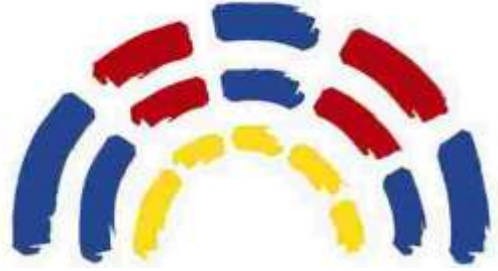


INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON TIBET



PRESS STATEMENT

INPaT Disappointed with South Africa's Visa Denial to His Holiness the Dalai Lama

6 October, Amsterdam - The International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPaT) is disappointed that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was forced to call off a scheduled to South Africa due to South Africa's denial of a visa. Tibet's spiritual leader was invited to South Africa by Stellenbosch University, the Tutu Centre and the Mahatma Gandhi Trust.

INPaT join all parliamentarians, especially our colleagues in South Africa in expressing deep concerns that post-Apartheid South Africa has now denied a visa for the second time to the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. We believe such decisions compromise the upholding of the principles of democracy, justice, peace and the freedom of expression, association and movement.

Matteo Mecacci, Co-Chair
Thomas Mann, Co-Chair

Note: -- 133 Members from 33 worldwide Parliaments who took part in the 5th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet (18/19 November 2009, Rome) adopted the "Rome Declaration on Tibet" which constituted the International Network for Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPaT).

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