

Her Excellency Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite
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Your Excellency Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite,

We write to you once again, following up on our previous correspondence from last autumn. We trust this letter finds you well. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your impactful visit to Mongolia last autumn, followed by your insightful report. Your efforts have undoubtedly shed light on the critical need to fortify judicial independence and uphold human rights within the country.

As a coalition of organisations, comprising individuals of Mongolian heritage residing abroad and advocating for the rights of our respective Mongolian heritage communities, we are deeply troubled by the worsening state of democracy, civil rights, and judicial independence in Mongolia. Our collective concern extends to the enduring adverse impact on individuals of Mongolian heritage residing outside Mongolia, particularly those under the jurisdictions of authoritarian regimes such as China, Russia, and others. It is therefore imperative that we address these pressing issues to safeguard the rights and well-being of our communities. Currently subjected to colonisation and authoritarian rule, our communities face further adversity due to Mongolia's deteriorating democracy and the encroaching influence of authoritarianism from its immediate neighbours.

Recent developments indicate grave interference in electoral processes by the Mongolian People's Party (MPP), led by Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai, in anticipation of the upcoming parliamentary elections. The actions of the MPP appear aimed at solidifying their victory and severely curbing dissent. Political interference in the judiciary, reminiscent of old Communist tactics, is intensifying. This interference has led to a crackdown on journalists and citizens under the guise of national security, utilising restrictive tort laws excessively and abusively. Of particular concern is the ease with which individuals, including journalists, can be charged with crimes such as defamation against the Prime Minister, the President, and infringement of others' rights, in effect stifling dissent and criticism. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai has gained notoriety for exploiting these laws to suppress dissenting voices. The erosion of democratic values and principles is evident, with the use of tort laws to silence dissent posing a grave threat to freedom of expression and the rule of law in Mongolia.

We urge the international community, including your esteemed office, to intensify efforts to closely monitor the situation in Mongolia and to take decisive action to address our concerns. Specifically, we call for condemnation of political interference in the judiciary, advocacy for the protection of journalists and freedom of the press, support for initiatives promoting transparency and accountability, and consideration of targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for human rights abuses. Finally, we call upon the international community to bring pressure on the

Mongolian government to uphold the rule of law abiding by international conventions of freedom and justice.

Furthermore, we draw your attention once again to the case of Mr. Munkhbayar Chuluundorj, whose unjust imprisonment symbolises the broader challenges facing Mongolia's judiciary system as well as the transnational repression exerted by the government of the neighbouring People's Republic of China (PRC). Mr. Chuluundorj's journalism, which includes critiques of the Chinese government's treatment of Mongols in China and the Mongol-Sino relationship, has long irritated the Communist authorities in Peking. The timing of his arrest, closely following the Prime Minister's return from Peking, begs the question of whether it was truly coincidental. An especially alarming recent development in this case is the suspension of legal licenses of two of Mr. Chuluundorj's attorneys without due process, terminating their ability to earn a living in their profession. Additionally, it is worth noting that aside from the potential persecution of Mr. Chuluundorj at China's behest, the Prime Minister harbours personal animosity towards Chuluundorj due to his outspoken criticism of the Prime Minister's politics and conduct, as well as calls for his resignation. We implore you to prioritise this case and utilise your platform to advocate for Mr. Chuluundorj's release and the restoration of justice.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. We trust in your dedication to upholding the principles of democracy, freedom, and justice, and eagerly anticipate your continued efforts to support the democratic aspirations of the Mongolian people.

Sincerely,

Altan Seseg - Buryat Folk Dance Ensemble, USA
Buryaad Mongol United Association Inc., USA
Committee of Buryat Independence, USA
Congress of the Buryat People, USA
Hazara Organization for Peace and Equality (HOPE), USA
Inner Mongolia People's Party's, Japan
InterMongol Network, USA
Kalmyk Mongolian Buddhist Center, USA
Mongol Heritage Foundation, USA
Oirat-Kalmyk People's Congress, USA
Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center, USA
Tusgaar Buryad Mongolia, USA
World Mongol Federation - Europe, Sweden
World Mongol Federation - Japan, Japan
World Mongol Federation - USA, United States
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