

## Oral statement to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council

### Item 2: General Debate

**Speaker:** Ziba Murat

*Italics only for written version.*

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

My name is Ziba Murat. I am the daughter of 62-year-old Uyghur retired doctor Gulshan Abbas. September 10th marks the 6th year of my mother's arbitrary imprisonment in China as determined by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. She was taken in retaliation for her sister's advocacy for the rights of the Uyghur people.

My mother's prolonged and arbitrary detention is tantamount to an enforced disappearance. *After six years, we have almost no information on her wellbeing. She has chronic health conditions which leave her at high risk of grave illness.* She was absurdly given a 20-year prison sentence, but Beijing, which says it has nothing to hide, won't disclose any information. She must be released immediately.

In June, two UN Special Rapporteurs [urged](#) China to provide information on my mother's status, health and the evidence used to convict her. Their statement gave me hope, and this is what I want to transmit to you today.

Two years ago, the UN Human Rights Office found China responsible for possible crimes against humanity against my people. Recently, the Office [said](#) that the same laws and policies remain in place, that grave violations still need to be investigated, that access to information is limited and that reprisals continue.

Every day that Beijing stonewalls meaningful progress is another day of victims suffering. Until China undertakes real reform and demonstrates the 'tangible progress' demanded by the UN, I urge this Council to step up monitoring and reporting and hold the government accountable for gross violations of international law.

*States should apply human rights law without selectivity or discrimination.* International law should protect us all: we, the Uyghurs, are no exception.

Thank you.