

News story

UK has serious concerns about human rights in Tibet

Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire has said that the UK has serious concerns about the self-immolations in Tibetan regions.

From: **Foreign & Commonwealth Office** (</government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>) and **The Rt Hon Hugo Swire** (</government/people/hugo-swire>)

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Following a European Union statement on self-immolations in Tibet, Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire said:

“We strongly support the recent statement from Baroness Ashton about the situation in Tibet. We continue to have serious concerns about the human rights situation there, including the self-immolations in Tibetan regions.

“We urge the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint. At the same time, I join Baroness Ashton in calling on Tibetans not to resort to extreme forms of protest such as self-immolation, and urge their community and religious leaders to use their influence to stop this tragic loss of life. We strongly support the resumption of meaningful dialogue to resolve the underlying grievances of Tibetan communities.

“I also urge the Chinese government to ensure unrestricted access to the Tibetan Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas of China for diplomats, international media and other concerned parties. We believe a long term solution is best achieved through respect for universal principles of human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution.”

Further Information

European Union statement on Tibetan self-immolations (http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/134378.pdf)

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