

Mr. President

Equality, solidarity and mutual help have always been the essential aspects of the relationships among all the Chinese ethnic groups, and the relationship among the minorities of Xinjiang is not different. Over the last few years, a national policy of support has sped up the social and economic development of Xinjiang region. The Chinese government, through a positive action of macro-control, is constantly making efforts to increase the investments in the underdeveloped areas of Xinjiang region, trying to remove the negative effects caused by development gaps.

The recent statements made by some non-governmental organizations that the government of China is using counterterrorism attacks as a pretext to persecute the Uyghur population, is completely unfounded. Violent and terrorist crimes are against society and humanity and the necessity to fight these crimes according to the law is a common understanding of each country in the world. For a long time, separatist and violent forces planned, organized and carried out violent and terrorist acts in Xinjiang and other regions, in the name of ethnicity, religion and human rights. In this way they seriously endangered the security and stability of all China and threatened the safety and property of all minorities, including the Uyghur one, violating their right of existence, their property rights and their right to economic development. Those acts received the unanimous condemnation of all nationalities. The government of China is fighting against these violent and terrorist forces according to the law, with the aim of safeguarding, as much as possible, the security of property and life and the common interests of all minorities, including the Uyghur one and with the aim of protecting the stability of Xinjiang and of its surrounding regions. The **activities** launched by the Chinese government in Xinjiang to fight against these terrorist and violent acts have been positively welcomed by all the ethnic groups of the region, including the Uyghur one.

It is important to stress that the Chinese government's target is a minority of leaders, key members and violent offenders who planned, organized and took part in the violent and terrorist attacks. Towards the majority of those who have been deceived and for this reason took part in some separatist organizations' activities, we adopted an educational and supportive attitude welcoming them to turn over a new leaf.

Thank you Mr. President