

30 Aug 2026

Media Spokesperson, Chinese Embassy in Australia

Your letter contains several allegations that are entirely groundless.

The Chinese side has never refused any media outlet's request to visit Xizang to cover the mudslide at the Gyirong Port. In accordance with international practice, media outlets from all over the world, including Australia, may apply to interview and report in China (including Xizang) by following the relevant regulations.

Following the mudslide disaster, the Chinese side immediately released information regarding its causes and the extent of the damage, including casualties and property losses within Chinese territory. We encourage relevant medias to follow the latest updates. Entrusted by General Secretary Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang is currently on the ground in Gyirong to direct the emergency response and disaster relief operations.

On the Chinese side, there are fewer settlements near Gyirong Port, and most are located on high slopes or well away from the core riverbed, sparing them from the direct, sweeping impact of the torrents.

As of 6 p.m. on August 29, the disaster has caused 16 fatalities and left 546 people missing within Chinese territory. According to local reports, 261 foreign nationals, including 6 Australian citizens, are currently unaccounted for in the affected areas.

The Chinese side has notified the Australian side of the disaster situation, including the number of missing persons and the progress of the Chinese rescue efforts. With the assistance of the Chinese side, the Australian Embassy in China has also established contact with the relevant authorities of the Xizang Autonomous Region.

Major Chinese media outlets have provided extensive, accurate, and highly transparent coverage. As the specific details of the disaster and rescue operations are still being dynamically updated, please refer to the on-site and official reports.

Nothing is more precious than human life. At present, China is sparing no effort in its rescue and relief operations. We appreciate the understanding and support of the international community.