

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Department of State
Office of the Secretary
Room 7226
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We the undersigned 70+ civil society organizations write with concern regarding the Moroccan authorities' decision to extradite Uyghur journalist Idris Hasan and the Saudi authorities' decision to extradite Uyghur religious scholar Hemdullah Abdulweli and Nurmemet Rozi to China – where Uyghurs and other Turkic people are facing a horrific campaign of mass internment, persecution, torture and genocide.

Mr. Hasan was arrested on the basis of an Interpol red notice after landing in Casablanca, Morocco. Interpol has since canceled the red notice issued in Mr. Hasan's case, citing its bylaws forbidding persecution on political, religious or ethnic grounds.¹

Meanwhile, Mr. Abduweli and Mr. Rozi have been arbitrarily detained since November 2020 without charge or trial. According to reports, the Saudi authorities intend to extradite Mr. Abduweli and Mr. Rozi within days.² Thus, we call your urgent attention to these matters.

As you are aware, the Chinese authorities continue to use terrorism and extremism allegations as pretext to detain Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. The State Department recently concluded that “genocide and crimes against humanity occurred during the year against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang.”³

Without the State Department's intervention, these individuals are almost certain to face imprisonment, torture and possibly death if deported back to China. Therefore, we ask the State Department to intervene and exert its influence with the Moroccan and Saudi governments to cease the extradition of Mr. Hasan, Mr. Abduweli and Mr. Rozi. We additionally urge you to welcome them as asylum seekers in the United States.

¹ Reason for canceled Red Notice revealed, Safe Guard Defenders
<https://safeguarddefenders.com/en/blog/interpol-reveals-reason-canceled-china-requested-red-notice-shows-complicity-detention-and>

² Saudi Arabia: Imminent Deportation of Uyghur Detainees, Human Rights Watch,
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/10/saudi-arabia-imminent-deportation-uyghur-detainees>

³ 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: China, (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, and Tibet)
<https://preview.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/china/>

We thank the Biden administration for its recent actions in recognizing the Uyghur Genocide, declaring a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing and the Paralympic Games, and signing into law the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

We pray that the Biden administration continues its dedication to human rights and freedom by granting Idris Hasan, Hemdullah Abduweli and Nurmemet Rozi a safe haven from a government that commits genocide and blatantly extends the persecution to the Uyghur diaspora.

With urgency,

Alberta Uyghur Association
American Muslim Alliance
Arizona Muslim Alliance
American Muslims for Palestine
Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association
Baitulmaal
Boston College Muslim Student Association
Bridges for Yemen
Campaign for Uyghurs
Central Valley Islamic Council
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Dar Al-Hijrah
Downtown Islamic Center (Chicago)
DSA-Muslims
Emgage Action
Free Uyghur Now
George Mason Muslim Student Association
George Mason Save the Children
Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)
Human Rights Solidarity
ICNA Council for Social Justice
ICNA Relief USA
International Institute of Islamic Thought
Islamic Association of North America
Islamic Center of Detroit
Islamic Center of Irving
Islamic Center of Naperville
Islamic Center of Passaic County
Islamic Center of San Diego
Islamic Center of Wheaton
Islamic Community Center of Illinois
Islamic Council of Oklahoma
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Boston University

Japan Uyghur Association
Jewish Movement for Uyghur Freedom
Justice for Uyghurs - Switzerland
Majlis Ash-Shura, Islamic Leadership Council of New York
Mercy Without Limits Inc
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslim Education Center, Charlotte, NC
Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest
Muslim Legal Fund of American (MLFA)
Muslim Student Association at Michigan State University
Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
Muslims Giving Back
North American Imams Federation (NAIF)
North Central College
NY4HK
Rhodes College Muslim Students Association
Save Uighur, Justice for All
SoCal Students for Uyghur Justice
The Burmese Rohingya Association of North America
The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
The International Women's Alliance for Family Institution and Quality Education (WAFIQ)
The Mosque Cares
The Mosque Foundation
The Muslim Students Association at University of Houston
Together We Serve
UConn Hartford MSA
UConn Muslim Student Association
United Hands Relief
United Mission for Relief and Development (UMR)
UNLV Muslim Student Association
US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
Uyghur Academy Europe
Uyghur American Association
Uyghur Association of Victoria, Australia
Uyghur Human Rights Project
Yale MSA
Yale Uyghur Freedom Group
Young Muslims Inc.