olympics opening ceremony at Berlin was a fascist fantasy came true for Hitler. The Rose Parade float would be a similar propaganda coup for the PRC government.

Does the City of Pasadena have influence over the Tournament of Roses Association?

It was reported in the Pasadena Star News that "Bill Flinn, chief operating officer of the Tournament of Roses, said earlier this month the city, which holds a Sister City relationship with Beijing's Xicheng District, played a significant role in bringing China into the parade."

It is clear from the report that the City does have influence over the Tournament of Roses Association.

Does the City of Pasadena have influence over the PRC government?

The City of Pasadena has a sister city relationship with Xicheng, a district of Beijing. It was reported that "Bill Bogaard, mayor of Pasadena, and Yunsheng Bai, Executive Deputy Governor of Xicheng (on behalf of Governor Lin Duo) have just signed a Memo of Understanding regarding the sister city relationship on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of their sister city relationship."

The Executive Board of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) is made up of top officials in the Communist Party of China and top officials in Beijing and other cities.

Liu Qi, President of BOCOG is a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. Wang Qishan, an Executive President of BOCOG is the current Mayor of Beijing and a member of the 16th CPC Central Committee. Liu Jingmin, an Executive Vice President of BOCOG is the Vice Mayor of Beijing. (See attachment H).

Engaging China

We often talk about engaging China. This should not be at the cost of ignoring China's violations of human rights. Our engagement with China should be mutually beneficial to both peoples. Such engagement should go beyond trade to include the rights of the citizens in their respective countries.

Engaging China means expressing our concern for China's struggle for human rights and helping them keep their Olympics promise.

Does pressure work?

Visual Artists Guild is a non-profit organization which champions the right of freedom of speech and expression. Our experience working on many cases of prisoners of conscience shows that international pressure is effective in helping China change its behavior. For instance, we were successful in securing the release of human rights activist Harry Wu, the release of AIDS activist Wan Yan Hai and in securing a relatively light sentence for Singapore Strait Times journalist Ching Cheong. We continue to work for the release of Ching Cheong.

When Mia Farrow, a Hollywood actress and a United Nations Good Will Ambassador denounced China for its support of the Sudan's government, she called the Beijing Olympics the "Genocide Olympics". She warned director Steven Spielberg that he could "go down in history as the Leni Riefenstahl of the Beijing Games," a reference to the German filmmaker who made Nazi propaganda films. Steven Spielberg responded by writing a letter to China's President Hu. As a result, China sent a team to Darfur.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/washington/13diplo.html?ex=1334116800&en=74947b878f295ad4&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

John Kamm, Chairman of the Dui Hua Foundation, a human rights organization, was at one time the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. He was able to secure early release of prisoners of conscience through his numerous trade missions to China.

These cases show that international pressure does work.

Appeal to the City Council

Honorable Commissioners, the recommendations you make to the City Council will have global implications. The fact that international organizations such as Amnesty International based in London, Reporters Without Borders based in Paris and Human Rights Watch based in New York have expressed their opposition to the Beijing Olympics float until China has made improvements in human rights shows that Pasadena is an international city that merits world attention just as London, Paris and New York.

Honorable Commissioners, the recommendations you make to the City Council will demonstrate to the world the core values of the City of Pasadena. Any association with the Beijing Olympics float of shame in the current situation will besmirch the reputation of the City.

Honorable Commissioners, the recommendations you make to the City Council will be the re-affirmation of the basic tenet of our American values in supporting those who are oppressed.

Let the world know that the City of Pasadena is willing to stand up for the people in China. Let the world know that the City of Pasadena is willing to speak for the people in China who are suppressed. Let the world know that the City of Pasadena wants to help China keep its Olympic promise.

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Recommendations to Pasadena Human Relations Commission
Sub-committee regarding the proposed Beijing Olympics Rose Float of Shame

September 24, 2007

To: Honorable Human Relations Sub-Committee Commissioners
Kenneth Hardy, Chair
Felipe O. Infante,
Terrie Ann Allen,
Milena Albert

From: Ann Lau
Chair, Visual Artists Guild

In our August 7, 2007 statement to the Commissioners on Human Relations regarding the Beijing Olympics Rose Float of Shame, we have brought out some of the following points:

1. People in China deserve an Olympic Games.
2. Olympic Games are sports with ethical principles.
3. The International Olympic Committee relied upon the Peoples Republic of China's pledge to improve human rights in China. Liu Qi, former Beijing Mayor and current president of the Organizing Committee also pledged to promote human rights.
4. The PRC government has stepped up attacks on human rights lawyers.
5. The PRC government has tightened controls on the press.
6. The PRC government has tightened censorship on the Internet.
7. For the Olympics, politics is inextricably linked to sports competition. The Rose Parade float would be a propaganda coup for the PRC government just as the Olympics opening ceremony at Berlin was a fascist fantasy come true for Hitler.
8. The City of Pasadena has influence over the Tournament of Roses. Bill Flinn of the Tournament of Roses gave credit to the City for playing a "significant role" in bringing about Beijing's involvement in the Parade.

9. The City of Pasadena can influence the PRC government through its recommendation on the Beijing float because all of the members of the Executive Board of the Beijing Organizing Committee are either top government officials or top officials of the Communist Party of China.
10. Engaging China must include expressing our concerns for the people of China for their human rights and urging China to keep their Olympics promise.
11. Pressure does work.
 - a. Visual Artists Guild's past actions resulted in some successes including release of human rights activist Harry Wu, AIDS activist Wan Yan Hai as well as a comparatively light sentence for Singapore Strait Times journalist Ching Cheong.
 - b. John Kamm, former president of American Chamber of Commerce was able to secure release of prisoners with trade.
 - c. United Nations Good Will Ambassador Mia Farrow's Wall Street Journal article and subsequent action by Stephen Spielberg resulted in China sending a team to Darfur.
 - d. Current media attention on tainted pet food and other issues resulted in China's execution of their Chief of State Food and Drug Administration (although this is not anyone wanted) and changes in China's government's oversight on food export.

Recommend that the Human Relations Commission remind the Pasadena City Council

1. To demonstrate to the world the core values of the City of Pasadena.
2. Any association with the Beijing Olympics float of shame in the current situation will besmirch the reputation of the City of Pasadena. Does Pasadena wish to be forever referred to as the Leni Riefenstahl of the 2006 Beijing Olympics just as the famous director of Nazi propaganda films was linked to the 1936 Berlin Olympics?
3. The recommendations to the Pasadena City Council must be to re-affirm the basic tenet of our American values in supporting those who are oppressed.
4. The City of Pasadena can play a significant role in helping China keep its Olympic promise.
5. The world will know that the City of Pasadena is willing to speak up for the oppressed people in China.

Our recommendations are as follows:

Recommend the Pasadena Mayor and City Councilmembers send a letter to the Tournament of Roses Association