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Dear President Xi,

It remains a grave concern that, since 2017, up to 30 relatives of Uyghur human rights defender and former prisoner of conscience, Rebiya Kadeer, are still believed to be arbitrarily detained in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang).

Rebiya Kadeer's son, Ablidik Abdiriyim, is one of those thought to be detained. A former prisoner of conscience, he previously served 12 years in prison where he was repeatedly tortured. It is believed he was sentenced in retaliation to his mother's human rights advocacy. Among the other family members who are believed to be detained are Kahar Abdiriyim, Kadeer's eldest son; Ayugul, Kahar's wife; Aydidar, Kahar's daughter; Zulpikar, Kahar's son; Dildar, Kahar's daughter; Alim Abdiriyim, Kadeer's youngest son; Xelchem, Kadeer's sister; Atikem and her son-in-law; Imam, Xelchem's son; Ahmetjan, Kadeer's brother; Gheni, Kadeer's brother.

Formerly a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Rebiya Kadeer was detained in 1999, and sentenced to eight years in prison for "stealing state secrets". Rebiya Kadeer is one of the best-known Uyghur human rights advocates and is a leader at the World Uyghur Congress.

All the family members are presumed to be currently held at one of the many detention facilities that were established across the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang). Referred to as "counter extremism centres", "political study centres", or "transformation-through-education centres", these facilities are known to arbitrarily detain Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities for indefinite periods. Forced to study Chinese laws and policies, many of those detained are targeted because they may have been found praying, owning religious books, have travelled abroad, or have family members living abroad.

Therefore, we call on you to:

- Release Rebiya Kadeer's family members unconditionally and immediately unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offence and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Ensure that members of Rebiya Kadeer's family have regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of their choice, and are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,