

**Yashar - China**

**Party Secretary of Xinjiang**

**Ma Xingrui**

**479 Zhongshan Lu, Tianshan Qu, Urumqi,  
830041, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,  
People's Republic of China**

Dear Secretary Ma:

I am writing to express my alarm regarding the case of **Yashar (Yaxia'er Xiaohelaiti 亚夏尔·肖合拉提)**, a Uyghur songwriter and musician. On June 20, 2024, the city court in Bole determined that he was guilty of “promoting extremism” and “illegally possessing extremist material.” These charges appear to stem solely from the lyrics of his songs and Uyghur-language books he legally purchased. The classification of these books as “extremist” appears to be unfounded. Yashar is being punished solely for exercising his right to explore his own culture and to freely express his views through his music.

His imprisonment places Yashar's health at real risk of deterioration. He suffers from bronchitis and requires regular medication, and it is unknown whether he is receiving the medical attention he needs.

I urge you to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Yaxia'er Xiaohelaiti, also known as Yashar;
- Provide Yashar with regular, appropriate medical care and ensure he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in custody;
- Ensure that Uyghur artists can express their identity without fear of persecution or arbitrary detention.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

**c/o Ambassador Xie Fang**

**Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States**

**3505 International Place, NW,**

**Washington DC 20008**

**USA**