

Chen Xiaojiang 陈小江
Secretary-General, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Committee
2 Jiankang Lu, Urumqi 830002
Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
People's Republic of China

Dear Secretary-General Chen,

I am writing to express my grave concern for Uyghur tech entrepreneur **Ekpar Asat (阿克拜尔·艾赛提)**, who was taken into custody nearly a decade ago by Chinese authorities and, according to your government, tried and convicted of "inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination". He is reportedly serving a 15-year sentence, but his family has never yet received court documents attesting to his trial, and whether he was provided with a lawyer.

It is distressing to learn that his detention and imprisonment in Aksu Prison have been marked by concerns about the conditions and treatment he faces, which appear to fall short of the standards set out in international human rights standards. For example, his family has reported that from January 2019 to at least 2021, he was held in solitary confinement. The first video conversation his family had with him, in January 2021, raised serious concerns about his health, including lack of sunlight exposure and malnutrition and lack of access to adequate medical care.

In mid-2025, for the first time, Ekpar's family was able to make the arduous 12-hour journey from their home to visit Aksu Prison. His sister, Rayhan Asat, is more concerned than ever that the imprisonment is having serious impacts on his physical and mental health.

I therefore call on you to:

- **Release Ekpar Asat immediately and provide him with compensation for his decade-long ordeal, as set out by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in their Opinion 88/2022 finding his detention arbitrary and in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;**
- **Ensure that, pending his immediate release, Ekpar Asat is treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and specifically he is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment, including poor conditions of detention, inadequate food and health care and prolonged solitary confinement; and**
- **Transfer Ekpar Asat from Aksu Prison to a prison in Urumqi, and ensure he has regular, unrestricted access to a lawyer of his choice and his family.**

Yours sincerely,