

To Yu Hong
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the People's Republic of China to Nepal
Hattisar, Kathmandu, Nepal

26 October 2018

Your Excellency,

END ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION

I am writing to express concern about reports of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and call on your government to take urgent and effective measures to protect Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim people in the XUAR from being arbitrarily detained in "transformation-through-education" facilities in the name of "de-extremification".

Enclosed you will find a copy of a briefing published by Amnesty International on 24 September 2018, *China: Where are they? Time for answers about mass detentions in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region*. We have spoken with more than 100 people across the world who report losing touch with relatives and friends inside the XUAR and fear that they have been detained in such facilities. There are credible reports that these facilities are being used to force people to repudiate their religious beliefs and aspects of their cultural identity and prove their unqualified political loyalty for the state. The secretive and undocumented nature of the way people are going missing there makes it nearly impossible to trace or confirm the whereabouts of any particular individual. Hundreds of thousands of families have been torn apart and they are desperate to know what has happened to their loved ones.

Every government has the right and duty to protect its citizens, but this may never be used as an excuse to deny people the ability to exercise their human rights. States should ensure that all measures aimed at counter-terrorism or protecting national security fully comply with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

I urge your government to provide credible answers about what is happening in the XUAR. In accordance with China's obligations under international law, your government should end all arbitrary detention and immediately release all persons who are being held in "de-extremification", "transformation-through-education" or other facilities in the XUAR unless they have been charged with an internationally recognized offence.

Yours sincerely,



Nirajan Thapaliya
Director
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