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February 4, 2020

Minister Chen Baosheng  
Ministry of Education  
No. 37 Damucang Hutong  
100816 Xidan  
Beijing  
People's Republic of China

Re: Mother tongue education for Tibetans

Dear Minister Chen,

Human Rights Watch is an independent international organization that monitors human rights in more than 90 countries around the world. We have been reporting on and advocating solutions to human rights abuses in China for more than 30 years.

We are currently preparing a report on the lack of access to mother tongue education for Tibetans. The report focuses on Chinese government claims to provide “bilingual education,” and the extent to which the Chinese government has complied with expectations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and other international legal instruments.

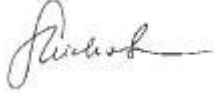
We would appreciate your response to questions raised below, as well as any additional information you wish to provide us on this issue, so that they can be reflected in our reporting. Human Rights Watch strives to ensure the accuracy of our research and looks forward to your response. In light of our publishing schedule, we would appreciate receiving your response by February 21, 2020, sent to Sophie Richardson, China Director at Human Rights Watch, by email at richars@hrw.org or by fax to 1-202-612-4333.

HUMAN  
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HRW.org

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Richardson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sophie Richardson  
China Director  
Human Rights Watch

## Questions:

1. Please explain how current education policies for national autonomous regions, including “Bilingual Education,” “Bilingual Pre-school Education,” and “Ethnic Mingling” (e.g., decisions of the September 2014 National Conference on Ethnic Work) are consistent with the provisions for minority language use in China’s Constitution.
2. Please explain why China has not complied with several key requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
3. Please explain why China has not addressed the concerns of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination expressed in 2018, particularly that, “Tibetan language teaching in schools in the [TAR] has not been placed on an equal footing in law, policy and practice with Chinese, and that it has been significantly restricted.”
4. In numerous recent official statements, “social stability” appears to be considered a higher priority than ensuring the rights of minorities to mother tongue instruction. Please explain how this is consistent with domestic and international legal standards.