Dear friend #04-2017, China

Alim – imprisoned for his faith since 2008

12th January this year, nine years have passed since Alimujiang Yimiti, also called Alim, was arrested. For nine years, his whole life has been on hold! Still there are many years left of his 15 year long sentence. He really needs our encouragement.

Alim, who is Uighur, became a Christian in 1995. Together with his wife Gulinuer, he led a house church in the Xinjiang province, in north-west China. In 2008 he was arrested accused of «illegal religious activities». In August of 2009 he was sentenced to 15 years in prison for «leaking state secrets». The trial took place in secret and his defense lawyer was not allowed to attend. His family and his lawyer were first informed of it four months later. He has not been allowed to see his lawyer since 2012. Everything indicates that the real reason for the sentence is his Christian activities and his ethnicity. The Chinese government has a strained relationship with the Uighurs, who are mainly Muslims and seeking greater autonomy.

In the spring of 2010, Alim was moved to a prison in the province capital of Urumqi, some 900 miles from his hometown Kashgar. His wife Gulinuer is trying to visit regularly, but she is only allowed to see him every three months. According to our contact, she is under strong pressure from the authorities. Among other things, they request that she has no contact with foreigners.

We have previously appealed on his behalf four times and have also sent encouragement greetings twice. Now it's time again. With our greetings to Alim we hope to show that he is not forgotten and that many still remember him. We also want the Chinese government to know that the world is following this case.

Thanks for participating!

Best regards

Lisa Winther

Human Rights advisor

Caption: Alim's wife, Gulinuer, and their sons. (Photo: China Aid)

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