
Germany

President
Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai, Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
CHINA / BY AIRMAIL

Date: 2020

STOP TARGETING UYGHURS AND OTHER MUSLIM MINORITIES

Dear President Xi,

I am writing to voice my concerns about reports of human rights violations on Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim people, both in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang) and outside China.

I call on your government to take urgent and effective measures to protect them from being arbitrarily detained in "transformation-through-education" facilities in the name of "de-extremification" and stop all kinds of harassment and intimidation against Uyghur communities and members of other ethnic groups living abroad.

Amnesty International has collated information from approximately 400 people across the world who report losing touch with relatives and friends inside Xinjiang and fear that they have been detained in such facilities. There are credible reports that these facilities are being used to force people to repudiate their religious beliefs and aspects of their cultural identity and prove their unqualified political loyalty to China and the Communist Party. The secretive and undocumented nature of the way people are going missing there makes it nearly impossible to trace or confirm the whereabouts of any particular individual.

Uyghurs living overseas are suffering from harassment and intimidation by the Chinese authorities. Individuals recount intrusive surveillance, intimidating phone calls, negative consequences of speaking out and planting seeds of suspicion among the communities outside China. Their family members in China are targeted by the Chinese authorities to suppress their activism abroad. They also fear that other governments will be pressured by China to repatriate Uyghurs who have left China.

I am writing to urge you to stop your campaign targeting Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups inside and outside China. In accordance with China's obligations under international law, you should close the internment camps and release detainees immediately and unconditionally, as well as stop all kinds of harassment and intimidation against members of these ethnic groups living overseas.

Yours sincerely,