

PUBLIC

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UA 166/05 Fear of torture and ill-treatment

CHINA Abdulla Jamal (m), aged 42, teacher

Teacher Abdulla Jamal, an ethnic Uighur from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwest China, was reportedly arrested in early April for writing a book which the authorities accuse of inciting "separatism". Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. His whereabouts are unknown, and he is at high risk of torture and ill-treatment.

Abdulla Jamal, who reportedly teaches at the No. 1 Middle School of Poskam County in the city of Kashgar, is known in the region for his writing. He was detained after he submitted the manuscript of his book, *Disaster in the Oil Well*, to a publishing house in Kashgar. The book has not been published. The exact charges against Abdulla Jamal have not been made public but the Chinese authorities have reportedly accused him of inciting "separatism" in the book.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has been reporting on serious and widespread human rights violations against the mainly Muslim Uighur community in northwest China since the early 1990s. In 1996, a "strike hard" anti-crime campaign was pursued throughout China, and in Xinjiang and Tibet it was accompanied by a political campaign to crack down on "separatists". The political crackdown on the so-called "three evil forces" of "separatist, terrorist and religious extremists" has intensified since the 11 September 2001 attacks in the USA, as China uses the international "war on terror" as a pretext to justify its policies of repression in the region.

For many years the authorities have been detaining Uighurs who have expressed criticism, dissent or dissatisfaction regarding government policies. People who express such opinions are often accused of "separatist, terrorist or illegal religious" activity, and may face arbitrary and illegal detention as prisoners of conscience, torture and other serious human rights violations, including the death penalty.

In May this year, the "strike hard" campaign against the "three evil forces" in the XUAR was renewed. According to an official announcement published in regional newspapers, "The entire region must continue to deepen the implementation of every central government policy on safeguarding the stability of the XUAR and fully recognize the long-term, sharp and complicated nature of the struggle against separatism... striking whenever and wherever it appears."

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

- expressing concern that Abdulla Jamal appears to have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- urging the authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally, unless he is charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee that he will be protected from torture and ill-treatment while he is in custody, and that he has access to lawyers, his family and medical treatment;
- expressing concern at reports of extensive human rights violations in the XUAR.

APPEALS TO:

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

Director of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Department of Justice

ROZI Simayi Tingzhang
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Sifating
27 Renminlu
Wulumuqishi 830002
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

Director of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Department of Public Security

Liu Yaohua Tingzhang
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Gong'anting
58 Huanghelu
Wulumuqishi 830000
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Secretary of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Party Committee

WANG Lequan Shuji
Zhonggong Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Weiyuanhui
Wulumuqishi
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Secretary

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 July 2005.