



## INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Press Release

Amsterdam, July 12th, 2022

**Publication of the China Report of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam:**

### **An Overdue But Insufficient Step**

The International Campaign for Tibet has taken notice of today's publication of the report on the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)'s collaboration with China's Southwest University of Political Science. It is an overdue but insufficient step.

Wangpo Tethong, Director of International Campaign for Tibet (Amsterdam) demands further investigations and a full disclosure of how much research funding is flowing from China to the Netherlands: "In addition, norms must be established to ensure that on particularly sensitive university research topics, such as human rights, Tibet, International Law or Climate Change, Dutch-based organizations and experts are consulted before any collaboration is considered."

It is alarming to read that students found it particularly interesting to come into contact with "northern" and "southern" perspectives on human rights. This narrative of relativism of human rights has indeed been one of the key components of the Chinese government's propaganda and efforts to undermine international human rights standards, and runs against the principle of the universality and indivisibility of human rights.

While it is certainly difficult to verify whether the opinions of individual researchers were bought and paid for by Chinese authorities, or that self-censorship under pressure from Chinese donors took place, there is much to suggest that the beneficiaries of the funds were less interested in soliciting views from people such as Tibet experts who have a critical view on China.

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