

..... 2021

Mr. Xi Jinping
 President of the
 People's Republic of China
 Zhongnanhai Xichangan'jie Xichengqu
 Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Dear Mr. President,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing to you regarding the situation of

Ilham Tohti

Professor Ilham Tohti was sentenced on 23 September 2014, after a trial that was marred by numerous procedural irregularities. He is now serving a life sentence solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression, a right enshrined in the Chinese Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China signed in 1998 and has repeatedly said it would ratify.

Although Ilham Tohti was openly critical of government policies in Xinjiang and towards Uyghurs, he consistently opposed violence and worked peacefully to build bridges between ethnic communities in accordance with Chinese laws. He was the founder and director of the bilingual website "Uyghur Online", which reported on human rights violations suffered not only by Uyghurs but also by ethnic Han Chinese.

I believe that Ilham Tohti is a prisoner of conscience. I have been informed that he has been beaten and ill-treated during his time in prison. I also realise that his detention is part of a policy of repression against the Uyghur people, huge numbers of whom have been subjected to intrusive surveillance, arbitrary detention, political indoctrination and forced cultural assimilation on a massive scale in recent years, including mass detention in 're-education camps'. These abuses violate the UN Convention against torture that China has ratified and must respect.

I therefore plead with you, as we enter his eighth year of detention, **to release Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally** in the light of your country's commitment to respect for human rights. I also urge you to ensure that, while Ilham Tohti remains in detention, he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, and that he has access to legal representation of his choice, his family and any medical care he may require.

We thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Voir aussi au verso / s. auch Rückseite

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**À envoyer par poste ou par e-mail à : english@mail.gov.cn
jusqu'au 10 avril 2021,
directement au Président de la République populaire de Chine
(PAS d'envoi à l'ACAT)
Merci beaucoup de votre engagement !**

**Per Post oder E-Mail an: english@mail.gov.cn
bis zum 10. April 2021,
direkt an den Präsidenten der Volksrepublik China senden
(bitte NICHT an ACAT)
Herzlichen Dank für Ihr Engagement!**