

THE 18TH WORLD EAST TURKISTAN BROTHERHOOD GATHERING COMMENCES IN ISTANBUL



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EDITOR'S NOTE

**Dr. Abdel-Warith
Abdel-Khaleq**

East Turkistan is a significant Turkic-Islamic land, with an area of 1,824,418 square kilometers and a Turkic population of over 35 million. In addition, the Uyghur diaspora, numbering approximately 4 million, lives in various countries around the world, particularly in the Turkic republics. The Turkistani people, who have been subjected to various massacres, genocide, assimilation, and oppressive policies for 75 years due to Chinese occupation, are now completely isolated from the world and face the risk of being erased from history. The Muslim Turkistani people, struggling for survival in East Turkistan, lack freedom of thought and expression, freedom of the press and publication, and especially freedom of religion; these have never existed before. All media, broadcasting, and communication tools are in the hands of the Chinese Communist authorities and are used solely for propaganda purposes for the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese state. We, the East Turkistan Press and Media Association (East Turkistan News Agency), follow developments in East Turkistan moment by moment and strive to ensure that news about them is disseminated. In fact, despite China's information blockade, we work meticulously to distinguish between true news and falsehoods. We also strive to ensure that our news is consistent with journalistic principles, so that we can be the primary source for news about East Turkistan. Through our reliable news sources, analysis programs, and monthly magazines, we aim to expose the crimes of the Chinese communist authorities against humanity and the false claims they exploit to cover up their repressive crimes. We also aim to inform the international community of the inhumane genocide being perpetrated against the people of East Turkistan today.



THE 18TH WORLD EAST TURKISTAN BROTHERHOOD GATHERING COMMENCES IN ISTANBUL

The 20th Anniversary of the East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association and the 18th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Gathering have officially commenced in Istanbul, drawing broad participation from the East Turkistani diaspora worldwide.

Organized under the theme “Common Cause, Strong Organization, Concrete Steps,” the program opened at the Kazlıçeşme Conference Center in the Zeytinburnu district. The gathering was attended by East Turkistani NGO representatives, scholars, and opinion leaders residing in Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Europe, Australia, Canada, and many other countries, alongside

delegates from numerous civil society organizations operating in Istanbul.

Musajan Er, President of the East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association

Delivering the opening remarks at the event, which began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, Musajan Er, President of the Association, stated: “Today, we are gathered here united by a profound sense of pride, great enthusiasm, and a heavy historical responsibility. We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our association—an institution we built with wisdom, elevated through education, and sustained to this day through perseverance, patience, and



solidarity—while simultaneously inaugurating the 18th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Gathering. We have convened not merely to commemorate two decades of activities by an ordinary organization, but to honor a torch of enlightenment ignited against oppression. We are here to mark a 20-year glorious resistance against assimilation, genocide, and the systematic erasure of a nation, and to celebrate a national reawakening movement forged shoulder to shoulder under the banners of ‘Education’ and ‘Solidarity.’”

“Ignorance Was the Root Cause of Our Past Failures”

Emphasizing that their founding narrative transcends an ordinary civil society initiative, Er continued: “Following the invasions that began in the late 18th century, and particularly after the Chinese communist occupation in 1949, East Turkistan was plunged into unprecedented darkness. Through a sinister agenda, the Chinese regime imprisoned and martyred our opinion leaders, religious scholars, and intellectuals who guided our people. Left leaderless and disoriented, our nation was systematically deprived of access to science, knowledge, and educational institutions (madrasas). The primary



reason why our past struggles to preserve our existence yielded no results was this very quagmire of ignorance and the deliberate elimination of our qualified pioneers. Consequently, in 2006, recognizing that the fundamental key to liberating our people from this captivity was raising well-equipped, conscious generations acting with intellect, we took action. Under the leadership of our late leader, Abdulhakim Khan Makhsum, our dedicated intellectuals, scholars, and brave youth united to take the first collective step of this reawakening movement.

"A Migration and Struggle Inspired by the Prophetic Example"

Addressing the attendees, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alimjan Bugda, President of the East Turkistan Union of Scholars, said: "In East Turkistan, occupied by China in 1949, immense efforts were made to resist the occupation. However, due to China's extreme repression and the absolute prohibition of religious education—which was replaced by a curriculum based on atheistic and communist ideologies—our scholars and freedom fighters could not advance their struggle as envisioned, nor achieve victory.



Consequently, witnessing the joy of liberation in neighboring countries like Afghanistan, our East Turkistani brothers decided to relocate their struggle for freedom abroad, where they began systematically organizing and providing sound education.

“Decades earlier, in 1952, some of our prominent elders had also chosen the path of migration. Statesmen such as the late Isa Yusuf Alptekin and Muhammad Amin Bughra migrated to expose China’s atrocities in East Turkistan to the world, dedicating 40 to 50 years to this diplomatic struggle. When these efforts did not yield the ultimate desired outcome, our people looked to the example of the Prophet Muhammad’s migration (Hijrah) from Mecca to Medina. They migrated and organized to continue the fight for East Turkistan’s independence, settling in Afghanistan, West Turkestan, Turkey, and various other nations.”

Reflecting on missed opportunities between 1995 and 2017 due to a lack of academic and organizational infrastructure, Dr. Bugda noted: “Following that era, a group of East Turkistanis, spearheaded by respected elders like Abdulhakim Khan Makhsun and Abdulkadir Yapcan, arrived in Turkey. Extensive discussions were held regarding the root causes of our past setbacks. Ultimately, a

consensus was reached: the core issues were a deficiency in education and widespread ignorance. It became evident that any structural movement had to begin with education. Through consultations with our Muslim brethren in our host countries, the East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association was formally established.”

“This Righteous Struggle Will Surely Bear Fruit One Day”

Also speaking at the program, Zeytinburnu District Governor Dr. Adem Uslu remarked: “It may seem presumptuous for me to articulate the cause of East Turkistan to the very people of East Turkistan. You are the resilient warriors who shoulder the immense weight of this cause and broadcast it to the world. I extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your tireless efforts in amplifying the voice of East Turkistan globally, and for exposing China’s long-standing human rights violations and its network of concentration camps to the international community. We pray to the Almighty that this righteous struggle you are waging, both here in Turkey and across the globe, will inevitably bear fruit. We look forward to the day when the national anthem of East Turkistan is sung freely once again in your homeland.”



CHINA ETHNIC UNITY LAW CRITICISED BY UYGHUR, TIBETAN, MONGOLIAN AND HONG KONG GROUPS

Activists warn the law's vague wording could criminalize dissent abroad, deepen assimilation pressures on minority languages, and extend Beijing's reach beyond Chinese borders.

Representatives of Tibetan, Uyghur, Southern Mongolian, and Hong Kong organizations held a press conference in Tokyo on July 1, protesting China's newly enacted Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress, which took effect that day and penalizes acts deemed to undermine "ethnic unity."

The groups issued a joint statement calling the law "legislation designed to justify the Chinese Communist Party's assimilation policies," warning that it "provides legal grounds for cross-border repression and threatens freedom of speech and expression in democratic societies."

Self-Censorship Is the Real Fear

The law stipulates that Chinese citizens have "a duty to safeguard national unity and the unity of all ethnic groups across the country" and explicitly promotes the widespread use of Standard Chinese.

It further states that if overseas organizations or individuals engage in "acts that undermine ethnic unity," they will be "held legally responsible."

Retep Ahmet, chairman of the Japan Uyghur Association, criticized the law, saying it leaves people with "no choice but to abandon their own culture and

identity and live entirely as Chinese. Simply choosing not to become Chinese could make you guilty of a crime."

He also pointed to the law's vague language on "words and actions detrimental to ethnic unity," saying "the definition is extremely ambiguous and can be applied however the authorities see fit."

He added, "Out of fear, parents may be forced to give up even teaching their own ethnic language at home. This everyday self-censorship is the real fear this law is aimed at producing."

He further warned, "It's entirely possible that those of us speaking out here today will become the very first people treated as criminals under this law. There is nowhere to escape to, but even in this hopeless situation, we have no choice but to keep raising our voices."

Challenging Beijing's National Narrative

Olhunud Daichin, co-chair of the Southern Mongolian Kurultai, stated that "the concept of the 'Chinese nation' is nothing more than a political slogan created in the late Qing dynasty."

He warned that "the activities of ethnic, human rights, and cultural organizations overseas could also be deemed illegal," and called for free societies to "stand in solidarity" on this basis.

Arya Gyalpo, representative of Tibet House Japan, said the Chinese Communist Party government "has long carried out repression and detentions, but now it has created a law to justify them." He urged the international community to "protest strongly and demand the law's

abolition."

Alric Lee, executive director of Lady Liberty Hong Kong, cited a 2014 University of Hong Kong survey on identity, in which roughly 60% of respondents identified as "Hong Kong people, not Chinese."





BREAKING THE IRON WALL: FORMER CHINESE OFFICER CONFESSES TO BRUTAL SURVEILLANCE AND MASS INTERNMENT IN EAST TURKISTAN

In a rare and damning inside account of Beijing's systematic oppression in occupied East Turkistan (so-called "Xinjiang"), a former Chinese police officer who spent nearly a decade enforcing state repression has spoken out before European lawmakers, corroborating the horrific reality of China's mass internment camps, forced assimilation, and total surveillance state.

Zhang Yabo, a Han Chinese police officer who served from 2014 to 2023, fled China and requested political asylum in Germany. In a testimony delivered at the German Bundestag, Zhang provided granular evidence and extensive documentation—including official police identification, pay slips, and interrogation photos—detailing how Chinese security forces methodically track, detain, and destroy the lives of innocent Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim populations.

The Machinery of Oppression

Zhang's account offers an unvarnished look into how Beijing built its machinery of terror in East Turkistan. Initially moving to the region in 2006, Zhang entered the security apparatus in late 2014 as a guard at a detention facility in Hotan—a region where over 90 percent of the population is Uyghur.

There, he witnessed firsthand the brutal reality of Chinese incarceration: screams echoing from interrogation rooms, severe beatings, sleep deprivation, and broken batons left behind in interrogation chambers.

By late 2016, as Beijing escalated its

genocidal campaign under Xinjiang's former Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo, Zhang officially joined the police force. He participated in brutal nighttime raids on Uyghur homes to confiscate Qurans and religious items, charging into private residences under state-indoctrinated hatred. He was also deployed in bus convoys transporting thousands of Uyghur hostages to prisons and concentration camps scattered across the vast occupied territory.

By 2021, Zhang was stationed in Yurushikai, a village where 40 percent of adult Uyghurs had been swept into concentration camps, leaving whole neighborhoods populated only by vulnerable children and grandparents.

Digital Totalitarianism and Quotas for Arrests

According to Zhang, the Chinese regime turned East Turkistan into a open-air prison governed by automated surveillance systems. High-tech monitoring generated automatic alerts for "abnormal" behavior—such as a sudden rise in household electricity use, missing the regime's mandatory weekly flag-raising ceremonies, or even simple physical exercise like jogging.

Worse still, police officers were subjected to arbitrary quotas. Beginning in 2023, officers were forced to generate at least one lead per week to justify new detentions, forcing the police machinery to constantly hunt for fresh victims to feed into China's camp and prison systems.

A Perpetrator's Defense: The "Double Victim" Narrative

While Zhang's detailed testimony provides invaluable corroborating evidence for the international campaign against China's genocide, his public statements have drawn mixed reactions from human rights advocates and the Uyghur diaspora.

Before German lawmakers, Zhang attempted to portray himself not merely as an enforcer, but as a "victim" of the regime, claiming that the "ironclad wall" in East Turkistan imprisoned "not only countless innocent Uyghurs, but also the souls of those ordered to enforce it." He claimed that lower-level officers suffered under grueling shifts, strict quotas, and abusive superiors.

However, East Turkistan activists and human rights experts emphasize the vast moral asymmetric between the oppressors and the oppressed.

"No matter how much you suffer at work, you can still go home, eat a good meal, and imagine a future," noted Uyghur activist Mr. Kuerban, highlighting the stark contrast between police officers and their victims. "You do not live with the constant, paralyzing fear that something you said 10 years ago will make you disappear tomorrow."

Unlike the millions of Uyghurs facing

arbitrary detention, forced labor, torture, and cultural erasure, Han officers chose to join the force for financial gain and social privileges, and retained the ability to leave.

Facing the Past

After resigning in early 2024, Zhang used a VPN in southern China to bypass Beijing's internet firewall, discovering for the first time that the facilities he guarded were recognized internationally as concentration camps. Seeking personal redemption, Zhang converted to Catholicism and was baptized in April 2025 before defecting to Germany during a tour in August 2025.

While Zhang insists he never personally tortured detainees, experts note that performing administrative or logistical roles within a genocidal system does not absolve an individual of responsibility.

Nevertheless, for the East Turkistan national cause, Zhang's defection represents a significant crack in Beijing's wall of silence. His testimony stands as a powerful, first-hand admission from within the Chinese state apparatus itself—proving that despite Beijing's denials, the campaign against the Uyghur people is nothing short of a calculated, state-sponsored atrocity.



AUSTRALIAN UYGHURS RALLY IN OPPOSITION TO NEW CHINESE LAW

China's "Law on Ethnic Unity and Progress" came into effect on July 1st. It entrenches China's cruel policy of Han-centric assimilation.

On Sunday, July 5th at 11 am, approximately 35 people rallied at Town Hall. The demonstration was organised by the Australian Uyghur Association (AUA). After an Acknowledgement of Country, the group held a minute of silence for persecuted Uyghurs, followed by speeches. "17 years ago, thousands of Uyghurs peacefully marched through the streets of Ürümqi", AUA Secretary Bahtiyar Bora told the crowd, "demanding an investigation into the killing of Uyghur factory workers in

Shaoguan."

Overnight on June 26th 2009, Han workers and local gangs killed Uyghur migrant workers in the dormitories of a toy factory in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province. Owned by a Hong Kong-based toy manufacturing company, the Shaoguan factory had abusive working conditions which contributed to ethnic tensions, according to China Labor Watch. A rumour was circulated that a female Han worker had been sexually assaulted by Uyghur workers.

Chinese authorities said two Uyghurs were killed and 118 people were injured, among them 79 Uyghurs. According to a Guardian journalist who interviewed witnesses, a



local Han man boasted about helping to kill seven or eight Uyghurs, saying he and others used iron bars to beat Uyghur workers to death. According to videos posted online at the time, Han mobs continued storming Uyghur dormitories as police arrived hours later.

On July 5th 2009, Uyghurs rallied in Ürümqi. Beginning as peaceful protests in Uyghur neighbourhoods of the city, they escalated into anti-Han violence after police detained dozens of demonstrators and attempted to disperse crowds. Uyghur mobs attacked police, tried to storm government buildings, attacked Han people on streets and smashed Han-controlled businesses. At least 197 people were killed, most of them Han.

Uyghur nationalist groups like the Australian Uyghur Association describe the Ürümqi riots as a “massacre”, in reference to the arrests and non-transparent trials of hundreds of accused rioters following the incident.

Mukhlis Mah, a member of Stand for Palestine, spoke at the rally.

“The matter is deeply personal”, Mah cited his Hui Chinese origins. “The Ürümqi massacre was in fact not the beginning, but unfortunately it was a beginning.”

“Because what we saw after the Ürümqi riots was that the CCP changed its approach to particularly the Uyghur people”, Mah said. “We saw those who complied with the Chinese government being placed into detention camps for no reason. We saw their identity being erased. We saw their language being taken from them. We saw

their children being separated from their parents. We saw things that really do not make sense.”

Since at least 2017, Xinjiang authorities have been perpetrating extrajudicial mass detention of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim Turkic groups in “de-radicalisation” camps, in which detainees are forced to learn Mandarin and disavow their “extremist” beliefs. Chinese authorities initially denied the camps’ existence, but later acknowledged them as “vocational training schools”. Detainees are allowed to leave and reunite with their families after “graduating” from the courses, often lasting years. The UN Human Rights Office found in 2022 that the measures potentially constitute crimes against humanity.

“As a person that comes from the Hui ethnicity, I will admit that culturally we have looked at the Uyghur people and said ‘oh these guys I think they are separatists, why are they doing this’. And what the Hui have realised is that in the last 10 years the government is slowly taking away our freedoms as well.” Mah said.

Chinese authorities have led religion reform campaigns to ensure “religion with Chinese characteristics”. Religious scripture may only be taught according to Party-endorsed interpretations. Mosques in Xinjiang have checkpoints that require all entrants to tap their national ID card. Some mosques have been functionally closed and transformed into tourist attractions, such as Kashgar’s Id Kah mosque.

“They initiated the Unity Law on 1st of July, a few days ago.” AUA President Mehmet

Obul spoke to Honi about China's Law on Ethnic Unity and Progress, "It is a policy of oneness. It doesn't recognise others... So no other language, no other culture, no other religion can be existent."

Human rights organisations and diaspora groups have been critical of the law. A Tibetan activist killed himself by self-immolation outside the UN's New York headquarters on July 2nd.

The law construes a unified identity as "the common community of the Chinese nation", which is mentioned 54 times in the text. It prohibits people from "hindering" the learning of Mandarin, prohibits parents from "imparting beliefs not conducive to progress as a unified nation", prohibits the "interference with the freedom of marriage of others using religious or ethnic justifications", and prohibits the dissemination of content "harmful to ethnic unity and progress".

Acts such as "boycotting public television broadcasts", "abnormal grooming" and "espousing the concept of 'halal' outside the domain of food" are already explicitly criminalised under the 2017 De-Radicalisation Regulation of Xinjiang. Uyghur-only and bilingual instruction in schools have been gradually phased out.

"They threaten people through their family members to deter them from coming here", Obul said when asked about the rally's low turnout.

"We hope the Chinese Communist Party comes to its senses and stops this Ethnic Unity Law and all that rubbish. And gives the opportunity to those people – Uyghurs, Tibetans and Inner Mongolians to keep their identity, use their own language. To keep their culture and allow them to practise their religion. Is that too much to ask, for God's sake?"



CHINESE POLICE ARREST UYGHUR SISTERS AND MOTHER IN URUMQI FOR SENDING GOODS TO TURKEY



Uyghur sisters Gulzeper Hekim, left, Gulmire Kamil, second left, and Guljennet Kamil, right, and their mother Bahargul Tohti were arrested in Urumqi on July 4 and July 11, 2026, in an undated combination of family photos. (Courtesy of Guzelnur Kamil)

Chinese authorities in Urumqi arrested three Uyghur sisters and their mother in early July 2026 for sending ordinary household goods (clothing, food, daily necessities) to their eldest sister Guzelnur Kamil in Turkey, using the shipments as a pretext for accusing them of “supporting terrorists.”

The arrests occurred shortly after China’s new ethnic unity law took effect, highlighting ongoing transnational repression targeting Uyghurs with family or business ties abroad, even for routine, documented activities.

The detained women include a partially paralyzed former internment camp detainee and another who previously served 10 years in prison related to the 2009 Urumqi unrest, with one sister still at large initially before being arrested a week later.

Chinese authorities in Xinjiang’s regional capital Urumqi on July 4 arrested two Uyghur sisters and their mother for sending goods to their eldest sister in Turkey, and a third sister was arrested a week later, the eldest told Radio Free Asia.

Guzelnur Kamil said her family had been shipping ordinary household goods, including clothing, footwear, hats, daily necessities, seasonings, and packaged food items to support her business in Turkey.

“They were simply miscellaneous everyday items,” she told RFA.

“My mother said, ‘Even if we cannot send you cash, let us send you goods so you can do business, my child, and provide for your children,’” she said.

Guzelnur, who moved to Turkey in 2016, said the shipments were assembled by her sister, Guljennet Kamil, who from 2018-2020 was detained in an internment camp.

Guljennet also suffers from partial paralysis following an accident and was helped by her sister with a share of the profits from her business. However, according to Guzelnur, the police used this communication as a pretext to target the family.

Investigation

Guzelnur said the police interrogation of her family began on July 1, and explained that her mother, Bahargul Tohti, along with her sisters Guljennet and Gulzeper Hekim, were interrogated several times.

Police used Guljennet’s shipping of goods to Turkey as a pretext, alleging suspicion of “supporting terrorists,” she said, adding that her mother and sisters were ordered to lead police to the exact shops where they purchased the goods and the logistics companies they used to ship them.

“On the 4th, they spoke very politely, asking my mother to come to the police station at 9:00 AM,” she said. “After taking her in, they also brought in my sisters. They took their blood samples and photographed them from the front, back, and sides. After that, they just took them away without saying a word.”

Turkey is one of 26 countries that China considers “sensitive,” along with primarily Muslim-majority nations such as Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kazakhstan according to Human Rights Watch. Under China’s “Strike Hard Campaign,” those who have been to these countries, have families, or otherwise communicate with people there, have been questioned, detained, and even imprisoned.

Guzelnur said her family in Urumqi has not sent her any goods for more than a year. Instead, she has been importing merchandise from Central Asian countries. The shipments from her family had already ceased long before her family was arrested by police.

“We have documentation for everything—from where it was shipped, and even who received the goods,” Guzelnur said.

“We provided those files, and my mother and sisters provided everything to the police. Yet the police still told them, ‘We will investigate you; there are also things going on over there in Turkey.’ What things could be going on here? We have nothing going on here. We can even present clean records from here.”

According to Guzelnur, her mother and sisters were taken to the Nanjiao Police Station in Urumqi.

“One is an orphan girl, one is my mother,

and one is my disabled sister... What am I supposed to do now?!” she told RFA, referring to her adopted sister Gulzeper.

RFA confirmed that Guljennet was moved from the police station and is currently being held at the Tianshan District Detention Center.

Ethnic unity law

The arrests came just days after China’s new ethnic unity law went into effect. On July 10, Norway-based Uyghur activist Abduweli Ayup posted on X, “Three Uyghurs detained in Urumqi. The National Security police didn’t tell the reasons, they put them in detention on July 4th. They are the first target we learned after China enacted the ethnic unity promotion law.”

Critics of China’s ethnic unity law warn that the law brings accelerated forced assimilation and cultural erasure of Uyghurs and Tibetans. It also raises fears of Beijing’s increasing transnational repression and its ability to stifle dissident voices overseas.

Guzelnur told RFA that her third sister, Gulmire Kamil, who remained at home after her mother and two sisters were arrested on July 4, was arrested by police a week later.

Gulmire previously served 10 years in prison for her connection with the July 5, 2009 unrest in Urumqi.



FORMER UYGHUR CONGRESS PRESIDENT DOLKUN ISA BARRED FROM ENTERING MOROCCO AND DEPORTED

Former World Uyghur Congress (WUC) President and prominent activist Dolkun Isa was barred from entering Morocco and deported shortly after arriving at Casablanca's airport on July 20. Isa had traveled to the country to attend the International Religious Freedom Summit, a regional conference dedicated to freedom of religion or belief, when Moroccan authorities intercepted him at immigration control.

According to reports by Moroccan news outlet Yabiladi and Asian News International (ANI), Isa was subjected to secondary screening and detained for approximately 15 hours overnight with little explanation before being placed on a flight back to Germany. Moroccan immigration officials handed Isa an official notice from the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of National Security stating that a decision prohibiting his entry into Moroccan territory was active against him.

The World Uyghur Congress strongly condemned the action, describing it as part of a alarming, broader pattern of transnational repression targeting Uyghur human rights defenders. Responding to his entry denial, Isa stated, "I believed I would be able to travel to Morocco to attend a religious freedom conference without difficulty, but once again I was proved wrong," as quoted in the WUC press release reported by ANI.

This incident follows previous actions by Moroccan authorities against Uyghur activists. In July 2021, Moroccan authorities

arrested Uyghur activist Idris Hasan (also known as Yidiresi Aishan) at Casablanca's airport based on an Interpol Red Notice issued at China's request, which accused him of terrorism due to his civil rights work. Although Interpol cancelled the notice in August 2021, a Moroccan court approved his extradition to China in December 2021. After spending 43 months in detention, Moroccan authorities finally released Idris Hasan on February 12, 2025, allowing him to resettle in the United States two days later.

As highlighted in ANI's report, the WUC pointed out that an Interpol Red Notice issued against Dolkun Isa in 1997—based on allegations submitted by Beijing—was similarly deleted in 2018 following years of advocacy by human rights lawyers and international organizations. Despite its cancellation, the persistent consequences of Beijing's political lobbying continue to obstruct his international travel. Over the years, Isa has faced visa cancellations, entry denials, questioning, and detentions in several nations, including South Korea, India, and Türkiye, and was previously barred from entering United Nations premises in New York and Geneva during accredited meetings.

The WUC noted that the timing of this recent deportation is particularly concerning, coming just weeks after Article 63 of China's new Ethnic Unity Law came into force. Although there is no public proof that Moroccan officials acted directly under Chinese legislation, human rights advocates highlight that Isa's detention demonstrates the urgent need

for international governments to reject Beijing's attempts to export politically motivated repression beyond its borders.

In its official statement cited by both Yabiladi and ANI, the WUC demanded that the Moroccan government provide a clear explanation for Isa's detention, clarify whether the decision was influenced by Chinese pressure or outdated security data, and remove any politically motivated records against him. Furthermore, the organization called on Germany, the European Union, the United Nations, and global human rights organizations to urgently raise the matter with Moroccan authorities and establish robust protections for Uyghur activists facing transnational repression.

Trade and impending trade delegations. By consistently providing civil servants and trade envoys with empirical evidence of forced labor in East Turkistan, we can

ensure full compliance with Parliament's directives.

Throughout our deliberations, Stephan van Baarle and the leadership of the Denk party demonstrated a profound understanding of our community's pursuit of accountability, receiving our expressions of gratitude with deep sincerity.

These twin political resolutions represent a severe blow to Beijing's coercive policies. Our primary objective now is to transform this spark of accountability lit in the Netherlands into a broader European movement, systematically dismantling the infrastructure of oppression.

Abdurehim Gheni Uyghur

Abdurehim Gheni is a Uyghur activist living in the Netherlands who became famous for his solo protests in Dam Square in Amsterdam. He also educates tourists to the reality of the Uyghur genocide.



#Uyghur Genocide



**JULY 28:
REMEMBERING THE
YARKENT MASSACRE**

Silence, disappearances, and the erasure of evidence followed the 2014 military assault on Uyghur civilians.

On July 28, 2014, the authorities of the People's Republic of China carried out one of the bloodiest mass killings of Uyghurs in recent history in Yarkent (also spelled Yarkand) County, in the Uyghur region. The violence unfolded in Elishqu Township and surrounding villages, an area whose population is overwhelmingly Uyghur, estimated locally at more than 99 percent.

For the PRC, it was a "terrorist attack." For Uyghurs, it was the Yarkent Massacre: a military assault on a largely unarmed population, followed by a communications blackout, mass arrests, disappearances, and the suppression of every attempt to learn how many people were killed and where their bodies were taken.

Twelve years later, the full truth remains

hidden. This is not because there are no witnesses, survivors, or families searching for answers. It is because the authorities who carried out the crackdown also monopolized the crime scene, the records, the media, the roads, and the bodies.

Six years ago, I conducted a direct interview with a Uyghur man who was in Yarkent at the time and had close knowledge of the area. For his protection, I refer to him here as "Hajim." His account is one of many fragments of testimony preserved by Uyghurs despite extraordinary fear and censorship. It does not replace the independent investigation that has never been allowed. It offers a crucial account of what the PRC has tried to erase.

The events took place at the end of Ramadan, when Uyghurs were already living under severe restrictions on religious life. Prayer, fasting, Quranic study, religious



The Spot of July 28 Severe Terrorist Attack in Shache County
 莎车“7·28”严重暴力恐怖袭击案现场

dress, and ordinary gatherings could be treated by the authorities as signs of “extremism.”

According to Hajim, a group of Uyghur women had gathered for prayer and recitation during the final nights of Ramadan. Their crying and prayers were heard outside. The authorities then took the women away. When their husbands and relatives went to ask where they had been taken and to demand their release, they were met with hostility.

Other contemporary Uyghur accounts described an even more horrific trigger: the killing of a Uyghur family during a police search, and the subsequent gathering of local people to protest state violence and restrictions imposed during Ramadan.

The World Uyghur Congress has likewise stated that the protests followed the killing of a Uyghur family of five during a police operation.

The Chinese propaganda version: “terrorist attacks.”

The precise sequence of every death and confrontation requires an independent investigation. The underlying cause was the accumulation of years of religious repression, arbitrary searches, humiliating policing, and the systematic denial of Uyghurs’ dignity.

When a people are treated as suspicious for praying, fasting, mourning, or asking where their wives and children have been taken, protest becomes an expression of a society pushed beyond endurance.



The PRC's official account claimed that a "premeditated terrorist group" attacked government offices, police stations, and vehicles. It announced that 37 civilians were killed, 59 alleged attackers were shot dead, and 215 people were arrested.

Yet the authorities never made public a complete and independently verifiable list of the dead. They did not disclose where each person was killed, whether those killed by security forces had posed an imminent threat, or how many people died during the subsequent village raids and searches. They did not permit independent journalists, investigators, or international human rights monitors to examine the scene.

What is crucial is that the Uyghurs in Elishqu were confronting the armed machinery of the PRC state: police, armed police, special forces, military units, armored vehicles, and, according to local testimony, helicopters and tanks.

Uyghurs did not have an army, independent media, courts capable of protecting them, or peaceful political institutions through which to demand justice. In such conditions, their ability to express dissent was already reduced to words, prayer, refusal, protest, and physical resistance.

Across the world, people have the right to resist unlawful repression and to protest against state violence. A state cannot transform every expression of Uyghur grievance into "international terrorism" simply by invoking Islam, "separatism," or alleged overseas connections. While every civilian life is precious, the PRC has never

provided an independently verifiable account of its alleged civilian casualties. It has used such unverified claims to obscure the central fact of Yarkent: the overwhelming force in this confrontation came from heavily armed state units deployed against local Uyghur residents.

The central question is why the PRC responded to a Uyghur population's grievances with overwhelming military force, collective punishment, and silence.

The official death toll of 96 has never been credible to many Uyghurs from the area. Local testimony, overseas Uyghur organizations, and media reports indicated that the real number of dead may have been far higher.

Radio Free Asia reported at the time that the World Uyghur Congress had received accounts suggesting that at least 2,000 Uyghurs may have been killed. Other Uyghur sources estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 people were killed or disappeared. Hajim estimated that around 3,000 people from several villages may have died.

These figures cannot be independently confirmed today because the PRC imposed a blackout and has never allowed an investigation. The absence of verification cannot be used to validate the official version. The authorities cut internet and mobile communications, sealed roads, deployed armed forces, and prevented outside access. They created the conditions in which the truth could not be counted. The question is therefore not only how many people died. It is why the PRC has

refused, for twelve years, to disclose the names of all those killed and disappeared.

Hajim also described widespread local reports that bodies were secretly transported away after the crackdown. Some people believed that the dead were buried near old kiln sites; others believed that they were taken to the southern new urban area of Yarkent, where bodies may have been placed in farmland or construction zones and covered over.

These allegations require forensic and international investigation. Their persistence reflects a devastating reality: many families never received bodies, official notices, or graves to visit.

For Uyghurs, this is not a minor detail. Burial is an essential act of faith, dignity, and family responsibility. To deny families the right to know where their loved ones are buried extends the violence beyond death. It leaves relatives trapped between grief and uncertainty, unable to mourn, unable to seek justice, and unable even to say goodbye.

The Yarkent Massacre was not an isolated event. It was a warning of what would soon unfold across the Uyghur region.

After Yarkent, religious identity became even more dangerous. Titles such as imam, hajji, and qari, once signs of respect, became markers that could invite surveillance, detention, or imprisonment. People



who had prayed, traveled abroad, held passports, studied religion, or maintained family ties outside the region increasingly became targets.

The mass internment campaign that intensified after 2017 did not emerge suddenly. Yarkent had already shown the logic of the system: first criminalize Uyghur identity and religious life; then treat dissent as extremism; then use “counterterrorism” to justify mass punishment; finally, conceal the victims.

The PRC’s repression of Uyghurs is not made lawful by its vocabulary. Calling a massacre “counterterrorism” does not make it counterterrorism. Calling a community of civilians, who had no army, no military-grade weapons, no political representation, and no access to justice, “extremist” cannot erase the state violence inflicted upon it.

On each anniversary of July 28, Uyghurs remember not merely a disputed number,

but people: women who were taken away, men who went to ask questions and did not return, elders who searched for grandchildren, families who were left without graves, and entire villages forced into silence.

The PRC authorities must disclose the names and fate of every person killed, disappeared, detained, or imprisoned in connection with the Yarkent Massacre. They must reveal the locations of all burial sites, release relevant records, and allow an independent international investigation.

The world should not accept the PRC’s “terrorism” label as a substitute for evidence. It should ask why the authorities sealed the area, cut communications, blocked scrutiny, and still refuse to account for the dead.

The blood of Yarkent was not erased when the roads reopened. It was only hidden.

And Uyghurs will continue to remember.



References

<https://www.turkistanpress.com>

<https://turkistantimes.com/>



CBC News identified the Canadian intern arrested in Belgium on suspicion of NATO espionage as Biwei Zhang, a systems engineer who previously worked for the Canadian Space Agency and Statistics Canada, using open-source techniques to confirm her identity despite Belgian courts withholding it. Belgium says she'll remain in custody for at least another month, while Canada's Public Safety Minister has pledged to review her history with federal agencies.

Make this more very short brief



A brief scene in the Turkish drama “Mehmed: Fetihler Sultani” depicting Uyghur oppression under China triggered a Chinese pressure campaign, using a supposed Uyghur complainant to demand apologies and edits from TRT and producers, despite Turkish shows being entirely banned in East Turkistan, making the complainant’s premise absurd. The production team rejected the demand, with producer Eyüp Gökhan Özekin vowing to make similar content again and calling East Turkistan “the orphan of the Ummah.”



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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Graphic Design Radwa Adel

Editor Radwa Adel

Caricature Radwa Adel

Editorial Board East Turkistan Press And Media Association

Publication Type Monthly Journal

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