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China: Charges brought against Uighur businesswoman Rebiya Kadeer

Uighur businesswoman Rebiya Kadeer was charged on 2 September 1999 with "illegally offering state secrets across the border". On the same day her family and work unit were issued notification of Rebiya's formal arrest by the Urumqi City People's Procuratorate.

"The charge is clearly politically motivated," Amnesty International said. "Rebiya Kadeer must be immediately and unconditionally released."

An unofficial source reported that Rebiya Kadeer had been tortured in detention in an attempt to get her to sign the charge sheet. The copy of the charge sheet received by her family was unsigned.

Rebiya Kadeer was detained on 11 August 1999 in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) while trying to meet a research delegation from the United States.

Immediately after her detention she was accused of "providing information to foreigners" or "people outside the borders". She is reported to have been held in Liu Daowan prison in Urumqi since 15 August.

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For further information on Rebiya Kadeer's case, please see our web site at <http://www.amnesty.org> for a previous news release of 16 August 1999, (AI Index: ASA 17/34/99) or call Amnesty International's Press Office at +44-171-413-5566.