

URGENT ACTION

30 RELATIVES OF UIGHUR ACTIVIST ARBITRARILY DETAINED

Chinese authorities have detained up to 30 relatives of Uighur human rights activist Rebiya Kadeer, who currently lives in the United States. Among the detained are Kadeer's sisters, brothers, sons, grandchildren and extended relatives. It is unclear when they were taken away, and they are presumed to be arbitrarily detained at an "education centre". They are at high risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Over the course of the past few months, up to 30 relatives of Uighur human rights activist, Rebiya Kadeer, are believed to have been arbitrarily detained. Among those detained is her son Ablikim Abdiriyim who previously served 12 years in prison, where he was repeatedly tortured. He was sentenced at the time in retaliation for his mother's human rights advocacy and was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. Also detained are Kahar Abdiriyim (m), Kadeer's eldest son; Ayugul (f), Kahar's wife; Aydidar (f) Kahar's daughter; Zulpikar (m), Kahar's son; Dildar (f), Kahar's daughter; Alim Abdiriyim (m), Kadeer's youngest son; Xelchem (f), Kadeer's sister; Atikem (f) and her son-in-law; Imam (m), Xelchem's son; Ahmetjan (m), Kadeer's brother; Gheni (m), Kadeer's brother.

All the family members are presumed to be currently held at one of the many detention facilities that have recently been established across the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Referred to as "counter extremism centres", "political study centres", or "education and transformation centres", these facilities are known to arbitrarily detain Uighurs and other Muslim minorities for 6-12 months or more. Forced to study Chinese laws and policies, many of those detained are targeted because they may have been found praying, owning religious books, have travelled abroad, or have family members living abroad.

Rebiya Kadeer was a prominent Uighur businesswoman and is a former prisoner of conscience herself. Formerly a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, she was detained in 1999, and sentenced to eight years for "stealing state secrets". Rebiya Kadeer is one of the best known Uighur human rights advocates, and is a leader of the World Uyghur Congress.

Please write immediately in English, Chinese or your own language:

- Release Rebiya Kadeer's family members unconditionally and immediately unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offence and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Ensure that members of Rebiya Kadeer's family have regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of their choice, and are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 DECEMBER 2017 TO:

Party Secretary of Xinjiang Uighur
Autonomous Region
Chen Quanguo Shuji
479 Zhongshanlu
Urumqi, Xinjiang
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Secretary

Minister of Justice
Zhang Jun Buzhang
Chaoyangmen nan dajie 6 hao
Beijing Shi, 100020
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Premier
Li Keqiang Zongli
Guowuyuan Bangongting
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6596 1109

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR LIU XIAOMING, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place W1B 1JL, 020 7299 4049, press_uk@mfa.gov.cn

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Uighurs are a mainly Muslim ethnic minority who are concentrated primarily in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in China. Since the 1980s, the Uighurs have been the target of systematic and extensive human rights violations. This includes arbitrary detention and imprisonment, incommunicado detention, and restrictions on religious freedom as well as cultural and social rights. Local authorities maintain tight control over religious practice, including prohibiting all government employees and children under the age of 18 from worshiping at mosques. Chinese government policies limit the use of the Uighur language, impose severe restrictions on freedom of religion and encourage sustained influx of Han migrants into the region.

In March 2017, the XUAR enacted the “De-extremification Regulation” that identifies and prohibits a wide range of behaviours labelled “extremist”, such as “spreading extremist thought”, denigrating or refusing to watch public radio and TV programmes, wearing burkas, having an “abnormal” beard, resisting national policies, and publishing, downloading, storing, or reading articles, publications, or audio-visual materials containing “extremist content”. The regulation also set up a “responsibility system” for government cadres for “anti-extremism” work, and established annual reviews of their performance.

Rebiya Kadeer's family have been targeted by the authorities ever since she was first detained as a prisoner of conscience in 1999. This intensified after she was released on medical parole on 17 March 2005, and left China for the USA. Rebiya Kadeer claims to have been warned that if she engaged with members of the Uighur ethnic community or spoke publicly about "sensitive issues", her "businesses and children would be finished". On 1 June 2006, Alim and Ablikim Abdiriyim were beaten by police in front of their children and in front of their sister, Rushangul, who was then handed a mobile phone and told to call Rebiya Kadeer in the USA and tell her what was happening. On 27 November 2006, the day after Rebiya Kadeer was elected president of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC), a court sentenced two of her sons, Alim Abdiriyim and Kahar Abdiriyim, to fines amounting to millions of US dollars, and Alim to seven years' imprisonment on charges of tax evasion. In addition, at the beginning of April, the Chinese authorities reportedly began a process to assess and liquidate the Kadeer family businesses.

Ablikim Abdiriyim, son of Rebiya Kadeer, was detained in June of 2006, and sentenced in April 2007 in an unfair trial in which he did not have legal representation of his choice. He was repeatedly tortured while in prison, and was released in May 2015.

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