

**BANNED BOOKS
WEEK**

DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL** 



Photo: © Private

CHINA

RELEASE YASHAR



www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books/

UYGHUR SONGWRITER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS FOR HIS RAP LYRICS AND BOOKS IN HIS POSSESSION

Yashar, also known as Yaxia'er Xiaohelaiti (亚夏尔·肖合拉提), is a 27-year-old Uyghur songwriter and rap artist who goes by the stage name “Uigga.” He was residing in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, when he was detained on August 11, 2023. Authorities charged him with “promoting extremism” and “illegally possessing extremist materials,” reportedly for his music published on the Internet and his possession of Uyghur-language books. It appears he is being punished solely for exercising his right to explore his own culture and freely express his views.

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES

WRITE**Address to send letter:**

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,
[Insert your name]

Send a copy of your letter to:

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

EMAIL**Send email appeal to:**

chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn

There is no email for Secretary Ma so please send copies to China's Embassy in the U.S.

SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO YASHAR

SEND

Send Yashar messages of hope and solidarity. Send positive, uplifting messages focused on solidarity, resilience, and creativity. You may add a drawing, a poem, an excerpt from a story or song, or any other form of artistic expression that you wish.

In your card please do not mention Amnesty International or China's human rights record; detention conditions, political criticism, or include details about Yashar's case or the broader Uyghur situation.

Address to send solidarity card:

Yaxiaer Xiaohelati
Wusu Jianyu, 2 Dadui, 16 Jianqu
Shenzhen Road 21
Tacheng District, Wusu City, Xinjiang
China 833006

SAMPLE MESSAGING

I am writing to let you know that you are not forgotten. Your songs and your courage continue to inspire people all over the world. I hope this letter brings you some light and strength, knowing that people around the globe stand with you in solidarity.

You are not alone — your voice still resonates, even from behind prison walls.

With solidarity and respect,

WORK BY YASHAR

This is a work by Yashar, using the stage name Uigga: <https://bit.ly/41G4Rfq>

**SUPPORT OUR
DIGITAL ACTION
FOR YASHAR**