

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND THE MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of concerned Australian residents draws to the attention of the House of Representatives the deteriorating human rights conditions in Tibet. As of January 2013, 99 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in acts of protest against the Chinese government's policies which are undermining their cultural, religious and political rights. 82 of these self-immolations took place in 2012.

The Chinese government has refused to address Tibetans' grievances. Instead it has intensified the use of force, spread misinformation about the situation on the ground and blocked telecommunications into and out of the affected areas. Tibet remains closed to international media and China remains unwilling to allow visits by Australian diplomatic representatives.

We ask the House of Representatives to urge the Australian Government to:

- **Make a strong public statement of concern over the situation facing Tibetan people**
- **Renew efforts to send the Ambassador in Beijing and a parliamentary delegation to areas affected by the protests and urge China to allow foreign journalists unfettered access to all Tibetan areas**
- **Join other concerned countries in an intergovernmental forum dedicated to building stronger international pressure on China to address the crisis in Tibet**