



United States Department of State
*Assistant Secretary for Democracy,
Human Rights, and Labor*
Washington, D.C. 20520-7802

March 13, 2002

Dear Mr. Enhebatu Togochoog:

This is in response to your letter of February 14 to President Bush expressing concern about the imprisonment of Mr. Hada and Mr. Tegexi in Inner Mongolia, China. The President has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Administration continues to work hard for the release of political prisoners in China. We have raised the cases of Mr. Hada and Mr. Tegexi many times with the Chinese, and, more generally, have on multiple occasions raised our concerns over the detention of all persons who have peacefully called for greater autonomy for ethnic minorities. We will continue to do so.

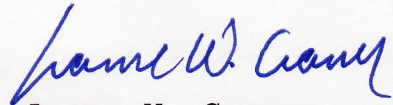
Promoting greater respect for human rights and political freedom of all Chinese citizens is among our key foreign policy objectives in China. The position of the U.S. Government on this is clear. No individual should be detained solely for expressing personal views or engaging in other peaceful, legitimate activities. Freedom of conscience should be guaranteed for all persons. These rights are protected under international human rights instruments.

We will continue to press Chinese authorities to release prisoners of conscience and to improve respect for human rights in China.

Mr. Enhebatu Togochoog
C/O of Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center,
37-40 79 Street,
Jackson Heights, NY 11372.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Lorne W. Craner
Assistant Secretary