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and inviolable religious institution. Any external interference in this sacred process constitutes a grave violation of religious freedom and an affront to the integrity of historical and spiritual truth.

Following his rightful recognition by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in 1995, His Holiness the 11th Panchen Lama was taken into custody at the age of six and has since remained in enforced disappearance for three decades. This case represents one of the most prolonged and deeply concerning humanitarian situations of our time. Despite his continued absence, the faith and devotion of the Tibetan people remain resolute and undiminished. No state-appointed figure can supplant the authentic Panchen Lama, as the bond between the Lama and the Tibetan people is rooted in spiritual legitimacy that transcends political authority.

It is encouraging that international awareness and concern regarding this matter continue to grow. Governments, institutions, and global leaders increasingly recognize this issue not only as a matter of human rights, but also as one of fundamental religious freedom and cultural preservation. Legislative measures such as the Tibetan Policy and Support Act reaffirm the principle that the recognition of reincarnate lamas is a matter solely within the domain of religious authority. Furthermore, the 2025 Democracy Award conferred by the National Endowment for Democracy in the name of His Holiness the 11th Panchen Lama stands as a meaningful acknowledgment of his enduring symbolic importance as a figure of truth and resilience.

At present, the situation within Tibet remains deeply troubling. Policies pursued under the framework of Sinicization continue to exert pressure on Tibetan cultural and religious institutions, contributing to their systematic erosion. Such developments stand in direct contradiction to the vision and legacy of His Holiness the 10th Panchen Lama. In light of these challenges, it is imperative to strengthen international