



Southern Mongolian
Congress



FreedomUmmah



LETTER OF GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING DEPORTATION OF BAOLIGE WURINA

Migrationsdomstolen
Förvaltningsdomstol
Stockholm, Sweden

20 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, a coalition of human rights groups representing Southern Mongolia, Uyghur, Tibet, along with other international human rights organizations and activist groups, write to the Swedish Migration Court in light of what we consider a grave mistake in the ruling of refusing asylum for Baolige Wurina.

The coalition wishes to convey its very serious concern based on collective expertise that should Mr Wurina be deported back to China, he is at **very high** risk of facing persecution, torture and other human rights violations at the hands of the Chinese authorities, having partaken in peaceful protests against China's human rights abuses and failed policies outside the Embassy. This lawful activity has led him to be identified by Chinese embassy staff, almost certainly having been photographed, and his family targeted in Inner Mongolia with threats to his mother with warnings that there will be consequences if Baolige Wurina does not stop his nonviolent actions abroad.

We stress that China has a long history of persecuting and imprisoning exiled politically-active minorities who are deported. For example Mongolian activists Dalaibaatar Dovchin and Tulguur Norovrinchen, who had partaken in peaceful protests and were deported back to China in 2014 were **immediately** taken away when they reached China and have not been heard of since.¹ Over six years later and their current status or whereabouts remains unknown.

¹ https://www.smhric.org/news_530.htm

Another recent case is that of exiled Uyghur Gulbahar Haitiwaj who describes being arbitrarily arrested upon her return from EU and sent to an interim camp on grounds that her daughter had partaken in peaceful protests abroad (with photo evidence collected by authorities)²; Gulbahar Haitiwaj was exposed to serious mistreatment and torture by Chinese authorities. Further examples include two Uyghur refugees who had partaken in peaceful protests outside the Chinese embassy and were deported from Sweden in 2012; upon their return to China disappeared instantly. Uyghurs at the time were not under the severe persecution they are today, but it is likely they were targeted for their political activities and a minority seeking exile.

It must be stressed that these cases act as precedents of the **most probable** fate that awaits Mr Wurina should he be deported to China. We also reiterate that his case is now considered high profile with his actions opposing China's policies having been published internationally to such an extent that it is more certain that Mr Wurina is in danger under the current ruling.

Testimonials indicate that political dissidents face the most **severe** and **inhuman** treatment inside the opaque Chinese prison system that is notorious for human rights abuse. Many dissidents testify to having been exposed to systematic mental and physical torture and denied basic medical treatment and other rights³. We must also highlight that many political dissidents die inside prison or shortly after release including; Liu Xiaobo (Nobel Laureate), Ji Sizun, Yang Tongyan , Li Wangyang, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, Cao Shunli, among many.

The death of these political prisoners do not meet minimum rules of **United Nations Treatment of Prisoners** which set out that all death-in-custody cases should be subjected to “prompt, impartial and effective investigations into the circumstances and causes” of the death. According to UN rapporteur on extrajudicial, there is a presumption of state responsibility due to the custodial setting and the government's obligation to ensure and respect the right to life.

Swedish authorities cannot guarantee that Mr Wurina will not face persecution, nor that China is able to uphold prisoner's rights, therefore the deportation of Mr Wurina to China goes against the guarantee of international human rights. The coalition wishes to convey that Mr Wurina, as a registered UNHCR asylum-seekers, is entitled to international protection.

Further, as a State Party to the **1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** and is obliged to the **1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, Sweden has agreed and is obliged to uphold the prohibition of torture, which includes the prohibition of refoulement.

On these grounds, we urge the Swedish Court to review the ruling of Mr Wurina in order to avoid the mistake of a ruling based on inadequate knowledge of the severity and consequences that such a ruling will have on the life of Mr Wurina. This would not only make the Court break its own international commitments but would make it **complicit** in the continued persecution and inhumane treatment of

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/12/uighur-xinjiang-re-education-camp-china-gulbahar-haitiwaji>

³ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/china/>

political dissidents in China and that of Mr Wurina, thus also a moral failure. We must also reiterate the likelihood that history will judge such a ruling as a **failure** of the Swedish immigrant judicial system, thus a threat to stain the integrity of the system and its ability to protect those who need protection.

Thus we, the coalition, urge the Court of Appeals to grant Mr Wurina asylum on grounds of protection against a **very high** risk of persecution, thereby reiterating the international standing of Sweden and the Court as a guardian of human rights. We also urge the court to grant his wife and children asylum as to avoid the tragedy of a family forced to separate - a method used by Chinese authorities in the campaign of cultural genocide against Uyghurs.

Yours sincerely,

Campaign for Uyghurs, Washington
Free Tibet, London
FreedomUmmah, Jakarta
Friends of Tibet, Bulgaria
Forum for Religious Freedom-Europe (FOREF Europe), Vienna
Grupo de Apoio ao Tibete, Portugal
International Society of Human Rights (Sweden branch), Stockholm
International Tibet Network, London
Inner Mongolian's People's Party, New Jersey
Mongolian Culture Association of Sweden, Stockholm
Santa Barbara Friends of Tibet
Society of Threatened People (German branch), Göttingen
South Mongolian Human Rights Information Centre, New York
Students for a Free Tibet, Japan
Save the Mongolian Language, Russia
Southern Mongolia Congress
Swedish Tibet Committee, Stockholm
The Norwegian Tibet Committee
Tibet Support Groep Nederland
Tibet Initiative Deutschland e.V.
Uyghur Human Rights Project, Washington
Uyghur Aid, Finland
Youth Liberation Front of Tibet, East-Turkestan, Manchuria & Inner-Mongolia, New Delhi