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GERMANY

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President

Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu
Beijing Shi 100017

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA/VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA

CLOSE SECRET 'RE-EDUCATION' CAMPS FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE XUAR

Dear President Xi,

I am writing to voice my concerns about reports of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and call on your government to take urgent and effective measures to protect Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim people in the XUAR from being arbitrarily detained in "transformation-through-education" facilities in the name of "de-extremification". Amnesty International has spoken with more than 100 people across the world who report losing touch with relatives and friends inside the XUAR and fear that they have been detained in such facilities. There are credible reports that these facilities are being used to force people to repudiate their religious beliefs and aspects of their cultural identity and prove their unqualified political loyalty for the Chinese State and for the Communist Party of China. The secretive and undocumented nature of the way people are going missing there makes it nearly impossible to trace or confirm the whereabouts of any particular individual.

The authorities justify the extreme measures as necessary for counter-terrorism purposes and to ensure national security. However, measures in fulfilment of a country's responsibility to protect its citizens from attacks must be necessary and proportionate and as narrow and targeted as possible to address a specific threat.

I am writing to urge you to provide credible answers about what is happening in the XUAR. In accordance with China's obligations under international law, you should end all arbitrary detention and immediately release all persons who are being held in "de-extremification", "transformation-through-education" or other facilities in the XUAR unless they have been charged with an internationally recognized offence.

Yours sincerely,