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Mr Jacques Rogge  
President  
International Olympic Committee

Château de Vidy  
1007 Lausanne  
Switzerland

*Vienna, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008*

**Re: The IOC's responsibility to speak out against human rights abuses in China**

Dear Mr. Rogge,

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Co-Spokespersons of the European Green Party.

We share the revulsion felt by so many people all over the world towards the brutal suppression of peaceful protests in Tibet this week. We are writing to you about this because we want to urge you to go much further than you have in your recent expression of "concern" about these events and speak up much more clearly and loudly about the unacceptable nature of the Chinese government's repressive policies. You, as the President of the International Olympic Committee, have a responsibility to publicly criticise the Chinese government for not having kept the promises to respect human rights that they made when China was selected as the host country for the 2008 Olympic Games.

While we are aware that your position is that the IOC is a sporting organisation and as such should never make political statements, our opinion is that sport does not take place in a vacuum completely apart from the rest of the world. If you do not speak out clearly against China's human rights abuses, both publicly and in your meetings with the Chinese government, the IOC will be accused, with some justification, of being complicit in the violent repression of the Tibetan people and other victims of human rights abuses in China and the image and reputation of the Olympics and Olympic Movement will suffer irreparable damage.

We urge you to impress on the national Olympic Committees the need for them to allow their athletes complete freedom of expression before, during and after the Beijing Olympics, including the right to give their opinion about human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

One other specific measure which we would encourage you to take is to immediately remove Tibet and Mount Everest from the Olympic torch Relay route. This would be of great symbolic value and send a clear message to the Chinese authorities that firing shots into unarmed crowds less than five months before the Games begin is simply not acceptable behaviour from an Olympic host country.

We would like to thank you for giving our requests your careful consideration and would very much appreciate it if you could inform us of your response.

Yours sincerely

Philippe Lamberts and Ulrike Lunacek, MP, Austria  
Co-Spokespersons of the European Green Party