
RESOURCE LIST | OLYMPICS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

The Chinese government has made a bet that by hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, it can present a prosperous and modern China to the world. Officials hope that a successful event will not only burnish their international image, but also influence other arenas, such as foreign investment and tourism. With the international spotlight on Beijing for a few weeks next summer, however, the less polished side of China's rise will also be revealed.

Many organizations around the world have seized this opportunity to raise issues ranging from human rights to media freedom, from repression in Tibet to China's relationship with Sudan. This resource list highlights several advocacy campaigns that will be putting the heat on Beijing in the run-up to the Olympics and beyond. The campaigns include those conducted by single organizations, networks and other coalitions, with some organizations participating in more than one campaign.

The campaign descriptions that follow were provided by campaign organizers, or drawn from campaign Web sites.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Beijing 2008: Race for Tibet (<http://www.racefortibet.org/>) is a coalition campaign initiated by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) to unite Tibetan groups worldwide in making the 2008 Beijing Olympics a catalyst for change in Tibet. The campaign aims to encourage China to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the lead-up to the Games to engage the Dalai Lama and make important changes to its human rights policies in Tibet.

INTERNATIONAL TIBET SUPPORT NETWORK

The **2008-FreeTibet** (<http://www.supportteamtibet.org/>) campaign, launched by the International Tibet Support Network (ITSN), deploys educational and protest activities related to the 2008 Olympics to seek support from people around the world to press for free-

dom in Tibet and throughout China. ITSN is calling on the Chinese government to respect the rights of the Tibetan people and to resolve the Tibetan issue through sincere dialogue with the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and the Dalai Lama, as well as urging all governments to pressure the Chinese authorities to immediately release all political prisoners.

STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET

Students for a Free Tibet (SFT), a member group of the larger International Tibet Support Network, believes that China must end its illegal occupation of Tibet before it can enjoy the international prestige of hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympics and be recognized as a respected leader on the global stage. Through global protests, nonviolent direct action and educational events, SFT's **Free Tibet 2008: Beijing Olympics Campaign** (<http://www.FreeTibet2008.org>) aims to use the global focus on the Olympics to draw attention to China's human rights violations in Tibet and push for Tibetans' fundamental right to self determination.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has launched a new Web site, *Beijing 2008: China's Olympian Human Rights Challenges* (<http://china.hrw.org/>), featuring photo essays, a media guide, a take-action page with online advocacy tools and a discussion forum. Each month, HRW highlights a specific area for reform, beginning with media censorship. Other areas of concern include migrant labor rights, forced evictions, repression of ethnic and religious minorities, state-sponsored executions, obstruction of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, stifling of dissent through house arrests, and ties to regimes perpetrating rights violations such as Sudan's abuses in Darfur.

PLAYFAIR 2008

PlayFair 2008 (<http://www.playfair2008.org/>) is an international campaign taking advantage of the lead-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics to push for respect for workers' rights in the global sporting goods industry. The campaign—a global alliance of trade unions, NGOs and labor groups—urges sportswear and athletic

Compiled by Charlie McAteer and Victoria Kwan

footwear companies, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), National Olympics Committees and national governments to take steps to eliminate the exploitation and abuse of workers in the global sporting goods industry.

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) (http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=174) calls on the Chinese authorities to implement nine reforms before the 2008 Beijing Olympics: (1) release all detained journalists and Internet users; (2) abolish the restrictive articles in the Foreign Correspondents Guide; (3) disband the Publicity Department that controls the Chinese media; (4) end the jamming of foreign radio stations; (5) end the blocking of news and information Web sites based abroad; (6) suspend the “11 Commandments” of Internet censorship; (7) end the blacklisting of overseas journalists and human rights activists; (8) lift the ban on Chinese media using certain foreign news agency video footage and news reports; (9) legalize independent organizations of journalists and human rights activists.

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) urges the Chinese government to fulfill the promises it made in 2001 when Beijing was awarded the 2008 Olympics, including assurances that authorities would allow the media “complete freedom.” CPJ recently released a report in Beijing, *Falling Short: As the 2008 Olympics Approach, China Falters on Press Freedom* (http://cpj.org/Briefings/2007/Falling_Short/China/index.html),

to illustrate the yawning gap between these promises and China’s continuing lack of press freedom. CPJ’s report includes demands that China—the world’s leading jailer of journalists—release all journalists currently imprisoned for their work.

OLYMPIC DREAM FOR DARFUR

Dream for Darfur is an advocacy campaign raising awareness of China’s role in enabling the Sudanese government to continue to commit atrocities. On August 8, 2007, one year before the opening of the Beijing Olympics, Dream for Darfur launched an **Olympic Torch Relay** that will bring a torch to historic places of genocide, including Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia and Germany. Dream for Darfur has also joined the Save Darfur Coalition to organize a 21-state US Olympic Torch Relay (<http://www.savedarfur.org/page/content/torchrun>), scheduled to begin this fall. The relays are aimed at urging China to pressure Sudan into ending the Darfur killings, and sparking a global anti-genocide movement.

OLYMPIC WATCH

Olympic Watch (<http://www.olympicwatch.org/>), established in Prague in 2001, seeks to monitor the human rights situation in China and to campaign for its improvement ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It focuses in particular on the areas of freedom of speech and access to information; opposition to the death penalty and torture; a free Tibet; tolerance of dissent and democratic reform; and relations between mainland China and Taiwan.



BEIJING 2008
RACE FOR
TIBET
www.racefortibet.org



Olympic Watch joined with the Laogai Research Foundation and the International Society for Human Rights to release “Minimum Standards for Beijing 2008” (<http://www.olympicwatch.org/news.php?id=74>), listing requirements that China should meet in order to be a good host for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The three groups called for China to: (1) ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (2) end the use of military force against peaceful democratic action; (3) impose a moratorium on the death penalty; (4) engage in open talks with the Tibetan Government-in-Exile; (5) guarantee democracy in Hong Kong; and (6) abolish the extrajudicial detention “laogai”/“laojiao” camps.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International (AI) (<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170242007?open&of=ENG-CHN>) is campaigning for a lasting human rights legacy for the Beijing Olympics. AI will monitor the Chinese government’s performance particularly closely in areas with a direct link to: (1) preparations for the Olympics; (2) core principles in the Olympic Charter; and (3) promises of human rights improvements made by Chinese officials in 2001 at the awarding of the Games to China. AI will mobilize thousands globally to press the Chinese authorities to deliver a positive human rights legacy to the people of China by making substantial reforms in four key areas: (1) the death penalty; (2) punitive administrative detention and fair trials; (3) arbitrary detention and harassment of human rights defenders; and (4) unwarranted censorship of the Internet.

LE COLLECTIF CHINE JO 2008/CHINA 2008 OLYMPICS COLLECTIVE

Le Collectif Chine JO 2008, known in English as the China 2008 Olympics Collective (<http://pekin2008.rsf-blog.org/>), is composed of nine French NGOs, including Amnesty International-France, FIDH and Reporters Sans Frontières. In the lead-up to the Olympics, the Collective is urging Chinese authorities to implement “8 Requirements For Beijing”: (1) release those imprisoned for participating in the Tiananmen demonstrations and all other prisoners of conscience; (2) end the control of media and information; (3) suspend all executions pending abolition of the death penalty; (4) end non-judicial detention; (5) end torture; (6) allow freedom of association for trade unions; (7) repeal Article 306 of the PRC Criminal Law, used as a repressive measure against lawyers; and (8) end forcible evictions.

COALITION TO INVESTIGATE THE PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG

The Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (<http://cipfg.org/en/>) calls for the Chinese government to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, their supporters and defense lawyers; to release all practitioners who have been imprisoned for their beliefs; and to engage in discussions with CIPFG on opening up prisons, hospitals, labor camps and other facilities for inspection by independent investigators. On August 9, 2007, CIPFG launched a Global Human Rights Torch Relay (<http://www.humanrightstorch.org/>) that will span five continents to draw attention to human rights violations in China.



PLAYFAIR2008.org



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Et les droits de l'Homme ?