

.....2019

Mr. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, BEIJING SHI - 100017
People's Republic of China

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 on behalf of

Guligeina Tashimaimati,

an Uyghur inhabitant of Yili, Xinjiang Province. According to numerous and credible sources of information, the Uyghur community is currently facing an unprecedented repression. Since 2016, individuals from this Muslim community, largely represented in the Uyghur Chinese region of Xinjiang, are being arbitrarily incarcerated in "reeducation centers" where they are subjected to inhuman and degrading treatments, like "brainwashing", among others.

On December 26, 2017, Guligeina Tashimaimati left the airport of Senai in Malaysia, where she was studying, to go to China and visit her family in Yili. After having maintained contacts with friends in Malaysia, she suddenly "disappeared" a few weeks after her arrival in Yili. Since then, nothing has been heard of her. It is strongly suspected that Guligeina Tashimaimati was arbitrarily arrested and incarcerated in a camp, prison or center, solely because of her Uyghur origin, like many others. The People's Republic of China adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is Party to the UN Convention against torture. These texts prohibit any discrimination based on the religion or the ethnic origin, or any act of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, based on any discrimination. These obligations are to be respected by the People's Republic of China.

I therefore call on you to ensure that:

- **Guligeina Tashimaimati is protected against any act of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;**
- **her place of detention is disclosed and that her family and lawyer have access to her;**
- **she is immediately released;**
- **all centers used to arbitrarily detain Uyghurs and persons of other ethnic minorities, are closed;**
- **all arrests and detentions of people based solely on their ethnic or religious backgrounds cease.**

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

Yours respectfully,

Copy: Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Kalcheggweg 10, 3006 Bern

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