

June 09, 2020

His Excellency Xi Jinping,
His Excellency Cui Tiankai,
The Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Pl NW, Washington, DC 20008

Dear His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of China and Ambassador Cui Tiankai,

We are Harvard Law School alumni drawn from over 50 countries and we write to you regarding the enforced disappearance of Mr. Ekpar Asat, an Uyghur tech entrepreneur and philanthropist. We understand he has reportedly been forcibly disappeared into the detention system in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XJUAR) following his return to China after participating in the US State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP). Mr. Asat's ordeal has touched and outraged us personally, because he is also the brother of our classmate and friend, Ms. Rayhan Asat.

We understand Mr. Asat was selected for the IVLP program for his renowned entrepreneurship, leadership, philanthropic commitment. We also understand the Chinese government often hailed Mr. Asat as a bridge-builder between different ethnic groups in Xinjiang. We note that days before his disappearance, he sponsored an "International Boxing Tournament" in Xinjiang, where the audience proudly displayed Chinese flags, and China Central Television broadcasted the event as the first international boxing tournament in Xinjiang. Our classmate Rayhan has also shared on social media Mr. Asat's "I Love Xinjiang Campaign," which Mr. Asat led through his Bagdax social media platform. Therefore, his subsequent enforced disappearance and reports that he has been imprisoned on the grounds that he incited ethnic hatred seem especially unfounded and a total miscarriage of justice.

Like Mr. Asat, most of us travelled to the United States to further our education and training as leaders. We returned safely to our families in our home countries. We are devastated that Mr. Asat did not. We are deeply disturbed by the arbitrary nature of his detention, secret trial, and the lack of any basic sense of justice. **We therefore hereby request that the Chinese government immediately undertake steps to correct this injustice by unconditionally releasing Mr. Asat and allowing him to reunite with his sister and with his family.**

Further, for many of us, through Mr. Asat's story we have been exposed to reports of how Uyghurs in China are subject to political indoctrination, humiliation, arbitrary detention, mass internment, imprisonment with lengthy sentences, and modern slavery. These public reports severely taint China's image as an international player acting within the purview of the rule of law and basic human rights. **We call upon the Chinese government to immediately cease all forms of oppression in XJUAR and to respect the dignity and freedom of its Uyghur citizens.**

Respectfully,

Signatories

1. Diogo Santana Lopes (Portugal)
2. Kristen Zornada (Australia)
3. Sigrún Ingibjörg Gísladóttir (Iceland)
4. Avani Bansal (India)
5. Joan Selorm Michaels (Ghana)

6. Carlos Andres Pagan (Puerto Rico, United States)
7. Alice Lee (Taiwan)
8. Rachel Tompkins (New Zealand)
9. Thomas Ewing (United States)
10. Mobola Lawal (Nigeria)
11. Amy Woolfson (United Kingdom)
12. Adhitya Srinivasan (India)
13. Noura Al-Saket (Jordan)
14. Irene Atim Lakony (Uganda)
15. Sarah Mishkin (United States)
16. Aluma Zernik (Israel)
17. Michela Mancini (Italy)
18. Oliver M. Barker-Vormawo (Ghana)
19. Rachel Jonas (United Kingdom)
20. Lindiwe Sibande (Malawi)
21. Jitka Vrtelova (Czech Republic)
22. Claudia Torres (Mexico)
23. Kulani Jalata (United States)
24. Carmen Feito (Spain)
25. Juliane Steffens (Germany)
26. Justinas Jarusevicius (Lithuania)
27. Anna Crawford (New Zealand)
28. Tobyn Danger (Japan)
29. Shamma Malik (United States)
30. Cem Tecimer (Turkey)
31. Du Xuan (Singapore)
32. Lindiwe Sibande (Malawi)
33. Sam Parsons (United Kingdom)
34. Tess Nolizwe Peacock (South Africa)
35. Lauren Godles Milgroom (United States)
36. Mayu Yamaguchi (Japan)
37. Odile Amman (Switzerland)
38. Lena Borislavova (Bulgaria)
39. Camila Tomimatsu (Brazil)
40. Kyle Strickland (United States)
41. Tonia M'Bawa (Sierra Leone)
42. Asli Orhon (Turkey)
43. Ricki-Lee Gerbrandt (Canada)
44. Seohyung Kim (South Korea)
45. Giovanna Parini (Paraguay)
46. Mayuko Tsuijimoto (Japan)
47. Breno Casiuch (Brazil)
48. Johan Lievens (Belgium)
49. Ujwala Uppauluri (India)
50. Samantha Lint (United States)
51. Sulyok Katalin (Hungary)
52. Marium Khawaja (United States & Pakistan)
53. Mathieu Bernier Trudeau (Canada)
54. Mavis Abada (Nigeria)
55. Tamar Kiki Gonzada (Georgia)
56. Bell Athayu (Thailand)

57. Angel Gabriel (Mexico)
58. Barbara Lyszczarz (Poland)
59. Francis Igiriogu (Nigeria)
60. Michel Haber (Brazil)
61. Lydia Adude (Kenya)
62. Rabiya Akande (Nigeria)
63. Isaac Saidel-Goley (United States)
64. Ruta Hadgunu (Eritrea)
65. Constanza Borear (Peru)
66. Andrey Morozov (Russia)
67. Işılai Pişkin (Turkey)
68. Salma Mohsen (United States)
69. Zeeshaan Hashmi (Pakistan)
70. Omar Vasquez Duque (Chile)
71. Margaux Marmy (Switzerland)
72. Alexandra Arizmendi (Peru)
73. Erick Ribeiro (Brazil)
74. Catalina Garcia (Colombia)
75. Irmina Pacho (Poland)
76. Kiran Iyer (Australia)
77. Ariana Pagliacci (Italy)
78. Ayça Yılmaz (Turkey)
79. Andres Fuchs (Chile)
80. Reem Alaa Abass (Egypt)
81. Rafael Andrade (Brazil)
82. Shubhangi Bhadada (India)
83. Tomohiro Yokota (Japan)
84. Reon Cloete-Delparo (South Africa)