



Deutscher Bundestag

Statements by the committee

Declaration by the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid on the signing of the 17-point agreement between the government of the People's Republic of China and representatives of the then Tibetan government 70 years ago

On May 23, 1951, the signing of the controversial 17-point agreement ended the de facto independence of Tibet. The signing of the agreement was also forced under pressure from the Chinese military that had occupied Tibet in previous years, beginning in 1949.

While the Chinese government, under the leadership of the Communist Party (CP), describes and celebrates the signing of the 17-point agreement to this day as a peaceful liberation, the Tibetans are at the mercy of the Communist Party, which is associated with far-reaching restrictions and violations of their fundamental rights. In March 1959, the Tibetan uprising was bloodily suppressed. The Dalai Lama had to leave his homeland and fled to India.

Since then, and in contradiction to the content of the 17-point agreement, the Chinese Communist Party has continued its strategy of assimilation and Sinization towards Tibetans as well as towards other minorities in other regions of the People's Republic of China. The treaty provided for, among other things, the autonomy of Tibet with a view to maintaining its political system and a guarantee for the status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama. In addition, the agreement ensured the protection of the religious beliefs, manners and customs of the Tibetan people.

Today the culture, traditional way of life, language, identity and religion of the Tibetans are threatened. Contrary to the treaty, the Tibetan political system has been completely abolished. The 17-point agreement only served to expand the power of the Chinese Communist Party, not for peaceful and equal coexistence. The peaceful resistance of the Tibetan people against the deliberate disenfranchisement urgently needs more attention and support worldwide.

The secular and spiritual leadership of the Tibetans has chosen the path of peace over and over again in the past 70 years of violent repression. The Dalai Lama's "middle way" is an opportunity to avoid possible future conflicts.

The Committee for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag advocates the non-violent way of the Tibetan people to express their will for self-determination in this way and calls on the Chinese government again to respect the human rights of the Tibetans as well as their culture and religion to finally guarantee, as provided for in the 17-point agreement and as it is guaranteed even in the constitution of the People's Republic of China.

The human rights violations against all religious and ethnic minorities in the People's Republic of China and the massive encroachments on religious and cultural life as well as personal freedom must be stopped immediately. The committee calls on the Chinese government to immediately end the repression against the Tibetan people and to resume dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the Tibetans.

The Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Committee has expressed its harsh criticism of the systematic human rights violations in China. The committee will not let up in its commitment to repeatedly addressing these human rights violations and vehemently calling for an improvement in the human rights situation in China.

The above declaration was voted against by the parliamentary groups CDU / CSU, SPD, FDP and Bündnis 90 / DIE GRÜNEN against the votes of the parliamentary group DIE LINKE. and adopted in the absence of the AfD parliamentary group.

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