

Dear Rowena,

It's been over one year since Ilham Tohti, a Chinese scholar of economics, was charged with separatism and sentenced to life in prison.

Professor Tohti's sentence was delivered at a trial that reportedly failed to meet international standards of due process, following nearly five months of being held incommunicado, several prior detentions and interrogations, reports of threats from the police and years of surveillance by the Chinese authorities.

Scholars at Risk is gravely concerned over the well being of Professor Tohti and the ability of intellectuals generally in China to peacefully conduct research and exchange ideas freely and safely.

[We are asking you to join our renewed call for letters](#) urging the authorities to **1)** examine the circumstances of Professor Tohti's arrest, detention and conviction, **2)** lift any charges or convictions related to his academic activities, and **3)** address his case in a manner that is consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention, in accordance with China's obligations under international law.

[Take action with SAR by signing a letter of appeal](#) on behalf of Professor Tohti and sharing this message with your networks