## **United States Department of State**

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 24, 2003



Mr. Enhebatu Togochog 37-40 79 Street Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Dear Mr. Togochog:

The President has asked me to reply to your letter of October 21, 2002 expressing concern about the imprisonment of Mr. Hada in Inner Mongolia, China.

The Administration continues to work hard for the release of political prisoners in China. We have raised the case Mr. Hada with the Chinese, and, more generally, have on multiple occasions raised our concerns over the detention of all persons who have peacefully called for greater autonomy for ethnic minorities. We will continue to do so.

Promoting greater respect for human rights and political freedom of all Chinese citizens is among our key foreign policy objectives in China. The position of the U.S. Government on this is clear. No individual should be detained solely for expressing personal views or engaging in other peaceful, legitimate activities. Freedom of conscience should be guaranteed for all persons. These rights are protected under international human rights instruments.

We will continue to press Chinese authorities to release prisoners of conscience and to improve respect for human rights in China.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Young Director Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs