

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: ASA 17/044/2007 (Public)
News Service No: 182
24 September 2007

Invitation – Talk Human rights in China: Rebiya Kadeer Monday 1 October, 2007

Former prisoner of conscience and President of the World Uyghur Congress, Rebiya Kadeer, will tell her amazing story about her fight for basic human rights of the Uighur people of the northwest region of Xinjiang in the People's Republic of China, on Monday 1 October, 2007.

Rebiya Kadeer was sentenced in 2000 to eight years' imprisonment on charges of "providing state secrets outside the country", which were publicly available newspaper clippings she sent to her husband in the USA. During her trial neither she nor her lawyer was allowed to speak in her defence. She was released on medical parole after almost 6 years in prison in March 2005. She has never been charged or accused of violent crimes. Amnesty International considered her a prisoner of conscience and campaigned to bring about her release.

Rebiya Kadeer's family has experienced intensified persecution by Chinese authorities since she was released on medical parole in March 2005. Three of her children were arrested and tried and sentenced to lengthy imprisonment and heavy fines. According to reports, Alim Abdiriyim was forced to confess under torture to alleged crimes of tax fraud and 'subversion of state power'. Ablikim Abdiriyim was reportedly hospitalized after being severely beaten by police soon after he was detained in June.

In 2006 Rebiya Kadeer was nominated by Swedish parliamentarian Annelie Enochson for the Nobel Peace Prize. Annelie Enochson stated in her nomination, "Rebiya Kadeer champions the rights of western China's Uighur ethnic group and is one of China's most prominent advocates of women's rights...[she] has also used her resources as founder and director of a large trading company in north-western China to provide fellow Uighurs with training and employment."

When: Monday, 1 October 2007 at 19:00 BST (18:00 GMT)

Where: The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

Please confirm your attendance to:

Amnesty International Asia Pacific Press Officer
Phone: + 44 207 413 5810
Email: Rosemary.Ollier@amnesty.org

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>

