

# So You Want to Host a TriWizard House Party!

Having a Great Time While Educating  
Yourself and Your Friends

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## A Word From the HP Alliance Director

A good friend and fellow Harry Potter fan pointed out once that while Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” it is equally true that justice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere. By holding a House Party and taking some actions, no matter how small or large they may be, I feel that you are bringing to this world more justice, more community, and more celebration of humanity! That is what we need in these “dark and difficult times.”

In these packets, we’ve listed more than can be done at any one house party, so go with what works best for you. It’s also important to note that while there’s a bunch of stuff in this packet, it barely scratches the surface of what we can do on behalf of the people of Darfur, Burma, Tibet, and China. And we are barely scratching the surface on understanding the backgrounds of these very complex situations.

We’re not asking you to take action for every one of these regions and countries that we’re discussing in this packet: Darfur, Burma, Tibet, and China. You can focus on one or focus on many of the issues. The choice is yours. But the most important part is that you’re doing it! And together all over the world, we’re making the ideal of “One World, One Dream” something more of a reality.

As important and essential as it is to take action on these various human rights issues, we think it’s really important to take action on what we’re calling the Third Task which is about navigating the maze of your own feelings as you approach bettering the world and allowing your heart to open rather than shut down.

Please also make sure to listen to our podcast about these issues at your house party! It will be released on August 8, the same day as the parties begin!

Our amazing House Party Coordinator Dinah is eager to help and just an email away at: [houseparties@thehpalliance.org](mailto:houseparties@thehpalliance.org)

Thank you once again for your participation and as always, May the Fawkes be with you,

Andrew Slack  
HP Alliance Director



*Photo from globalcitizens.org*

## I've Heard of These Places, But What's Going On?

### THE TRIWIZARD TOURNAMENT AND THE OLYMPICS

“One World, One Dream” is the slogan for this summer’s Olympics – the “TriWizard Tournament for the Real World.”

Both the TriWizard Tournament and the Olympics are ancient athletic competitions where representatives of great talent are chosen to represent their foreign lands in order to promote the ideal of international cooperation. In other words, “One World, One Dream.”

### ONE WORLD, MANY NIGHTMARES

The “One World, One Dream” ideal of the TriWizard Tournament was hijacked by Lord Voldemort, who used the tournament’s symbolism as a vehicle to rise “greater and more terrible than ever he was.”

Tragically in our world, the “One World, One Dream” ideal of the 2008 Olympics is being hijacked by the Chinese government who are using the symbolism of the tournament as a vehicle to gain money and prestige while continuing practices that are creating “One World” with “Many Nightmares.”

### DISCLAIMERS REGARDING OUR POSITION

As we enter this discussion we should point out three things:

1. The HPA has great respect for the Chinese people, their rich and vast history and cultures, and means them no disrespect.
2. We make no claim that any government is free from fault.
3. We’re not boycotting the Olympics. We just want to bring out the true spirit of “One World, One Dream” today!



*Darfuri Women photo by Alfred de Montesquiou, AP*

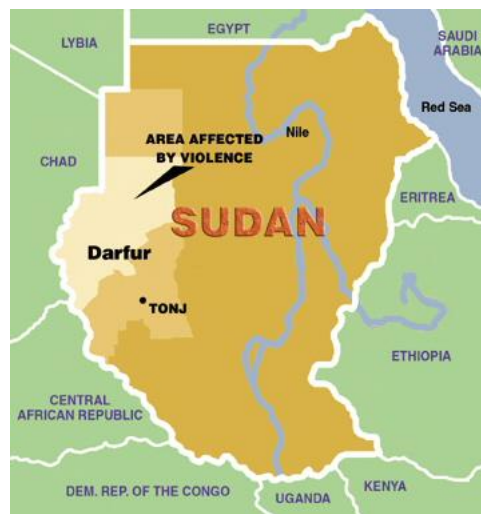
## Darfur, Burma, Tibet, and the Chinese People

Many people don't realize that the Chinese government's hunger for oil is allowing them to fund and supply with weapons the genocide in Darfur and the junta military dictatorship in Burma. Further the government of China continues its cultural genocide and occupation of Tibet as well as its oppression of the Chinese people themselves.

### THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

In the last five years, the Sudanese government and their janjaweed militia have killed between three and four hundred thousand innocent civilians, displaced 2.5 million, and systematically burned as many villages as possible. Presently, millions of people live in refugee camps often suffering from hunger and are still at grave risk of murder and rape.

These actions have been funded by the Chinese government. The Chinese government continues to send Sudan the very weapons that are used to murder thousands of men, women, and children, bomb villages, and rape women. Further, when the UN has tried to do something to help the people of Darfur, China has stepped in and blocked the legislation.



For more information, check: [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org) ; [www.standnow.org](http://www.standnow.org) ; [www.dreamfordarfur.org](http://www.dreamfordarfur.org)

### THE MILITARY JUNTA IN BURMA

The military regime known as the junta (pronounced "hoonta") in Burma is terribly brutal – ruling the country with an iron fist for twenty years, silencing free thought and expression of all kinds, keeping people in poverty, and declaring war against minority populations in Eastern Burma where they have destroyed over 3,200 villages, causing well over one and a half million people to lose their homes and often be subjected to horrific danger and violence.



Just like Harry, Hermione, and Ron hid in the countryside to work against Voldemort's regime, students in Burma left school and fled to the jungles to work against the military junta and bring about a democracy. They have faced brutal killings, **imprisonment**, and torture.

In fact, the day of the Olympics opening ceremony: August 8, 2008 is the twenty year anniversary of August 8, 1988 when there was a real "Battle of Hogwarts" in Burma...only in the case of Burma, the dictatorship won and eventually Aung San Suu Kyi, a female version of Albus Dumbledore was imprisoned. To this day she remains the only Nobel Peace Prize winner in the world to be locked in imprisonment!

Besides their recent murder of Buddhist monks who were protesting the regime last fall, the military junta stole most of the aid that was coming in and blocked out most aid workers after a cyclone devastated Burma. Their denial of aid to the Burmese people caused the death toll from the cyclone to rise dramatically.

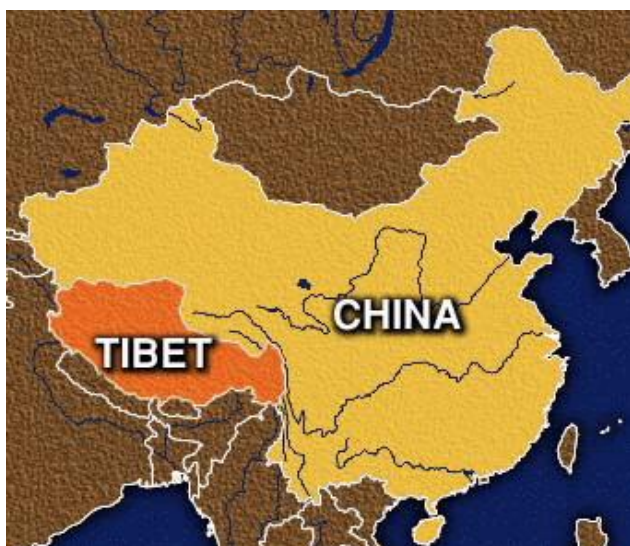
The junta military regime is funded by China who, as with Darfur, continues to block UN legislation that would put a stop to the atrocities occurring there.

For more information, check: [www.uscampaignforburma.org](http://www.uscampaignforburma.org) ; [www.freeburmarangers.org](http://www.freeburmarangers.org)

### **OCCUPATION OF TIBET**

Before 1949, Tibet was an independent nation. Then Chinese troops rolled in by force. Fearing rebellion from Tibetans, by 1959 the Chinese government turned the twenty four year old Dalai Lama into “Undesirable Number One.” It was becoming clear that they were intending on having him killed. Like Harry Potter, who fled as the Ministry had fallen, under the cover of night, the Dalai Lama fled to India. Mass protests came about where tens of thousands of Tibetans were killed by Chinese forces.

Since this time, the Tibetan people have had their political, religious, culture, social and economic rights stripped from them in what many refer to as a “cultural genocide.” Tibetan exiles live across the world, with Tibetans everywhere longing for Tibetan independence from the brutal occupation by the Chinese government and for the day when the Dalai Lama can return from exile.



For more information, check:  
[www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org) ; [www.tibet.com](http://www.tibet.com) ;  
[www.studentsforafreetibet.org](http://www.studentsforafreetibet.org)

### **OPPRESSION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE**

Whether it's pro-democracy activists or people who just want to practice their religious beliefs, the government of China has continued to act brutally to its own people. The most infamous act was done in 1989 with the massacre of student activists in Tiananmen Square. This

helped prompt such groups as “The Federation for a Democratic China.” But the Chinese government continues to imprison and torture pro-democracy activists and those simply practicing their religious beliefs.

Due to the magnitude of what we are covering with the TriWizard House Parties, we are not focusing on this issue, but feel that it is more than important enough to bring to your attention.

For more information, check: [www.democraticchina.net](http://www.democraticchina.net) ;  
[http://fdc64.de/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=6&Itemid=31](http://fdc64.de/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=6&Itemid=31)

If you want to help, check: [www.amnesty.org/en/human-rights-china-beijing-olympics/activist-toolkit](http://www.amnesty.org/en/human-rights-china-beijing-olympics/activist-toolkit)

## What is a TriWizard House Party?

These House Parties are our opportunity to educate ourselves on the world and what we can do in it. Additionally, they're about having fun and spreading the love! Just as Harry's life started with his mother sacrificing herself to save him, and how he made the transition from being protected by love to protecting others with his deep love for them – we hope you take this opportunity to transition to loving yourself to loving those in need.

We have equated each of the TriWizard tasks set to Harry and the others to a form of action you can take at your very own House Party. If you have any questions or just want to talk about your House Party, feel free to email me!!

Dinah Russell  
House Party Coordinator  
[houseparties@thehpalliance.org](mailto:houseparties@thehpalliance.org)

## The First Task: Facing the Dragon

Our First Task will involve taking even a small action that will help us get past the fierce dragons that are blocking a world without genocide and dictatorships. In order to get around this dragon, we need to become as educated as possible on these issues as well as wake up world leaders (including corporate leaders) the way Dumbledore's Army woke Wizarding leaders up to the fact that Voldemort had returned, and get them to pressure China to replace it's One World with Many Nightmares policy with an authentic one for One World, One Dream.

Our first task will give you a brief background on each issue with some actionable tasks that you can do to get past the dragon of apathy and to a world that is pressuring China to move on human rights. These issues are very difficult emotionally and we want you to remember that every little thing you do adds up and that it's not any one person's job to solve all of the world's problems! There is no Chosen One here! It's a network, an Order of people from all over the world adding their voice together to work for One World, One Dream. So here we go.

### ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Here is a basic list of actions you can take. For more details about your options in general and as they relate to the different locations, check out the other packet we have available: "Taking Action at Your House Party"

- Educate yourself!
- Sign petitions
- Contact your representatives
- Hold film screenings and discussion afterwards
- Recommend books
- Join groups that are working for change



*Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, who has now spent more than 11 years under house arrest in Burma.*

*Photo from US Campaign for Burma*

## The Second Task: **Diving into the Lake**

Our Second Task will involve diving to the depths of human rights crises where people like you and I, living in Darfur, Burma, Tibet, and China, are tied up and proclaiming that, like Harry who showed “moral fiber” by refusing to leave until everyone was safe, we will continue to speak for those whose voices have been taken until we can all come to the surface together.

### **SUDANESE, BURMESE, AND TIBETAN REFUGEES**

Many refugees from Sudan (normally from regions other than Darfur), Burma, and Tibet are living in the United States and other countries. Google the words “Sudanese refugees” along with the name of your town and see what comes up (and do the same with “Burmese refugees” and “Tibetan exiles” or “Tibetan refugees”...play with the words). You may find that there are refugees from Sudan living in your area – you may find that there are refugees from another country.



*Internally displaced people running for their lives.*

*Photo from Free Burma Rangers*

Generally refugees have been through tremendous ordeals and have shown unbelievable strength. It would be a wonderful thing to form relationships with them, learn from them about their culture, and maybe even work together on a common cause like advocating for Darfur. That said, we ask that no matter what that when approaching strangers that you are with a responsible adult who you already know and trust.

#### **ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE**

- Have a fund raiser
- Locate and befriend local refugees
- Watch the live broadcast from a refugee camp in Darfur: [www.dreamfordarfur.org](http://www.dreamfordarfur.org)

## The Third Task: **Navigating the Maze**

Our Third Task will involve navigating the maze of our internal selves. As activists it’s not easy to look head on at human rights violations and keep an open heart. There is a maze of contradictory feelings, thoughts, and wishes that we often go through that can lead to emotional fatigue and burn out. Let’s encourage each other to navigate this maze and find a place of compassion and love within our own hearts.

The Vernon Dursleys of the world are holding people back from developing their creativity, saying that imagination is a waste of time and energy. We want to remember that we are individuals and we need to go through a lot to know who we truly are. This is an exercise in breaking free of the Muggle Mindset – tapping into our creative selves to learn more about ourselves.

#### **ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE**

- Meditate
- Make use of inspirational quotes
- Brainstorm more ways to help around the world