

URGENT ACTION

FAMILY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ARRESTED

Xinna and Uiles, the wife and son of ethnic Mongolian human rights activist Hada, have been formally arrested. Hada is currently in a secret prison and has been going on frequent hunger strikes protesting his continued detention.

Prisoner of conscience **Hada** was due to be released from prison on 10 December 2010 on completion of a 15-year sentence. However, the authorities continued to hold him and detained his wife **Xinna** and their son **Uiles** shortly before his expected release date. At first they were held incommunicado; their whereabouts were unknown and the authorities put some of their relatives under surveillance.

Naraa, Xinna's sister, told the Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Centre (SMHRIC), that she saw Hada on 20 February when the authorities summoned her so she could persuade him to end his hunger strike. According to her, Hada was being held in two-storey secret prison near the Baita International Airport in Hohhot (in Chinese: Huhehaote), regional capital of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Naraa told SMHRIC that the police had since pressured her to write letters to Hada, saying that his relatives no longer support him and will not visit him in prison. According to the SMHRIC, Naraa has refused to write and has fallen ill under the pressure.

Naraa saw the notifications of Xinna and Uiles's formal arrest in Hada's prison cell when she visited him. According to her, Xinna and Uiles were formally arrested around 17 January and charged with "illegal business" and "possession of drugs" respectively in connection to running the Mongolian Academic Bookshop. They are held separately in Inner Mongolia No 1 Detention Centre and Inner Mongolia No 3 Detention Centre. No family member has been able to visit Uiles in detention. Xinna's brother was able to visit her on 4 July for about an hour. According to the brother, Xinna was clearly "under stress".

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

- Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Hada who has been imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience since 1995 and who completed his sentence on 10 December 2010;
- Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Xinna and Uiles who are detained because of their association with Hada and their continuing activities in relation to the Mongolian Academic Bookshop;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, and as long as they remain in detention have access to family members, legal representation of their choosing and all necessary medical care.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 AUGUST 2011 TO:

Director of Nei Menggu Autonomous
Regional Department of Public Security
Zhao Liping Tingzhang
Nei Menggu Zizhiqu Gong'anting
15 Haila'erdajie, Hohhot 010051
Nei Menggu Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 471 6550102
Salutation: Dear Director

Chairman of the Nei Menggu Autonomous
Regional People's Government
Bate'er Wulan Zhuxi
Nei Menggu Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu
1 Chilechundangjie, Hohhot 010098
Nei Menggu Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 471 4621406
Email: nmg@nmg.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Chairman

And copies to:

Minister of Justice of People's Republic of
China
Wu Aiyong Buzhang
Sifabu, 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijing shi 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65292345
Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 2/11. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/001/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to Naraa, Hada was taken away from Chifeng Prison where he had been serving his sentence for “splitting the country” [separatism] and “espionage” on 3 December, a week before his scheduled release. On 10 December, he was brought to the secret prison in Hohhot and reunited with Xinna and Uiles who had been detained on 4 and 5 December respectively. The family bookstore, Mongolian Academic Bookshop, was also raided and ordered to close around that time.

The three of them went on hunger strike around 24 December, in protest against their detention. Naraa was allowed to visit them from 1 to 4 February over Mongolian New Year. She told SMHRIC that around that time, Hada, Xinna and Uiles were asked to agree not to give any interviews to media. In addition, Hada was offered inducements and asked to give up his stance that he was innocent and to admit to wrongdoing. According to Naraa the three remain in detention because they refused to sign any such documents, Xinna and Uiles were transferred from the secret prison on 6 February.

Xinna and Uiles have been detained several times since 1995 when Hada was taken into custody. The authorities have repeatedly pressured Uiles who was only 13 years old when he was detained and beaten for the first time, to cut his ties with his parents. In 2002, Uiles was sentenced to two years imprisonment for “violent robbery” of 92 yuan (approx USD 14) which he allegedly committed when he was 17 years old. He was convicted even though his three “victims” had written to the prosecution saying that Uiles was innocent of the crime. In prison, he was handcuffed and shackled for 40 hours following a visit by his mother during which they briefly spoke to each other in Mongolian [.

Xinna has been under constant surveillance since she was first detained in 1995 for “inciting demonstrations”, The authorities have at times ordered the family bookstore, to close on grounds of “illegal business”, making it difficult for Xinna to generate income. They repeatedly threatened her with detention if she continued to campaign for Hada’s release.

In view of the authorities’ continual surveillance and harassment of Xinna and Uiles over the past 15 years while Hada has been in prison, including repeated closures of their bookshop which is active in promoting Mongolian literature and culture; the timing and circumstances of their arrest; and the pressuring of the members of their extended family, Amnesty International believes that the current charges against them are a pretext to detain them because of their association with Hada, his refusal to admit any personal wrongdoing, and because of their continuing cultural activities exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Name: **Hada, Xinna and Uiles**

Gender m/f: Hada, Male; Xinna, Female; Uiles, Male.

Further information on UA: 2/11 Index: ASA 17/036/2011 Issue Date: 20 July 2011

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