

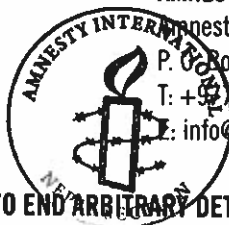
To the Honourable Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEPAL SECTION



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Dear Honourable Minister,

SUBJECT: CALL ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO END ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE XUAR

I am writing to call your attention to reports of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and call on your government to urge the Chinese 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 please 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 to 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.

Arbitrary detention facilitates torture and other ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and other abuses. Kairat Samarkan, who was released from the "re-education" camps on 15 February 2018, told Amnesty International that he was hooded and made to wear shackles on his arms and legs. For 12 hours he was attached to an iron bar with his arms spread wide and his body fixed in place so that he had to stand straight, unable to bend. Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim people from the XUAR may be at risk of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment if forcibly returned to China.

I urge the Government of Nepal to consistently raise concrete concerns about human rights violations in the XUAR in your exchanges with Chinese counterparts and to ask the Chinese government to 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. In accordance with your obligations under international law on *non-refoulement* principles, your government should also cease all forced transfer, directly or indirectly, to China of Uighurs, Kazakhs or other Chinese nationals from the XUAR, if they would face a real risk of serious human rights violations or abuses.

Yours sincerely,

Nirajan Thapaliya
Director
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