

**Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition News and Article Release Issue Number:
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Topic: Dalai Lama Discusses China and Tibet Issues with the Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition, Mayor of Nantes Invites Wei Jingsheng for lunch, as well as Attending Their Special Reception for the Dalai Lama

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On August 17, 2008, during the Olympic Games in Beijing, The spiritual leader of Tibet, his holiness the Dalai Lama had a discussion meeting with Chinese democracy leader Wei Jingsheng and other representatives of the human rights and democracy movement from several countries, on the issues of Tibet and China. The meeting was held in Nantes, France, where the Dalai Lama is giving Buddhism teachings.

The Dalai Lama greeted the entire far away friends and urged for unity within the Chinese democracy movement. He said that right after 1989, he already told those people in exile that the exile would be a long and tough process. Now, we need more communication. Wei Jingsheng expressed that communication should be on all aspects. The various parties of the Chinese democracy movement had a conference just a day earlier and made a joint statement regarding 5 subjects. One of the most important declarations was to emphasize people have the right to resist violence. We all wish to solve various issues by peaceful means. However, the Chinese Communist government has blocked all the roads to peacefully solve social issues, including ethnic group issues, which has forced people to take desperate risks. We can only support the righteous struggle of people of various areas and various ethnic groups. We cannot stand on the opposite side of the people.

The Dalai Lama said that both Han Chinese and Tibetans have been living together for 2000 years now. Although he has expressed his stand in various places, from March 14 this year until after the Olympic torch relay, many people overseas protested him, which made him heartbroken. Wei Jingsheng said that those protestors are just a minority; most Han Chinese are sympathetic and understand the Tibetans' struggle for freedom.

The chairman of the Chinese Democratic Front, Wang GuoXing said, "We should forgive

those youths who do not know either the history, or the truth well. What they received was only partial and misleading information, and I myself was one of them. If the Dalai Lama can resume confidence, we the Chinese democratic activists would also have more confidence."

The vice president of the Uyghur World Congress also expressed his organization's admiration to the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama recalled some historic exchanges between the Tibetans and Uyghur with enthusiasm.

The representative of Chinese Christians Zhang Jian told the Dalai Lama how he was wounded in June 4.

The editor of Epoch Times, Zhang Japing, gave an English version of "9 Commentaries on the Communist Party" to the Dalai Lama.

The well-known human rights activist Marie Holzman gave a tin of Chinese tea to the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama suggested to Wei Jingsheng to communicate with Taiwan more. By pooling wisdom together, it would be better for the democracy. Both sides also exchanged their views on the recent developments.

Finally, the Dalai Lama summarized his own 3 points. The first is about freedom, which is a matter for the whole human race. The second is about harmony, that all the ethnic groups should live together in harmony. When he talked about "freedom" and "harmony", he particularly used Chinese. The third is about Tibet, of the fate of our people and our culture.

The meeting lasted for about 75 minutes.

On August 18, the mayor, and vice mayor, and the mayor's advisor of the city of Nantes invited Mr. Wei Jingsheng for lunch. They spent one and half-hours to talk about the situation in China, the Tibet issue, and the Georgia and East European situation.

Also on August 18, at 4pm, Mr. Wei was invited to attend the reception to welcome the Dalai Lama by the city of Nantes. During his speech, the Dalai Lama mentioned several times of the support of the Chinese people to the Tibetans, while waving his greetings to Mr. Wei.

Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition

Chinese Democratic Front

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Related photos:

1. Dalai Lama's meeting with Wei Jingsheng and other democracy activists:

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2. Dalai Lama presents Kata to Wei Jingsheng, chair of the Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition:

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3. Dalai Lama shakes hands with Wang GuoXing, chair of the Chinese Democratic Front:

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4. The Dalai Lama greets vice president of the Uyghur World Congress:

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for news and information for Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition and human rights

and democracy movement as whole, especially our Chinese Labor Union Base.

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