

Director Wang Jiang

Prison Administration Bureau of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

No 380, Huanghe lu, Urumqi

830000, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

People's Republic of China

Dear Director Wang:

I am writing to express my grave concern for Uyghur tech entrepreneur **Ekpar Asat (艾郃買江·艾剋拜爾)**, who I understand has been held in solitary confinement since he was moved to a prison in Aksu Prefecture in January 2019.

During the first video conversation with his family since his detention, in January 2021, Ekpar Asat was seen to have lost a lot of weight and looked pale with black spots on his face. As he continues to suffer from a lack of sunlight exposure and malnutrition, it is feared that Ekpar Asat's health will deteriorate further without access to proper medical care.

According to international human rights laws and standards, solitary confinement shall be used only in exceptional cases as a last resort, for as short a time as possible and subject to independent review, and only pursuant to the authorization by a competent authority.

Prolonged solitary confinement, particularly when combined with isolation from the outside world, may violate the prohibition against torture and other ill-treatment and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

I therefore call on you to:

- **Ensure that, while detained, Ekpar Asat is treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and specifically does not subject him to torture or other ill-treatment, including poor conditions of detention, inadequate food and health care and prolonged solitary confinement;**
- **Ensure Ekpar Asat has regular, unrestricted access to a lawyer of his choice and his family;**
- **Release Ekpar Asat 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,