

Message

My warm greetings to the bi-partisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission as it marks its tenth anniversary in the service of protecting and promoting the universal and individual freedoms to which every human being is entitled.

I am happy that the United States Congress decided in 2008 to consolidate the existing Congressional Human Rights Caucus founded by then Congressmen Tom Lantos and John Edward Porter as the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. On September 21, 1987, the Caucus honored me by providing a congressional platform from which to outline my Five-Point Peace Plan.

I have always looked to the United States as a champion of democracy, freedom, human values and creativity. The U.S. is a leader among free nations, playing a pivotal role in promoting peace around the world. I commend the Tom Lantos Commission for its positive contribution in shining a light on individuals around the world whose fundamental human rights are being violated by those in power.

I am grateful to the Commission for continuing to highlight the plight of the Tibetan people ruthlessly oppressed in their own land. Your work sends a strong message that the international community has not forgotten them. It also reminds the Chinese leadership that until they treat the Tibetan people with dignity and respect, they cannot hope to earn the international admiration they seek.

Human rights are of universal concern because it is the inherent nature of human beings to yearn for freedom, equality and dignity and to seek to achieve them. Therefore, I wish to thank past and present members of the Commission, including its current co-chairs, Congressmen Jim McGovern and Randy Hultgren, for the concern and support that they and their colleagues have shown for the plight of oppressed people everywhere.

There is a great and growing desire for change in the world; change that ushers in a renewed commitment to ethical and spiritual values, that resolves conflicts peaceably, employing dialogue and non-violence, that upholds human rights and human dignity as well as human responsibility. Let us widen our perspective to include the well being of the whole world and its future generations in our vision of prosperity and freedom. In the contribution it can make to this noble goal I wish the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission every success.

