

President Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

20 December 2019

Your Excellency

On behalf of the Danish section of Scholars at Risk Denmark, we write you to respectfully ask for your urgent intervention in Dr. Tashpolat Tiyips case (Dr. Tiyip).

Dr. Tiyip, a scholar and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU) may face execution after the end of his two-year sentence. We feel obliged to express our utmost concern regarding the sentence issued against Dr. Tiyip and to ask for your intervention to encourage the appropriate authorities to halt any plans to execute Dr. Tiyip and to secure his unconditional release.

It is our understanding that on 31 March 2017, XJU announced on its website that Dr. Tiyip had been removed from his position as president of XJU, without further clarification or details. Subsequently in the aftermath of the announcement, Dr. Tiyip disappeared and information surfaced that Dr. Tiyip had been apprehended at an airport in Beijing while traveling to Germany for a conference. Information issued by Scholars at Risk tell us that the confinement and prosecution of Dr. Tiyip happened because of an apparent campaign by Chinese authorities to detain ethnic minorities in XUAR, including many Uyghur, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh scholars. Sources from scholars and human rights groups estimate that as many as one million members of these minority communities have been held at so-called "re-education camps."

We hope to receive information or evidence that can help to explain and clarify our understanding of the abovementioned events. Information at hand indicates that Dr. Tiyip is imprisoned and sentenced because of his nonviolent exercise of scientific freedom, freedom of association, and freedom of expression. All of which are fundamental human rights protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a party.

We feel compelled to raise our voice and remind China of its own obligations under the above-mentioned treaties. Protecting and encouraging the peaceful exercise of academic freedom and human rights is an important and essential component in all education sectors.

On behalf of the Danish section of Scholars at Risk Denmark, we respectfully request your positive intervention by urging the relevant authorities, to secure Dr. Tiyip' unconditional release, and to drop any charges that stem from peacefully exercising his right to academic freedom. To ensure that the relevant authorities could disclose his whereabouts, make any charges against him public; ensure immediately his well-being while in prison and ensure that his case is addressed in a way that lives up to internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial, and imprisonment, in accordance with China's obligations under international law. Unless there is sufficient trustworthy and acceptable evidence, that Dr. Tiyip committed an internationally recognized offense in accordance with fair trial, international obligations.

We highly appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

SAR Denmark

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  DENMARK SECTION