President Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai, Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA
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November 2026

Ilham Tohti

Dear Mr. President,

Uyghur scholar and writer **Ilham Tohti** has now been in detention for more than a decade. He was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of 'separatism' in September 2014 simply for criticizing the Chinese government's treatment of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur minority in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and for speaking out against injustice and discrimination. His trial did not meet international standards for fair trials. Ilham Tohti is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. He is reportedly being subjected to ill-treatment in prison, including handcuffing and shackling, prolonged periods in solitary confinement, inadequate medical care, and food deprivation.

I would like to ask you to order the immediate and unconditional release of Ilham Tohti, who has been imprisoned solely for his peaceful human rights work. Please ensure that he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while he is detained, and that he has regular and unrestricted access to his family and a lawyer of his choice.

Yours Sincerely