President Xi Jinping

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Beijing Shi 100017

**VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA**

Dear President Xi Jinping

May I bring your attention to Ilham Tohti who has been imprisoned since 2014 just because of his Uygur roots. His detainment is based on a trial verdict sentencing him to life imprisonment because of his criticism on government handling of the Uygur minorities. Numerous television reports document a general government attitude to repress the Uygur people by sterilisation, resettlements, re-education camps and torture. Furthermore, in the report dated 2022-08-31 the UN high commissioner condemns human right violations in the Xinjiang autonomous Uyghur Region. More than one million people are believed to be arbitrarily detained in internment camps and prisons in Xinjiang.

There are reports, that Ilham Tohti’s attitude was non-violent and he was peacefully protesting against injustice and discrimination.

I am convinced, the life verdict against Ilham Tohti is for political reasons and therefore requires reconsideration as are the prejudices and hostile attempts of marginalisation and silencing of the Uygur people.

Honoured President Xi Jinping, I appeal to your presidential duty to care for the security and peace of all citizens, not distinguishing amongst them. Like every citizen Ilham Tohti deserves to have access to medical treatment, legal counsel and visitation from his family. Simply imagine yourself being in such a situation. If you were Uygur, what would you expect from the government in terms of justice and dignity?

On behalf of Ilham Tohti I urge you to treat him according to your socialist ideals of equality and proceed to his immediate release as well as all other prisoners arbitrarily kept in re-education camps and prisons in Xinjiang. There is no reason to attract any more negative international attention than the already public UN accusations against China for possible crimes against humanity.

May you ensure that these questionable practices which have the danger of veering off to the greatest crime against humanity that of intentional annihilation of a group of people, a genocide, are no longer in place.

With sincere concern