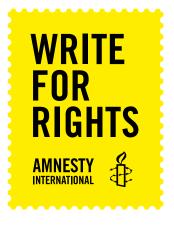
LIFE IN JAIL FOR FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION ILHAM TOHTLCHINA









Ilham Tohti is a well-respected university professor, known for his moderate views on ethnic issues in China. Yet in January 2014 he was taken from his home in Beijing by police.

For five months, family and friends were not told where he was. He was denied food for 10 days and had his feet in shackles for 20 days straight. Then in September 2014 he was given a life sentence – supposedly for stirring up ethnic hatred.

Ilham comes from the Uighur community, a largely Muslim ethnic group that faces widespread discrimination in his home region, the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. In recent years, there has been a rise in tensions between ethnic groups there, as well as an increase in violent attacks.

Ilham adamantly opposed violence and worked tirelessly to build bridges and encourage co-operation between communities. Through his writing and lectures he also highlighted government practices that discriminated against many aspects of Uighurs' lives.

But now he faces a lifetime in jail. He's being cruelly punished for peacefully challenging the Chinese government's policies towards ethnic minorities.

Demand action. Tell China to release Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally.





Call on him to immediately and unconditionally release Ilham Tohti.

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Show you're support for Ilham Tohti

Send him a letter or postcard to tell him you are calling for his release. Your messages will let the Chinese authorities know the world is watching.

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