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# HADA IN PRISON: A VISITATION REPORT FROM HIS SON, UILES

*The following is an English translation of Hada's son Uiles' written account of his father's condition in prison, which he sent to the Southern Mongolia Human Rights Information Center (SMHRIC). Uiles visited his father in prison in August 2007. Hada, an ethnic Mongolian political prisoner in China, was arrested in 1995, and sentenced to 15 years in prison in 1996 on charges of "splitting the state and engaging in espionage," for organizing the Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance (SMDA). He is currently serving his sentence at Inner Mongolia No.4 Prison (also known as Chifeng Prison) in Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (IMAR). His son Uiles was also sentenced to three years' imprisonment in 2002 on trumped-up robbery charges.*

At the end of August 2007, I went to see my father. I had to wait from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. before I was able to see him. His hair has already turned completely gray, and he looked so thin and small. He lives in a small prison cell where there is no sunlight, along with eight other inmates. My father brought his mattress with him out from the cell; it was so thin and dirty. I had brought a new cotton-padded mattress for him, but the prison authorities refused to let us to switch the old mattress for the new one. When I asked what he needed, he asked for a thick sweater.

Last year, my father ordered two newspapers, *Nanfang Weekend* and *Cankao News*, but he hasn't received a single page. When I asked the head of the prison's Culture and Education Department, Mr. Yu, why the newspapers haven't been given to him, Mr. Yu said that my father didn't want to read. Further, my father is still denied access to the books we send him. But, Mr. Yu said, my father does not have to do hard labor because his health is poor.

According to him, two people are specifically monitoring my father in his prison unit. He is not allowed to leave

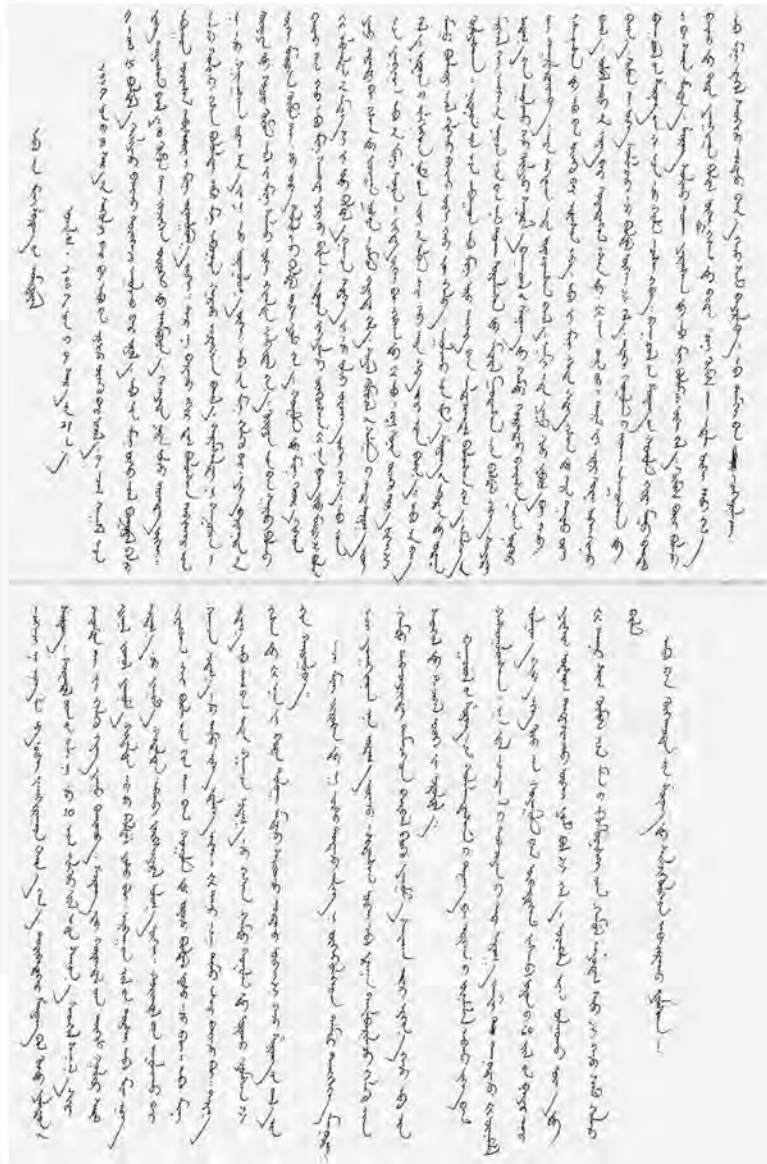
the unit, nor is he allowed to speak to others. He said he suspects he is being given some sort of special drug.

I had waited for a very long time to see my father, and while I was in the reception room, I happened to see a prisoner who had been in prison with me when I was serving my term at the Youth Jail.<sup>1</sup> He had been sent to jail again. I asked him how the prison food was, he said it is even worse than that in the Youth Jail. I know for a fact that the food in the Youth Jail was terrible. He asked me why I was there, and I told him that I was there to see my father, whose name is Hada. He didn't seem to know him, so I said he was sent to jail for political reasons. He replied, "Oh, him. He is monitored every day and not allowed to talk to anybody."

Purchases are generally permitted in prisons; for example, buying instant noodles, and so forth. But my father has never been allowed to purchase any basic supplies, not even once during his more-than 10 years of imprisonment. Moreover, inmates and visitors are usually allowed to have lunch together, but we have never been allowed to eat together, not even once. I asked the prison

**Hada at the Inner Mongolia No.4 Prison in Chifeng City; photo taken with a hidden camera. (Courtesy of SMHRIC)**





Uiles' original Mongolian-language correspondence. Courtesy of SMHRIC.

authorities, “You are building a big building extension. Can I have a meal with my father during my next visit?”<sup>2</sup> They replied, “This isn’t our decision to make.”

I discussed with my father about applying for a transfer to have him moved to another prison. He said it would be impossible. I asked why he would be denied if other transfers had been approved. He asked me, “Do you think that we are treated the same as the others?” It seems that his mind is still clear. He quit smoking; he said he always feels abnormal heart pulses. Imagine, Prison No.4 is a prison for felons. Most of the inmates are criminal

felons whose sentences exceed 10 years. How stressed they must be. My father told me that he is incontinent; I asked my friend who was majoring in medicine about this, and he told me that it is likely caused by a nervous system disorder.

My mother suffers from both heart and liver disease. I explained to my father why my mother was not able to visit him here, so far from our home. During my visit I also encouraged him and told him that everything will be fine as long as he keeps on.

Since I was released from the Youth Jail, I haven’t been allowed to own an identification card. This year the vice-head of the local police station in my area called me and told me that I can have an ID card if my mother and I promise not to “cause trouble” during the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region’s 60th anniversary. The vice-head also told us that what the Communist Party is afraid of most is people like us.

We hope we can transfer my father to a prison in Hohhot City where we live.<sup>3</sup>

Translated by the Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center

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(SMHRIC), [www.smhric.org](http://www.smhric.org).

**Notes**

1. The jail referred to here is the Hohhot City Youth Administration Station.
2. It appears that the new building in the prison will increase the number of cells and common spaces, such as the cafeteria. Uiles’ question was meant to indicate that the prison would have plenty of space for them to eat together next time.
3. The distance between Hohhot and Chifeng is approximately 700 kilometers.