



## WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE GENOCIDE IN EAST TURKISTAN



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
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## The 15th East Turkistan International Brotherhood Meeting and the 6th East Turkistan National Unity Council

Esteemed state representatives, NGO leaders, members of the press, and esteemed ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the opening of the 15th East Turkistan International Brotherhood Meeting and the 6th East Turkistan National Unity Council. I extend my warm greetings and respect to all of you.

The World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. The East Turkistan diaspora is scattered across the globe, and this gathering represents a step we took 15 years ago to establish trust and solidarity among ourselves for the sake of ensuring our safety and strengthening our unity and togetherness. As of today, our efforts have reached a very significant level.

This unity plays a crucial role in the political and social development of East Turkistan's struggle for independence. The East Turkistan National Unity Council, organized with the aim of advancing the

independence movement of East Turkistan among various beliefs and actions within itself, has, over the past five years, not only provided new examples of unity, new ideas, understandings, and practices for the East Turkistan diaspora but has also laid the foundations for a more coordinated collaboration in fostering political awareness and consciousness, as well as their implementation.

At our National Unity Council, representatives of various organizations originating from East Turkistan, opinion leaders, academics who have built careers in exile, as well as guests dedicated to the East Turkistan cause from all around the world, along with members of parliament and politicians, will gather for the next three days to discuss crucial matters that will shape the future of the East Turkistan cause. These discussions will contribute significantly to the East Turkistan Education Movement and the unity of international East Turkistan NGOs on the

path toward our goals.

I would like to pay tribute to the late Abdulhakim Han Mahdum, the founding leader of the East Turkistan Educational Movement, who pioneered this movement, laid the foundation for these gatherings, and ensured their continuity until today. He was a dedicated figure who served as an example to others with his knowledge, wisdom, morality, and commitment to the cause. We remember him with gratitude and respect.

Today, the East Turkistan cause has acquired an international dimension. The recognition of the genocide perpetrated against 35 million East Turkistanis, which is a stain on humanity, in many parliamentary bodies around the world, import bans on products produced by East Turkistanis forced to work as slave laborers, and the positive results achieved through the political activities of East Turkistan-origin organizations in various countries are all significant developments. Additionally, the fact that East Turkistanis, who have been scattered around the world due to concerns for their safety, are respected and esteemed in the countries they now call home is an indicator of the fairness and justice of the East Turkistan cause and the gains made along this path.

However, when we look at the results, it is evident that the ongoing genocide in occupied East Turkistan is escalating with each passing day. As a consequence, the political and social rights of the people of East Turkistan have been completely

annihilated. Moreover, it is clear that the oppressive and despotic regime in place is threatening the very right to life of our brothers and sisters. Therefore, it is imperative that a different perspective and a more effective action plan and model are required to put an end to this oppression in East Turkistan.

First and foremost, in order to resolve the crisis in East Turkistan and put an end to the oppression, it is essential that the problem is thoroughly and accurately recognized and publicized to the entire world, just as it is. During this process, the concept of the persecution and oppression taking place in East Turkistan, the inhumane practices inflicted upon the oppressed, should be clearly defined, and international principles and objectives for solving the problem must be established. Only through such means can an effective solution strategy be developed.

The crisis in East Turkistan is nothing more than the result of the Chinese occupation that began in 1949 and the subsequent Chinese exploitation and assimilation. The root of the crisis lies in this occupation. All the massacres, oppression, human rights violations, and the current genocide that have occurred during the 74 years of occupation are a consequence of this occupation and part of the assimilation policy pursued since 1949.

It should also be noted that China views East Turkestan as crucial for its national and energy security and the continuity guarantee of its economic development.

East Turkistan, which constitutes 40% of China's national energy reserves, possesses natural resources and energy pipelines connecting Central Asia to China's inland regions, making it indispensable for China's development.

Therefore, China does not want the people of East Turkistan (Muslim Turks) to maintain their existence based on their ethnic and religious identity and gain political power in this direction. The ongoing genocide in East Turkestan today is pursued precisely for this purpose.

Hence, securing the freedom and survival of the East Turkistan people is only possible through the independence of East Turkistan. There is no other way to ensure the freedom and existence of the East Turkistan people. This cannot be achieved in any other way.

On the other hand, China's 2023 map, published last month, boldly annexes the territories of all its neighboring countries without hesitation. This de facto situation is a clear manifestation of China's expansionist strategy. Starting in 2013, China solidified the financial foundation of its expansionist strategy through initiatives like the New Silk Road, the China Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, and other commercial channels. In its second phase, China has been secretly supporting the occupation of Ukraine, interpreting Islam according to its own interests, posing threats to countries like Japan and India, and even violating the sovereignty of Taiwan. China's aggressive stance in international diplomatic relations

reveals its true hidden objectives, aimed at reshaping the world order in line with its own interests.

China aims to secure its horrifying plan and achieve its goals by completing its assimilation efforts in East Turkistan, Sinicizing the Uyghur Muslim population, and ultimately eradicating them, thereby eliminating the political, social, and economic threats it perceives. The ongoing genocide in East Turkistan today is nothing more than a signal of China's threat to disrupt and dismantle the world order

In conclusion, the East Turkistan cause is the struggle of the Uyghur people, who have been facing the danger of extinction since the 1949 occupation, to break free from the ongoing genocide and assimilation and achieve their independence. Additionally, the East Turkistan cause is the fight to halt China's expansionism and threats to the international community.

Furthermore, the East Turkistan cause is a mission to halt China's expansionism and threats to the international community.

East Turkistan's case extends beyond the assistance of other nations to the Uyghur people and represents a collective effort of the world to defend against the significant threat posed by China to global stability.

The International Union of East Turkistan NGOs emphasizes that China poses a major threat to world peace, the fundamental principle of justice, its practice, and human rights. It calls upon

all of humanity, including international institutions such as the United Nations, and even individual nations, to take collective action. Our Union's goal is to be the most robust representative of East Turkistan's people's desire for independence, to conduct effective and widespread political actions and initiatives in line with these core principles, and to have a strong diaspora. Today, our Union and its member organizations continue their struggle for independence through all legitimate means.

The principles of our Union are national identity, independence, freedom, justice, and equality.

When the East Turkistan cause is viewed in line with these principles, it becomes a matter of great significance for all of humanity, the Islamic world, and the Turkish nation as a whole. At this time when 35 million Muslim Turkic people in East Turkistan are facing China's genocide,

it is essential for Muslim countries and organizations, as well as the entire Turkic world, to support our cause actively and take action to stop China, which has set its sights on the entire world.

Throughout the 74 years of occupation, the Turkish state, our esteemed nation, the people of Anatolia, and NGOs have supported the East Turkistan cause and continually strived for the development of the diaspora community. One of the most prominent examples of this support is when our President, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, addressed the United Nations General Assembly on September 19, 2023, saying, "We will continue to express our sensitivity regarding the protection of the rights and freedoms of Uyghur Turks, with whom we share historical and human bonds, and to keep this issue on the agenda." This statement has been a soothing balm to our hearts.

We extend our gratitude to our President,



who, from the United Nations podium, declared his sensitivity towards the protection of the rights and freedoms of the suffering and oppressed East Turkistan people, sounding like a voice of resistance against oppressors. However, we also wish to emphasize the necessity for Turkey to take stronger and more effective steps at the national and international levels, including strategic plans and programs, to bring an end to the occupation of East Turkistan and halt the genocide.

Today and over the next two days, with the participation of representatives and distinguished figures from the East Turkistan diaspora worldwide, as well as politicians, academics, scholars, and NGO representatives who have been

supporting the East Turkistan cause for years, we will discuss China's international influence, the current situation of the East Turkistan cause, and practical solutions. We will analyze the East Turkistan cause, consider political possibilities, and develop long-term plans for the protection of the diaspora community. On Monday, during the closing ceremony, we will release a joint statement with all participants to express our determination to end the occupation and genocide and work towards building world peace.

Finally, on behalf of myself, our organizations, and our nation, I extend my gratitude and thanks to all our guests who have participated, whether remotely or in person.

With respect,





## 6TH EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL ENDED

**THE 15TH EAST TURKISTAN INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD MEETING AND THE 6TH EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL ENDED SUCCESSFULLY AFTER A 3-DAY PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 22 TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY. THE MEETING BROUGHT TOGETHER PARTICIPANTS FROM OVER 30 COUNTRIES, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN 40 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICIANS, AND PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM TURKEY AND OTHER NATIONS. SEVERAL INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS TOOK PLACE THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.**

The 15th East Turkistan International Brotherhood Meeting and the 6th East Turkistan National Unity Council began on the morning of September 24. The sessions were titled ‘The East Turkistan Issue: Current Situation’ and were moderated by journalist Seraj al-Din Azizi. Speakers included Nijat Turgun, Dr. Isam Abdulshafi, Prof. Dr. Muhammed Afendi Salih, Prof. Dr. Yashar Sari,

Abdulahkim İdris, Dr. Adel Araygur, and Anwar Ismail, who presented scientific studies on East Turkistan.

On the third day of the event, which was September 25, guests from the Gulf region, Japan, Central Asia, and Europe attended the final session. Representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) delivered individual speeches. Haji Qutluq Qadri,

a participant from Japan, along with Dr. Seiji Nishihara and Komakura Jun, the author of the book ‘East Turkistan,’ summarized the studies on the topic

‘China and the Turkic World and Japan between the Two World Wars,’ as well as China’s domestic and international policies, for the participants.





Furthermore, at the end of the session, the Secretary of the International Union of East Turkistan NGOs provided a brief analytical presentation about

the workshop held during the National Council of East Turkistan and the significant resolutions made.



The 15th East Turkistan International Brotherhood Meeting and the 6th East Turkistan National Unity Council concluded successfully with

the announcement of the Council's statement after intensive consultations, negotiations, and workshops.

## THE 15TH EAST TURKISTAN INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD MEETING AND THE 6TH EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL FOR EAST TURKISTAN: FINAL STATEMENT



The 15th East Turkistan International Brotherhood Meeting and the 6th East Turkistan National Unity Council for East Turkistan were held in Istanbul from September 22 to 25.

More than 300 participants from over 30 countries attended this important meeting, including members of parliament, political party leaders, representatives of international and local organizations, scholars, intellectuals,

experts from various fields, academics, youth, and women.

The participants discussed the challenges facing the East Turkistan issue, the opportunities arising in the new world

agenda, and ways to benefit from these opportunities. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening relations with Turkey and the Islamic world and pledged to continuously support and promote the East Turkistan cause.

The discussions focused on three main topics, including proposals and actions related to the East Turkistan issue.

### The East Turkistan Issue from the Perspective of the International System

- European-Chinese Relations
- Relations between the Middle East and China

The second discussion revolved around the current situation of the East Turkistan issue and included the following subtopics:

China's National Strategy and the East Turkistan Issue

China's Future Outlook from Regional and International Perspectives

Southeast Asia and East Turkistan

Social Factors in the Diaspora of East Turkistan's Children and Their Impact on the Political Movement

The Significance of the Turkish World in the East Turkistan Issue

The Crisis in East Turkistan: Occupation and Genocide

Additionally, other subsidiary topics were analyzed within this context.

The third discussion centered on the East Turkistan issue and potential solutions,

covering the following areas:

In addition to the topics mentioned above, three important discussions took place in groups during the meeting. Participants provided a wide range of valuable insights, from which the main results were summarized. The key points of the discussions during the meeting included:

1- Presenting scientific facts and historical documents confirming that East Turkistan is an occupied region.

2- Dealing with the East Turkistan issue not solely on an emotional basis but with strategic plans in accordance with international law and political standards.

3- Leveraging the international anti-China movement and the political environment

4- Combating Chinese propaganda in the Islamic world through academic, social, and political activities, as well as effective use of social media.

5- Enhancing scientific research related to the East Turkistan issue and raising the struggle to the highest levels.

6- Strengthening cooperation among East Turkistan organizations.

Revealing the expansionist policies of China in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

7- Keeping the East Turkistan issue on the global agenda, proposing new projects in this regard, and raising awareness about the Chinese threat.

8- Highlighting the important role East Turkistan has played in history and its cultural contributions to humanity, solidifying the roots of the struggle, and attracting more supporters

9- Transforming the East Turkistan issue into a common cause among Muslims, Turks, and humanity at large, emphasizing that it is not just a human rights issue but an issue of occupation.

10- Remaining steadfast in the goal of independence, cementing our political identity, fully utilizing international laws, and distinguishing between friends and foes.

11- Implementing reforms in the East Turkistan organization system and establishing mechanisms for cooperation among organizations.

12- Emphasizing that the main cause of the conflict between East Turkistan and Chinese aggressors is the occupation.

13- Proposals put forward during the meeting included: [Additional information or specific proposals were not provided, but these would likely involve concrete actions and strategies to address the East Turkistan issue.

- Development of specialized research centers and institutes focusing on East Turkistan.
- Implementation of reforms in East Turkistan organizations: restructuring of organizations, shifting from competition to cooperation, defining the cause in new ways, improving the quality of

meetings and gatherings, focusing on youth education, and organizing various working groups.

- Utilizing international scientific documents related to East Turkistan.
- Preparation of a case guide in various languages.
- Establishment of an economic fund.
- Special emphasis on training the youth of East Turkistan in intelligence, military, and various important technical fields.
- Enhancing the role of women in the struggle, training them in the right ideas, and supporting and promoting women's work.

**In the discussion session, the following were presented:**

**Political solutions for the issue of East Turkistan's independence, discussions on the legitimacy of the East Turkistan issue:**

**Discussion Analysis:**

- The conflict in East Turkistan is a matter of land and occupation.
- To resolve the issue of East Turkistan, it is essential to create opportunities for multi-party support in various countries.
- In countries with potential support, it is important to find effective methods. It is necessary to provide communication platforms to systematically support the East Turkistan issue alongside state institutions, politicians, organizations, and other channels that understand, support, and create opportunities for the

## East Turkistan issue.

### Discussion Resolutions:

- Define the main goals and essential steps for the East Turkistan issue.
- Explore beneficial international opportunities for the East Turkistan issue.
- Enhance the East Turkistan issue in Islamic countries.

Discuss the SWOT analysis of the East Turkistan issue.

On the second and third days of the confrence, a scientific analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the East Turkistan issue was conducted with important figures, academics, and guests from abroad. These analyses covered East Turkistan's politics, international relations, economy, media, and other crucial areas. Based on these analyses, practical solutions were recommended.

The issue of the East Turkistan people in

the diaspora:

Discussions were held on the crisis of national identity and its solutions. It was emphasized that maximum benefit should be derived from existing Uyghur language teachers and available Uyghur language books. There is a need to open new classes for teaching the Uyghur language and take all necessary steps to protect the national identity of East Turkistan.

Finally, we thank Allah for granting us this opportunity. We also express our gratitude to our brothers and sisters who worked behind the scenes and contributed significantly to the organizational work for the success of our national council meeting.

We pray to Almighty Allah that our meeting in the council will be the means and cause for liberating the East Turkistan people from oppression and genocide as quickly as possible and establishing their independent state.





## PRESS RELEASE ON THE OCCUPATION OF EAST TURKISTAN, OCTOBER 1ST

Dear members of the press,

We are here today to condemn China on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the East Turkistan occupation. The policies of genocide and continuous assimilation in East Turkistan are growing more brutal day by day. Therefore, we issue this press release on this tragic day, marking the beginning of Chinese occupation, to demonstrate our determination in the struggle for independence, which is the only solution to all human rights violations and acts of genocide.

Seventy-four years ago, on October 1st, communist China declared its establishment and entered East Turkistan under the pretext of liberating it from the Chinese Nationalist forces, subsequently occupying it. Following that, China eradicated all state institutions in East Turkistan, including the army of the East

Turkistan Republic. They also arrested and executed intellectuals, the wealthy, and opinion leaders in East Turkistan under the guise of combating local nationalism.

In this way, China changed the name of East Turkistan, whose lands it had seized and deprived it of the three basic pillars of society consisting of intellectuals, the wealthy, and the army, to “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region” in 1955, officially occupying East Turkistan.

East Turkistan, a Turkish and Islamic land, with its independent governmental institutions, educational system, and legal framework before the occupation, had the right to self-governance. However, it was transformed into a province of communist China. All the rights of the people of East Turkistan were stripped away, and all its natural resources were plundered by

communist China.

After the occupation, communist China began implementing a policy of assimilation throughout East Turkistan, subjecting its people to unprecedented levels of repression, persecution, and genocide. Uyghurs and other Turkish peoples, who are the native inhabitants of East Turkistan, have faced genocide through direct killing, extrajudicial executions, and lifetime imprisonment. The Chinese communist authorities have resorted to all forms of oppression and brutality to assimilate and sinicize the people of East Turkistan.

Communist China has employed all forms of oppressive and inhumane policies against the people of East Turkistan. This includes psychological and physical torture, organ harvesting, rape, humiliation, racism, unlawful detention, religious suppression, asset

and land confiscation, forced abortion, sterilization, forced labor, language suppression, compulsory communism, and more. Scholars, opinion leaders, intellectuals, academics, and the wealthy in East Turkistan have been arrested and killed. Mosques, mausoleums, and other historical landmarks and areas in East Turkistan have been destroyed.

Furthermore, Uyghurs were also forced into forced labor as slaves in Chinese factories. They devised the so-called “kinship project” aimed at disrupting Uyghur family values and sending Chinese individuals to live in Uyghur households. They constructed detention camps for children, and Uyghur children, starting from preschool age, were compelled to stay in these camps, which were referred to as “boarding schools.” This deprived parents of their right to educate and instill Uyghur language, culture, and values in



their children. They even gave Uyghur children in Chinese detention camps to Chinese communist families.

The communist Chinese government implemented the assimilation policy step by step and over periods of time in East Turkistan. Between 1955 and 1965, hundreds of thousands of intellectuals, scholars, and religious figures in East Turkistan were slaughtered under the pretext of combating local nationalism. Mosques and religious schools were closed and demolished, which had been providing education since the time of the Karakhanids.

Between 1966 and 1976, during the Cultural Revolution, approximately one million East Turkistanis were subjected to control, and all historical material heritage, regardless of its significance, was destroyed and burned as remnants of the past. China also altered the demographic

and ethnic structure of East Turkistan by relocating millions of Han Chinese settlers from the Chinese mainland to East Turkistan. Under the guise of the “Western Development” program during the reform period, they plundered the wealth of East Turkistan and distributed it to the Chinese interior provinces. They also prohibited the Uyghur language in schools under the pretext of “bilingual education,” which was introduced in 2004.

By 2017, the Uyghur language was even banned in elementary schools. With Xi Jinping coming to power in 2013, brutal control in East Turkistan began under the guise of “combatting religious extremism.” Millions of people were arrested and detained in “detention camps,” which China began building across East Turkistan in 2014.

In summary, all these massive crimes





committed by China in East Turkistan violate every article of the International Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, China is committing genocide in East Turkistan. In fact, in 2021, a Uyghur Tribunal established by a delegation of independent lawyers in London concluded that the Chinese regime had committed genocide in East Turkistan. China's policies in East Turkistan have been recognized as genocide by the parliaments of the European Union, the United States, the Czech Republic, Canada, Japan, Lithuania, France, and Taiwan. While all these atrocities continue to unfold in East Turkistan, Western countries have begun to raise their voices one by one. However, the Islamic world and the Turkish world, our religious and ethnic brothers, continue to remain silent on this issue. This silence is a lasting stain on the Islamic world.

The Chinese occupation policy in East Turkistan poses a threat not only to East Turkistan but also to neighboring countries, the international system, and global peace. All the massacres, assimilation efforts, and genocides that have been described as the brutality of the century, which have continued during the 74-year Chinese occupation, are a result of this oppressive occupation. These horrors caused by the occupation will only end when the occupation itself ends.

The whole world should act against the atrocities committed against the East Turkistan people. People should not

remain silent, not only for the sake of the East Turkistan people but also for their own benefit. The Muslim world, Muslims, and members of other religions should not be silent. Because China is committing all these atrocities against Muslims and members of all religions in East Turkistan. Because China fights against all religions, it pressures and oppresses international communities. What is happening in East Turkistan today must be prevented from appearing tomorrow in another part of the world.

#### As the International Union of East Turkistan organizations:

1. We demand that all countries recognize East Turkistan as part of the territory occupied by China and support our struggle for independence, which we are launching by legitimate means.
2. We call on the United Nations, the European Union, the organization of Islamic Cooperation, the organization of Turkish States, and all other countries to take measures to immediately abandon China's racist attitude, restrictions on human rights and freedom of belief, the practice of the "modern Nazi torture camp" under the pretext of "terrorism and religious extremism", and stop the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan.
3. We demand that the UN General Assembly and the UN High Commission on Human Rights appoint a special representative for East Turkistan, send an independent monitoring team, and hold a negotiating session.

4. We call on governments and international organizations to exert diplomatic pressure on China to find solutions to human rights violations and cultural repression in East Turkistan.

5. We encourage all consumers and businesses around the world to be aware of supply chains that may contain forced

labor for Uyghurs in East Turkistan and take steps to ensure products are sourced ethically.

With sincere respect and appreciation:

[Hidayatullah oguzkhan](#)

[President of the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations](#)



## WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE GENOCIDE IN EAST TURKISTAN!

**“IN THE 74TH YEAR OF THE CHINESE OCCUPATION, AN ART EXHIBITION AND CULTURAL PROMOTION EVENT WITH THE THEME ‘WE ARE TELLING THE EAST TURKISTAN GENOCIDE!’ BEGAN WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 29 IN ISTANBUL.”**

“With the support of various organizations such as the International Union of East Turkistan NGOs based in Turkey, the National Turkish Students Association (MTTB), IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Erbakan Foundation,

GENÇ İDSB, and many others, an event took place at the Istanbul General Headquarters of the National Turkish Students Association. The event featured an art exhibition, panels, and cultural art activities that narrated the

systematic genocide crimes committed by China against Uyghur Muslims for years. Additionally, it showcased Uyghur clothing and cuisine culture, along with memorial rooms portraying the atrocities in the region, allowing participants to feel what the oppressed people in East Turkistan have endured in the camps of oppression.”

“The opening ceremony, which began with the recitation of the Quran and the singing of the national anthems of Turkey and East Turkistan, featured a speech by Mr. Prof. Dr. Jelal Erbay, a former AK Party member of the 23rd Parliament and the dean of the Faculty of Law at Yeni Yüzyıl University. He emphasized the cause of East Turkistan and highlighted the dedication of those who have been engaged in this righteous struggle. He pointed out that the lands that have spread civilization to the world are

currently under the occupation of China, and supporting the Uyghur people in their struggle is both the duty and jihad of the Turkish nation.”

“Following that, Mr. Tahsin Bashari, the President of the National Turkish Students Association (MTTB), delivered a welcoming speech, stating that the reopening of the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque was, in fact, a precursor to the liberation of East Turkistan and Jerusalem. He expressed that, on behalf of himself and his organization, they are not just witnesses but defenders of the East Turkistan cause in the upcoming period.”

“Next, Mr. Hidayetullah Oguzhan, the President of the International Union of East Turkistan NGOs, was invited to the podium. He expressed his gratitude to all institutions and organizations that have



shown sensitivity to the East Turkistan issue and continued his speech.”

“At a time when the United States and Western countries continue to keep the East Turkistan issue on their agenda and increase pressure on China, it is deeply saddening that some Turkish and Islamic countries do not speak out strongly enough against China, especially to the detriment of the people of East Turkistan. However, the statements made today by the MTTB President and other organization representatives are a beacon of hope for the East Turkistan people . Therefore, it is our hope that through collaboration among organizations in Turkey, the East Turkistan issue will receive more attention in Turkey, and, in this context, a dedicated platform for East Turkistan will be established. We wish for the cause to gain more momentum through various methods and means at both the national and international levels.”

### “THE TURKS HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WISE KHAN’S INSTRUCTIONS.”

Following this, Mr. Muaz Talha Demirtash, Deputy Chairman of the Youth Branch of IHH (Humanitarian Relief Foundation), Ms. İlhan İbrahim representing the Istanbul Muslim Collective Organization, and Mr. Osman Nuri, the responsible person for the East Turkistan Desk, each gave speeches expressing their support for the East Turkistan cause.

Emre Tüzün, the President of the Youth Branch of the Erbakan Foundation in Istanbul, read lines from the wise Khan Inscriptions, saying, “The Chinese people’s words are sweet, and their silk fabric is soft. The Turkish nation should not be deceived by China’s sweet words and soft silk fabric, for if you are deceived, you will perish.” He emphasized that Turks have forgotten these warnings, and this is why China has continued its oppression throughout history. He further stated that the situation in East Turkistan has been deteriorating, and it is crucial for Turks to take a leading role in resolving the East Turkistan issue.”

“As the program neared its conclusion, Mr. Yusuf Gülü, a member of MTTB, continued the event with his poetry. The event also featured performances from the ‘Uyghur 12 Modes.’”

“In addition, camp survivor Ms. Gülbahar Jelilova briefly summarized the painful days she spent in the Chinese detention camps in East Turkistan, shedding light on the camps that China has established there. She shared her experiences with the participants and called for support for the East Turkistan cause.”

“The exhibition and promotional activities will conclude with a closing event to be held at the National Turkish Students Association General Headquarters on October 8th.”



## AFTER YEARS OF BRUTAL REPRESSION, CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY TRIES TO TURN XINJIANG INTO A TOURISM HOTSPOT

By David Lipson, ABC News

30 Sep 2023

**On the streets of historic Kashgar, a desert oasis in Western China known as the cradle of Uyghur culture, a brand new “Ancient City” is in the midst of a tourist boom.**

**In recent years, most of the old town’s distinctive mudbrick dwellings, which survived 2,000 years of shifting empires, have been demolished, with the government citing concerns over earthquakes and sanitation.**

**Uyghur activist groups say the destruction of the old town amounts to “cultural genocide”.**

Now, souvenir stalls selling fridge magnets, cheap jewellery and traditional instruments line the streets, where visitors can take a ride in an electric buggy through the crowds or get dressed in a

traditional Uyghur costume for a photo shoot on the steps of a mosque.

China says more than 180 million tourists have flowed into Xinjiang so far this year, enticed by government-funded coupons for discounted travel.

The police checkpoints have been rolled back, replaced by a vast network of sophisticated facial-recognition security cameras.

They are one of the few visible signs of the decade long, intense crackdown that may constitute “crimes against humanity”, according to a United Nations report released last year.

[Xinjiang’s great rebranding’](#)

For several years, Xinjiang has been shut off from most of the world’s media, amid a highly secretive government campaign to stamp out extremism amongst the Uyghur population and other Muslim minorities.



In Xinjiang, tourists can explore under heavy police guard. (ABC News: David Lipson )

The crackdown came after decades of unrest, including riots in the capital Urumqi where hundreds were killed in 2009 and a car attack on pedestrians in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in 2013, that killed five.

When a knife and explosive attack on Urumqi train station overshadowed President Xi Jinping’s trip to the province in 2014, he ordered officials to “strike hard” against terrorism.

Since then, a chorus of academics, researchers, journalists and legal scholars have meticulously documented widespread abuses at the hands of the government, including mass internment camps, forced labour and birth prevention policies.

The United States has labelled the crackdown “genocide”, but Australia hasn’t used that word.

For its part, China first denied the



The Uyghur people are a predominantly Turkic-speaking ethnic group in Xinjiang. (ABC News: David Lipson )

existence of the camps, before later insisting all of its “vocational centres” were closed in 2019.

Now the province is moving to a state of “normalisation”. The great rebranding of Xinjiang is in full swing.

#### [A carefully orchestrated tour of Xinjiang](#)

The ABC was invited on a media tour of the region, organised and carefully curated by the Chinese government to show off the best the province has to offer.

But none of the officials wanted to go on the record.

We were shown a Uyghur kindergarten, where students recite verses in Mandarin in the classroom, then dance happily in the playground to traditional music.

A thriving factory belonging to a local business, where one in five workers are said to be from a Muslim minority background.

A milk packaging facility where we can film workers through a glass wall as they monitor production.

And rural towns with painted-on fishponds and colourful murals depicting harmonious scenes of village life, but very few actual villagers.

“The changes in Xinjiang are great,” Nie Zhaoyu, a village cadre from Ximen told the ABC.

“Traffic, roads, life, employment and improvement of people’s welfare ... We can see the happy smiles on people’s faces.”

In Urumqi, a flashpoint of unrest in the past, we were allowed to walk around

and film unrestricted, past midnight and without a minder.

Uyghur families appeared relaxed as they enjoyed kebabs and sheep brains at the bustling night markets.

Those we spoke to said the city was safe and their lives were good.

But our requests to see one of the former internment camps where more than 1 million people are believed to have been locked up for months or years, were denied by our Chinese hosts.

### The man and the camera

During the tour, the ABC and a US outlet approached a souvenir vendor who claimed to have spent time in such a facility.

He wasn't provided by the tour guides.

When we started interviewing him, another man we'd never met appeared with a camera, stood next to us and filmed

his every answer.

Imamu Maimaiti Sidike, a father of three, showed no outward sign of intimidation as he impassively described the "extremely radical religious ideologies" that saw him locked up for seven months.

"I didn't allow my wife to work," he said.

"I believed that if we spent her income, we would go to hell and forced her to stay home. I also promoted these values to the people around me."

He denied any mistreatment at the facility, claiming he ate well, played chess and read books and was even allowed to go home on weekends.

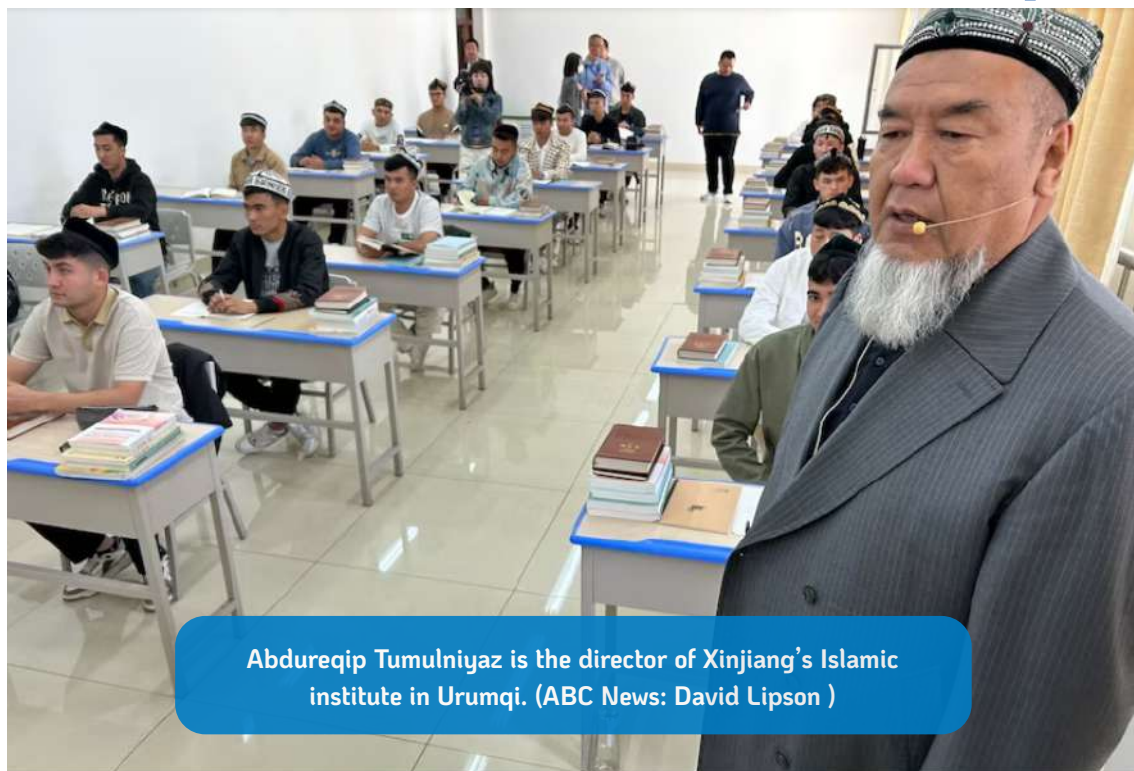
"Through my studies, I realised that radical religious views harm people. I no longer have this mindset. I can get along with people of any ethnicity and faith."

Those comments fit the government's prescribed narrative, according to Peter



The 600-year-old Id Kah Mosque is mostly a tourist attraction, but some men were allowed in to pray. (ABC News: David Lipson)





Abdureqip Tumulniyaz is the director of Xinjiang's Islamic institute in Urumqi. (ABC News: David Lipson )

Irwin, Associate Director for research and advocacy at the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP).

“They follow this narrative because of this fear and this ever-present threat of punishment for stepping out of line... People are deathly afraid of saying the wrong thing, meeting the wrong person, or communicating abroad,” said Mr Irwin.

“They’ve detained people for the most basic expressions of religious expression ... Having a Koran at home can get you detained for 10 years. Is that a normal society?”

### Religious freedom ‘doesn’t exist at all’

In Kashgar today, the Chinese flag flaps in the breeze over the top of crumbling mosque domes.

The call to prayer has fallen silent.

Long beards and veils are hard to spot.

We couldn’t find anyone who knew where

to buy a Koran.

The 600-year-old Id Kah Mosque, which has capacity for 5,000 Muslim worshippers, is now primarily a tourist attraction.

Our guides initially didn’t want us to go inside during prayers, but they eventually allowed it.

On the day we visit, a few dozen people show up to pray. Most are elderly and none of them are under the age of 50.

The mosque’s Imam, Maimaiti Jumai told us he was “very satisfied” with the government’s work to stamp out extremism.

“The efforts our country made on cracking down on extremism, I think set an example for the world,” he said.

A similar line was offered at Xinjiang’s Islamic institute in Urumqi, where the next generation of Imams are given Chinese

language lessons, under the tutelage of director Abdureqip Tumulniyaz.

“Our China, our Xinjiang will not allow [extremism] to take root,” he told ABC.

When asked why there was little sign of a living form of Islam in Xinjiang, he suggested religious devotion had gone too far before the government stepped in.

“People were praying in the street, blocking cars; praying in hospitals, so doctors couldn’t help their patients; on planes, so the planes couldn’t take off.”

Describing such claims as “absurd”, Peter Irwin said the UHRP has documented the destruction of thousands of mosques and upwards of 1,500 cases of Uyghur Imams and other religious figures who have been detained or disappeared.

“The Imams have been either removed or detained or imprisoned and the Imams that remain are only allowed to have a

sermon that’s directly in line with what the Chinese government is saying,” he said.

“So religious freedom doesn’t exist at all and it’s been very much replaced by this tourist consumption attitude.”

Uyghur exiles cut off from their families

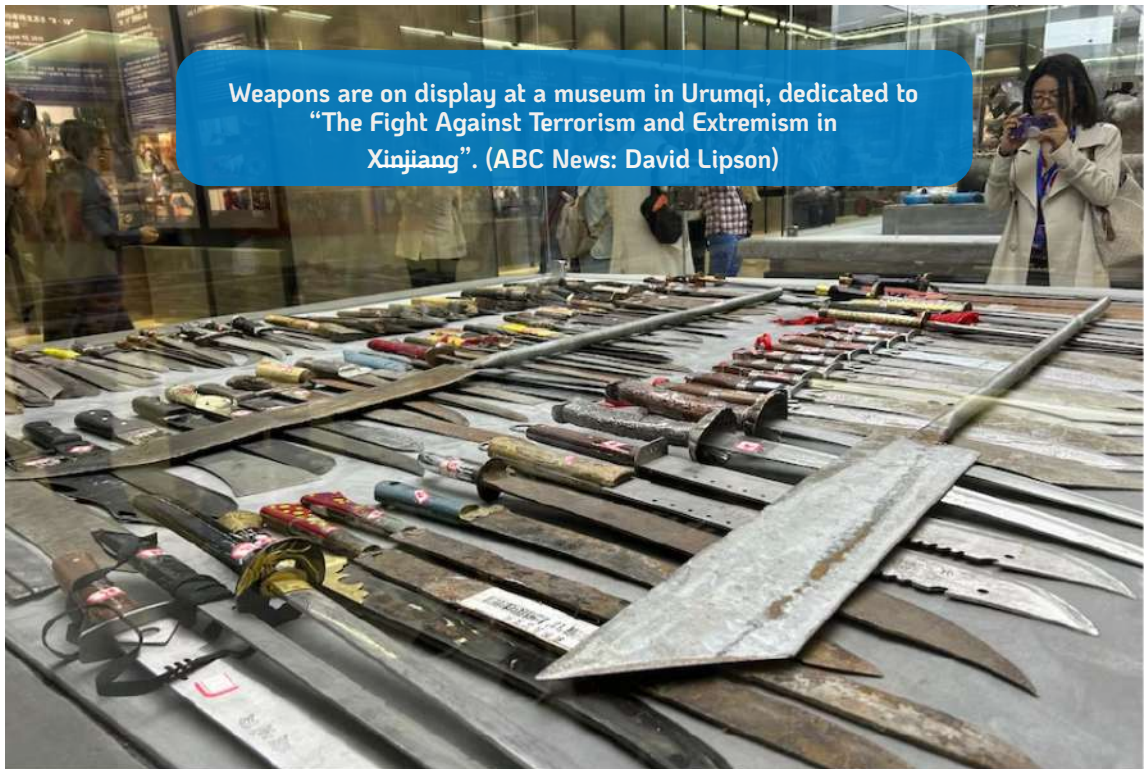
The Chinese Communist Party’s big tourism push for Xinjiang is another blow to members of the Uyghur community around the world who have been unable to speak to their families back home, let alone visit them.

Yusuf Hussein left Xinjiang in 1999 and now lives in Adelaide.

He maintained regular contact with his family in Xinjiang, phoning to chat almost every week.

But in 2017, the year the internment camps started operating, he was cut off.





Weapons are on display at a museum in Urumqi, dedicated to “The Fight Against Terrorism and Extremism in Xinjiang”. (ABC News: David Lipson)

“After that, I didn’t get any response. They just didn’t pick up,” he said.

Last year, some devastating news reached him: His father had died three months earlier.

“That was the only message. And [the messenger] didn’t give any details whether [my father] was sick or in concentration camp or anywhere,” he said.

### The grisly museum in Xinjiang

Like the ravages of the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, China now appears to be embarking on a campaign of coerced, collective amnesia about the crackdown in Xinjiang.

A museum in the capital Urumqi, dedicated to “The Fight Against Terrorism and Extremism in Xinjiang”, outlines in glossy, gory detail the period of bloody unrest in the province.

It even features grisly, slow-motion videos of hostages being killed by Islamic State terrorists in Syria, as a demonstration of the “foreign influences” infecting Xinjiang.

There are dozens of guns, knives and bombs on display behind glass.

Then, a jarring shift in tone, with panel after panel depicting the harmony and prosperity of current day Xinjiang, under the stewardship of President Xi Jinping.

The decade-long crackdown on the Uyghur population, which activists claim is really an attempt to wipe out an entire culture, receives just a passing mention about “powerful legal instruments”.

“Worthwhile results have been achieved”.



## US CONDEMNS CHINA'S REPORTED LIFE SENTENCE OF ACCLAIMED UYGHUR SCHOLAR

By Simone McCarthy

CNN, Mon October 2, 2023

The United States has condemned China's reported sentencing of prominent Uyghur academic Rahile Dawut to life in prison, calling for the immediate release of the scholar known for documenting folklore and traditions of the Muslim minority in Xinjiang.

The statement, released by the US State Department Friday, follows a report from non-profit human rights group Dui Hua Foundation on September 21, which said Rahile Dawut was serving a life sentence for endangering state security, citing a source in the Chinese government.

Rahile Dawut, who is widely believed by academics and rights groups to have been taken into official custody in 2017, is among what the non-profit Uyghur Human Rights Project in 2021 estimated to be more than 300 Uyghur and other

Muslim intellectuals detained by the Chinese government amid a broader crackdown.

The Chinese government has been accused of detaining more than a million Uyghur and other predominately Muslim individuals in internment camps in Xinjiang and conducting forceful assimilation to suppress their cultural and religious identity.

A report from the United Nations' highest human rights office last year found China had committed "serious human rights violations," which may amount to "crimes against humanity" in the region.

The report documented what it described as arbitrary and discriminatory detention within the context of the government's "application of counter-terrorism and counter-'extremism' strategies." It also cited "numerous reporting and data" on the arrest and imprisonment of "prominent

scholars, artists and intellectuals from the Uyghur community.”

Academics and advocates say the oppression goes on, though it is being absorbed into the prison system and transformed into a forced labor apparatus and a culture of fear and surveillance.

China has fiercely denied committing rights violations and, after initially denying the camps existed, then said the facilities were “vocational education and training centers.” Last year, China told a visiting UN team the facilities had closed – a claim the UN office said it could not verify.

When asked about Rahile Dawut at a press briefing last month, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said she wasn’t aware of the situation, adding that “China is a country of rule of law.”

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in the statement Friday that Rahile Dawut and other Uyghur intellectuals “have been unjustly imprisoned for their work to protect and preserve Uyghur culture and traditions.”

“Professor Dawut’s life sentence is part of an apparent broader effort by the PRC (People’s Republic of China) to eradicate Uyghur identity and culture and undermine academic freedom, including through the use of detentions and disappearances,” he said.

The State Department in 2021 said China had committed genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

## A renowned scholar

Rahile Dawut is known as a foremost scholar of Uyghur culture, who focused her work on folklore and religious anthropology, including documenting Uyghur pilgrimage to religious shrines throughout Xinjiang.

Through her collaborations with international researchers, guest lecturing and teaching, she is credited by international academics with fostering a greater global understanding of Uyghur culture and making key contributions to preserving and documenting Uyghur heritage and architecture.

In 2007, Rahile Dawut founded a center focused on folklore at Xinjiang University, where she was a professor. She also received grants and awards from the Chinese government, according to the American Anthropological Association.

But in late 2017, she disappeared, according to academics and rights groups.

According to San Francisco-based Dui Hua, Rahile Dawut was tried in 2018 of for “splittism” or political separatism – a crime of endangering state security. She was convicted and appealed. That appeal was rejected by a Xinjiang high court, the organization said in its September 21 statement, citing the source.

It remains difficult to access information about individual cases amid a lack of transparency around China’s detention and sentencing of individuals in Xinjiang. CNN was not independently able to

confirm the report.

In 2014, Xinjiang's government pledged to eradicate extremism in the region amid government concerns about terrorism and separatism.

As well as detaining Uyghurs, Chinese authorities allegedly targeted Uyghur cultural and religious heritage that scholars like Rahile Dawut worked to study and preserve, according to rights groups, reports and academics.

The UN's 2022 assessment cited reports detailing the "destruction of Islamic religious sites, such as mosques, shrines and cemeteries." Those came alongside a larger policy in which "standard tenets of Islamic religion" were viewed as signs of extremism, and targeted by the government, it said.

The Chinese government last year said it "rightfully rejected" findings of the report, which it described in a formal response to the UN office as "based on the disinformation and lies fabricated by

anti-China forces."

Since 2018, numerous rights groups have condemned Rahile Dawut's alleged detention and called for her release, as well as that of other Uyghur intellectuals, including Ilham Tohti, an economics professor at Beijing's Minzu University, who was handed a life sentence in 2014.

Rahile Dawut "is a brilliant teacher and researcher whose work has guided a generation of young scholars worldwide in deepening our knowledge of Uyghur culture," the Open Society University Network (OSUN), an international academic organization that had earlier named her an honorary professor, said in a statement last month.

"The court's sentence is an assault on academic freedom, the Uyghur people, and the rule of law. OSUN calls on the Chinese government to release Professor Dawut from prison and allow her to resume her important work immediately."



The whole world must reject and oppose the “Genocide Tours” that supports the crimes of Communist China.

**#StopGenocideTours**

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# istiqlal

**What is happening in East Turkistan?**

**What is true and what is false?**

**The "ISTIQLAL" journal uses reliable sources, evidence and witnesses to reveal China's genocide crime and shine a light on the oppression in East Turkistan as well as expose China's fake news propaganda.**

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