

Submission to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the consideration of the 3rd Universal Periodic Review of the People’s Republic of China during the 31st Session by:



Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center is an organisation that aims to gather and distribute information concerning Southern (Inner) Mongolian human rights situation and issues with the aim of raising awareness of the violations suffered by Southern Mongolians in the international community.

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The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international nonviolent and democratic membership organisation. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories that have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

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I. Introduction

1. This report, jointly submitted by the Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center (SMHRIC) and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO) on the occasion of the 31st Session of the Universal Periodic Review during which the People's Republic of China is under consideration, draws attention to human rights violations occurring in the country.
2. More specifically, the report will focus on human rights violations in Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region (IMAR). The report opens with a brief overview of the history of Inner Mongolia and the general issues in the region, to then cover three central issues: the treatment of Mongolian herders who are protesting for recognition of their rights; the arrest and detainment of political prisoners; and the suppression of the Mongolian language throughout the Inner Mongolia region.
3. Finally, it will present a series of recommendations aimed to facilitate constructive discussion during the 31st Session of the UPR in Geneva in 2018.

a. The Human Rights Situation in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

4. In 1947, two years before the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Southern Mongolia declared the 'Southern (Inner) Mongolia Autonomous Government', which was a Southern Mongolian state that was completely independent and had no official ties to China.
5. Following the establishment of the PRC in 1949, this independent state of Southern Mongolia was annexed to the PRC and it was now referred to as the 'Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (IMAR)'. Despite the misleading title, all independent and autonomous functions of IMAR have been gradually abolished by the Chinese Government. The total territory of IMAR is approximately 2 million square kilometers with a current population, according to Chinese statistics, of 24 million. Southern Mongolians make up one sixth of that population, their number amounting to 4 million.¹²
6. Since this annexation, IMAR has undergone a series of political purges, cultural assimilation, economic marginalisation and environmental destruction at the hands of the Chinese Government. The Mongolians have not only been denied their right to self-determination, the right to their ancestral lands and natural

resources. They have also been subjected to systematic persecution, ethnic discrimination and have been denied even the most basic human rights of fundamental freedom and human dignity, both individually and collectively.

7. Following his visit to China, the Special Rapporteur for extreme poverty and human rights Philip Alston, issued a report in 2017 in which he stated that despite the Chinese government's rhetoric on the promotion of equality, the 'reality is that most ethnic minorities in China are exposed to serious human rights issues such as higher poverty rates, ethnic discrimination, forced relocation'.³ This is undoubtedly the lived reality for Inner Mongolians.

II. Violation of Land Rights of Inner Mongolian Herders

8. China recently announced that IMAR became China's "Energy Base", providing the majority of their coal and natural gas production.⁴ China produces over 85% of the world's rare earth supplies, of which the majority is extracted from IMAR.⁵ Chinese extractive industries, including state-run coal, gas and oil companies, as well as thousands of private miners have poured into the region seeking to make their fortune. To account for this forced industrialisation, the traditional grazing lands owned by Mongolian herders have been redistributed to these companies and cleared to make way for the establishment of new mines.
9. A number of policies have been introduced by China which directly impact Mongolian herders and their traditional way of life. The 'Ecological Migration' policy; 'Livestock Grazing Ban'; 'Western Development Policy' and the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, which all have the goal to drastically reduce the millennia-old nomadic civilisation within China's borders. The policies in question ban livestock grazing and enforce the relocation of nomadic peoples to more urban and developed areas. These policies are often promoted under the banner of 'development' and 'improving the living standards of rural communities' but in reality, they are hugely detrimental to the livelihoods and the traditions and cultures of minorities, such as the Mongols.⁶
10. These new land-use policies are clearing space not only for the expanding natural resource industry, but also for Chinese mass-production agricultural farming. To make space for these farms and mines, Mongolian herders are forced to move to urban areas. These land-use policies came along with a deliberate policy of overwhelming Mongolian culture and its traditional way of life through an influx of Han Chinese farmers and immigrants.⁷ Mongolian

herders are no longer allowed to herd livestock on these lands and often their livestock are confiscated in order to force herders to adjust to urban life, making way for the new Chinese agrarian society.

11. As a result, Inner Mongolia's grassland ecosystem has been heavily destroyed, desertification has occurred throughout the region and large areas are now reduced to industrial wastelands. Some of the worst affected areas are the surroundings of the Bayan Obo Mining district, in western IMAR, which holds one of the largest rare earth slurry lakes in the world.⁸ The surrounding villages have been heavily impacted by the water pollution from the lake and mines, with severe health problems and sharp increase in cancer sufferers in these villages.⁹
12. The very survival of the Mongolians as a distinct people is threatened. Their right to maintain their traditional way of life, and their right to access their land, water and other resources are completely denied. The Mongolians, who maintained their pastoralist way of life for thousands of years, are now forced by the Chinese authorities to give up their traditions and lifestyle in order to give way to expanding Chinese encroachment. The small number of Mongolians who remain in their ancestral lands struggle with water shortages and the heavily polluting of the natural resources due to large scale agricultural and industrial waste.
13. The traditional owners of this land, who rely solely on it for their livelihood and the continuation of their culture, continue to be forcibly displaced from their land, without adequate compensation or proper resettlement.¹⁰ Under the *Chinese Land Administration Law* of 1998, those whose rural land is expropriated are entitled to compensation and resettlement subsidies. However, the amount of compensation is often insufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living.¹¹
14. China's extractive industry exploits natural resources at the cost of widespread environmental damage, including soil pollution and pollution of water sources for both humans and livestock. This use and destruction of the grasslands by Chinese agriculturalists violates the *Regional Ethnic Minority Autonomy Law* (1984, amended 2001). According to Article 27, the destruction of grasslands for agricultural purposes is 'strictly forbidden' and the rights of use and ownership of forests and grasslands lies with the autonomous agencies of these autonomous regions, and therefore should lie with the Inner Mongolians¹².

15. This forced reconciliation China's violates the right to property and the right to housing in international law. Article 11(1) of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), which was ratified by China on 27 March 2001, also guarantees the right to housing. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has stressed that the right to housing includes guarantee of legal security of tenure¹³. In addition to this, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which is widely recognised as customary international law, includes in Article 17, the right to own property and that 'no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property'¹⁴.

b. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention of Mongolian Herders

16. Given the deteriorating situation for the Mongolian herders, tensions have escalated between Chinese authorities and Mongols, as Mongols began to protest the destruction of their homelands. In 2011, a Mongolian herder, named Mergen, was killed by a Chinese mining truck, sparking widespread, region-wide protest by Mongolian herders and students. Since then, violent clashes have become a common occurrence across rural Inner Mongolia. Over 420 major protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, peaceful interventions, petitions and violent clashes have been reported in IMAR in the past three years.¹⁵

17. In defending the interests of Chinese miners and farmers, the Chinese authorities are using excessive force to crackdown on the Mongolians herders' protests. Many herders who defend their rights to access their ancestral lands and maintain their traditional way of life have been assaulted, injured, hospitalised, arrested, detained and some issued prison sentences.¹⁶The Congressional-executive Commission on China (CECC) Annual Report for the past 3 years has documented the numerous cases of peaceful Mongolian protesters being mistreated by the Chinese authorities¹⁷.

18. Among the many hundreds that have been victimised and/or persecuted by the Chinese authorities, a few of the most pressing cases are worth mentioning. The cases of: Ms Bao Guniang; Ms Yingge and Ms Manliang; Mr Wenming and the mass trial of 35 Mongolian Herders in Zaruud Banner.

19. Ms Bao Guniang is a Mongolian from Doloot Sum, Zaruud Banner of Inner Mongolia's Tongliao Municipality, who was taken by the Chinese police on 26 July 2017 for organising a protest about local authorities' illegal land grab. Ms Guniang was arrested and has since been detained without trial at a detention centre in the neighbouring Horchin, Middle Banner. Her family members and

her lawyer have both had requests for visitations denied and no information has been given to them about her physical or mental well-being.¹⁸

20. Ms Yingge and Ms Manliang are two Mongolian sisters from Ongniud Banner in Ulaanhad, who were arrested on 29 May 2017 by public security personnel. The sisters were detained for organising a 3-day protest against the state-run Zhong Liang Group Pig Farm, which has illegally occupied a large area of grazing land without any consultation of the local herders. The waste deposits from this farm are not treated or processed properly but dumped in the grazing lands, which causes serious pollution to the water resources and grasses¹⁹.
21. Currently, Ms Yingge and Ms Manliang remain in detention at the Ongniud Banner Public Security Bureau Detention Centre, without any charges being brought against them. They are denied visits from both family members and lawyers. In response to widespread calls for their release, government officials have stated that their case is a 'highly sensitive' that is 'beyond the jurisdiction of Ongniud Banner'²⁰. This implies that the sisters' imprisonment may be long-term.
22. Mr Hai Wenming is a Mongolian activist from Ganzag Township, who was taken into custody by police at his home in Hohhot City on 12 December 2016. This arrest followed Mr Wenming tweeting support of the herding community in a long-running land dispute and exposing the land grabbing by local authorities in the Ganzag Township²¹.
23. As a graduate from the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing and being a strong advocate of the rule of law, Mr Wenming assisted a number of Mongolian herders online. He mainly helped them to file legal complaints and lawsuits against Chinese officials and businesses owners, who had illegally appropriated Mongolian herders' grazing lands²².
24. According to the arrest warrant issued to the family members, Mr Wenming was officially arrested on 20 January 2017, over a month after the date he was taken into custody, on a charge of "disturbing social order". In February 2017, Mr Wenming was sentenced to two years imprisonment under this charge. As with the other cases stated in this report, Mr Wenming's lawyers were denied the right to visit him in prison and his whereabouts and health conditions are unknown²³.
25. In the latest development of the IMAR herders' resistance movement, the People's Court of the Zaruud Banner carried out a mass trial against 35

Mongolian herders on 14 January 2018. Arrested for protesting the illegal cultivation of their land by creating a blockade on a construction site, the 35 were detained for 6 months without charge prior to this trial. All 35 herders were given prison sentences on charges of ‘disturbing public order and rallying the masses to attack the government offices’²⁴. Relatives and eyewitnesses have stated that the “attacking of government offices” is a ‘groundless’ accusation, and have confirmed that the herders conducted a peaceful rally and therefore demand the release of all detainees²⁵.

26. The prison terms handed down to the herders are as follows:

Mr Wu Tiedan, 5 years; Ms Jin Haixia, 4 years; Mr Borjigin Chingbat, 3 years; Mr Ulzeit, 2 years; Mr Shuang Xi, 2 years; Mr Tsetsenbat, 1 year and 6 months; Mr Madu, 1 year; Mr Sarantsogt, 1 year; Mr Buyan, 1 years; the 26 remaining all received 6 months. The whereabouts and health condition of the 35 convicted herders are still unknown.²⁶

27. The continued persecution of peaceful protestors is not only a violation of Article 20 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) and Articles 8 and 9 of the *International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD), both of which oblige states to protect their citizens freedom of assembly. Further to this, this action is in violation of China’s own constitution in which Article 35 it states: ‘citizens of the People’s Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration’²⁷.

28. In the second UPR cycle, Poland, Germany, Norway, Cote D’Ivoire and Australia all made recommendations to China to safeguard and/or strengthen measures to ensure citizens’ right to freedom of expression and assembly. These recommendations were accepted by China (recommendations 186.138,186.155,186.154,186.157 and 186.136). In total, there were 14 recommendations that referenced the protection of freedom of expression within China, made within the last cycle of the UPR. In spite of this, the situation does not seem to have improved.

III. Situation of Inner Mongolian Political Prisoners

29. Chinese authorities within IMAR repress any type of political dissent in the region with a heavy hand, using arbitrary arrests and detention of these dissenters as a tactic to maintain control of the region. Those who express their political dissatisfaction or speak out about the conditions they suffer under are labelled as 'national separatists'²⁸ and criminalised, despite their right to express their political opinion and their rights as an autonomous national minority being protected within the Chinese constitution and the *Regional Ethnic Minority Autonomy Law*²⁹ respectively.

30. The suppression of political activists in IMAR is a serious issue. Worthy of mention are two cases of prominent Mongolian political prisoners, Mr Hada and Ms Govruud Huuchinhuu, who have both been persecuted for their political opinion and activities to promote and protect the rights of the Inner Mongolians.

c. Case of Mr Hada

31. Mr Hada was born in eastern IMAR's Horchin Right Wing Middle Banner in 1955. In early 1981, as a college student he joined the Southern Mongolian Student Movement, which was campaigning to preserve Mongolian identity in IMAR under Chinese law and prevent Chinese authorities from carrying out another round of Han Chinese migration to the region. In May 1992, Mr Hada and other Mongolian activists formed the *Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance* (SMDA, originally named as the *Mongolian Culture Rescue Committee*) and appointed Mr Hada as President. The SMDA advocated for the right to self-determination, freedom and democracy of the Mongolian people³⁰.

32. On 10 December 1995, Mr Hada was arrested at his home by the Inner Mongolian Public Security Bureau, who took all documents relating to the SMDA, including the names and addresses of more than 100 international academic contacts of Mr Hada. Mr Hada's wife, Xinna, was also taken into custody shortly after this and investigated for "inciting students to cause a disturbance" due to the student protests that had occurred after she publicised the arrest of Mr Hada. Xinna was not charged, however, she was detained for 4 months before her release on 12 April 1996³¹.

33. On August 19, 1996, the Hohhot People's Procuratorate charged Mr Hada with "espionage", "separatism", "stealing secrets for the enemy" and "organizing counter revolutionary forces" for his involvement with the SMDA. On 11 November 1996, after a closed hearing, Mr Hada was convicted on the charges of separatism and espionage and he received a combined sentence of 15 years in prison, with a further 4 years deprivation of political rights. The Inner Mongolia Supreme People's Court rejected Mr Hada's appeal³².
34. Mr Hada served his full 15-year term, with an additional 4 years extrajudicial detention in a 'black jail' in suburban Hohhot. He was finally released in December 2014³³. However, he is still not a free man, as he remains under house arrest in an apartment owned and guarded by the Inner Mongolia Region Public Security Authorities³⁴.

d. Case of Ms Huuchinhuu Govruud

35. Another case we would like to highlight is the case of Ms Huuchinhuu Govruud, a human rights defender, dissident writer and activist.
36. In November 2010, Ms Huuchinhuu was arrested by the Chinese authorities for rallying the Mongolians, via the Internet, to gather and celebrate the release of Mr Hada. Ms Huuchinhuu was detained in a secret location, with no information given to her family, for nearly two years after this arrest. Before her trial, Ms Huuchinhuu was placed under house arrest in one of her relatives' residences in Tongliao Municipality where she was denied the right to freedom of expression and forbidden to communicate with anyone via the Internet, phone or written letters³⁵.
37. On 28 November 2012, Ms Huuchinhuu was tried behind closed doors and pronounced guilty by the Tongliao Municipality People's Court for "providing state secrets to a foreign organisation" and was placed under indefinite house arrest, despite this never officially being announced by Chinese authorities³⁶.
38. Unfortunately, both Ms Huuchinhuu and her only son, Mr Cheel Borjigin, were both diagnosed with terminal brain cancer within a short time-frame of one another. Mr Borjigin was living and receiving necessary medical treatment in the United States. However, despite these exceptional circumstances, Ms Huuchinhuu was denied a passport to travel as she posed a 'possible threat to the national interest and state security of China'. Her requests to travel to be with her son, and to receive much needed medical treatment herself, were continuously denied³⁷.

39. Mr Borjigin, who was also critical of the Chinese government, was also continuously denied access to the region. As a result of these incredibly strict and unwarranted travel restrictions, both Ms Huuchinhuu and Mr Borjigin, sadly passed away in separate countries without being able to visit each other. Ms Huuchinhuu's surveillance, travel restrictions and virtual house arrest continued up until her death in 2016³⁸.

40. The rights of China's many ethnic and religious minorities are enshrined in a number of international conventions, which China is party to such as the *International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD), the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) along with China's own constitution. In the 2nd cycle of the UPR, 6 states including the United States of America, made recommendations to China to take measures to protect and guarantee the rights of minorities (recommendations 186.221; 186.222; 186.223; 186.224; 186.233; 186.234). These examples here are only a few of the most serious cases among many. The situation facing individuals who fight for the enjoyment and protection of those rights, which they are entitled to, is severe, especially for those from minorities.

IV. Language Rights in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (IMAR)

41. Less than 20% of IMAR's residents are ethnic Mongolians, while about 80% are Han Chinese³⁹. Article 4 of the Chinese Constitution explicitly provides: "All nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their own folkways and customs"⁴⁰. However, the Mongolian language, being the official language in IMAR, remains a mere formality⁴¹.

42. Several UN treaty bodies have expressed their concerns over the language rights of minorities in China, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴², the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination⁴³ and the Committee on the Rights of the Child⁴⁴. In the 2013 Report of the Human Rights Council, China claimed that "[m]inority ethnic groups enjoy extensive human rights. Their [...] right to use and develop their spoken and written languages are respected and guaranteed"⁴⁵.

43. The observed decline of the Mongolian language finds its support in empirical research. Reports dating back to the 2000s already indicated a gradual

language shift from Mongolian to Chinese, starting from the urban and upwardly-mobile Mongols due to the Chinese-language domination socially, economically and politically⁴⁶. It was observed that Mongolian youth began using less Mongolian and more Chinese compared to their parents⁴⁷. Importantly, a recent study has found a sharp decline in the number of Mongolian-monolingual people and an increasing pressure to abandon Mongolian among bilingual households. Among children raised in bilingual households, 16.5% failed to acquire Mongolian⁴⁸.

44.Despite a positive obligation of the Chinese government to ensure the use of their mother tongue by ethnic Mongols⁴⁹, it is noted that the policies of the Chinese authorities are conducive to the phenomenon, including its population-transfer programme in which mainly Mongol herders are removed from arid regions of IMAR, who are then resettled on the outskirts of predominantly Han cities where only Chinese-language schools are accessible⁵⁰. Such assimilation has two major implications. First, the simultaneous transfer of Chinese population into the Mongol lands raises the Chinese majority, thereby critically linking the Chinese language to opportunities in employment. In some cases, Chinese employers, including government agencies, would explicitly state that “no candidate educated in Mongolian is considered”⁵¹.

45.Second, as a result of the population transfer, many Mongolian elementary schools have been eliminated and most Mongolian middle schools at the Sum administrative level (equivalent to districts) have been merged into Han schools, where Mongolian students are taught in Mandarin, known as the “quick urbanization” programs⁵². Thus, for 210,000 Mongolian inhabitants of the capital city Hohhot, there are only two Mongolian elementary schools, compared to less than 3,000 enrolled schoolchildren (i.e. less than 1% of the total Mongolian population in the city)⁵³. Throughout IMAR, the number of enrollees at Mongolian elementary schools had dropped from 110,000 in 1980 to 19,000 in 2009 (a 82.27% drop in 19 years)⁵⁴.

46.Suppression of the Mongol language is demonstrable by a number of recent incidents. On 5 December 2016, Mongolian parents protested over the restricted use of Mongolian targeted in two kindergartens in Ulaanhad city (“Chifeng” or 赤峰市 in Chinese), namely the Ulaanhad’s 6.1 Kindergarten and Xincheng Mongolian Kindergarten. Additionally, after the appointment of two Han Chinese principals to these kindergartens, the existing Mongolian teachers were not allowed to speak Mongolian to each other or to plan Mongolian-language lessons⁵⁵. In January 2018, the last school teaching in Mongolian language in the Bayangol Prefecture of China (a former autonomous

Mongolian province that now forms part of the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region” or 巴音郭楞蒙古族自治州 in Chinese), the Bayangol No. 3 High School, was banned from teaching in Mongolian⁵⁶.

47. Lastly, various other policies contributing to the decline of Mongolian include the targeting of Mongolian language websites⁵⁷, the denial of Mongolia as a language for work and services within the IMAR administrative units and the lack of computerization of the traditional Mongolian written language⁵⁸. For instance, translators are no longer provided in government offices and public service agencies, and government documents are distributed in Chinese only. Furthermore, Mongolian names must meet the format of Chinese names and their family names are not allowed on any government-issued identity documents. To date, the Mongolian writing cannot be searched on the Internet and cannot be freely transmitted in any other ways other than converting it into images.

IV. Recommendations

In conclusion, given the above-mentioned human right violations, UNPO urges the Government of the People’s Republic of China to consider the following recommendations:

1. *To ensure the ratification and implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);*
2. *To respect its own national laws and international law by refraining from the use and destruction of Mongolian grasslands and from displacing Mongolian herders without adequate compensation;*
3. *To take urgent measures to provide better life conditions for ethnic Mongolians, ensuring access to their own lands and water as well as institute and implement a law for the safety of the environment and health conditions;*
4. *To immediately release all political prisoners;*
5. *To take measures to protect and guarantee the rights of minorities as stated in several recommendations submitted in the course of the 2nd UPR cycle;*
6. *To respect its own constitution in order to ensure freedoms for its nationalities to use and develop their own languages, folkways and customs.*

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- ¹ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.3.
- ² *ibid.*
- ³ *UN Human Rights Council*, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights on His Mission to China, Philip Alston, A/HRC/35/26/Add.2, 28 March 17, para.44.
- ⁴ *China Daily*, [China's Inner Mongolia sees record coal reserves](#), 1 September 2017.
- ⁵ *The Guardian*, [Rare earth mining in China: the bleak social and environmental costs](#), 20 March 2014.
- ⁶ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.10.
- ⁷ *Minority Rights Group International*, [China - Mongols](#), November 2017.
- ⁸ *NewSecurityBeat*, [As China adjusts for true cost of Rare Earth, what does it mean for decarbonisation?](#) 21 March 2017.
- ⁹ *ibid.*
- ¹⁰ *Radio Free Asia*, [Mongolian Herders forced off grazing lands under 'Ecological' Policy](#), 23 October 2014.
- ¹¹ *UN Human Rights Council*, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights on His Mission to China, Philip Alston, A/HRC/35/26/Add.2, 28 March 17, para. 50
- ¹² [Regional Ethnic Minority Autonomy Law of the People's Republic of China \(1984\)](#) English Translation, provided by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC).
- ¹³ *CESCR General Comment No.4: The Right to Adequate Housing*, *Office of the HCHR*, December 13 1991, Paragraph 8a.
- ¹⁴ Article 17, [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).
- ¹⁵ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [UNPO Resolution on China's Eradication of Mongolian Pastoralism in Southern Mongolia](#), 27 June 2017.
- ¹⁶ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.12-13.
- ¹⁷ *CECC 2017 Annual Report*, 5 October 17, pp.148-49; *CECC, 2016 Annual Report*, 6 October 16, pp.143-44; *CECC, 2015 Annual Report*, 8 October 15, pp.138-39.
- ¹⁸ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.14.
- ¹⁹ *Radio Free Asia Mandarin Service*, [Herdsman in Wengniute County, Inner Mongolia support the arrested herdsman](#), 4 December 2017.
- ²⁰ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.14-15.
- ²¹ *Radio Free Asia*, [China to prosecute ethnic Mongolian over tweet about land dispute](#), 6 February 2017.
- ²² *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, Report on Human Rights in Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p.15.
- ²³ [Intervention of Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center to the UN Permanent Forum on Minority Issues 10th Session](#), Geneva, 29 November -1 December 2017.
- ²⁴ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [35 Mongolian herders tried, handed down long sentences](#), 24 January 2018.
- ²⁵ *Radio Free Asia*, [China jails dozens of ethnic Mongolians who blockaded highway construction](#), 25 January 2018.
- ²⁶ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [35 Mongolian herders tried, handed down long sentences](#), 24 January 2018.
- ²⁷ [Constitution of the People's Republic of China](#), Amended version 2004, Chapter 2: Article 35.
- ²⁸ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [Taken away by police, herders accused of 'national separatism'](#), 26 January 2016.
- ²⁹ Preamble, para. 2 of [Regional Ethnic Minority Autonomy Law of the PRC](#), English Translation, provided by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC).
- ³⁰ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights, 8 January 2018, p.7.
- ³¹ *Human Rights in China*, [Hada](#), 16 April 2001.
- ³² *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights, 8 January 2018, p.8.
- ³³ *AsiaNews.it*, [Mongolian rights activist Hada released after 20 years](#), 20 December 2014.
- ³⁴ *Radio Free Asia*, [Security Tightens Around Home of Ethnic Mongolian Dissident Hada](#), 22 September 2017.

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- ³⁵ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [Southern Mongolian human rights defender, dissident writer and activist, Huuchinhuu, died](#), 25 October 2016.
- ³⁶ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights, 8 January 2018, p.9.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*
- ³⁸ *Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center*, [Southern Mongolian human rights defender, dissident writer and activist, Huuchinhuu, died](#), 25 October 2016.
- ³⁹ *United Kingdom: Home Office*, [Country of Origin Information Report - China](#), 12 October 2012, p. 124.
- ⁴⁰ *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, Article 4.
- ⁴¹ *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 18.
- ⁴² See *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of China, E/C.12/CHN/CO/2, 13 June 2014, para. 36: "The Committee is concerned that ethnic minorities continue to face severe restrictions in the realization of their right to take part in cultural life, including the right to use and teach minority languages [...]."
- ⁴³ Concluding Observations of the *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on China*, CERD/C/CHN/CO/10-13, 15 September 2009, p. 22: "The Committee has taken note of the policy of bilingual education for ethnic minorities of the State party [...]. It is however concerned at reports that in practice Mandarin is the sole language of instruction in many schools in the autonomous minority provinces, especially at secondary and higher levels of education."
- ⁴⁴ See *Committee on the Rights of the Child*, Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of China, CRC/C/CHN/CO/3-4, 29 October 2013, p. 17, mentioning "[t]he lack of measures to promote the use and learning of mother-tongue and minority languages in the context of the bilingual education policy".
- ⁴⁵ *Human Rights Council*, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (China), 4 December 2013, [A/HRC/25/5](#).
- ⁴⁶ *Uradyn Bulag*, "[Mongolian Ethnicity and Linguistic Anxiety in China](#)" (2003) 105(4) *American Anthropologist* 753, p. 754, speaking of the process of losing Mongolian language since the 1990s, referring to Dongsheng City in the Ordos area.
- ⁴⁷ Lisa Lim and Umberto Ansaldo, *Languages in Contact* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- ⁴⁸ *Sarala Puthuval*, "Stages of language shift in twentieth-century Inner Mongolia, China" (2017) 2 *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 28:1-14, p. 9.
- ⁴⁹ See for example, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Articles 29(c) and 30; *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, Article 27.
- ⁵⁰ *Minority Rights Group International*, [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - China : Mongols](#), November 2017.
- ⁵¹ *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 18.
- ⁵² *Ibid.*
- ⁵³ *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 17.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁵ *Radio Free Asia*, [Parents protest curbs on Mongolian language teaching in Chinese schools](#), 5 December 2016; *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 18.
- ⁵⁶ In an official document entitled "Notice Regarding the Issuance of the 'Autonomous Region's Proposal on Bilingual Education Curriculum Deployment at Compulsory Education Level'" [xin jiao ji (2017) No. 10] issued by the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Education Department, starting 1 September 2017, "all courses offered in elementary and middle/high schools must use the national common language and written system as the language of instruction, and additionally offer the ethnic language as a course." See *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 18.
- ⁵⁷ For instance, in 2005 the Chinese authorities shut down two popular Mongolian-language websites allegedly carrying "separatist content". See *Minority Rights Group International*, [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - China : Mongols](#), November 2017.
- ⁵⁸ See *Southern Mongolian Human Rights Center*, Report on Human Rights of Southern Mongolia, 5 January 2018, p. 19.