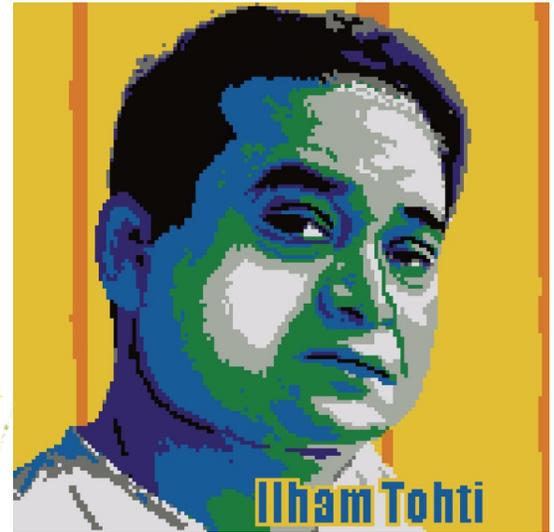


# CHINA:

## Peaceful activist jailed for life

Ilham Tohti worked tirelessly to build bridges between ethnic communities in China. He always opposed violence in his writing and lectures, and sought to encourage cooperation and understanding among them. But he has been jailed for life – ironically for inflaming ethnic tensions.



© Ai Weiwei

Ilham Tohti is a well-respected university professor, known for his moderate views on ethnic issues in China. Yet in January 2014 he was taken from his home in Beijing by police.

For five months, family and friends were not told where he was. He was denied food for 10 days and had his feet in shackles for 20 days straight. Then in September 2014 he was given a life sentence – supposedly for stirring up ethnic hatred.

Ilham comes from the Uighur community, a largely Muslim ethnic group that faces widespread discrimination in his home region, the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Tensions between ethnic groups have been rising there in recent years, as have the number of violent attacks.

Ilham adamantly opposed violence and worked tirelessly to build bridges and encourage cooperation between communities. “The path I have pursued all along is honourable and peaceful. I have relied only on pen and paper,” he said. It was for that reason that, in October, he was awarded the 2016 Martin Ennals Award Laureate For Human Rights Defenders.

Through his writing and lectures, he also highlighted government practices that discriminated against many aspects of Uighurs’ lives. But now he faces a lifetime in jail. He’s being cruelly punished for peacefully challenging the Chinese government’s policies towards ethnic minorities.

**Demand action. Tell China to release Ilham Tohti immediately and unconditionally.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary detention.

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion.

Articles 9 and 19,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**To take action, go to the next page.**

## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the prison director.

- ◆ Start with Dear Director.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the continued detention of Ilham Tohti.
- ◆ In your own words, ask him to release Ilham Tohti without delay or conditions on his freedom.

### Send your message to

Director Fan Jun  
Prison Administration Bureau of Xinjiang  
Uighur Autonomous Region  
No.626 Xinquanjie, Tianshanqu  
Urumqi  
Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region  
People's Republic of China 830002

Postage: \$2.50

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Luo Zhaohui  
Ambassador for the People's Republic of China  
515 St. Patrick Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5H3

Postage: \$.85

Fax: (613) 789-1911

Email: [chinaemb\\_ca@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaemb_ca@mfa.gov.cn) (unreliable)

### Sample Tweet

Im writing to #FreeIlhamTohti jailed for life for his writings & lectures in #China.  
#XiJinping must release Ilham now!  
#W4R16 #Write4Rights



### Show Show your support for Ilham Tohti.

Send him a letter or postcard to tell him you are calling for his release. Your messages will let the authorities know the world is watching. You will need a \$2.50 stamp.

Ilham Tohti  
Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region  
No. 1 Prison  
No. 215 Hebei Donglu  
Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous  
Region  
People's Republic of China 830013

