

**Public**

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To: Health Professional Network

From: Health and Human Rights Team

Date: 19 March 2007

### **Health Professional Action**

#### **People's Republic of China**

**Ablikim Abdiryim (m) aged 33**

**Alim Abdiryim (m) aged 31**

(For more information see UA (ASA 17/011/2007, 8 March 2007); UA 156/06 (ASA 17/032/2006, 2 June 2006) and follow-ups (ASA 17/038/2006, 10 July 2006; ASA 17/060/2006, 1 December 2006)

#### **Summary:**

Ablikim Abdiryim, held in Tianshan Detention Centre in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), is reported to be seriously unwell as a result of torture and ill treatment he has experienced during his detention. Ablikim Abdiryim has been continually denied access to appropriate medical care, and his family was reportedly warned by the authorities "not to mess with this" when they requested medical treatment for him. Amnesty International is gravely concerned about his health, and fears that his life may be at risk.

Alim Abdiryim, detained at the same time as his brother Ablikim and also held in Tianshan Detention Centre, is reported to have been tortured whilst in detention, and may also be in need of urgent medical treatment.

#### **Background:**

Ablikim and Alim Abdiryim are sons of Uighur activist Rebiya Kadeer, a former AI prisoner of conscience. Ablikim, Alim and other family members have been targeted by the authorities since Rebiya Kadeer's detention in 1999, and more intensively since she was released from prison on medical parole in 2005 when she left China for the USA.

Ablikim and Alim Abdiriyim were detained on 29 May 2006. They were forcibly escorted to a camp site outside Urumqi where they were severely beaten by police officers. Ablikim lost consciousness and was taken to hospital for medical treatment. While in detention awaiting trial, Ablikim Abdiriyim reportedly endured regular long interrogations, beatings and other ill-treatment. According to reports he was seen being carried from Tianshan Detention Centre on a stretcher on 26 November 2006, apparently in need of medical treatment. Additionally his detention guards have refused to let him have the warm clothes sent by his family and he is reported to have suffered greatly from the very cold weather.

Ablikim Abdiriyim was reportedly tried in secret on 28 January 2007 on the charges of "subversion of state power", "ethnic separatism" and "sending information over the internet to Mrs. Kadeer" (his mother). Details of the trial and Ablikim Abdiriyim's sentence are not clear.

Alim Abdiriyim reportedly confessed under torture on 1 July to the alleged crimes of 'tax fraud' and 'splittism', or advocating independence for the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Alim Abdiriyim was transferred to the Tianshan District detention centre following his "confession". He may need urgent medical attention for injuries sustained during torture.

On 27 November 2006, the day after Rebiya Kadeer was elected president of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC), the court sentenced Alim Abdiriyim and his brother Kahar Abdiriyim to fines amounting to millions of US dollars, and Alim to seven years' imprisonment on charges of tax evasion. The pattern of retribution against Rebiya Kadeer's family for her human rights activities cast serious doubt on the credibility of the police investigation in these cases. Rebiya Kadeer claims that prior to her release she was warned that if she engaged with members of the Uighur ethnic community or spoke publicly about "sensitive issues" after her release, her "businesses and children will be finished".

### **Recommended Actions:**

Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese, English or your own language:

- explain that you are a health professional and are writing about the cases of Ablikim Abdiriyim and Alim Abdiriyim;
- express deep concern at reports that Ablikim Abdiriyim is being denied access to adequate medical treatment for injuries sustained due to torture or ill-treatment in custody, and urge the authorities to ensure that he be given the medical treatment he needs;
- express grave concern at reports that Alim Abdiriyim was tortured to extract a confession, and urge authorities to ensure that he receives any medical treatment he may require;
- call on the authorities to launch a full, independent and impartial investigation into the reported beatings of Ablikim and Alim Abdiriyim and to bring those responsible to justice;
- call on the authorities to guarantee that Ablikim, Alim and Kahar Abdiriyim be given fair hearings if they appeal against their sentences;
- call on the authorities to make known the sentence handed down to Ablikim Abdiriyim;
- call on the authorities to bring an end to the human rights violations directed at Rebiya Kadeer's family, including ill-treatment in detention, police harassment and other restrictions on their freedom of expression.

**Addresses:**

*Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China*

WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli  
The State Council  
9 Xihuangcheng Genbeijie  
Beijingshi 100032, People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 65292345 (c/o Ministry of Communication)  
Email: gazette@mail.gov.cn  
Salutation: Your Excellency

*Chairman of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional People's Government*

Ismail TILIWALDI Zhuxi  
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu  
2 Zhongshanlu  
Wulumuqishi 830041, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China  
Email: master@xinjiang.gov.cn  
Salutation: Dear Chairman

**Copies**

Please send copies of your letters to:

*Mayor of Urumqi Municipal People's Government*

**Shokrat Zakir** Shizhang  
Wulumuqi Shizhengfu Bangongting  
1316 Kelamayi Donglu  
Wulumuqi Shi 830063, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China  
**Fax: +86 991 4689654**  
**Salutation: Dear Mayor**

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply within six weeks of sending your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response.

Please inform your section or structure and the Health and Human Rights team at the IS, if you take action in this case, and of any replies you receive.