



Ethical Action Report



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Humanitarian Aid: Ensure Equal Aid Access in Tibet!

Write to the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and demand that Tibetans impacted by the devastating earthquake have equal access to aid.

Letters should be sent to:

The Honorable Wen Jiabao
Premier, Government of the People's Republic of China
c/o The Embassy of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

BACKGROUND

Nearly 70,000 people were killed in a devastating earthquake that struck Tibet and China on May 12, and another 20,000 are still missing. About 15 million have been displaced, and aftershocks continue in quake zones. The epicenter of the quake is located in Ngaba county in eastern Tibet—a region where the majority of Tibetan protests have taken place, resulting in brutal crackdowns by the Chinese government.

Given the record of brutality against Tibetans by the Chinese government, there is grave concern that Tibetans impacted by the earthquake will not receive equal assistance and that the Chinese government will use the earthquake as an opportunity to continue their crackdown. We have already seen some evidence of this: 100 Tibetans have been arrested and beaten since the earthquake. In addition, on the day of the earthquake, the Chinese government issued a document that directed relief workers to “[combine] work on anti-separatism and safeguarding stability with disaster relief work.” Moreover, little information about relief efforts in Tibet has been reported.

Tibetans must receive equal access to humanitarian aid, and abuse should not be tolerated. Please write to the Chinese government today to voice your concerns.

Stand up for Peace: Support the Military Conscientious Objector Act

Write to your representatives in Congress and ask them to become a sponsor of the Military Conscientious Objector Act.

BACKGROUND

Our current military policy concerning conscientious objectors is broken. Under current policy, conscientious objection is defined as the following: “A firm, fixed, and sincere objection to participation in war in any form or the bearing of arms, by reason of religious training and/or belief.”

There are many problems with this policy, many of them dealing with questions of religion. Soldiers mature and evolve in their religious, moral, and ethical beliefs, so the notion that a conscientious objector holds a “fixed” objection to war is inconsistent with reality. In addition, the stipulation that a conscientious objector be against all war in any form does not take into account the “Just-War Theory” of many mainstream religions. This tenet holds that just wars may be fought by adherents, but unjust wars should not be. Moreover, the term “religious” doesn’t account for the strongly held moral and ethical beliefs of humanists and other non-theists.

The Military Conscientious Objector Act (MCOA) would fix much of what is wrong with current policy by supporting religious freedom. Not only this, but it would make conscientious objection a statutory right, rather than policy that can be suspended. Please contact your representatives today and urge them to support a system to protect our conscientious objectors.

Equal Justice: Stop Sentencing Discrimination (S. 1711 and H.R. 4545)

Write to your representatives and senators in Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act, (S. 1711 and H.R. 4545).

BACKGROUND

Currently, crack cocaine offenders are punished more severely than any other drug offenders under federal sentencing law. For example, dealing or possession of 5 grams of crack cocaine will land someone in jail for five years under mandatory minimum sentence guidelines—the exact sentence for someone dealing or possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

This disparity in sentencing has resulted in a disproportionate number of African-Americans sentenced under this mandatory minimum law—historically the majority of crack cocaine offenders are black. In 2006, African-Americans made up 82 percent of all crack cocaine-related arrests.

Legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate to end the 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences: The Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act. Ask your representatives and senators to support this legislation today!

Women's Rights: Support the GROWTH Act (S. 2069 and H.R. 2965)

Urge your representatives and senators to co-sponsor the GROWTH Act (S. 2069 and H.R. 2965.)

BACKGROUND

Investing in economic opportunities for women is one of the most promising ways to fight poverty worldwide. In many nations of the developing world, women are responsible for producing the food supply and paying for education, food and healthcare for their children. Unfairly, they are also more likely than men to face economic barriers: they work longer hours in the lowest-paid work and receive little education and job training.

However, the GROWTH Act is a groundbreaking piece of legislation that would help women in the developing world get the tools and resources they need to break the cycle and lift themselves out of poverty. The GROWTH Act would help women start and grow their own businesses, help secure women's land and property rights, and improve women's wages by emphasizing education and job training.

Invest in women today to end global poverty. Ask your representatives and senators in Congress to co-sponsor the GROWTH Act today!

Sensible Drug Policy: Support the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act (H.R. 5842)

Contact your representatives in Congress and urge them to support the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act (H.R. 5842).

BACKGROUND

Currently, twelve states have enacted laws that legalize medicinal marijuana use and protect marijuana patients. However, marijuana still remains illegal under federal law, and the Drug Enforcement Administration frequently conducts raids and arrests patients who use marijuana legally in their own state—patients who may be severely sick and dying.

Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) has introduced the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act in the U.S. House to enact federal protections for patients who use marijuana in states where it is legal. He has been joined by Representatives Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Ron Paul (R-TX), and Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)—a bi-partisan force.

Contact your representatives in Congress today and urge them to support this legislation. Patients who use medical marijuana should not have to fear arrest or prosecution from federal law enforcement agencies.

Contacting Elected Officials

White House

Mailing Address

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Number

Comments: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461

E-mail

President George W. Bush:
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Richard Cheney:
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Congress

Mailing Address

United States Senate
or
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

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Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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