

President Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
Yongdingmenjie, Beijing 100032
People's Republic of China

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the imprisonment of Mongol cultural rights activist Hada, who is currently serving 15 years for “incitement of subversion” and “espionage.” I believe that Hada is in prison solely as a result of his advocacy protecting the rights of the Mongol ethnic minority in China. His imprisonment is in violation of China’s international human rights obligations, and I urge his immediate release.

Hada’s sentence is an indication that ethnic minorities are not able to exercise their rights through legal means, despite the autonomy system. Hada co-founded the Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance (SMDA) in order to promote the lawful rights and interests of ethnic Mongolians. Hada also sought to preserve Mongol cultural identity by establishing a Mongolian language bookstore.

Hada’s ill-treatment and torture in prison have been documented by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I believe that Hada’s abusive treatment in prison and the excessively long sentence for activities that are constitutionally protected reflects the discriminatory practices facing ethnic minorities when they attempt to constructively participate in the political process.

I therefore urge the PRC to immediately and unconditionally release Hada and other ethnic minorities imprisoned for the legitimate exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association.

Sincerely,