



Statement from the Tsering Foundation on the media frenzy surrounding His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is at the center of a shitstorm on social media, after a video excerpt went viral. The incident of His Holiness the Dalai Lama sticking his tongue out at a boy and jokingly asking to lick it, knowingly in front of a live camera and an audience of 120 Indian students, was reported around the world. Serious allegations are made against His Holiness the Dalai Lama, which cast doubt on his character and personal integrity.

In his official statement, His Holiness the Dalai Lama regrets the incident. The Tsering Foundation believes that this apology is not an admission of guilt, but rather a sign of his impeccable conduct. The interaction and gesture with the boy have been deliberately misinterpreted. This is a cultural misunderstanding. The boy concerned and his parents appeared happy and spoke positively about meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Anyone who knows His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his playful, humorous personality can only agree. His Holiness often teases people he meets in innocent and playful ways, in public and in front of cameras. Also, in the context of the entire video recording, which apparently very few critics have looked at, it is completely absurd to place the scene in a connection with abuse. His Holiness the Dalai Lama would be the last to want to harm other people. The loud outrage in this case has nothing to do with the facts, the good intentions and the true nature of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The unobjective defamation of his person must therefore be rejected in all forms immediately.

Truth will prevail. Long live His Holiness the great 14. Dalai Lama.

Tsering Foundation

Jacqueline Tsering
President of the Board of Trustees

Zurich, April 14, 2023