



UYGHUR
RIGHTS
ADVOCACY
PROJECT

UYGHUR FAMILY DESTRUCTION

China's Continual Instrument of Genocide



MAY 31, 2021

UYGHUR RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT



About the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project

The Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project (URAP) is a non-profit organization based in Ottawa, Canada. URAP's work is supported by the National Endowment Fund for Democracy (NED) foundation in Washington, D.C. (USA). URAP works to document the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) policies targeting Uyghurs both within the People's Republic of China (PRC), as well as globally, while also bolstering human rights advocacy by developing and sharing resources with Uyghur organizations and activists worldwide.

Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project

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Cover page: Anonymous Uyghur Artist (courtesy of World
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Summary

China's systematic policy aimed at destroying conventional Uyghur families is a rarely discussed topic requiring urgent attention. Although certain cases of Uyghur family separation have been mentioned as part of coverage of missing Uyghur children and the ongoing Uyghur genocide, this critical matter has been sparsely covered in the media, as well in academic research. To shed light on the scale and severity of Uyghur Family Destruction (UFD), as well as the amplified consequences of the Chinese government's genocidal policy, this study, before you today, was undertaken.

This report was prepared via the study of direct victim testimonies in order to demonstrate how the government of China has increasingly targeted the very foundation of Uyghur family units dating to the start of the genocide campaign, as early as 2014. It is critical to note that this study is intended to initiate a conversation focused on this topic, as this crucial issue requires further study within a broader context.

Destruction of Uyghur families is a major component of the ongoing genocide against the Uyghurs. It is the inevitable and cumulative outcome of the consistent policy of Uyghur family separations that have been carried out in various forms including, but not limited to the following:

- *Massive internment of Uyghurs in concentration camps;*
- *Forced displacement of reproductive-aged Uyghur men and women from their roots;*
- *Lengthy extrajudicial imprisonments;*
- *Coerced divorce;*
- *Forced marriage;*
- *Barring family unification by denying passports or refusing visas for family members;*
- *Forced denunciation of family members;*
- *Forced birth control;*
- *Forced hostility among family members;*
- *Assigning Chinese cadres to live in Uyghur households;*
- *Furthermore, recently, Uyghur family destruction through gang rape of detained male and female victims in the concentration camps has been exposed by the media through the testimonies of survivors.*



Victims' testimonies have further highlighted the fact that the Chinese authorities' aggressive campaign carried out via the sophisticated implementation of the extreme measures listed above, in addition to the strict ban imposed on the transmission of Uyghur culture and religion from one generation to the next, has resulted not only in the destruction of Uyghur families and family structures but also the shattering of Uyghur communal bonds, within the context of the community, neighbourhood, and the entire population.

Therefore, URAP concludes that Uyghur Family Destruction (UFD), carried out via family separation, represents China's long-standing policy, one which is explicitly declared, clearly mandated, and vigorously implemented through the employment of immense resources, including the mobilization of both state actors (e.g., Xinjiang Construction Production Corps, Police, Military, Judiciary, all levels of government) and non-state actors (e.g., Private and Public sectors, High-Tech companies, Manufacturing and Logistics).



I - Introduction

According to article 16 (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ adopted by the United Nations in 1948 “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by Society and the State.”

In every society, family represents an inter-generational bridge, as well as the foundation of generational continuity. Yet, in the People’s Republic of China, Uyghur families in East Turkistan (aka Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region) are viewed by the Chinese Communist Party as units needing to be broken up and destroyed. At present, China is in breach of numerous international treaties, covenants, its own constitution, and relevant provisions of its own Nationality law and Passport law as a result of its malicious campaign to destroy Uyghur families. Uyghur Family Destruction (UFD) represents one of the many genocidal instruments that the government of China has systematically deployed as part of the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan.

The mass internment of Uyghurs and other Turkic people that started in East Turkistan in early 2014² has rightfully triggered condemnations by the international community³. On October 21, 2020, following two days of hearings, including more than 25 witnesses, the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development⁴ recognized that China’s atrocities committed against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims constitute genocide as laid out in the Genocide Convention. On January 19, 2021, the U.S State Department⁵ designated China’s crimes against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims as crimes against humanity and genocide. On February 22, 2021, the Parliament of Canada became the first legislature in the world to officially recognize the Uyghur Genocide with a unanimous vote by MPs from all parties. Three days later, the Dutch Parliament became the first European legislature to acknowledge the Uyghur Genocide.

Conservative reports estimate that close to a million Uyghur children⁶ have been orphaned and uprooted from their families. AFP quotes⁷ an internal document wherein Chinese authorities summarize that the goal of the campaign as being to “break the lineage, break the roots, break the connections, and break the origins.”

“break the lineage, break the roots, break the connections, and break the origins.”

1 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

2 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/10/china-free-xinjiang-political-education-detainees>

3 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-45147972>

4 <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/SDIR/news-release/10903199>

5 <https://2017-2021.state.gov/determination-of-the-secretary-of-state-on-atrocities-in-xinjiang//index.html>

6 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/16/thousands-of-uighur-children-orphaned-by-chinese-detention-papers-show>

7 <https://www.afp.com/en/inside-chinas-internment-camps-tear-gas-tasers-and-textbooks>



Another internal memo quotes¹ Chen Quanguo, the current Chinese Communist Party Secretary of the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,” saying that concentration camps should “teach like a school, be managed like the military, and be defended like a prison.” As pointed out by Dr. Adrian Zenz², a leading expert on Tibetan and Uyghur societies, China’s current policies against Uyghurs consist of a “social re-engineering” of the entire Uyghur ethnic group.

The crimes against Uyghur families perpetrated by the government of China are designed to annihilate the Uyghur nation via the destruction of family units. UFD policies mainly include the forced separation of family members from one another, the denial of constitutionally guaranteed nationality rights³, the pressure to divorce Uyghur activists and disaffiliate them from their relatives, the enforcement of female Uyghur marriage to Chinese males, and the growing rate of forced displacement and separation of children from their parents.

Moreover, traditional Uyghur architecture, heritage sites, and cultural norms have been destroyed and dismantled. Millennium-old mosques, shrines, tombs, statues of historic figures as well as cuisines, languages, cultural attires, and traditional rites have been the target of constant wreckage and destruction. Even Uyghur cemeteries are not left alone, with some reportedly being bulldozed and transformed into “Happiness Parks⁴.”

In short, every socio-religious and ethno-cultural aspect of Uyghur identity has been targeted by the Chinese government, with the clear objective of rooting out Uyghur society via an attack on its core foundation.

By presenting first-hand accounts and testimonies from Uyghur families and victims, URAP intends to demonstrate how the Chinese state has integrated the totality of its measures aimed at destroying Uyghur society as a whole’s family unity.

1 <https://www.afp.com/en/inside-chinas-internment-camps-tear-gas-tasers-and-textbooks>

2 <https://www.jpolarisk.com/beyond-the-camps-beijings-long-term-scheme-of-coercive-labor-poverty-alleviation-and-social-control-in-xinjiang/>

3 <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/ywzn/lsyw/vpna/faq/t710012.htm>

4 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/09/chinas-destruction-of-uighur-burial-grounds-then-and-now>



II - Background Information

Uyghur Family Destruction (UFD) has a long history that is causing trans-generational trauma within Uyghur society. UFD represents one of the main genocidal policy instruments of the Chinese state, targeted at Uyghurs in East Turkistan and abroad.



The route Uyghur refugees took when fleeing from East Turkistan in 1949

Uyghur refugees in Kashmir, summer 1950

Prior to the People’s Republic of China’s military invasion of East Turkistan in 1949, thousands of Uyghurs fled their homeland by crossing the Qaraqorum mountains (also known as Qaraqoram or Muztagh Ata) into Srinagar, India, eventually reaching Saudi Arabia or Turkey.



The second *en masse* wave of Uyghur exodus took place in the 1950s. According to Gulnisa Nazarova¹, an estimated 200,000 Uyghurs fled to

the majority became victims of family destruction, never having the opportunity to see their family members again and eventually dying in their newly adopted countries.

neighbouring Soviet Central Asian republics during that time period. Among those Uyghur expatriates who left their homeland prior to or immediately following the occupation, the majority became victims of family destruction, never having the opportunity to see their family members again and eventually dying in their newly adopted countries.

The most recent wave of Uyghur exodus took place between 2010 and 2014, largely as a result of the intensified repressive measures put in place following the July 5, 2009 Urumqi massacre².

1 <https://iaunrc.indiana.edu/news-events/news/gulnisa-nazarova-uyghurs-in-central-asia.html>

2 <https://www.hrw.org/report/2009/10/20/we-are-afraid-even-look-them/enforced-disappearances-wak-xinjiangs-protests>



Following the bloody crackdown carried out in the aftermath of the massacre, the rules around obtaining and renewing passports were tightened, making it virtually impossible for Uyghurs to obtain one. Because they were unable to acquire legal documents to travel, thousands of Uyghurs risked their lives and fled to Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia. The harsh reality of the financial cost and the grave dangers of crossing the border made it impossible for entire families to escape together. The journey was an arduous one, which mostly involved walking



Uyghur refugees in Southern Thailand, summer 2015

through wild forests and over steep mountains with minimal access to food and accommodation, with the constant fear of being caught and sent back to China. After arriving at their destinations, safety was another challenge, as those countries, namely Cambodia¹, Indonesia², and Thailand³, are known to have a history of deporting Uyghur refugees back to China.

According to unofficial sources, more than 15,000 Uyghurs fled through illegal border crossings between 2010 and 2014

According to unofficial sources, more than 15,000 Uyghurs fled through illegal border crossings between 2010 and 2014. Most made their way to settle in Turkey⁴. However, according to our source, Thai authorities detained more than 660 Uyghur refugees attempting to cross into Malaysia. In July 2015, under pressure from China, the Thai authorities deported one hundred Uyghurs⁵. Since that time, no news about their fate or whereabouts has been reported. This latest exodus was one of the largest by the Uyghurs from their homeland in recent decades, driven by their well-founded fear of persecution by the Chinese authorities.

1 <https://www.voacambodia.com/a/icc-prosecutor-says-cambodia-uyghur-deportation-insufficient-to-initiate-investigation/5703104.html>

2 <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3107868/indonesia-deported-three-uyghurs-china-pompeo-visit-security>

3 <https://thediplomat.com/2015/07/thailand-deports-100-uyghurs-to-china/>

4 <https://thediplomat.com/2019/02/why-is-turkey-breaking-its-silence-on-chinas-uyghurs/>

5 <https://thediplomat.com/2015/07/thailand-deports-100-uyghurs-to-china/>



III - URAP's Definition of Uyghur Family Destruction

The testimonies contained in this report, without precedent in academic studies, reveal the violent nature of Uyghur family destruction, which has been carried out through a widespread and integrated policy mandate by the Chinese government. Given the multi-faceted forms and scope of UFD, URAP has adopted the following definition in this report to describe the concept of family destruction.

“The coordinated policies of the State (China), with the implied or clearly expressed intent of de-constructing the Uyghur family via enforced separation, internment of significant portions of the population in concentration camps or the imposition of arbitrary prison terms, enforced displacements, enforced disappearances, separation of children from their families, denial of the recognition of nationality rights, coerced divorce, enforced denunciation or disowning of family members, measures preventing family reunification, and state-appointment of Chinese cadres to live in Uyghur households.

Taken together, these policies represent the goal of in part or in whole destroying the integrity of the Uyghur family, via the sanctioning of all mentioned measures in an expedited or extended time frame in order to erase the conventional Uyghur family structure and replace it with the new “Sinicized exemplary family.”



IV - The victims, their backgrounds, and testimonies

A- Findings

Within the URAP's capacity, extensive fact-checking has been carried out on each victim's profile to verify all the necessary information, including names, age, place of birth, profession, contact history, and time of arrest. URAP finds that all the testimonies are consistent with the unbiased reports of human rights organizations, international media outlets, and other survivors' accounts.

It is important to note that due to China's continuing policy of limiting access to the region, it is impossible to evaluate the scale and scope of missing children and the actual number of disappeared families in East Turkistan.

It is important to note that due to China's continuing policy of limiting access to the region, it is impossible to evaluate the scale and scope of missing children and the actual number of disappeared families in East Turkistan. Considering the possibility that two million out of the three million incarcerated Uyghurs are adults and heads of families, the estimate of nearly one million orphaned Uyghur children appears to be a conservative number. URAP estimates that Uyghur children who have been separated from their parents, taken away to state orphanages, or given away for adoption to other ethnic groups, mainly the Chinese, number well over one million.

In addition to testimonies, URAP has received multiple appeals from Uyghur children and their custodians in Turkey. The appeals mention the placement of children in Turkish educational institutions by their parents or in the care of family friends when the parents left for a supposedly short trip back to East Turkistan, only to then be unable to leave China. The moment these parents set foot in their homeland, their passports were confiscated, and they were taken to concentration camps, sentenced to prison terms, or just simply disappeared. Thus, these children became orphans in Turkey.

All cases and testimonies studied by URAP have demonstrated the fact that the ultimate goal of family separations is the destruction of Uyghur families. Dismantling the core of the Uyghur family unit is the foundation for accelerating the entire ethno-social re-engineering of the Uyghur society, according to the specific mandates set by the Chinese government. After studying more than 600 testimonies, URAP has underlined four different policy measures that have led to widespread UFD:

All cases and testimonies studied by URAP have demonstrated the fact that the ultimate goal of family separations is the destruction of Uyghur families.



1. Family separation through the arbitrary internment of millions of Uyghurs in concentration camps and prisons with lengthy sentences.
2. Family separation through the refusal to issue passports, confiscation of passports, or visa denials, thus preventing family reunification.
3. Family separation through coerced divorces.
4. Family separation through enforced disappearances.

In addition to the voluntarily submitted testimonies, URAP has studied media reports and conducted interviews with Uyghur activists and concentration camp survivors, leading to the identification of an additional four forms of family separation policies:

5. Family separation through the enforced disaffiliation of family members living abroad.
6. Family separation through state-appointed ethnic Chinese cadres to homestay with Uyghur families.
7. Family separation through the displacement of young Uyghurs into forced labor facilities.
8. Family destruction through mass gang rape of Uyghur male¹ and female² detainees.

B – Testimonies

Out of more than 600 testimonies, approximately 200 families reported at least one missing family member including parents, spouses, children and siblings.

Out of more than 600 testimonies, approximately 200 families reported at least one missing family member including parents, spouses, children and siblings. Several testimonies are contained in this report as an illustration of each form of UFD. Each selected testimony includes an example of at least one of the above-mentioned eight UFD policies.

URAP has gathered detailed records from the missing individuals' families, including dates, locations, contact history, and their desperate pleas for action expressed to Canada and the international community. This report is primarily based on the first-hand accounts provided to URAP. To protect their safety, the victims' full names will not be published. All documents regarding the identity of the victims including copies of passport, national registration (户口), state-issued identification (身份证), birth certificates, school diplomas, and marriage certificates, as well hand-written testimonies are under the custody of URAP.

1 <https://bitterwinter.org/rape-in-xinjiang-camps-male-inmates-are-victims-too/>

2 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-55794071>



1. Family separation via the arbitrary and lengthy internment of millions of Uyghurs in concentration camps and prisons.

Since 2016, Chinese authorities have been rounding up Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims into concentration camps under the guise of “re-education” and “fighting religious extremism¹.” The Chinese authorities have employed a variety of pretexts to send people to the so-called “vocational training and transformation centers.” Examples of these include, for simply owning a tent, attending a Mosque, traveling abroad, abstaining from cigarettes, or “arguing with an official².”

In August 2018, experts at the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination estimated that two million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims were sent to “political camps for indoctrination³”, though Uyghur activists estimate a greater number.

The following testimonies are clear examples of how ordinary Uyghur families are separated as a result of the internment of their family members in concentration camps and prisons, with lengthy sentences, by the government of China.

1 <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/guidelines-11072017153331.html>

2 <https://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2018-power/chapter-4-internment-and-indoctrination-xis-new-era-in-xinjiang/forty-eight-suspicious-signs-of-extremist-tendencies/>

3 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-rights-un-idUSKBN1KV1SU>

b. File 1175 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018

•

“My name is X. I was born on June XX day, 1984 in Hotan city. I graduated from middle school. I was conducting business in my hometown. In 2016, when I received my [Chinese] passport for the first time, I went abroad to conduct business. On October 30, 2016, I came to Turkey with my family, and then I went back to get my youngest son. I was unable to get his documentation.

I left my homeland on December 28, 2016. In 2017, my brother told me [transferred information] that during a search of my house an antique hand-written manuscript was found by [the police] and that therefore my house was bulldozed and arrest warrants against my wife and I were issued. After that, I learned that my five brothers and my two brothers-in-law were taken to prison and “re-educational camps.” I am worried about my security in Turkey.”

“I am worried about my security in Turkey.”

c. File 836 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018

“The author of this testimony is X, I am from East Turkistan’s Hotan city. The reason why I fled to Turkey is because of China’s various oppressive acts, like detaining my relatives under false pretexts or locking them up in concentration camps in the name of education. Also, because I have a lot of children,

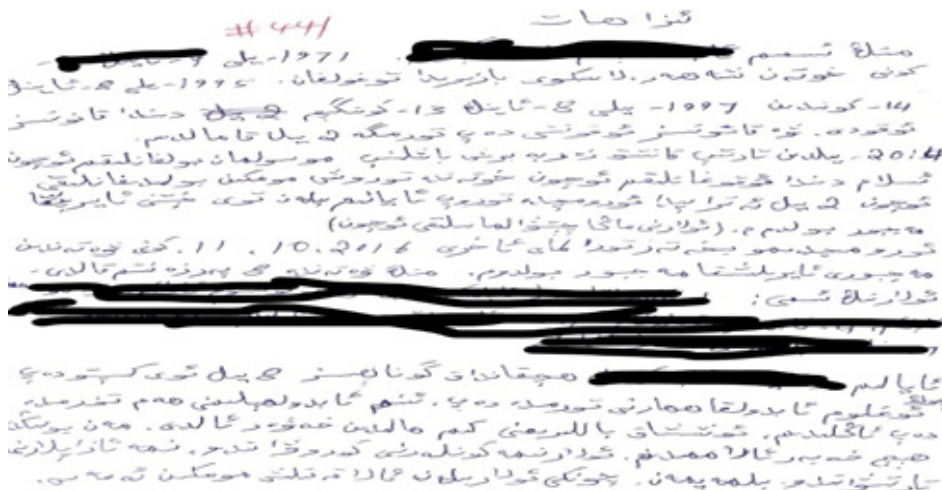
I faced the risk of having been fined a considerable amount of money and even imprisonment in the worst case. Because of these various repressions,



my mother died of a sudden heart attack. I couldn't see a quiet and peaceful life for myself and my children in Hotan city. From January to July 2016 my family and I came to Turkey together. After I arrived in Turkey my elder brother was sentenced to 13 years in prison. My younger brother was sent to a concentration camp for so-called "re-education." I do not know their current situation."

"my elder brother was sentenced to 13 years in prison. My younger brother was sent to a concentration camp for so-called "re-education. I do not know their current situation."

d. File 441 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018



"My name is X. I was born in Hotan city Laskuy village in 1971, September X day. From August 14, 1995, to August 13, 1997, I was detained under

the pretext of "illegal religious preaching." Since the "Strike Hard" campaign started in 2014, I was not able to live in Hotan city. Hence, I moved to Urumchi city. To protect my wife and children I had to remain divorced for two years. I could not live in peace in Urumchi. Therefore, on October 11, 2016, I was forced to flee my country. I have left 8 children behind in my homeland. Their names are: X 2) X 3) X 4) X 5) X 6) X 7) X 8) X .

My innocent wife was also sentenced to an eight-year prison sentence. My elder son X and my brother Y are also detained in the prison. That is what I heard. I have no idea who is taking care of my other children. I do not know what they are experiencing or living through. There is no way for me to communicate with them. I have absolutely no idea about the well-being of my other relatives. Because of the difficulties I mentioned above, I have developed diabetes and chronic diseases and my health condition has worsened. The reason why I was separated from my family and homeland which I loved so much and the fact that I am stuck in exile now is that I was born a Uyghur and Muslim. My family members and I have not done anything illegal according to the Chinese laws, yet became victims of China's genocide."

"My family members and I have not done anything illegal according to the Chinese laws, yet became victims of China's genocide."



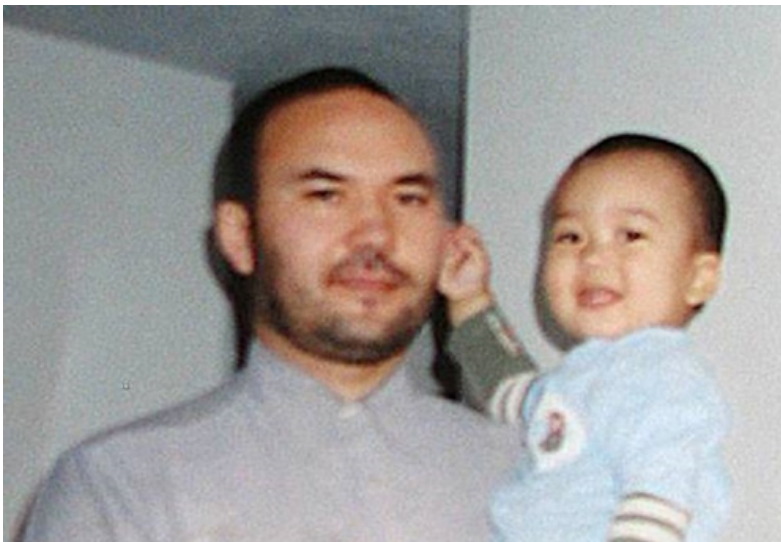
Story of Huseyin (Huseyincan) Celil and his family is heart-wrenching. China's unjust imprisonment of Mr. Celil has been an excruciating pain for his family since 2006. Huseyin Celil¹ is a Canadian citizen of Uyghur origin, who fled from China's persecution and eventually settled in Canada via UNHCR referral. He became a Canadian citizen in November 2005. He is a father of 4 kids currently living in Burlington, Ontario.

He was abducted by the government of China in early 2006 while he was visiting his parents-in-law in Uzbekistan.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment in November 2006, in a closed sham court, without any legal representation in Urumchi city of East Turkistan. Since his arrest till today, China has denied his Canadian citizenship and rejected Canadian consular access.

This is one of the most egregious examples of Family Destruction that has tormented one Uyghur family for 16 years. 4 children, all are Canadian citizens with their mother, are growing up without a father. His incommunicado in China's prison has aggravated the pain and desperation of the whole family, including his wife Kamila Telendibaeva.

(Undated family photo of Huseyincan Celil)



Kamila said: "it is like 24/7 torture, not being able to know where is he, if he is breathing or otherwise. I and my children felt something had been missing, the main person in the family was missing. My kids are asking me why our father is in China? I do not have any answer to them, it is difficult to explain."

"it is like 24/7 torture, not being able to know where is he, if he is breathing or otherwise. I and my children felt something had been missing, the main person in the family was missing. My kids are asking me why our father is in China? I do not have any answer to them, it is difficult to explain."

¹ <https://www.recognizecelil.com/>



b. File 1016 - the original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018.

تزارات

مەن يەنە لىكە ئوقۇش ئۈچۈن قانۇنلۇق ياشايدۇر، بولسا مېنىڭ
 بولساممۇ. ياشايدۇر ئوقۇش كىتەپ تاللاشتۇرۇپ بىرلىدى بىر قىزم ۋە تەندە
 ئوقۇلغان بولۇپ ياشايدۇر بىرلىدى ھازىر ھېچ تاللاش يوق تۈركىيەدە
 ھازىرغا قەدەر كىملىك يېغىدى گەرچە بىر يىلدىن ئاشقان بولسۇمۇ.
 ھۆكۈمەت قورساق، كىملىك يوق ۋە دۆلەت بىلەن ئۆزگەرتىش
 قەدەر تەركىزىش، ھازىر قولىمۇ تەندە ئىشەنچ ياشايدۇر.
 ئاتا-ئانىم ۋە قىزدا ھازىر 2 يىلدىن ئاشقان ھېچ قەدەر يوق.
 كۆيىشكە دەردەمەن.

“I came to study abroad with a legal Chinese passport. But [the Chinese Embassy] didn’t give me a passport after I lost mine. One of my daughters was born in the homeland [East Turkistan] and she wasn’t issued a passport [by Chinese authorities]. I have no communication with her until now. Although one year has passed, our [residency] documents haven’t been issued in Turkey. Because of this, we are receiving threats from national security agencies and living in fear. I’ve had no news from my parents for the past two years.”

“I’ve had no news from my parents for the past two years.”

c. File 204 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018.

مەننىڭ ئىسمى [Redacted] ھوتان شەھىرىدە بولمىدى،
 مەن ھوتان شەھىرىدە تۇردىم ۋە ئۆزۈمنى ئۆزۈمنى ۱۲ سائەت
 سۇيۇقلۇق قىلىپ چىقىرىشقا ئەرزىدىم ۋە ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش
 ئۈچۈن كىلىش ۋە ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش.
 مەن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن
 ئۆزۈمنى قۇتقۇزۇش ئۈچۈن ۱۵۰۰۰۰ يۈەن

“My name is X, I am from Hotan city. I was imprisoned in July 2008, for two-and-a-half years. I was interrogated for 12 hours straight and subjected

to different forms of torture. I have even lost consciousness several days at a time.



After more than two years [in detention] my family paid Yuan 100,00 in bail to get me released. With this opportunity, I spent Yuan 150,000 and escaped illegally from China, and arrived in Turkey. I have left my aged parents, my wife, and three kids behind. I'm not able to communicate with them. I learned from my friends who came to Turkey that my parents were sent to [concentration] camps. I seek justice. My house which is valued at Yuan 130,000 was confiscated."

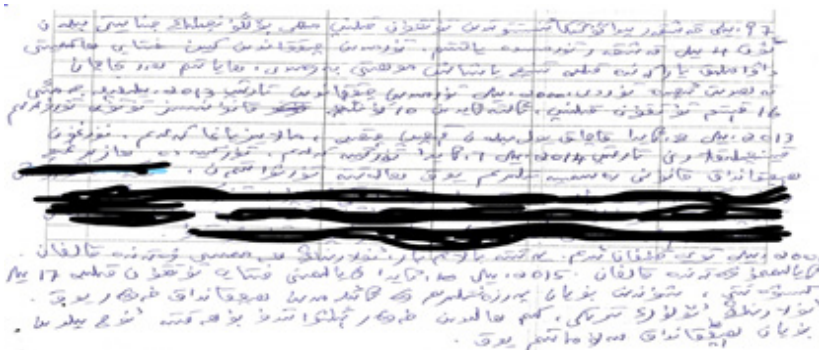
"I have left my aged parents, my wife, and three kids behind."

"Married couple AQ (32) and RU (30) Missing children: SA (2006-11-28), Last contact: 2013-09-01, missing from Hotan city.

"Due to political prosecution, which was unbearable, I (AQ) was forced to leave China in 2013 with my two children and wife. My eldest daughter SA remained with my parents as we could not manage to escape together. We were asked to pay a huge bribery sum for each person. We were smuggled to the border by human smugglers and eventually came to Turkey after a long challenging journey without any documentation. Our family is ruined since our daughter SA went missing in 2013 in Hotan city, East Turkistan."

"Our family is ruined since our daughter SA went missing in 2013 in Hotan city, East Turkistan."

d. File 20 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018



"I was arrested in 1997 (while I was) at the Kashgar Normal College and served four years in prison for "ethnic separatism." After getting out of prison, the Chinese regime wouldn't allow me to live in peace. My life was always in danger.

Between 2000 when I was released from prison and 2013, I was detained 16 times, ranging from six months to 10 days. In August 2013, I escaped China and arrived in Malaysia. After enduring many hardships, I arrived in Turkey in July 2014. I've been living without legal documents in Turkey until now. I got married in 2000. I have seven children. They are all in China including my wife. In October 2015, the Chinese regime detained my wife and sentenced her to 17 years in prison. I don't have any news about my wife and seven children since then. I don't know if they're alive or dead or who is taking care of my children."

"The Chinese regime detained my wife and sentenced her to 17 years in prison. I don't have any news about my wife and seven children since then."



Another heart-breaking story of family separation is the case of Mr. Kamal Tursun.

A Uyghur-Canadian, who fled from China in 1999, is now critically ill and remains in very serious medical condition in Edmonton, Alberta. His only wish, before his situation deteriorates further, is to reunite with his daughter with whom he was forcibly separated for decades.

Mr. Kamal Tursun and his wife Ramile Ablimit, both have escaped China due to their well-founded fear of persecution and for two decades they were unable to reunite with their daughter Gulgine.

China's authorities repeatedly denied Gulgine a passport to immigrate to Canada to live with her parents.

Family separation has devastated and torn this family apart.

DR. G Blevins, MD, FRCPC has written a letter to the Minister of Immigration urging him to intervene in this case on humanitarian grounds.

Dr. Blevins stated in his letter that, "Mr. Kamal's reunification with his daughter would be beneficial for his Physical, Psychological and emotional well-beings, given the gravity of his medical condition".

Similarly, Ramile Ablimit, mother of Gulgine, said in an interview to URAP "it has been 22 years, long 22 years, our daughter has been separated from us by the government of China. She grew up without care of parents. I am not sure if China is being run by human beings or robots that have no human feelings. We lived through every single day with pain and suffering caused by Chinese government not allowing our daughter to reunite with us. Now my husband is in critical condition with life support equipment in the hospital bed.

Everyone in the hospital felt our pain in their heart as a human being. More than 7000 days and nights passed by thinking about our daughter Gulgine. She needed just one piece of paper that allows her to travel as a citizen of that country. It did not happen. We did everything in our power to bring our daughter to her home. Another side of the world, one evil government enjoyed the suffering and torture that our family endured over two decades."



(Mr. Kamal Tursun in hospital, photo courtesy of his family)

“We lived through every single day with pain and suffering caused by China’s government not allowing our daughter to reunite with us.”

“More than 7000 days and nights passed by thinking about our daughter Gulgine.”

3. Family separation through coerced divorces.

For years, Uyghurs, especially those engaged in activism abroad, have suffered from not being able to reunite with their families who remain in East Turkistan. Moreover, the Chinese regime has often used family members as hostages to threaten and silence Uyghur activists abroad. Usually, the spouses of known Uyghur activists have been forced to divorce them to demonstrate their disaffiliation from their partners. Nevertheless, even non-politically engaged Uyghurs in exile reported cases of coerced divorce, a phenomenon which has increased since 2017. The following testimonies are examples of coerced divorces.

a. Tahir Imin (Uyghur activist based in the U.S.)

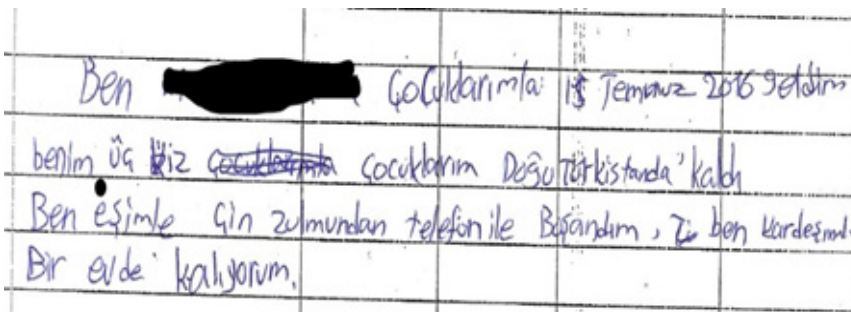


(Tahir Imin with his wife and daughter in Urumqi. Testimony was submitted in English. Photo credited to Tahir Imin.)

“My name is Tahir Imin. I live in Washington DC. I left China in February 2017 to study at Haifa University in Israel. The Chinese authorities asked me to go back to China in May 2017. I continued my studies and went to the U.S in August 2018. After I came to the U.S, my wife was forced to divorce me and was constantly interrogated

because of me. Since then, I lost all contact with them including my then 7-year-old daughter. I told my story to *The Atlantic* and *Al-jazeera*. The Chinese government has retaliated against my speaking to the media by sending more than 28 members of my family to prison including sentencing my mom and brother to 10 and 15 year term. Now I don’t know what is happening to my family members.”

b. File 127 - The original testimony is in Turkish and was received in November 2018



“My name is X. I came to Turkey in July of 2016 with my three children. My three other daughters were left in East Turkistan. I was forced to divorce my husband over the phone due to Chinese oppression. I

am staying with my relative in one house.”



c. File 189 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018.

2009 . 6-ئاي 20 تۇرپاندا پىچان ناھىيەدە
 كۆمۈر تاش كەندۈزىدا 10 مىليون (خەلق بۇلى)
 مەبلەغ مەلۇماتىدا كىن خىتاي ھۆكۈمىتى تەرىپىدىن
 بىر قىسىم تۇرپاندا 7. كۆمۈر بۆسۈمۈ قانئىق
 تىرىشچانلىقى سەۋەبىدىن سودا مەلۇماتلىرى توختۇتۇلدى.
 خىتاي ھۆكۈمىتى خادىملىرى ئومۇمىي ئىقتىسادىمىزنى ئاقەتتۇرغۇ
 قىلىپ كەتكەن . شۇ سەۋەبىدىن بىزدە چىقىش يولى بولمىغانلىقتىن
 ئۆي-قەدۇكلارنىمىزنى ، قەبرىنىڭ ھايىدىن سوت مەھكەمىسىدە توختۇتۇۋەتكەن . ئەرلەر قىلماق .
 دەررەزىمىزنى كىتاراپقا مەلۇماتقا . قە تەھت مەلۇمات . شۇ سەۋەبىدىن بىرۈزە تەلۈم خىتاي
 ھۆكۈمىتى تەرىپىدىن خۇلقىمىزغا ئۇچۇرلار بىسى چوقۇم . ھەت 31.1.2017 كۈنى
 جاللىرىمىز قىلىپ تۇرۇپمىز كەلدىم . مەلۇماتىم كەندىدىن چىققاندىن بولۇپ قانئىق بۇرۇستىدا
 پاسپورتىمىزنى بىسۋالدى . ئىككىمىز تىجارەت يولى قە جاي ئىقتىسادىمىزنى ئىككىمىز قوبىلدى . بانكا
 بانكا كارىتىمىدىكى ھاسىللىرىمىز توختۇتۇۋەتكەن . 2018- يىلى 6- ئاي 3- كۈنى بىزنى خىتاي
 ماتىملىرى سوت مەھكەمىسىدە ئۆتۈپتۇرۇپلا مەسۋۇمى توي قىلىشنى مەسۋۇمىدىكى شۇنداقمۇ كىتاراپتۇر
 ۋە ياللىق مەلۇماتىمىزنى ئۆتۈپتۇرۇپلا مەسۋۇمى . مەسۋۇمات مەلۇماتىمىز قە بىزگەم ھىيەنلىرىمىز
 خىتاي ماتىملىرى ئۆتكەن يىلى رامازان ئاينىدا 6- ئاي 28- كۈنى ئۆتۈپ باسۇرۇپلا كىرىپ
 تۇتۇپ قىلغان . تاھازىرىمىز ئۆلۈك جاي تىرىكلىكى نامەلۇم خۇسۇسلاشقىمىز . كىن مەلۇماتلىرى

ماقا ئۆتۈپتۇرۇپ بۇ سەت تەھت مەلۇمات ئۆتۈپ بولالدى . سەت قانئىق كەلمىشكە مەلۇماتىمىز ھاياتى خۇسۇس
 ئىچىدە بۇ شۇنداقلا مەلۇماتىمىز بىر كۆرۈنۈش بولغايدىغانلىقىمىزنى قە جاللىرىمىزنى
 تۇتۇپتۇرۇپلا بىلگۈچكە مەلۇماتىمىز قانئىق . بۇ شۇنداقمۇ مەسۋۇمى ئۆتۈپ قورنىداشلىرىمىزنى بىشقا
 كەلگەن كۈنلەردە ... ئىنسان ھەقلىرى نەدە ؟ ...

"I invested 10 million (Yuan) in a coal mine in Pichan county of Turpan on 20/06/2009. After the July 5, 2009 massacre in Urumchi all my investments were seized by the Chinese state, and all business activities were halted because of the ongoing genocide. All my wealth was confiscated by Chinese officials. All our shops and real estate were frozen by the court to pay off my debt. When we went

to the court to sue, our petitions were not accepted, and we were threatened. My children were harassed by Chinese officials. I came to Turkey with my children on 31/01/2017. My husband was going to come after me, but his passport was seized, and his bank accounts were frozen. He was left penniless. On 03/05/2018 Chinese police made us divorce on WeChat with a court decision. Our 29-year-old relationship ended just like this. My brother, sister-in-law and nephews' house were raided by police last Ramadan on June 28. Up until now we do not know if they are alive or dead. Then I received a direct message from [Chinese] police saying, "if you don't return, you will endanger your brother's life". I was helpless as I knew it would be useless even if I go back, and instead my children and I would be detained. This is the tragedy that I and all Uyghurs are experiencing now. Where are our human rights?"

d. Qelbinur Sidiq was forced to work as a Chinese language instructor in a concentration camp. The interview was conducted by URAP in February 2021. Below is a sample of her testimony regarding her enforced divorce. The full response is available on page 22. "... When I called my husband three weeks later, he insisted that I should return [Urumchi]. Then COVID-19 started. My school colleagues repeatedly called me to inquire why I couldn't come back. Authorities intensified pressure calling me every day with the same question, while threatening to cut off my pension if I fail to return immediately. At the end of February [2020], I received a phone call from public security shouting at me "you are a traitor, live in hell in the Netherlands, you are done, b*ch". My husband called me to say "you are no longer my wife." In Uyghur he said, "talaq" [divorce]. I know that he was compelled to divorce me."

4. Family separation through the enforced disaffiliation of family members living abroad.

As documented in the Uyghur Human Rights Project's released report¹, the Chinese state publishes propaganda videos of Uyghurs not only denouncing the activism of their family members, but in addition discrediting and disaffiliating them under direct government pressure. The report states *"proof-of-life videos, which are filmed under duress and/or coercion, are tools of harassment, threat, and intimidation. These videos and the broader policies from which they emanate violate a number of international rights standards, including the right to family unity."* The following are samples of enforced Uyghur family disaffiliation made through Chinese propaganda.



Ruzi Memet Atawulla (seen in the screenshot) "denouncing" his brother Memet Tohti Atawulla, a student in Turkey. The footage was published in *Global Times*² (Tabloid newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party)

a. What follows is an extract from the testimony of Qelbinur Siddiq provided to URAP in

February, 2021. She was denounced by her brother and sister in the staged video. Her full testimony is available on page 22. "... my brother and sister were both detained and forced to denounce me after I spoke out [on Chinese concentration camps] while in the Netherlands. I was told to keep silent and not to talk to the media, do not provide an interview. Then my youngest brother was forced to insult and denounce me. [It was] in mid-November 2020. There was a video that was staged by police. I have learned that in January, 2021 [Chinese] police raided my sister's house after my appearance in a BBC's report³."

1 <https://uhrp.org/report/the-government-never-oppresses-us-chinas-proof-of-life-videos-as-intimidation-and-a-violation-of-uyghur-family-unity/>

2 <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1174468.shtml>

3 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56563449>

5. Family separation through enforced disappearances.

Human Rights Watch HRW¹ released a report in October, 2009, documenting more than 43 cases of enforced disappearance of Uyghurs. The RFA Uyghur service², quoted on May 14, 2012, reported that several thousand Uyghurs disappeared during, and in the aftermath of the July 5, 2009 military crackdown. Another RFA report quoted³ that an “estimated ten thousand Uyghur have been forcefully disappeared.” Family members have effectively been silenced by the government when they sought information about their missing relatives. A New York Times⁴ report, based on a leaked government report, revealed the classified directives advising local officials to keep Uyghur students quiet. The political measures local governments are required to develop are included in the directives in order to cope with the Uyghur students’ potential questions about their missing families upon their return home from mainland China’s schools. “The directive’s question-and-answer guide begins gently,” according to the New York Times report, with officials advised to tell students that they have “absolutely no need to worry” about their relatives who have disappeared.

The exact number of missing Uyghurs represents a blackhole whose size no one knows with certainty. Despite UN High Commissioner⁵ for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, requesting that China allow her office to carry out an independent assessment of reports of the enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention of Uyghurs, China has rejected such an assessment. Members of the Uyghur diaspora around the world hold the photos of their missing families and repeatedly ask the same questions: “Where are

my Family Members?”



(Courtesy of World Uyghur Congress)

Since the initial report of enforced disappearance in the aftermath of the Urumchi Massacre on July 5, 2009, the number of missing Uyghurs has steeply increased. The fol-

lowing Uyghur victim testimonies represent only a fraction of the Uyghur Family destruction that has occurred due to the enforced disappearances of family members, especially after 2017.

1 <https://www.hrw.org/report/2009/10/20/we-are-afraid-even-look-them/enforced-disappearances-wake-xinjiangs-protests>

2 <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/missing-01232012173244.html>

3 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5045fe7d23.html>

4 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-detention-directive.html?mtr-ref=www.google.com&assetType=REGIWALL&mtrref=www.nytimes.com&gwh=665C38FFD8B0F66A1B-3CCB04931F81B7&gwt=regi&assetType=REGIWALL>

5 <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/china/>



a. Abdurahman Tohti, Uyghur father living in Turkey

“My wife took our two children and went to East Turkistan in August 2016. The last time meeting with them was when I sent them off to the plane from Istanbul Airport to Urumqi on a direct flight. [Since then] I have not gotten any information from my two children and my wife. On January 4, 2019, while browsing the Chinese social media TikTok, I stumbled upon a Uyghur kid appearing on a Chinese propaganda video answering political questions in Chinese “Who are you? I am Chinese. What is your flag? The five-star red flag.” He was my boy who has been missing. Since then, I have never stopped searching for my son, but no clues so far. A total of 12 members of my family are lost. I don’t know. [I have no] any information about my wife, two children, and other nine direct relatives. My son is 6 years old. My daughter is 4 years old.”

b. File 765 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018

تۇرۇشلۇق	
مەن بىر مەھەل ئىستانبۇلدا ئورماندا ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن.	
بۇ يەردە ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن، ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن.	
ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن، ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن.	
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ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن، ئورمانچىلىق قىلىشقا بارغانمەن.	

“I was working in the curtain trade at home. I was buying curtains in Istanbul and bringing them to my homeland for resale. On my second trip to Istanbul to buy merchandise and for sightseeing I came with my children. At that time, I heard about the incarceration of [Uyghurs] who were coming back from overseas.

I was worried about the safety of my children and that is why I have decided not to go back to my homeland. Still one of my children is back at home. I cannot trace her. I have lost all connections with my relatives. I was forced to stay in Istanbul. My residency permit [short-term] was expired, and the long-term residence permit is yet to be delivered. I was not granted a work permit; I am having a hard time surviving [here].”



c. Testimony of Abduljelil Emet, a Uyghur father living in Germany



“I testify that I am Abduljelil Emet. I was born on December 10, 1966, in Uchturpan County, Aksu Prefecture. I was forced to leave my homeland East Turkistan, because of the Chinese government’s religious persecution, ethnic discrimination, political oppression, and forced labor.

I have been living in Germany since April 1997 and became German citizen in 2006.

I have not been able to meet or reunite with my family for the last twenty-five years due to China’s family separation policies. My wife, Maryam Abdujelil, my eldest son, Muzaffar (Muzaipayar Jalili), and my youngest son, Jalali were left home when I fled China twenty-five years ago. Chinese government repeatedly denied to issue them passports, to come to Germany for a family reunification.

I have no contact with anyone, including my two sons Muzaffar and Jalali, my wife Maryam, my two brothers -Muhammad Emet, Qudus Emet and their children and grandchildren, my two sisters - Bahargul Emet, Arzugul Emet and their husbands and children, for the last five years. I don’t know if the Chinese government killed them, put them in prisons or concentration camps, or transferred them into the Chinese mainland and enslaved them.”

“I don’t know if the Chinese government killed them, put them in prisons or concentration camps, or transferred them into the Chinese mainland and enslaved them.”



d. 1239 - The original testimony is in Uyghur and was received in November 2018.

مەن 2010-يىلى 7-ئاينىڭ 29-كۈنى تۈركىيەگە
 كەلدىم . 2010-يىلى 11-ئايدا نىجارسا شىسى بىلەن
 مالايسىياغا بىر تۇرۇپقا قايتىپ كەلگەندە .
 قىتاي مىنىستىرى ، نىجارسا شىسى بىلەن
 شۇغۇللاندىم . ئىككىنچى كۈنى ، نىجارسا شىسى بىلەن
 7 كۈن قاتناپ قويدىم . چىققاندىن كېيىن
 ئەر يەردە نىجارسا شىسى بىلەن شۇغۇللاندىم . قىتايغا
 سەھەر ، كۆمۈشقا تەجىربىسىم . ئۆزۈمنى قىتاي
 ئاقىلىرى بىلەن بىرقانچە قېتىم تاللاشتىم .
 2012-يىلى ئالامىنى قىتايغا قولىم قوتۇلدۇرۇش
 ئۈچۈن تاقىمغا قوشۇپ تۈركىيەگە ئوقۇتۇشقا
 چىقاردىم . بۇ ئىش كېيىن قىتايغا مەن
 بولغان سەھەرى تارتىشقا باشلىدىم . تەكرار
 قىتاي تۈرمىسىگە چۈشۈپ قالغانلىقى
 ئۈچۈن تۈركىيەگە كەلدىم .
 ئۇرۇمچىدە ھازىر ئىكەنلىكىم ۋە قىزىم
 قالدۇ 2017 يىلى 2-ئاينىڭ باشلىرى
 ھازىر قىزىم ئۇلار بىلەن بىرگە ئىكەنلىكى
 قىلىنالمىدىمۇ .

“I came to Turkey on July 29, 2016. When I returned to Urumchi after a business trip to Malaysia in November 2010, the Chinese [police] locked me up for seven days and asked me questions like “Why did you travel; What did you do [in Malaysia]?” After being released, whatever I do and wherever I go, I have faced threats and was treated as a suspect. I argued with the Chinese police several times. In 2012, to free my child from the Chinese regime, I sent him to Turkey with my brother to study.

After this, the Chinese authorities intensified their pressure. In order not to end up in Chinese prison again, I have fled to Turkey. My wife and daughter [remained] in Urumchi. From December 2017 until now, I haven’t been able to locate them.”

6. Family separation through state-appointed ethnic Chinese cadres homestaying with Uyghur families.

Beginning in 2016, the Chinese authorities launched a “kinship” or “family pairing” program in East Turkistan. Under this program, the government assigned Chinese officials to Uyghur households to eat, live and sleep in. According to testimonies, Uyghur hosts (mainly females as male guardians were sent to concentration camps) had to entertain Chinese “relatives” in their homes under the mandatory program of sharing their kitchen and bed. The Chinese “relatives” stayed over for several days, sharing beds with their female hosts in the absence of male heads of families to protect them.

Sexual abuse, physical and mental harassment are commonly reported¹. The following testimonies narrate the experience of Uyghur families and their Chinese “relatives.”

a. Testimony of Zumrat Dawut, Uyghur concentration camp survivor residing in the United States



Zumrat Dawut together with her Chinese government-assigned “twin relatives” (LeMonde)²

“Our Chinese “relatives” would stay over with us 10 days every month. We were required to show utmost hospitality while they were home stay-

ing. We needed to provide them with new bed sheets and even prepare hot water every night for washing feet. They asked me about my opinions on the government, my Islamic values, and if there was someone among my relatives that was involved in activism against China. If we didn’t serve them well and didn’t answer their questions, they would threaten to report us to the authorities, and we would end up in re-education centers.

My 11-year-old-daughter was assigned a 20-year-old Chinese man as “a relative”. On several occasions, the Chinese man called me while he was drunk to send my daughter to stay over with him. It was so difficult for me to come up with excuses to refuse his requests. I’ve even faked illness to refuse his request. It was the most terrible experience as a mother.”

¹ and ² https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/09/17/ces-faux-cousins-chinois-qui-s-imposent-dans-les-familles-ouigoures_6052513_3210.html?fbclid=IwAR1OokBJ1OSPPZ4C8NWVFX-UTligWckOYu4KPI-nOB3FQfAnYW6iRC8J7Qy4



b. Qelbinur Siddiq was forced to work as a teacher in a concentration camp. The following is her experience of a Chinese “relative” homestay, as shared with URAP in February 2021:

“My name is Qelbinur Sidiq, I arrived in the Netherlands on October 9, 2019 to visit my daughter. I came with a one month-long valid visa on my Chinese Passport, but upon arrival, I decided to never go back while the CCP is in power in my homeland of East Turkistan. When I called my husband three weeks later my husband insisted that I should return [to Urumchi]. Then COVID-19 happened, and my school colleagues started calling me too and inquiring about me. When I was saying that I cannot come back, [Chinese] authorities were calling me every day, inquiring as to when I will come back, and threatening to cut off my pension if I delay my return. At the end of February, I received a phone call from the police saying, “You are a traitor, die in the Netherlands.” They were insulting me and cursing me. My husband also called me. He said “I am divorcing you.” He said, “talaq” [divorce], and other bad words. Sometime later I have received a phone call from my husband. He explained to me that he was forced to film a staged video clip. He told me he was trained for four straight hours under the watch of [Chinese] police to record the staged video denouncing our relationship. He added that *“everything I was saying was a lie.”*

From September 2016 there was a campaign for “new” Chinese “relatives” to stay in Uyghur households for one month. In May 2017, this campaign was turned into a new phase “relative live-in.” These so-called relatives were staying with us, “teaching” us how to cook, how to obey the Communist Party. One such relative was harassing me all the time. Especially when he got drunk. The Chinese were saying *“Do not resist, it is a governmental policy, why you are yelling and calling your husband?”* My husband’s superior who was Chinese has said to my husband that *“your wife is beautiful.”*

When we eat together, he will remove his clothes and ask questions, *“Are you a Muslim? Do you pray?”* and he will ask *“Do you know how to read the Quran? How do you view the “new relative” campaign?”* Chinese “guests” would force us to consume alcohol. He often hugged me. He told me once that when he was dispatched to stay in southern “Xinjiang” he stayed in Uyghur households, where males were absent. He *“pleased”* himself with Uyghur women. He would insist on having an affair with me and was harassing me all the time.

I heard this Chinese individual returned to Beijing. At one point, I was considering killing him and myself. Every week we were supposed to take pictures and send these proofs to higher Chinese authorities, one week per month year-round. This Chinese man



was re-assigned from Beijing. He was married and had a son who was 12 years old. The “Twin relatives” campaign is a humiliation campaign for Uyghurs, this is a campaign of forced assimilation, like forcing us to eat pork, and so-called interethnic relationships, and so-called “unity building.” This oppression exists not only inside the prison, but outside as well.

Girls who want to save their relatives are forced to marry [ethnic] Chinese. I have heard from different sources about some Uyghur women killing Chinese men on their first night together. We were forced into being sterilized. I was sterilized at the age of 50. I have become permanently handicapped. This mandatory age range [for sterilization] is now set at between 18 and 59 years of age. My brother and sister were detained and forced to denounce me after I spoke out [on Chinese concentration camps] in the Netherlands.

I was told to keep silent and not to talk to the media, do not provide an interview. Then my youngest brother was forced to insult and denounce me. [It was] In mid-November 2020. There was a video that was staged by police. I have learned that in January, 2021 [Chinese] police raided my sister’s house after my appearance in a BBC report¹.”



Qelbinur Siddiq in the Netherlands, January 2021. Courtesy of Qelbinur Siddiq.

“Uyghur family destruction exists on a massive scale. Millions of Uyghur families are already being destroyed. You rarely see people on the streets. Traditional Uyghur neighborhoods are deserted. You see no Uyghur in the street. They are empty. If my safety can be guaranteed I won’t hesitate to visit the Uyghur region and show all the places I have been to, to the very surgical clinic where I was sterilized.”

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56563449>

7. Family separation through the displacement of young Uyghurs into forced labor facilities.

The Uyghur slave labor program, a sinister, large-scale, and profitable business currently carried out by China is another component of UFD. By studying the Nankai Report ¹. Dr. Andrian Zenz made it clear that “poverty alleviation” through labor transfer is meant to be a long-term measure to promote “assimilation” and “reduce Uyghur population density”.



Young Uyghurs, so-called “surplus laborers” from Kashgar and Hotan in transit to the Zhonghai Group Korla Industrial Park on April 24, 2017 (Source: Xinjiang Bazhou Government Website)²

Below is an extract from a published ad claiming to supply government-sponsored Uyghur workers from East Turkistan to other Chinese provinces. These ads claim to be able to supply 1,000 Uyghur laborers aged 16 to 18. According to the ASPI report, the recruitment ads read “The advantages of Xinjiang workers are: semi-military style management, can withstand hardship, no loss of personnel ... Minimum order 100 workers!” “The advertisement also said that factory managers can apply for current Xinjiang police to be stationed at their factory 24 hours a day and that the workers could be delivered (along with a Uyghur cook) within 15 days of the signing of a one-year contract³.”

¹ <https://jamestown.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Coercive-Labor-and-Forced-Displacement-in-Xinjiangs-Cross-Regional-Labor-Transfers-A-Process-Oriented-Evaluation.pdf?x68095>

² <https://archive.fo/LFoFq>

³ <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>



Many Uyghur families have been separated, thus becoming victims of this massive displacement under the enforced labor transfer program. Considering that the majority of enforced displacements targeted young Uyghur males and females in their reproductive ages, in addition to subjecting them to semi-military control under 24-hour surveillance, the outcome of this physical and psychological destruction and the permanent footprint on their life journey is devastating. It is uncertain whether these young Uyghurs can return to their home to reunite with their parents or start a new family in the foreseeable future. This is one of the most catastrophic forms of Uyghur family destruction. It is caused by the massive scale of the orchestrated systematic campaign, which exceeds any feasible assessment.

8. Family destruction through mass gang rape of Uyghur male¹ and female² detainees.

Disturbing testimonies of rape and sexual abuse were exposed by the survivors of the concentration camps. The ex-detainees and forcibly employed cadres revealed that sexual abuse, including gang rape, is directed both at male and female detainees. The testimonies revealed that the practices of gang rape, sexual abuse, and torture in the concentration camps are organized and systematic, carried out by both camp guards as well as Chinese men who pay money to rape detainees in the camps. The Chinese government's employment of mass rape and sexual abuse against Uyghur detainees *"is to destroy everyone"*, as described by survivors³.

Survivors' testimonies exposed the deep physical and psychological trauma caused by gang rape. These experiences will have an adverse life-long impact on the wellbeing and future family perspectives of survivors. One camp survivor testified about her former cellmate who became an alcoholic and drug addict, in a state of total despair, after being released. According to the same witness, most of the women who were subjected to sexual violence in concentration camps have become depressive, agitated, and disconcerted. Victims manifest flashbacks, reviving their pain all over again. As described by a survivor: *"It is always there, memories are always there, whenever I recall it, I cannot hold back my tears. These are the most disgusting flashbacks, just imagine someone who had such tormenting memories continuing to live a family life. How is it possible?"*

1 <https://bitterwinter.org/rape-in-xinjiang-camps-male-inmates-are-victims-too/>

2 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-55794071>

3 <https://thediplomat.com/2015/07/thailand-deports-100-uyghurs-to-china/>



Recommendations:

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is breaching provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention¹ and committing Genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic people in East Turkistan.

The PRC has also violated all of the Rome Statute's² provisions, and perpetrated a Crime against Humanity³ in targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic people in East Turkistan.

The acts of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity are considered to be the most brutal, gravest form of abuse under international law and punishable under international jurisdictions.

URAP calls upon the government of China:

To immediately halt the ongoing Genocide and Crime against Humanity perpetuated against Uyghurs, which includes killings, mass detentions, lengthy imprisonments, enslavement, rapes, displacements, separation of children from their parents, and the destruction of Uyghur families.

To ensure immediate and unfettered access to East Turkistan for the purpose of an independent investigation to assess the scope and gravity of destruction and allow global reconciliation and rehabilitation initiatives.

To provide compensation for the physical and mental damage inflicted upon the victims and provide proper medical and psychological assistance for their speedy recovery.

To immediately restore and ensure normal communication among the separated Uyghur families and their members absent any restrictions, surveillance and control.

Open a globally coordinated and independent investigation to prosecute officials responsible for committing the crime of genocide and crimes against humanity.

1 https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.1_Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf

2 https://legal.un.org/icc/statute/99_corr/cstatute.htm

3 <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>



To the government of Canada and like-minded allies:

The government should recognize the parliamentary motion ¹ passed on February 22, 2021 and acknowledge the crimes perpetuated against Uyghurs in East Turkistan as Genocide.

The government should, in coordination with its international allies, spearhead recognition of the ongoing Uyghur Genocide and the commission of Crimes against Humanity against the millions of Uyghurs in East Turkistan.

The government should create an exceptional venue, as well as an enforceable mechanism to expedite entry of Uyghurs and other Turkic people who fled from genocide, and who are currently trapped in third-party states vulnerable to China's pressure.

As recommended by a Parliamentary report², the government should enact policies to assist torn-apart Uyghur families who have fallen victim to the Chinese state's systematic campaign of family destruction.

The government should take action with its allies to collectively prosecute those responsible in perpetrating Uyghur Genocide and Crimes against Humanity, through the mobilization of all available jurisdictions within the UN system.

Methodology:

The testimonies presented in this report are first-hand accounts from victim families, voluntarily submitted to URAP. The URAP analyzed more than 600 written testimonies of Uyghur families living primarily in Turkey, which led to the finding of around 200 families' reports of at least one missing family member, including parents, spouses, children, and siblings.

The testimonies were submitted in Uyghur, Turkish, or English languages. URAP translated the testimonies written in Uyghur and Turkish languages into English. To protect the privacy and security of the victims, the report used file numbers and did not provide the victims' names and other identifying information. In addition, media reports and the reports of other experts have been used to identify additional forms of family destruction.

URAP reaffirms that the testimonies are consistent with the reports of human rights organizations, international media reports, and survivors' accounts. Therefore, URAP does not question the reliability of the testimonies.

¹ <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/votes/43/2/56>

² <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/SDIR/news-release/10903199>



Conclusion:

To destroy Uyghur society and erase its identity, China has been targeting its very root, the family structure. Ever since 1949 and even more so since 2014, the Chinese government has been conducting a systematic campaign to break up family units through the implementation of genocidal policies targeting Uyghurs living in East Turkistan and abroad. The Chinese Communist Party's goal is to destroy the very idea of the Uyghur family by "re-educating" it into a "Sinicized exemplary family." From mass incarceration and relocation to disaffiliation and passport denial, the Chinese state has infiltrated every aspect of Uyghurs' lives, keeping a tight grip on their legal status, minds, and future generation.

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