

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF SWEDEN'S
SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY ACADEMIES

Stockholm 29 March 2021
Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Your Excellency,

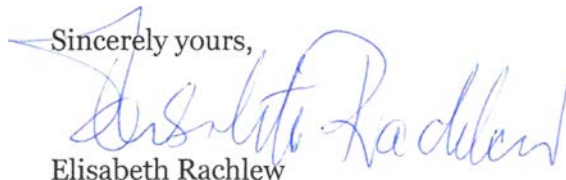
We, the Human Rights Committee of Sweden's Scientific and Literary Academies, write respectfully to express our most urgent concern about the situation of Ilham Tohti, a Chinese professor of economics who is serving a life sentence for charges related to his peaceful activities in support of Uyghur rights. We understand that, shortly after his arrest in 2014, he was transferred to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), far from his family in Beijing. During his detention, he has been held under difficult conditions of confinement, including deprivation of family visits for extended periods of time and harassment of his family and colleagues.

Professor Ilham was a professor of economics at Minzu University in Beijing and editor of a scholarly website that addressed social issues in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Professor Ilham is particularly well-known for bridge-building between the Uyghur and Han communities to enable peaceful solutions to tension in the region. Despite widespread acknowledgement that he has always been a voice of moderation and reconciliation, he was arrested in January 2014 and accused of subversive intent in his writings, interviews with foreign media, and classroom lectures. In a closed trial in September 2014 that failed to meet international due process standards, Professor Ilham was convicted and given a life sentence.

In light of the information above, Professor Ilham's detention appears to be arbitrary, in violation of his fundamental rights to freedom of expression and to due process. These rights are protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. Thus, we respectfully urge you, Your Excellency, to use your good offices to ensure his immediate and unconditional release from prison. In the interim, please ensure that his conditions of confinement conform to the U.N. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

Thank you, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,



Elisabeth Rachlew

Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of Sweden's Scientific and Literary Academies



Kungl. KUNGL. VITTERHETS HISTORIE
Vitterhetsakademien OCH ANTIKVIETETS AKADEMIEN



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THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF SWEDEN'S
SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY ACADEMIES

Copy:

His Excellency Shohrat Zakir Chairman of the Xinjiang Uyghur
Autonomous Region
His Excellency Zhao Kezhi Minister of Public Security
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sweden
Embassy of Sweden Beijing

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His Excellency Chen Quanguo Shuji
Communist Party Secretary of the Xinjiang
Uyghur Autonomous Region
479 Zhongshanlu
Urumqi, Xinjiang 830041
People's Republic of China

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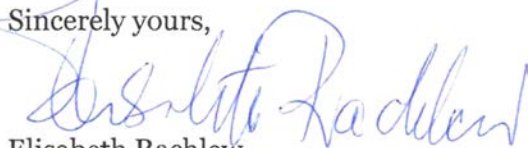
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