

駐日中華人民共和國大使館
〒106-0046東京都港区元麻布3丁目4-33
中華人民共和國駐日本國特命全權大使
孔鉉佑閣下

Dear Kong Xuanyou;

I write to express my concern for Nagyz Muhammed, a Kazakh who worked as a writer in Altay's State Intangible Cultural Heritage Office in Xinjiang. He is also a member of the Xinjiang Writers Association.

In early 2018, Nagyz Muhammed travelled to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to stay with relatives after undergoing heart surgery in Urumqi. In March 2018, his colleague in China asked him to get back to work urgently. Returning to Altay later that month, Nagyz Muhammed was summoned to the local police station and questioned about his last visit to Kazakhstan. No contact has been made with him since.

In December 2018 his family was told by a source that, reportedly as a result of being tortured during an interrogation, Nagyz Muhammed's health had deteriorated so significantly that he was sent to a "transformation-through-education" centre. His family members learned from the same source in the first half of 2019 that he was sent to a detention centre once his condition improved.

It is distressing to learn that, after nearly a year of uncertainty, Nagyz Muhammed's family only received official notification about his arrest in early 2019. No additional official information has since been provided.

His family were told by a source in April 2020 that Nagyz Muhammed had been convicted of "separatism" and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in connection with a dinner he attended with friends on Kazakhstan Independence Day about a decade ago. I am deeply concerned about reports that the trial was conducted in secret and that Nagyz Muhammed was not allowed access to a lawyer of his choice.

Without any information about his current condition or whereabouts, I am deeply concerned about Nagyz Muhammed's wellbeing, especially given the reports of the torture that he endured in 2018.

I call on you to release Iminjan Seydin immediately and unconditionally, unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards.

I call on you to:

- Disclose Nagyz Muhammed's whereabouts, allow him access to his family and a lawyer of his choice, and ensure he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment;
- Release Nagyz Muhammed immediately and unconditionally, unless there is sufficient, credible and admissible evidence that he committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards

Yours sincerely,