

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

We write to request your assistance with the cases of the Tibet Women's Soccer team, invited to participate at the Dallas Cup, April 9-16, 2017. Members of the team were denied U.S. entry visas. We respectfully request that you give their visa applications careful consideration and insofar as they advance U.S. visa regulations and U.S. foreign policy goals, grant them visas to visit the U.S. next month.

Tibet Women's Soccer is a registered charity in the state of New Jersey and in India. Cassie Childers, an American from New Jersey, is the NGOs executive director and team's coach. Cassie started Tibet Women's Soccer in 2011 as a soccer training and empowerment program to more than 5,000 Tibetan refugee girls living in India and Nepal.

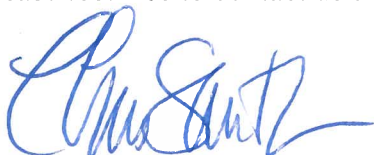
The Dallas Cup, one of the world's most prestigious and competitive international soccer tournaments, invited 22 players and 4 officials from Tibet Women's Soccer to participate as special guests in their Dallas is Diversity program. In the past, the Dallas Cup invited Israeli-Palestinian teams, Iraqi teams, and mixed South African and Protestant-Catholic Irish teams to participate in their programs.

The Dallas Cup extended full support to the team, including flights, accommodations, and gear. They have planned a full schedule of events, including exhibition matches against local Dallas girls teams, a visit to a Dallas Mavericks game, and a meeting with the mayor of Dallas. The Tibetan team was invited to lead the opening day procession into the Cotton Bowl stadium. Multiple media outlets are covering the team's program in Dallas.

This is an opportunity for the U.S. to host a team with an inspiring story, a group of young women who have overcome huge political and social obstacles to play as a team, in a sport that they love.

It is also an opportunity to advance the goals of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 in which the U.S. government promised to promote the preservation of the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and national identity of the Tibetan people. The participation of the Tibet Women's Soccer in the Dallas Cup will be another important sign that the U.S., and the world community, supports the Tibetan people.

We believe that the visit of the Tibet Women's Soccer team advances the goals of both U.S. foreign policy and international sports diplomacy. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact us should you have any questions concerning this matter.



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



THOMAS MACARTHUR
Member of Congress