

Date: _____

Director Fan Jun
Prison Bureau of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region
No.626 Xinquanjie, Tianshanqu
Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region
Postal code: 830002
People's Republic of China

Dear Director Fan Jun,

I am writing out of concern for Ilham Tohti, a university professor who has been sentenced to life in prison for so-called "separatism." In fact, Professor Tohti has peacefully advocated for the rights of the Uighur community. He is known for his moderate views on ethnic issues, and urged cooperation between communities

In January 2014, he was arrested, then held incommunicado for five months. In September 2014, he was given a life sentence for supposedly stirring up ethnic hatred.

Professor Tohti is being punished for the peaceful exercise of basic rights to freedom of expression. He should be immediately and unconditionally released. In the meantime, I call on you to ensure that he is not tortured or ill-treated.

Sincerely,

