President Xi Jinping

Zhongnanhai Xichangan’jie Xichengqu

Beijing Shi 100017

VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA

Dear President Xi Jinping

May I bring your awareness to Ilham Tohti who has been detained ten years now based on an unfair trial sentence and an alleged judgment of ‘separatism’.

The true reason for the accusation is his criticism and articles against the systematic threatening of Uyghur minority in the autonomous Uyghur region Xinjiang.

There are countless reports on the Chinese repression against Uyghurs.

But the Human Rights Declaration states clearly:

It’s not an offence to confess to Islamic religion.

It’s not an offence to descend from a specific ethnic group.

It’s not an offence to speak a local language.

It’s not an offence to express an opinion, in speech, written or over the internet.

It’s not an offence for women to procreate and bear children.

Furthermore, it is reported that threats are extended to the family members of Ilham Tohti. His daughter Jewher Ilham was offered contact with her father only on the premise that she stopped her criticism and public advocacy engagement and campaigns for his release.

To make things even worse, the detaining authorities seem to suppress all criticism by Ilham Tohti, his family or the public using extreme measures. The reports explain Ilham Tohti being bounded in hand- and leg-cuffs, held in solitary confinement, deprived of food and submitted to political indoctrination.

Dear President Xi Jinping, I eagerly call on you to release Ilham Tohti, because he is sentenced for political reasons only, and due to his peaceful commitment for Uyghur interests.

May your wise decision provide for a better living together in China.

With sincere respect