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China: Increase pace of reforms to meet Olympic deadline

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In response to the government's criticism of Amnesty International's report, *China: The Olympics Countdown - failing to keep human rights promises*, the organisation's Deputy Asia Director Catherine Baber said:

"We were delighted when the Chinese authorities themselves promised to improve human rights in time for the 2008 Olympics. We are a human rights organisation and naturally we are holding the authorities to those promises."

"As we have said before, the Chinese people are rightly proud that their country will be hosting the Games."

"We have welcomed reforms where they have been made, such as safeguards introduced in the death penalty system and steps towards decreasing the widespread use of torture."

"But much more needs to be done, so we have made concrete and constructive recommendations to the authorities on increasing the pace of reform. When 2008 arrives the Chinese people deserve to be proud of their country in every respect, including their human rights record."

Public Document

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