

To whom it may concern,

What follows is public testimony data exported from the Xinjiang Victims Database (shahit.biz) on Sun, 25 Sep 2022 00:52:02 +0000.

A total of 21 victims with the following criteria is considered:

Quality: Tier 1

Detention reason: related to going abroad

With official detention reasons only

The vast majority of testimonies presented come with supplementary materials - video, audio, pictures, and documents - the links to which are included here and which also may be consulted by accessing the testimonies via the original interface at [www.shahit.biz](http://www.shahit.biz).

In compiling this information, all efforts have been made to faithfully and accurately convey that which has been put forth by the testifier. In many cases, the information was imported from public sources. In others, it was submitted to us directly by the testifier.

Despite our best efforts and most professional intentions, it is inevitable that some human error is nevertheless present. Many testimonies were inputted by non-native English speakers and still require proofreading. Finally, the majority of these testimonies have not gone through rigorous corroboration and as such should not be treated as fact. We hereby leave the way in which this data will be used to the reader's discretion.

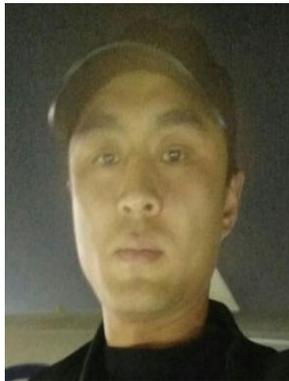
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in Urdu script, written in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be the name 'Shahit Biz' or similar, written in a cursive style.

the shahit.biz team

## 7. Mural Muqan (木拉勒·木汗)

Chinese ID: 65432619880405003X (Jeminey)



### Basic info

Age: 31

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: Jan. 2018 - Mar. 2018

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | phone/computer, related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: engineer

### Testifying party (\* direct submission)

Testimony 1\*: "Azat Erkin", a Kazakh web activist. (friend)

Testimony 2: CNLC representative, an employee (likely manager) at the China National Logging Corporation (Kazakhstan branch). (colleague)

Testimony 3\* | 5\*: "Azat Erkin", as reported by Gene A. Bunin. (friend)

Testimony 4\*: Anonymous, as reported by Mehmet Volkan Kaşıkçı. (friend)

Testimony 6: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Mural Muqan was a mid-level well-logging engineer at the Aktau branch of the China National Logging Corporation (CNLC) in Kazakhstan. He obtained his degree at the Xi'an Petroleum University, and was fluent in Kazakh, Mandarin, and Russian (and also knew some English).

He was hired as a well-logger at CNLC in 2013, working in the Aktau and Akchubin oil fields. He obtained an independent post in the shortest time possible, something which brought the company significant profits. He is described as a diligent worker and friendly/kind to colleagues, in addition to being a responsible engineer.

In 2016, he got married, and the couple now have a small daughter. He has a brother, Murat {8}. Mural and Murat's parents are said to suffer from several health issues.

Green card serial number: 026384279. Green card ID number: 880405399082. Chinese passport number: E00162972.

### Current location

In Kazakhstan.

## **Chronology of detention(s)**

The last time prior to detention that his colleagues in Kazakhstan saw him was on December 25, 2017, at a New Year's Gala organized by CNLC in Almaty. He traveled to China on personal business after the event.

According to Azat Erkin, he was detained on March 25, 2018 (at 9:00 PM) - the time of a WeChat post showing his "last time cooking at home" - and later transferred to "prison" [unclear if this may have been camp or police custody].

In early January 2019, he was said to have been released, with a recording of a video call from him and Murat surfacing online. According to Azat Erkin, he would have to stay another month in China before being allowed to return to Kazakhstan. In late 2019, Azat Erkin reported that Mural had returned.

## **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

Azat Erkin reports that he was charged with using an illegal visa to go abroad twice (adding that this doesn't make sense as Mural has a Kazakhstan green card and doesn't need a visa).

According to Azat Erkin and as suggested by the CNLC in their letter vouching for the victim, Mural was detained for having foreign applications (e.g., WhatsApp) on his phone.

Azat notes that Mural has never participated in extremism, separatism, or terrorism, nor has he engaged in politics or religious activities. Nor has he disclosed state secrets for either of the two countries (China and Kazakhstan).

## **Last reported status**

Released and back in Kazakhstan.

## **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

Azat Erkin got this information from friends. Mehmet Volkan also said that he heard about the release from friends of the victim.

CNLC presumably learned about the detention by virtue of being the victim's employer. That he had been released was also confirmed by the victim's own video call.

## **Additional information**

He was briefly mentioned in the Foreign Policy piece talking about releases:  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/18/detainees-are-trickling-out-of-xinjiangs-camps/>

Police records mention him going through a police check on May 23, 2017 in Urumqi (and again on August 31, 2018), being deemed "completely normal" (一切正常), and allowed to move on (放行).

Translation of the CNLC proof of employment, written in the victim's defense after his detention:

CNLC Technology Service Co., Ltd [may not be the company's official English name]

## Kazakhstan Worksite Well-exploration Party Work Committee

### Proof of Employment:

Mural Muqan, male, born on April 5, 1988. Identification number: 65432619880405003X. Passport number: E00162972.

Muqan works for our company in Kazakhstan as project personnel. He has been employed at our company since October 2013. He has served as a well-exploration engineer at the oilfields in Zhanarol and Aktau. Food and lodging are arranged by the company at the oilfields, where a quasi-military management system is implemented. He is unable to leave the worksite during leisure time. The work site is a first-line oilfield.

Other job descriptions: According to Party A's work requirements, the team will carry out well-logging, perforation, and other technical work as well as perform routine equipment maintenance as needed by the company.

### Primary work experience since joining the company:

1. 2013: Joined the company in January and sent overseas and to Kazakhstan for work. Previously, held an internship and learned technical skills at Aktau NB base.
2. 2014-2015: Worked briefly at Zhanarol to fill personnel shortages.
3. 2015-present: Worked at Aktau NB. During this period, he participated in several training programs organized by the company. Meanwhile, he helped the company establish production and profit. As such, he has already become an important technician with the program's first-line production.

Well-logging technicians are always on the move (车轮上). Traveling to and from the oilfield base to the frontline wells can take 4-10 hours and each shift lasts between 4 and 8 hours. According to Party A's on-call requirements, there is no difference between day and night or summer and winter. Conditions on the frontline can be grueling, therefore frontline engineers work in shifts. Generally, every two months, the company purchases round-trip flights to Urumqi. Trips between the oilfield base and airport are facilitated by a company car. Several trips are made each year. When the company faces a shortage of temporary workers, it can result in longer shifts. As for daily communication, the company provides local phone cards; however because [Kazakhstan] does not use WeChat, QQ, etc., workers will occasionally use Whatsapp and similar communication software for communication. During his employment, Mural Muqan strictly observed the company's rules and regulations, worked hard, established comradery, and exhibited excellence in every [work] aspect. We hereby declare these statements are true to the best of our knowledge.

Respectfully,

CNLC Technology Service Co., Ltd  
Kazakhstan Worksite Well-exploration Party Work Committee  
July 11, 2018

### **Victims among relatives**

Murat Muqan (8)

## Supplementary materials

Testimony 2 (1): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_1.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_1.jpg)

Testimony 2 (2): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_2.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_2.jpg)

Testimony 2 (3): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_3.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_3.jpg)

KZ residence card: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_4.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_4.jpg)

photo (1): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_5.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_5.jpeg)

photo (2): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_6.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_6.jpeg)

photo (3): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_7.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_7.jpeg)

photo (4): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_8.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_8.jpeg)

photo (5): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_9.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_9.jpeg)

"last time cooking at home": [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_10.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_10.jpg)

train ticket (2016): [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_11.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_11.jpeg)

video after release: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7\\_12.mp4](https://shahit.biz/supp/7_12.mp4)

Entry created: 2018-09-24

Last updated: 2021-06-15

Latest status update: 2019-09-09

## 198. Zhalyyn Muqiat

Chinese ID: 65422319950625??O? (Shawan)



### Basic info

Age: 25

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: ---

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: has problems

Profession: manual work

### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 4: Gulbarshyn Muqiat, born in 2006, is a citizen of Kazakhstan. (sister)

Testimony 2 | 5: Baqytgul Aqan, born in 1971, is a Kazakhstan citizen. (mother)

Testimony 3 | 6: Muqiat Abiken, born in 1971, is a citizen of Kazakhstan. (father)

Testimony 7: Zhalyyn Muqiat, born in 1995, is now a citizen of Kazakhstan. He is a survivor of the mass incarcerations in Xinjiang, having spent 11 months at a camp in Shawan County. (the victim)

### About the victim

Zhalyyn Muqiat is a naturalized Kazakhstan citizen. He appears to have done manual labor for a living, and was working loading goods at the Korgas International Center for Boundary Cooperation at the time of his arrest.

Address in China: Aqzhar Village, Bortungi Livestock Farm, Shawan County, Tacheng Prefecture (塔城地区沙湾县博尔通古牧场阿克加尔村).

### Current location

In Kazakhstan.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Early testimonies from his sister and parents conflict only slightly with Zhalyyn's own account, saying that he went to China in June-July 2017 and had his documents confiscated. He had already applied for Kazakhstan citizenship by then (with the application approved as of October 2018). According to his relatives, he was arrested on November 27-28, 2017 and sent to camp.

According to Zhalyyn himself, the arrest actually took place about 10 days later, as on December 6, 2017 he was contacted by local officials from his village while working at the Korgas International Center for Boundary Cooperation. They told him that they had arrived in Korgas and wanted to see him the next

day. Upon meeting, they told him that they needed him to return to the village (Aqzhar) with them, and that doing so would help him get his passport returned to him, eventually allowing him to go back to Kazakhstan. However, upon returning to the village in the evening on December 7, he was taken to a police station, where he was made to sign a form and was then taken for a medical examination, before being put in the camp on the edge of the Shawan municipality [presumably Sandaohezi], which he said used to be a "prison", with a sign saying as much. He was taken to a room on the third floor. [Judging by his description, this is almost certainly the camp just to the west of the pre-trial and administrative detention centers on the western side of Old Shawan Road.]

He would be there until August or September of 2018, when he was transferred to a new converted camp that had previously been part of the Shawan No. 1 Middle School [now the No. 5 middle school]. On November 23, 2018, he would be released and transferred to his village for village surveillance, which would last 6 months, at which point they told him that he could go look for work.

On May 15, 2019, he was suddenly contacted by the head of the village, who summoned him and told him to go to the Bortungi Farm police station. He was told to pack his clothes and was then put into a car with someone else who had been summoned the same way he had. Both men were taken to Korgas and allowed to leave for Kazakhstan.

### **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

According to Zhalyu, the authorities focused mostly on his having gone to Kazakhstan, and had told him and others who had that they had been to one of the "26 dangerous countries".

### **Last reported status**

Released and back in Kazakhstan.

He has been having kidney problems ever since being kicked in the kidney by a soldier at the second camp he was at, and has said that doctors in Kazakhstan have told him that he needs surgery, as both kidneys now have issues. He cannot strain his body very much physically, and cannot do heavy labor.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The original information regarding Zhalyu's disappearance was obtained from acquaintances.

Zhalyu's testimony is an eyewitness account.

### **Additional information**

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### **Eyewitness account**

[The following is a translated transcript of the interview between Bekzat Maqsuthan from the Atajurt Kazakh Human Rights organization and Zhalyu Muqiat, who spent 11 months at a camp in Shawan County. It was done in Kazakhstan in the fall of 2020.]

Bekzat Maqsuthan: When did you arrive in Kazakhstan?

Zhalyn Muqiat: May 15, 2019. Originally, I was born in Shawan County of the Tacheng Region, in the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture. The first time [when the police contacted me], I was working in Korgas. It was in the winter.

B: At the Cooperation Trade Zone?

Z: Yes. The heads of the village and the [Party] secretaries contacted me. "Where are you working?" they asked. "What are you doing? Where are you?" I told them that I was working in Korgas, loading goods. Then one night they called and said: "We're here in Korgas, where are you?" Then, they asked: "We wanted to meet you in the morning. Do you have time? We want to have an interview with you." They told me that they wanted to ask about my wellbeing.

...

They called me in the early morning and told me to come to a certain place. I went there. Then, the work group, who were travelling in a car, told me to take them to my place – they said that they wanted to take pictures there and to send it to the upper-level officials. I agreed and took them to the apartment I was renting. They asked about my situation and told me that I would go with them to Shawan County to sign a document. I was having difficulties getting my passport, and they said that they would return it to me, step by step, and would then see me off to Kazakhstan. I agreed. I didn't think more of it and went there, on December 7, 2017.

We set out in the morning and arrived in the evening, with them bringing me directly to the police station, where they asked me to sign a paper. After signing the first page, I started to wonder what it was and why I was signing it, and asked to have a look at the second page. "Don't look at it, just sign!" they shouted. I signed, never suspecting that I would be taken to a camp. They then told me to get into a car. It was around 11 at night.

They proceeded to take me to a local hospital in the county, examining me to see if I had any diseases. Before putting someone in camp, they would get the paperwork from the hospital to make sure if the person was healthy or not, and whether they could transmit any diseases. They would assign people to different rooms based on the medical results.

So they took me to the hospital, and got the results of the blood test. The village police took me there. I wouldn't think anything of it until I ended up at the camp.

I was healthy. They had checked everything. We arrived at the camp, and I got out of the car. They handcuffed me. I asked them why they were handcuffing me, to which they told me that I'd know soon. That's what the policeman from our village said. He was Kazakh. I asked him why I was being taken to that place, to which he said that I shouldn't talk too much and just follow him. I then realized that the place used to be prison [presumably, pre-trial detention center]. It was written on there. It's located at the edge of the Shawan municipality. It used to be a prison.

Once we entered, they immediately took off my clothes and did an inspection. They took my phone and any other belongings in my pockets, and gave me slippers. Took off the buttons and other things from my clothes, then gave me slippers and took me inside. The village police left without saying anything, while I was taken to a room on the third floor, as there was space there.

I couldn't sleep at all. There was one guy who was standing, and I asked him why he was standing. "I'm guarding you," he said. I didn't say anything. At 6 o'clock in the morning, the guy next to me told me to

guard. I didn't know anything, and asked how long I'd need to guard for. For an hour, he said. This was in the room where we slept. They were afraid that the people there might try to do something.

All of us had breakfast in that same room. It was less than 20 square meters, maybe. There were 9 people at the beginning.

They started calling people [for questioning, presumably]. There weren't so many of us. For 2-3 days, nobody questioned me. I asked the others why they ended up there and why they were detained. There was a young guy who was 18, an Uyghur guy, who ended up there for reading the Quran as a kid, and for being a "wild imam" [an imam not sanctioned by the government].

Only after a week did they come and ask me if I knew the reason for my detention. They asked me. How would I know? I hadn't committed any crime, so why was I detained? They told me that I had visited Kazakhstan.

I had visited Kazakhstan, a maximum of 7-8 times, going back and forth.

Yes, that's what I was guilty of. I said that all of my family lived in Kazakhstan and that I didn't have a house there in Xinjiang. They told me that I would be released soon. After that, a Kazakh guy – a policeman – came. His name was Ualihan. He hates people who have been to Kazakhstan.

B: What does he do?

Z: He's a policeman. He asked me if there were any Kazakhs [in my cell]. I was the only Kazakh back then. I said so. Then he asked me to stand up. When I stood up, he asked: "Do you know why you are here?" I said I knew... [correcting himself] No, I said, I didn't know. Then he asked me where I had been. I said that I had been to Kazakhstan. He said that my brain needed cleaning, adding: "We don't know if you've been in contact with terrorists there. That's why we need to investigate."

Days passed. A few other guys were brought into my room. The number of people in the room increased, reaching 25. There were triple bunk beds, six in total. Five people would have to stand, and we would take turns sleeping. [Because of the shortage of beds,] three people would have to stand guard each time. After three months, they said that our brains needed cleaning and that we needed to study. They said we needed to know the law and discipline. They said that we didn't know anything, and started by teaching us the lessons intended for first graders.

B: What did they teach?

Z: Chinese characters. Later, they'd keep us in a room and teach us there.

B: Did you learn anything?

Z: There was no choice but to learn. At the beginning, they said that if we abided by the rules, we would be released once our knowledge and level were higher. We learned characters every day. They taught us 20 characters a day.

For breakfast there, we had a steamed bun and vegetables. For lunch, we'd have rice.

B: Just rice? Was there anything else?

Z: There was. It wasn't just rice. We were there for about 8 months. No, 9 months.

B: About how many people were there?

Z: About three thousand, if I had to guess. Numbers-wise, Han were the fewest, with the majority being Uyghur and Hui. Kazakhs were the third largest group.

B: There is a mix of ethnicities in Shawan, right?

Z: There are lots of Uyghurs. We were there for 8-9 months.

There were no other ethnicities [other than the ones mentioned above]. Just the three main ethnicities, and a few Han. We were there for about 9 months. In one prison. Later, because of the lack of space, we were transferred to the former No. 1 middle school, which had been transformed into a prison [camp]. It used to be a Han school. We were all transferred there in a single day. All the soldiers were mobilized, and they put black bags over our heads. Our hands were shackled. There was a policeman next to each one of us, and would take us up into the bus.

B: You didn't know where you were?

Z: We didn't. We only saw the place we had arrived at once we were taken inside and the hoods were removed. They didn't tell us [where we were]. There was a 5-story building for men, and a 4-story building for women. Opposite to each other.

B: Was it bigger than that other one?

Z: Yes, it was bigger.

B: Bigger than the 3000 one?

Z: That place had gotten too crowded, so we were moved to the second place. There hadn't been any vocational skills training. They said at first that there would be vocational training, but there wasn't anything like that there. That would only be prepared at the No. 1 middle school.

B: Was this in August-September 2018?

Z: Yes, August-September.

B: ..... What did they teach?

Z: They said that we would learn until we gradually reached the stage of learning vocational skills. Again we were taught Chinese. They didn't teach us anything else.

B: But they told you that they would teach [the vocational skills]?

Z: Yes. When you reach that level, you'll be able to start training, they said. They also said that we would get a salary once that started. We stayed there for two months, and then they started questioning us.

B: In October?

Z: Around October. They would question each of us individually. They would ask: "How are your studies? Are you against studying at this school? We're opening up your mind. What's your opinion of the

government?" And we'd answer. Then they'd ask if I would leave to go to Kazakhstan. I'd say that I absolutely would leave.

B: You said that you would leave?

Z: Yes. My parents were there. Why couldn't I go? They would ask such questions and then let you go. This would happen two or three times.

B: Would they say that some people were appealing?

Z: No, they wouldn't. We heard about it only after being released. At the camp, if you misbehaved, they would shackle you and take you downstairs, to beat you up.

B: Did that happen to you?

Z: It did. They would tie your legs and hands to the chair.

B: Would they use hanging [to torture you] after taking you to the underground place?

Z: Yes. They also wouldn't give you anything to eat. You would be there for 24 hours. They would tie you to the tiger chair.

B: They would tie your hands, lower back, and legs, and you would sit there?

Z: Yes.

B: One day and one night?

Z: One day and one night. It happened not long after we were taken to the new school. We were on our way to the classroom, walking inside the lines. You couldn't be outside the lines.

B: Was there a line leading to the place where you studied?

Z: Yes. We studied on the third floor. The classroom was at the end. 20-25 students would be in there studying. That was the largest number they would teach. We were walking. We weren't allowed to talk in the hall, but I was careless and talked, and they made me sit. They told me to put my hands on my head and sit.

B: Can you show how?

Z: I sat like this. [demonstrates]

B: Did they tell you to sit like this?

Z: Yes. I sat facing the wall. During that time, someone kicked me where my kidney was. It was a soldier. He was from the army.

B: What kinds of clothes was he wearing?

Z: His uniform was different from what the other people at the camp were wearing. He was from the army. A special person.

B: Not a policeman?

Z: No, he was from the army. They're said to have bad characters. He kicked me and I fell.

B: Kicked you where your kidney was?

Z: Yes. He also said to take me downstairs. So, I was taken downstairs. It didn't hurt then.

B: To the underground floor?

Z: Yes. Again, I was seated, in a chair. 10 or 15 minutes later, it started to hurt. The place where my kidney was started to hurt a lot. There was a policeman next to me, and I told him. He said that they would call a doctor to come. Then the doctor arrived.

B: Which kidney?

Z: The one on the right side. They then gave me some round-shaped medicine, and told me to take it so that the pain stopped. I took it and it worked for about 10 minutes, but then it started hurting again. I couldn't bear the pain and told them. There was an official who told them to take me to the bigger county hospital immediately for a check-up. So they put a black bag over my head, shackled my legs, handcuffed me, and took me to the hospital by car. I had an X-ray.

They were whispering something. Then they told me to stand farther away, outside the line. I stayed there and then they told me to go back with them. They said that it was nothing, and I would just need to take some medicine. They administered me the medicine once or twice, then took me back to the chair, where I would remain despite being sick.

B: You were seated in the tiger chair again?

Z: Yes. I sat there until next morning. They took me back to my room in the morning. Whenever I did something difficult or stretched, I felt the pain in that part. I would tell the doctor.

B: The inner part, or...?

Z: The inner part would hurt.

There were different people there, both old and young. Some of them would be sick.

B: How old were the oldest ones?

Z: I stayed with men who were as old as 80.

B: What were their transgressions?

Z: Mullahs... without a certificate.

B: Mullahs? Maybe they had read the Quran after someone passed away?

Z: Yes, and they had taught some students. They [camp staff] would bring some medicine to them. Old people rely on medicine, as without it they would have headaches and other problems. They need them

to be safe there. Who would take the responsibility if they died? I told the guys in charge of bringing medicine that my kidney was hurting. Somebody kicked me and now it's like this, I said. To which they said that they didn't have the authority, and that I would heal gradually. They gave me some medicine daily, but stopped giving it after a week. There were days when they tortured me, using different methods. They electrocuted me.

B: Why did they beat you?

Z: "Did you go to a mosque while you were in Kazakhstan? What do your relatives do?"

B: They beat you for that? To answer these questions?

Z: They told me to answer. If you said that you had gone to a mosque, you'd be given a year there. So I told them that I hadn't been to a mosque. I said I was a sheep herder. In October, they started questioning all the Kazakhs at the camp. Those who visited Kazakhstan were questioned separately. Mullahs were questioned separately.

B: In October 2018, right?

Z: Yes. Alcoholics and drug addicts were also questioned separately. Step by step. They locked up the people who had visited Kazakhstan in one place. Mullahs were locked up in another place. That's how they locked us up. Then later they asked us: after handing out a sheet of paper, they asked if we knew that we were being detained because of certain articles [of the penal code].

When we had just been detained, the Chinese told us that we had visited the 26 sensitive countries.

B: 26 dangerous countries?

Z: Dangerous countries.

B: One of the dangerous countries?

Z: One of them.

B: Kazakhstan was listed as a dangerous country?

Z: Yes. But later they didn't say that. That term disappeared. "Just check what you did while you were in Kazakhstan," they said. "We need to know the details."

B: So at the end, they stopped saying that Kazakhstan was one of the dangerous 26 terrorist countries?

Z: Yes. At the camp, there were lots of people who had visited Kazakhstan. So they said so. "You didn't come back to China on time." We had a green card, so for how long... They hadn't told us, in the beginning, for how long we could or could not stay. How many months we could stay, in which month we should return. They didn't even give us such papers. They said that we didn't come back on time as a means of evasion.

At around the end of October, they questioned us individually: "What have you learned in this learning environment? What have you learned? Politics?" We answered. Then they asked if I wanted to go back to Kazakhstan again. I said I did. So they said: "You'll need to keep what happened here a secret. Don't go public about it. Everything will stay here."

B: They told you not to say anything about the camps?

Z: Yes. "You'll be released soon," they said. We were happy. We thought we'd never leave.

B: That's what you thought in the beginning, right?

Z: Yes. In the beginning, they said it would be 5 to 10 years.

B: You thought you were being given a long prison term?

Z: Yes. Nobody asked [questions about it]. "You'll be released," they said, "but you'll have to control what you say. Don't tell anyone what you've seen and heard here. You'll be monitored after going there."

B: Did they say who would be monitoring you? They said that they'd be monitoring you in Kazakhstan?

Z: No, in our village. I was released on November 23. A person came from the village. One of my relatives came. They came and took me to the village directly. I was under village monitoring after going to the village.

B: By officials in the village?

Z: Yes, I stayed with them. I wasn't allowed to go anywhere else. "You'll be monitored for three months," they said. "If you fail, we'll take you back [to detention]." That's how they intimidated us. "You'll be working here," they said. "You can't go anywhere." We said okay. We obeyed. County-level officials would also come during this time. Whenever they came, they'd ask us about our wellbeing.

B: Did they ask about your health?

Z: No. At one point, my kidney started to hurt again. It was extremely painful. The village secretary was there and got scared. There was a farm there, and he immediately said that he would take me to the farm to get examined [presumably the Bortungi Livestock Farm, a township-level administrative unit]. He took me to the hospital that was at the village exit. There, the doctor told me that my diaphragm was damaged. He just checked it with his hands and said that this part might have been damaged. Gave me a patch for pain relief. Two days later, they called my uncle and told him that they should take me to the county hospital.

We went to the county hospital and had an examination. They said that everything was normal. When we showed our ID, they could tell that we had "studied". There is a "dot" in the document of those who had [unclear if a physical dot or a digital marker].

B: So they just lied?

Z: Yes. Many people weren't treated. It would hurt on and off. I stayed under village surveillance for about 6 months. Then after about 6 months they told me I could work. The head of the village said: "You can work and earn money." One day, while I was in the county seat looking for a job, I received a phone call. They ordered me to return to the village immediately.

I got scared again. They told me to come to the farm's police station. I got scared, wondering what I had done wrong this time. I was living in fear, and you'd be afraid whenever you traveled somewhere. When I got there, they said: "Get your clothes ready." They said it in exactly the same way as they had the first

time. The time I got detained.

I asked if everything was ok. They told me to pack my clothes and have them with me. I went to my grandparents' house and packed up my clothes. I was taken into a car, where there was another man who had been asked to do the same. I asked him what was going on and he replied that he didn't know. We realized only once we arrived at Korgas that we were going to Kazakhstan. It was May 15, 2019.

B: They took you there?

Z: Yes. They took us to the border and watched us as we crossed. On the Chinese side of the border, our passports were taken away and we waited for about an hour and a half. When we asked for our passports, they told us that they would return them soon. Later, a Kazakh guy came and returned our passports. "I hope you understand even without my saying anything," he said to us.

B: How did you understand that?

Z: It meant to keep our mouth shut after we crossed the border. We crossed the Chinese side and came to the Kazakh border. I arrived in Kazakhstan on May 15, 2019.

B: Were all the Kazakhs released at the same time that you were? Are there new detainees? What do you think?

Z: There were lots of detainees in 2017. In 2018, too. After all the appeals from here, the Kazakhs started being released.

B: Those who were appealed for got released, right? Did someone appeal on your behalf?

Z: My parents.

B: Is there anyone still in detention?

Z: I heard that the mullahs are still in camps. I heard that mullahs hadn't been released while I was there. Then I came here. My health started deteriorating. Whenever I do heavier work that's particularly physically demanding.

B: Related to your kidney?

Z: Yes.

B: Did you have a check-up?

Z: I did. I was told that both sides were swollen and needed an operation.

B: Both kidneys?

Z: Both.

B: What happened? You were assaulted on one side.

Z: Yes, kicked on one side. I think that, because the place where we slept was damp, it might have also had an effect. We also don't know what we ate.

B: Did you have any injections?

Z: No, I wasn't injected with anything, unless they did it while I was unconscious.

B: Pills?

Z: We would be given painkillers.

B: Nothing except the medicine for your kidney?

Z: Don't know.

B: They might have added something to your meals?

Z: Maybe.

B: How is your health now?

Z: My two kidneys hurt very much. I can't do heavy labor. I'm not in a good state. I've lost a year of my life. I've lost my health. I want to ask the international [organizations] if there will be any compensation from China. That's what I ask for.

B: You want compensation for your health?

Z: Yes.

B: We hope that international human rights organizations will help. What else do you want to say? Have you witnessed anyone else being beaten up or tortured? Could you hear such things?

Z: There were such incidents when I was taken underground. I could hear different voices. You didn't know what was going on. They would be kept in small rooms but the doors would be open. You couldn't see other people, but you could hear their voices.

B: Voices of those who were beaten up?

Z: Yes.

B: Screams?

Z: Yes.

B: Voices of those being tortured?

Z: Yes. You could hear it. It wasn't shown to you.

B: So those so-called "study centers" are, in fact, torture centers?

Z: Yes. They call them "learning centers", so why torture and shackle people there? You're supposed to be free there. But we would get up at 6 in the morning, finish our meals by 7, and then sit until the evening.

B: In your rooms?

Z: In our rooms.

B: How would you sit?

Z: We would have to sit straight, without moving, with our hands on our knees. On a stool. If you moved, you'd be ordered to stand. They could see it through the cameras. They could hear your voice. We weren't allowed to speak Kazakh.

B: Only Chinese?

Z: Chinese. You'd be taken downstairs if spoke Kazakh.

B: To be beaten?

Z: Yes. Old men would just keep silent as they could not speak [Chinese]. We experienced various hardships.

B: Were you at the camp for 11 months?

Z: Yes, 11 months.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKqW6uM82kQ>

### **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzlepzWFhiA>

Testimony 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZtPPyqLO3g>

Testimony 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvnDrEpQRm4>

Testimony 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhKVbH8KAKA>

Testimony 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjBW1qIzkMc>

Testimony 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm53nm00XiY>

Testimony 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKqW6uM82kQ>

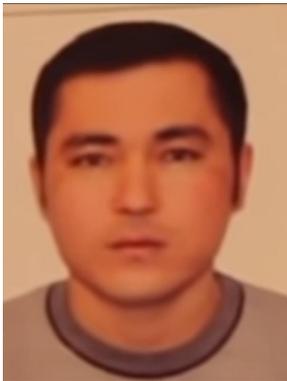
Entry created: 2018-10-25

Last updated: 2021-08-06

Latest status update: 2020-09-20

## 470. Nurlan Mizhit (努尔兰·米吉提)

Chinese ID: 652324198011303813 (Manas)



### Basic info

Age: 37

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: Changji

Status: unclear (hard)

When problems started: Apr. 2017 - June 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, phone/computer

Health status: ---

Profession: private business

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: Jamina Mijit, now a Kazakh citizen, first came to Kazakhstan in 2006. She has a business in Almaty. (sister)

Testimony 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Nurlan Mizhit had come to Kazakhstan in 2006 and had a catering business, obtaining Kazakhstan permanent residence in 2013.

ID address: House No. 25, No. 3 Company, No. 2 Field, Xinqu Farm, Manas County (玛纳斯县新湖二场3连25号).

Recent registration address: Apt. 601, Entrance No. 3, Building No. 7, Xishan Garden Residential Area (西山花苑小区七号楼三单元601室).

### Current location

[Presumably in Changji.]

### Chronology of detention(s)

He returned to Urumqi in May 2017, registering his home address as being at the Xishan Garden Residential Area. His household registration and Kazakhstan residence permit were both confiscated soon/immediately after his return, returned to him once, and then confiscated again.

On one morning in July 2017, he was arrested at his home by the Fangcaohu Reclamation Area Public Security Bureau National Security Brigade (芳草湖垦区公安局国保大队). Official police records note that he was taken to the Bingtuan No. 6 Division Vocational Skills Training Center (新疆生产建设兵团第六师职业技能培训中心) on August 12, 2017.

## Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

Taken to camp for going to one of the "26 countries" [presumably Kazakhstan] and for being targeted as "disconnected" in Operation 9.13 [using VPN, Zarya, or other apps to bypass the Great Firewall].

## Last reported status

In detention.

## How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation

Jamina does not say how she learned of the detention. The police records that confirm it come directly from Xinjiang police databases, however.

## Additional information

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## Police notes

Date: October 26, 2018

Unit: SY-200 Sunlight Police Substation, Huanwei Road Police Station, Saybagh District Division, Urumqi Public Security Bureau / 乌鲁木齐市公安局沙依巴克区分局环卫路派出所SY\_200阳光警务站

GPS: [43.801218](#), [87.54346](#)

Officer: Bayinkechi / 巴英克骑 (police ID: 019442)

我辖区居民通沙海·斯玛依勒（身份证:652324195504263828），其子努尔兰·米吉提（身份证:652324198011303813）因途径26国、9·13断通联的原因于2017年8月12日被新疆生产建设兵团第六师职业技能培训中心收教。

通沙海·斯玛依勒与其小女儿古丽娜尔·米吉提（身份证:652324198712025027）在我辖区西山西街2号7号楼3单元601号居住。现西山东街南社区将二人列为“三类人员家属”管理，均为严管严控人员。

Tangsahar Simaiyl (ID: 652324195504263828), a resident of our jurisdiction: her son, Nurlan Mizhit (ID: 652324198011303813) was taken for education by the Xinjiang Construction and Production Corps Sixth Division Vocational Skills & Training Center on August 12, 2017 for having gone to the 26 countries and for being disconnected in Operation 9.13.

Tangsahar Simaiyl lives with her younger daughter, Gulnar Mizhit (ID: 652324198712025027), in Apt. 601, Entrance No. 3, Building No. 7, 2 West Xishan Street in our jurisdiction. The East Xishan Street Neighborhood now lists and manages them as "relatives of three kinds individuals". They are both strict-management individuals.

## Victims among relatives

Togtar Osmangaly (469)

## Supplementary materials

Testimony 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3KTTKWXo2g>  
Chinese ID: [https://shahit.biz/supp/470\\_2.png](https://shahit.biz/supp/470_2.png)

Entry created: 2018-11-13

Last updated: 2021-10-24

Latest status update: 2018-10-26

## 1723. Gulzira Auelhan (古孜拉·阿瓦尔汗)

Chinese ID: 654124197906202286 (Tokkuztara)



### Basic info

Age: 39

Gender: F

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: July 2017 - Sep. 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: has problems

Profession: farmwork, herding

### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5: Tursynzhan Isanali, born in 1974, now a citizen of Kazakhstan. (husband)

Testimony 6 | 7: Gulzira Auelhan, a concentration camp survivor, now in Kazakhstan. (the victim)

Testimony 8: Gulzira Auelhan, as reported by Agence France-Presse. (the victim)

Testimony 9: Gulzira Auelhan, as reported by Globe and Mail. (the victim)

Testimony 10: Gulzira Auelhan, as reported by Apple Daily. (the victim)

Testimony 11: Gulzira Auelhan, as reported by Center for Strategic and International Studies. (the victim)

Testimony 12: Gulzira Auelhan, as reported by The Believer. (the victim)

### About the victim

Gulzira Auelhan is originally from Xinjiang's Ghulja County, coming from a family of cattle breeders. She moved to Kazakhstan with her family in 2014, where she and her husband would also do farmwork and herding, and is now a legal Kazakhstan resident.

Address in China: House No. 4-169, Group No. 4, Dolan Farm, Ghulja County, Xinjiang (新疆伊宁县多浪农场四队4-169号).

Kazakhstan ID: 790620000450.

### Current location

In Kazakhstan.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Gulzira was taken to a re-education camp a few days after her return to China in mid-late 2017 -

according to her husband, she was going back to bring her two [step-]daughters over to Kazakhstan, though in her interview to the Globe and Mail (and The Believer) she says it was to visit her ill father. Testimonies differ on when she actually returned, with her husband's initial testimony saying that she went back on July 15, 2017, while in her interview with the Globe and Mail the victim appears to report this as October 16, 2017. Most interviews with her, including her own eyewitness accounts, seem to suggest July 2017 as the correct time, however.

After being detained, she was first taken to a detention facility for 15 days of education. This would drag out into over a year, as she would be kept in various facilities - spending July-November of 2017 in one re-education camp, then being transfer to a former medical facility turned into a camp until July 2018, then spending July-August in a school converted to hold camp detainees, and then another few months at a fourth camp facility.

She was released on October 7, 2018 and allowed to spend about a week with her family, before being transferred to a factory. Again, there is some confusion about the actual date - both her husband and the victim to the Globe and Mail say that she spent about a week with her family before being sent to a factory, but both also say that the transfer took place in mid-late November.

According to her husband, she was allegedly forced to work for 600RMB/month (of which she only received 300) during her time at the factory. In a later account from Gulzira herself, she says that they could also be paid by efficiency, receiving 0.10RMB per pair of gloves sewed (with 600RMB as a guaranteed minimum). In late December, she and eight other women would be told to sign a one-year contract in late December, with the threat of being sent back to re-education if they did not. As a result, Gulzira contacted her husband in Kazakhstan, who then proceeded to go public about this [something that resulted in Radio Free Asia covering the story and at least one major Western outlet calling the factory to inquire].

On December 29, 2018, she was taken by police for interrogation in a dark room [likely as a result of her husband's actions], staying there overnight and being released to her father's house the next day. On January 5, 2019, she was allowed to return to Kazakhstan.

### **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

According to the victim as reported by both CSIS and The Believer, the police at the first detention facility where she was held accused her of having visited one of the "26 sensitive countries" and of having been exposed to "foreign thought".

### **Last reported status**

She is now back in Kazakhstan and reunited with her husband and daughter.

She has been suffering from various health issues as a result of her detention.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

Gulzira's is an eyewitness account.

Some of the information that her husband relayed earlier he also obtained directly from Gulzira, being in direct contact with her while she was at the factory.

## Additional information

The victim's brother-in-law (her husband's brother) had previously spent three months in camp in 2018, and was released to go work as a security guard (保安) for 1600RMB/month (though, as of December 2018, they still hadn't paid him).

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A short summary of Gulzira's eyewitness account:

She spent a year and 7 months in the camp and a factory.

She started having medical check-ups two days ago (as of January 30, 2019), because she's been having headaches and nausea. The result showed that she has pancreatitis and kidney problems. According to her, the inmates in the camp were given only two minutes for going to the toilet. If you spent more than that, they hit you on the head with an electric baton.

They had to study Chinese the whole day [another interview with her alleges that inmates had to learn 3000 Chinese characters], and the inmates were handcuffed when they did something wrong and when they were transferred from one building to the other.

They originally stayed at the No. 4 High School in Yining County, then were transferred to another building at the Yining County's Zhongyi [中医, traditional Chinese medicine] Hospital.

In the beginning, the inmates were given books in their languages, but later all these were taken away, leaving only the Chinese-language books. They were required to speak Chinese with each other and to read only in Chinese.

There was a "strange" policy allowing married inmates to meet their spouses for two hours in a separate room, without interruption. However, the husband had to pay 20 RMB and needed to bring a clean bedsheet with him. The woman had to take a pill before entering the room.

When Gulzira was in a factory, they were told that they would be paid according to their efficiency, or ten Chinese cents (角) per pair of gloves produced. The most skilled worker could sew 60 pairs a day, which would total to 6RMB/day. Gulzira tried her best but could only sew 13 pairs.

She also mentioned the camps as being split into 4 levels - she was in the lightest.

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A summary of Gulzira's longer eyewitness account:

They wore uniforms in camp. When she said she was living in Kazakhstan and her husband and children are in Kazakhstan, the head of the camp told her off, saying they hadn't told her to go there, that she had gone herself and was a Chinese citizen, and should never say "Kazakhstan" again. There was a military discipline in the camp. Inmates couldn't cry. If you did you'd be considered to be infected with wrong thoughts and have to sit on a hard chair for 14 hours (7:00-21:00), or you could be transferred to another camp where the rules were even stricter.

There was no freedom at all in the camp. They put you in different cells, where the number of inmates

varied from 18 to 60. They tried to not let two Kazakhs be in the same cell. So, she usually stayed with Uyghurs and also had to stay with 17 Han, who were detained for their beliefs (possibly, they were Christians or Falungong). When entering the camp, they had to have their hair cut short, in addition to having an anti-flu injection that cost 250RMB. After two months, they also had a blood test, for reasons unknown.

Gulzira was supposedly detained because she had visited one of the 26 dangerous countries and had watched foreign movies where people wore hijabs, especially in Turkish TV series. She later found out that she ended up there because the head of the Dadui in her village, Hamit, had signed a contract with the re-education camp that she would be educated from July 18, 2017 to July 18, 2018 and was awarded 5000RMB for his "contribution".

After being released from the camp she was forcefully sent to a factory. Although they promised to pay 600RMB per month, she only got paid 300RMB upon her release after a month and half. There was Chinese study in both the camp and the factory. "Workers" who spoke fluent Chinese were encouraged to go to the factories in inner China, which is where one of her relatives ended up going. The ages of inmates in the camps ranged from 17 to 72. After being in a camp, your ID card would ring whenever you went through metal detectors and they'd take you to the police station to be interrogated, making it impossible to be free after being released from camp because of the omnipresent surveillance.

All Kazakhs' passports were taken by the local authorities, and in some villages even the bank cards of retirees have now been confiscated by the local government bodies. You need to go to their office to get your pension, where you tell them your password and they withdraw the money for you without giving you your card. Upon her release from the factory, Gulzira asked the head of the village why they did this. They weren't paid, though they were promised at least 600 RMB or 10 Chinese cents per each pay of gloves they could sew.

Gulzira arrived in Kazakhstan on January 5, 2019.

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Her feature in AFP

(<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/camps-factories-muslim-detainees-china-using-forced-labour-041047367.html>):

As Gulzira Auelkhan toiled stitching gloves in a factory in China's troubled Xinjiang region, her managers made no secret of where her production would be sold.

"They told us openly that the gloves will be sold abroad, so we should do a good job," Auelkhan recalled of a labour stint she says was enforced by Chinese "re-education" officials.

Auelkhan, a 39-year-old Chinese citizen of Kazakh descent, says she was part of a network of mostly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang who pass from what China calls "vocational training centres" to factories where they are forced to work for far less than the local minimum wage.

...

Auelkhan says she was transferred to the glove factory at the Jiafang industrial estate in Xinjiang's Yining county after spending 15 months in two different "re-education" facilities.

...

Auelkhan has residency rights in Kazakhstan but had travelled to China to see family when she was detained and put into a re-education centre.

She said life in the camps was brutal, with residents struck over the head with electrified batons for spending more than two minutes in the bathroom.

...

So even though they were not free to leave, it was an improvement when she and hundreds of other camp inmates were transferred to work at the factory, Auelkhan told AFP in Kazakhstan's biggest city Almaty.

"Every day we were taken to and from a dormitory three kilometres from the factory," she said, hugging the five-year-old daughter she didn't see for nearly two years.

"When we were studying at the camp they told us we would be taught a trade and work for three months," Auelkhan said.

Auelkhan said she was paid only 320 yuan (\$48/42 euros) for close to two months' work before her time at the factory was curtailed in December and she was allowed to return to her family in Kazakhstan.

...

Auelkhan believes she was only released from forced labour because of a public campaign launched by her husband and supported by a Xinjiang-focused rights group in Almaty.

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Her feature in the Globe and Mail

(<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-i-felt-like-a-slave-inside-chinas-complex-system-of-incarceration/>):

Before she was shocked with a stun gun to the head for spending more than the allotted two minutes in the toilet, and before she was handcuffed for 24 hours because guards accused her of letting another woman participate in religious washing, and before she was forced to make winter gloves for two pennies a piece □ before all of that, Gulzira Auelhan remembers a Chinese police officer telling her she needed to be educated.

The classes would only last 15 days, the officer told her in mid-October, 2017. "You will be released very soon," Ms. Auelhan, 38, remembers hearing. An ethnic Kazakh who was born in China but had been living in Kazakhstan, she had returned to China's far western Xinjiang region to visit her father, who was ill.

Instead, over the course of 437 days, she was detained in five different facilities, including a factory and a middle school converted into a centre for political indoctrination and technical instruction, with several interludes of a form of house arrest with relatives. The Chinese government has said it offers free vocational education and skills training to people such as Ms. Auelhan. But over more than 14 months, "that training lasted one week," she said, not including the time she spent forced to work in a factory.

The remainder of the time, she spent inside a complex system of incarceration and control that has been built in a region where Chinese authorities say they are combatting extremism through education. Early

this year, she was released back to Kazakhstan, where she recounted her experience in a lengthy interview with The Globe and Mail. What she experienced, she said, "is really cruel."

...

Ms. Auelhan, like most of the people interviewed for this article, is a Chinese-born ethnic Kazakh, a mother of three who says her main ambition in life has been to raise her children well.

She moved to Kazakhstan in 2014, but returned to China for a visit on Oct. 16, 2017. Chinese border officials seized her passport and ordered her to wait until the arrival of police, who escorted her to her hometown in Duolang Village.

They told Ms. Auelhan she could not go to see her father.

Instead, they told her she needed to get some schooling. She offered to pack her clothes and collect some money for expenses. No need, they replied. Everything would be free of charge. She was confused. "I said, 'Okay, what kind of place is it, if you don't even need to spend money or wear clothes?'"

...

Ms. Auelhan discovered what kind of place she was being taken to almost as soon as she arrived. The sign read "Yining County Vocational School," but it was surrounded by high walls and guard towers. It was "completely like a prison," she said. Inside, staff ordered her to change into a uniform — red shirt, black track pants — and cut short her hair, saying it was for hygienic purposes. They locked her in a cell with 32 other women, each with their own bunk bed.

It was the first of four centres where she would be incarcerated over the following year — her own personal journey through the complex assemblage of internment in Xinjiang. She stayed at a converted hospital, a middle school and a new mid-rise facility that seemed purpose-built for what China calls vocational training.

"They told us, 'You are here to be educated because you were infected with evil thoughts of religion,'" she recalled.

Soon after arriving at the first centre, Ms. Auelhan began to learn the rules of her new life. Each night, she and the others took two-hour shifts to watch each other. "Even if you wanted to kill yourself, there was no possibility, because you are being monitored everywhere," she said.

"We couldn't even cry because if you cry, they say you have evil thoughts in your mind."

Trips to the toilet had to be done in pairs, so one woman could keep an eye on the other, in part to prevent forbidden religious expression, including ablution. Once, Ms. Auelhan accompanied to the toilet an older lady who accidentally splashed urine on her own feet. When guards noticed that the woman had rinsed herself clean, they saw it as ritual washing, and punished Ms. Auelhan by handcuffing her hands behind her back for 24 hours.

In April, 2018, she said, prison staff brought out buckets of prayer mats and ordered the detainees to set them on fire.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to detailed questions sent about her account.

But for Ms. Auelhan, who calls herself Muslim but does not pray, one of the chief hardships was use of the toilet, because women were restricted to two minutes each time. Detainees frequently experienced constipation — she's not certain whether it was the infrequency of bathroom access or the daily diet of steamed buns, rice, potatoes and maize. But if they spent more than 120 seconds on the toilet, "you can expect you will be electric shocked," she said. Stun guns would typically be applied to the head. "They explained that if they did it on the body, it might leave a mark," Ms. Auelhan said.

Guards told detainees that they were "under military discipline," with cameras constantly watching — including in bathrooms and during weekly showers. Even so, monthly conjugal visits were allowed, she said, for a fee of \$4; another detainee confirmed the existence of such visits.

Yet such allowances were a rare break from days filled with Chinese language classes and lectures on health, politics and law. Instructors regularly ordered the writing of confession letters, which included thanks "to the Communist Party for the education it provided," and for "giving us this opportunity to clear our evil thoughts."

Ms. Auelhan found herself experiencing flashes of agreement, reflecting as she wrote on the happiness she had felt growing up in Xinjiang.

But the feeling did not last, because "everything else they did to us was a complete lie," she said. That extended to appearance: When her hair began to go grey, she was given dye to make it black when dignitaries visited, and told to smile.

But Ms. Auelhan could not stop thinking about the gap between what she was being told and what she saw unfolding around her. "They say all of the ethnic groups in China are together in peace and love," she said. Why, then, she wondered, were Muslims virtually the only ones in detention?

In nearly a year spent in various indoctrination centres, she received a single week of instruction on a sewing machine, before being released Oct. 7, 2018.

But she was not yet free. Instead, after a week spent with family, the next chapter of her detention was about to begin, in a factory. The indoctrination wasn't over, either.

In late November of 2018, the village secretary in Ms. Auelhan's hometown arrived with a document. It said she needed to report for work to a glove-making factory. "You need money," the official told her.

At the factory, her superiors told her the gloves, whose brands she could not recall, would be sold abroad, "so we needed to try our best," she said. She was taken to work at the Yining County Home Textile and Clothing Industrial Park where, according to a government website, the Yili Zhuowan Clothing Manufacturing Co. produces US\$15-million a year in gloves for export to the United States, Russia, the European Union and Japan. A person who answered a phone at the company said he knew nothing about its hiring practices.

Ms. Auelhan was promised pay of \$119 a month, in a region where the local minimum wage is \$290, until the factory's owners, citing the cost of feeding her and ferrying her home for weekly Sunday family visits, switched to a piecemeal system, paying two cents a completed pair. On her best day, she completed 11 pairs.

While at the factory, Ms. Auelhan lived in a dormitory roughly three kilometres away, where she could leave her room but not the compound. Here, too, education continued. Workers received readings in the factory before work and, at day's end, 45-minute Chinese lessons in the dormitory, where they were

watched at night by an official.

Then, on Dec. 29, police took her for interrogation and held her overnight in a dark room. The next day, officials bought her a lunch of besbarmak, a Kazakh dish with horse meat and noodles. "They told me, 'You must miss meat,'" she said. After lunch, they released her to her father's house. She was paid \$45.50 for her factory labours.

On Jan. 5, officials escorted her to the Kazakhstan border. "Remember that you are not allowed to say anything about the camps or what you have been through while you were in China," she recalled them saying.

"If you do, then remember that it's very easy for the Chinese government to find you."

...

Ms. Auelhan's family has also struggled. She has a daughter still in Xinjiang, while in Kazakhstan, her husband struggles to believe that she vanished into detention centres for so long. He "is very good to me," she said.

"But sometimes he asks, 'Did you really spend that time there? You weren't with another man?'"

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Additional coverage:

<https://www.twreporter.org/a/xinjiang-re-education-camps-truth>

<https://uat-xinjiangcamps.appledaily.com/受害者/古孜拉-阿瓦爾汗>

<https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/lager-shahit-10222019172818.html>

[https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/les-ouigours-parias-de-la-nouvelle-chine-12-10-2019-2340852\\_24.php](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/les-ouigours-parias-de-la-nouvelle-chine-12-10-2019-2340852_24.php)

[https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/Lehr\\_ConnectingDotsXinjiang\\_interior\\_v3\\_FULL\\_WEB.pdf](https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/Lehr_ConnectingDotsXinjiang_interior_v3_FULL_WEB.pdf) [anonymous]

The official Xinjiang spokespeople have also tried to discredit Gulzira following her appearance in a PBS documentary (<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1187107.shtml>). Specifically, the Global Times wrote:

"Another interviewee, Gulzila Awarkhan, is a 'dishonest and unscrupulous woman.' She was put on blacklist by her bank because she intentionally delayed paying off her loans and still hasn't paid back the interest after it came due, Eljiang said.

In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Gulzila said that her aim and dream was to bring up her children, but she has never had any children. According to her two ex-husbands, Gulzila was unfaithful, and continually cheated on them during their marriages.

'Since we know what Gulzila is like, should we believe what she said?' the spokesperson asked."

## **Eyewitness account**

[The following is the victim's first-person account to The Believer magazine, as reported by Ben Mauk.]

I saw enough while I was there. I want to speak. I want what happened to be published. The thing is, my

relatives are against me. They're my enemies now. They tell me not to talk about these things. Even my stepdaughter is against me.

I remember my parents telling me that in Mao Zedong's time, there were activists and political events where things got violent. During Mao's time, they burned Korans and other religious books. They silenced you. We were cut off from family in the Soviet Union. But then Deng came to power and things calmed down. I remember when I was young, at some ceremonies there might be a Chinese state flag, but that was the sum of my political awareness.

In fact, thinking back to my childhood days, I didn't care about anything. Then I got married. I grew up. Ours was a traditional Kazakh wedding. My father paid a dowry. My face was covered. I was wearing a traditional dress. Now they're gone, all those clothes. When I think back to these times, I think of how good they were. I can't understand how all this happened. In 2014, they started taking away schoolteachers. We knew something was happening — it was quiet, but something was changing. That was the year my daughter was born. We got our Chinese passports and went to Kazakhstan to visit my husband's mother's family. The three of us came: my husband, my daughter, and I. We came here and decided to stay.

The only problem was my father. Back in Ghulja, we'd been farming corn. My parents had been cattle breeders until the party made them give it up for farming. I can still picture the summer herding pasture from my childhood. But they became farmers, and then when my father turned fifty, he lost the will to walk. Doctors couldn't find any reason for it. He just stopped. He became an invalid. Eight years later, my mother died, and he was alone.

For years, my husband and I looked after my father. We ran the farm. We would get a loan in the spring, use it to farm in the summer, then we'd collect the harvest in the fall and repay the loan to the bank. It was hard work. We certainly weren't getting rich. When we came to Kazakhstan, we gave up all that and became hired hands, milking and herding someone else's cattle. At last we got our permanent residence permits. After that, I would go to China to check on my father. We tried to support him from afar. My brother looked after him.

In 2017, I heard from my brother that our father was dying. No treatment was possible. [Starts to cry] I went back to see him. I was still breastfeeding my daughter at the time, but I decided to wean her and leave her with my husband. Yes, I was still breastfeeding her at three years. [Laughs and shakes her head] What can I say? My life is strange. I took an overnight bus. At Khorgos, the Chinese authorities stopped me. They checked my papers. Something was wrong. They notified the police in Ghulja, and soon enough the local police came to Khorgos and interrogated me. They were stern. They told me I would never return to Kazakhstan, then took me to my village in a police car. It's fifty miles to the village, and — let me tell you — it was the longest drive of my life. I was thinking to myself, Shit, and I was crying. Stop crying, they said.

They took me to my brother-in-law's house. The next morning, I went to the local police station. I went to see the head of the Fourth Unit of the Dolan Farm, in Ghulja County. I asked him to give me back my passport. He refused. You're going to study for fifteen days, he said. The man is himself Uighur. Everyone's caught up in it.

I still hadn't seen my dying father. I asked them to let me visit him. Don't worry, the mayor said. It's only fifteen days. At the time, I thought they were probably right. Why would they lie to me? My father would live for at least another two weeks. So I asked permission — I was still in the mayor's office — to get my clothes and things from my brother-in-law's. He refused. They drove me straight from the mayor's office to the camp.

At the camp, I was given a uniform: a red T-shirt, black trousers, Adidas trainers, and some Chinese-style slippers. That was all. They also gave me a shot. They said it was a flu shot. Then, after a month in the camp, they took a blood sample. After that, they would take a blood sample every once in a while. You never knew when it might happen. I don't know what they were doing, what sort of experiments...

I saw many Kazakhs brought into the camp while I was there. When I asked them what they'd done, they told me they'd visited family members in Kazakhstan, made phone calls to other countries, things like that. As for me, we had some security officials in the camp who told me that Kazakhstan was on a list of the twenty-six most dangerous countries, not to be visited. As a result of your visit, they said, you will be reeducated for a year — that's when I learned the truth. Not fifteen days but a year! I tried to tell them about my travel permit. They didn't care. You are a Chinese citizen, they said, so we will reeducate you, as is our right. Do what we tell you and write what we tell you. The interrogations began. They asked for my full biography, including all of my relatives' names, especially any relatives in prison or abroad. My brother's name is Samedin, and they wanted to know why he had been given a religious name. When you're in a camp, they'll keep asking you the same questions, over and over, all throughout your stay. Nineteen times: I counted. They interrogated me nineteen times.

From July to November I was living in one reeducation facility, the first of several. There were eight hundred women there. I didn't see any men except for some of the security officers. We were about fifty women in a classroom, plus three teachers and two security guards. There were cameras in the classroom, and in every other room, 360-degree cameras running twenty-four hours a day and filming everything. The classes were what you've heard. We were made to say things like "I like China" and "I like Xi Jinping." We were told our first priority should be to learn Chinese. Then we could work for the government or get a job in mainland China. Even then, we knew this was ridiculous. I saw disabled old women in the camp. Deaf girls. Were they to get a factory job? I remember two women who had no legs. How could they work? But the instructor would say that even without legs, your eyes are healthy. Your heart is healthy. You'll be fit for work anyway.

When we weren't in class, we lived together in a long hall, a kind of shed. Each shed housed thirty-three women. We were obliged to make our beds every morning, just like soldiers in the army, not a wrinkle. Once, the inspector didn't like how I'd made my bed. He took my bedsheets over to the toilet in the corner and threw them in. It was the same if we were too slow — we had only three minutes to make our beds in the morning. Otherwise, into the toilet.

Should I be saying all this? I don't know. In any case, my name is everywhere. I've said it all before. I'm not trying to visit China anymore, not even to see my family. Most likely I'll die here.

In November, they took me to a new camp, a medical facility — it looked like it had once been a hospital, a new one — but they'd turned it into a camp. From the outside, it looked good. Once in a while, when some inspector from the Central Committee — or, anyway, from outside Xinjiang — came, they tried to spruce it up. If you looked close, you could see barbed wire on the fences outside, which they tried to disguise by also adding fake vines, and they put fake flowers in every window to hide the fact that they were barred. As soon as the inspector left, they removed these decorations. This was one of the Professional Reeducation Centers of the Ghulja region.

In the second camp, they let me talk to my relatives. Once a week you could talk to them on the phone. And once a month they could visit. We would be brought into a room with our relatives on the other side, beyond a wall of wire mesh. The guards would remove my handcuffs. We spoke through the screen.

Mostly we ate only rice and steamed buns — plain, empty buns — at every meal. Probably they put some

additives into the dough for nutrition, I don't know. We never, ever felt full. Once, there was a Chinese holiday and they made us eat pig meat. I mean, they forced us to eat pork. If you refused to eat, as I did once or twice, they put you in cuffs and locked you up. You are not mentally correct, they would explain. Your ideology is wrong. You people are going to become friends with Chinese people, they said. First we are going to destroy your religion, then we will destroy your extremist nationalist feelings, then you will become relatives of China. We will visit your weddings, and you will visit ours. And at our weddings, you will eat pork. They would handcuff you to a chair and reprimand you.

Why are you refusing to eat this food provided to you by the Communist Party? You would sit for twenty-four hours in that chair. They called it the black chair or the lion [tiger] chair. After the first refusal, you got a warning; after the second, you got the chair. The third time you refused, they took you to another facility, one where it was said conditions were harsher. I didn't refuse a third time.

I was lodged with mostly Uighur women. I think they didn't want me to be able to communicate with other Kazakhs. There was only one kind of interaction they encouraged. My husband was in Kazakhstan, but for those women who had husbands available, they could meet them once a month for two hours at the camp for marital visits. A room was provided. They were left alone. The husbands were told to bring bedsheets. Before seeing the husbands, the women were given a pill. A tablet, I mean. And sometimes, at night, the single women, taken... [trails off].

I shouldn't even say "encouraged." They were forcing every woman who had a husband to meet with him. Even an old woman had to lie in bed for two hours with her husband. They would shame the old women. Don't you miss your husband? And afterward, they would take the women to bathe. As for the pill they received, I think it was a birth control pill. They didn't want any births. If you were pregnant when you came to the camp, they performed an abortion. If you refused, they took you to a stricter place, one without visits with relatives. That's what I heard.

From November until July, I was in the hospital-turned-camp. I remember one time they made us burn a pile of prayer rugs they had collected from people's homes. While we worked, they asked us questions: Why does your brother have a religious name? Do you have a Koran at home?

In July, they transferred me to a third camp. This was an ordinary school they had turned into a reeducation camp. What I remember most about this camp was that there were no toilets. We had to use a bucket. And, as I said, there were fifty people in a class. Here, too, they would interrogate us, asking us about our husbands and children. Sometimes they would take away three or four women at a time. These women would never come back. Other women would soon arrive to replace them.

In August, I went to a fourth and final facility — we were transferred overnight — where I lived for the remainder of my detention. They kept promising to release us eventually. If you behave, they said, in a month we will teach you a vocation. If your ideas improve. They never did teach us a vocation, but on October 6, 2018, some ethnic Kazakh officials came to the camp. One of them said that good news was coming, and the next day, about 250 women were released. Of these, 150 or so were Kazakh. I know because they separated the Kazakhs from the others and counted us. While we were separated, they told us we had to keep our mouths shut. They said: We have to make our two countries friends. You will be treated in a friendly way, but dangerous ideas are coming from Kazakhstan, so once you're back in Kazakhstan, say only good things about the camp. There was a threat implied here. When one member of a family is taken for reeducation, others often follow. My husband's younger brother was taken. It was a spiderweb. They are taking everyone inside.

When I was released, I was taken back to Ghulja, my husband's village, where the authorities held a ceremony for me and some of the other women from the village. There was a Chinese flag, a podium.

They made each of us speak. We had to say nice things about the camp. They told the local population about my achievements. You see, they said, Gulzira is now well educated. She will now work as a teacher for you.

I went to my father's village at last. I was able to see him. But even here, my sister-in-law was made to spy on me. The authorities asked her to watch me and listen to what I said. I spent five nights at my father's house. Then they gathered all the women in the area who came from Kazakhstan and told us we were going to work at a factory.

While all this was happening, my husband was working toward my release. Together with Atajurt, he was uploading videos about my detention in China. But I wasn't aware. I was taken back to my husband's village and was forced to begin work at a factory. I'd thought I would be sent back to Kazakhstan, but the people I asked were saying contradictory things, and in the end, I was sent to the factory, a kind of sweatshop, I suppose, making gloves. I was told the factory made handbags and some clothes as well, but I only ever worked on gloves. The products were exported abroad, we were told, and sold to foreigners. You made some money, but if you stopped working, they sent you back to the camp. So there wasn't much of a choice. They told me to sign a contract agreeing to work at this factory for a year. In the end, I worked there for a month and a half. It was piecework. I earned one jiao [10 Chinese cents] for every glove I finished. All told, I made more than two thousand gloves and earned 220 yuan. So, you see, it was like slavery.

One good thing, maybe the only good thing, about the factory was that we were allowed to have our phones again. We could call our loved ones. After more than a year, I finally got to hear my husband's voice. One day I took a photo of the factory on my phone and sent it to my husband. He showed it to Serikzhan, who published it. They took away my phone. Then they interrogated me. They asked all the same questions they'd asked me many times, and more, all night long. But it worked. They let me go. They took me back to my husband's village. His relatives were angry with me because of what my husband had done. What have you done? they asked. You're international news! My relatives wrote messages to my husband. Stop complaining, they told him. You should praise the country! You should thank the government and the party!

I was taken back to my father's place in January. I saw my father again, probably for the last time. Now he needs care like a child. The police told my father and the relatives that I'd better not speak about the camp, or else my father would be arrested. They took photos of us all drinking tea together. Back at the mayor's office, I had to write a letter thanking the party for reeducating me for a year and a half. Then, at the border, they interrogated me for another four hours. Finally, they let me cross.

Probably this is a lasting consequence of the camp: I always feel tired. I have no energy anymore. Doctors say I have kidney problems. I'm just happy my husband was here. It's because of him I was released. There were women in the camp who didn't have anyone outside China to help them. They were taken to the mainland to work in factories. What has become of them?

I think until Xi Jinping dies, life for Kazakhs in Xinjiang will not change. It's like it was in Mao's time. But I will dedicate my life to helping them. Even if it means my family has turned against me. Even my stepdaughter, who was herself detained in the camps, tells me to stop complaining. But I won't. You can come talk to me anytime. But I don't know my phone number. My memory is bad. It's gotten bad since I was in the camps. My focus. And I forgot one other thing: We were allocated only two minutes for going to the toilet in the camps. If we couldn't do it in time, they beat us with a stick. I suffered five or six beatings because sometimes I was slow. Only in the head. They always targeted our heads.

Source: <https://believermag.com/weather-reports-voices-from-xinjiang/>

## **Victims among relatives**

Qundyz Tursynzhan (1724), Zhadira Tursynzhan (2542)

## **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa0GQMW0w-I>  
Testimony 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xpSjxacCmQ>  
Testimony 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR1DRkXjmLo>  
Testimony 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFFOfvIEYGQ>  
Testimony 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypRvu4Se50U>  
Testimony 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR6P5DVNEEnQ>  
at Astana press club: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsM6LU8i9BE>  
Testimony 1: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_1.mp3](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_1.mp3)  
Kazakhstan ID: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_2.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_2.jpg)  
Marriage certificate: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_3.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_3.jpg)  
Chinese ID: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_4.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_4.jpg)  
Photo: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_5.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_5.jpg)  
state media report on Jiafang: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_9.mp4](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_9.mp4)  
portrait (Globe and Mail): [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_13.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_13.jpg)  
portrait (AFP): [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_14.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_14.jpg)  
photo with daughter (RTS): [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_15.png](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_15.png)  
photo at factory dining hall: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_16.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_16.jpg)  
propaganda video attacking victim: [https://shahit.biz/supp/1723\\_18.mp4](https://shahit.biz/supp/1723_18.mp4)

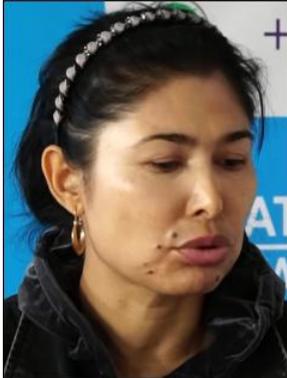
Entry created: 2018-12-31

Last updated: 2020-08-10

Latest status update: 2019-05-01

## 2322. Tursunay Ziyawudun (图尔逊娜依·孜尧登)

Chinese ID: 654125197808104240 (Kunes)



### Basic info

Age: 42

Gender: F

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: tradesperson

### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7: Qalmyrza Halyq, born in 1957, now a Kazakhstan citizen. (husband)

Testimony 5: Tursunay Ziyawudun, a survivor of the mass incarcerations in Xinjiang. Originally from Kunes County but now residing in Kazakhstan. (the victim)

Testimony 8 | 10: Tursunay Ziyawudun, as reported by Radio Free Asia Uyghur. (the victim)

Testimony 9: Anonymous, as reported by Gene A. Bunin. (acquaintance)

Testimony 11: Tursunay Ziyawudun, as reported by Le Monde. (the victim)

Testimony 12: Tursunay Ziyawudun, as reported by BuzzFeed News. (the victim)

Testimony 13: Tursunay Ziyawudun, as reported by Associated Press. (the victim)

Testimony 14: Uyghur Human Rights Project, a non-profit organization in Washington, DC.

### About the victim

Tursunay Ziyawudun used to work in and run her own clothes ironing shop. She also used to work as a nurse at her husband's clinic.

Address in China: Kunes County, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang, China.

### Current location

In the United States.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Tursunay left Kazakhstan and went to China with her husband, Qalmyrza, on November 13, 2016 for a gall bladder operation, although she had to return in any case as her allowed time in Kazakhstan was

expiring. In the December of the same year, both of them had their passports confiscated. However, Qalmyrza was able to get his passport back 4 months later and return to Kazakhstan, with Tursunay left behind as his "guarantor".

On April 11, 2017, she would have to go to "school" for a month, as the local government started its first "strike hard" operation, interning 800 ethnic minorities (approximated as 40% Kazakh, 40% Uyghur, and 20% Hui) in Kunes County in a single night. She stayed 28 days and was released. [In her account to Le Monde, Tursunay says that she was brought to what used to be a vocational school and made to stay there for 20 days. There were 15 detainees per room, but the doors were not locked and they were allowed to keep their phones.]

In describing this first detention to BuzzFeed News, Tursunay says:

"To be honest, it wasn't that bad. We had our phones. We had meals in the canteens. Other than being forced to stay there, everything else was fine. In the evenings, the instructors taught the detainees to do traditional Chinese dances in the yard of the building. Sometimes there were lectures — an imam working for the state might come in and talk about how important it was to avoid 'extreme' practices like wearing headscarves."

In February 2018, she was taken to a "re-education" camp, which she says was very different from the "school" before [in her eyewitness testimony, she says that she was taken on March 10, not in February] - in her interview to Le Monde, she specifies that these were the same building, but completely renovated between her detentions. On December 25-26, 2018, she was suddenly released owing to her husband being in Kazakhstan (a guard had come in a few days before to ask who had relatives in Kazakhstan), and would call her husband on January 9, 2019. She was then under house arrest from January to June.

After not being able to get her passport back for a very long time, she finally was able to go to Kazakhstan on September 26, 2019, but on a visa that is set to expire, thereby prompting her to apply for asylum.

In late September 2020, it was announced that she had arrived in the United States.

### **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

Tursunay was told by the camp authorities that it was for her having lived in Kazakhstan for 5 years.

### **Last reported status**

Now in the United States [presumably to apply for asylum there].

According to her husband, she's had some medical issues since returning from China - suffering from memory loss and some female health problems.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

It's not clear how Qalmyrza heard about his wife's status while she was in camp. After her release, they were occasionally able to talk. However, Qalmyrza would also be contacted by a Chinese police officer, Wang Ping, who on one occasion in December 2018 asked Qalmyrza if he had obtained Kazakhstan citizenship [this is corroborated by Tursunay's account of people with relatives in Kazakhstan being released]. Tursunay called from the same number in February 2019 [suggesting that both calls were probably made from the local police station or designated office].

Tursunay's account is an eyewitness testimony.

### **Additional information**

Coverage in Le Monde:

[https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2019/11/24/china-cables-tursunay-ziavdun-ouigoure-intern-ee-pendant-onze-mois\\_6020360\\_3210.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2019/11/24/china-cables-tursunay-ziavdun-ouigoure-intern-ee-pendant-onze-mois_6020360_3210.html)

Featured in BuzzFeed News:

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/amphtml/meghara/china-uyghur-xinjiang-kazakhstan>

Additional coverage from RFA:

<https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/lager-shahit-10222019172818.html>

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/abuse-10302019142433.html>

Uyghur Human Rights Project announcement regarding her arrival in the US:

<https://uhrp.org/press-release/uyghur-camp-survivor-arrives-safely-united-states.html>

In her interview to RFA, Tursunay recalls sharing a cell with women who hadn't had their periods for over a year, as well as some who were forcefully sterilized. Tursunay also says that she was taken for sterilization herself, but was spared because of a gynecological condition that she had always had. According to her, many women were also taken for show trials and sentenced to many years in prison.

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Talking to Le Monde, Tursunay mentions the fear that her community was living in: "The only thing that you'd say if you happened upon an acquaintance on the street was 'Oh, you're still here!' Every family had someone who was arrested."

She mentions that her two brothers were arrested one after the other in February 2018. She believes it was for having made calls abroad.

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Her account of the hair cutting at the second facility, as given to BuzzFeed:

"One day in June or July of 2018 — Ziyawudun doesn't remember exactly when — one of the guards told the women they must all have their hair cut short. Ziyawudun expected a hairdresser to come. Instead, it was just a woman with a pair of scissors. She chopped each detainee's long hair to chin length."

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In her interview to the Associated Press (<https://apnews.com/269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>), Tursunay recounts receiving injections that made her period stop, as well as being kicked in the stomach during interrogations. She also mentions conjugal visits from husbands, preceded by the women taking a (birth-control) pill, as well as two cousins getting rid of their (presumably unborn) children out of fear.

### **Eyewitness account**

[The following is an abridged summary, based on the victim's interview at the Atajurt Kazakh Human Rights organization in Almaty, Kazakhstan.]

After falling ill, Tursunay went back to China in 2016 for a gall bladder operation. The Kazakh government wasn't allowing her to stay in Kazakhstan any longer, as she was there on a visitor's visa and hadn't been able to get either a residence permit or Kazakhstan citizenship (as she was Uyghur and her husband, though ethnically Kazakh, wasn't a Kazakhstan citizen yet). She had lived in Kazakhstan for a total of 5 years.

Upon their arrival in China, both she and her husband had their passports taken by the local authorities. She was later sent to a "school" for a month. Four months later, her husband got his passport back, with Tursunay being his "guarantor" so that he could go back to Kazakhstan. She was taken to a camp in March 2018, which she found to be completely different from the "school" she had been taken to before. She originally thought that she would be released after showing the hospital statement attesting to her recent operation, but would be told by the camp staff that her health was relatively fine compared to that of some of the other inmates.

After being taken there, she had to change into a blue uniform. As far as she knows, there are uniforms of three different colors – blue ones for inmates with the least serious wrongdoings, yellow for more serious, and red for the most serious ones (the latter intended for those with "religious crimes", such as praying five times a day). The facility was like a real prison, with the cell doors made of iron and chained in a way that only allows for them to be opened only partially – she was forced to enter the room by squeezing through this opening.

There were no toilets inside the cells. According to Tursunay:

"During the day, we were allowed to use the toilet in the hall, but were given very little time to use it. At night, we had to use the bucket inside the cell. The first month was awful. We had to hold it until the morning, because we couldn't go inside the room out of shame, unless it was to urinate."

They were guarded by female guards with rifles. Tursunay refused to eat anything for a week, but the guards didn't care. When she fainted, which happened several times, the guards would just take her to her bed. She heard two Kazakh ladies next door shouting to the guards that they were Kazakhstan citizens and wanted an explanation for their detention. They were later taken somewhere and she didn't hear about them anymore after that.

Tursunay recounts:

"We had to do some stupid activities, such as 'baotou' (抱头), which meant having to crouch and grab your head whenever you heard the siren sound. Once, there was an incident in which a woman next door, sleeping on a top bunk, broke her leg after hearing a siren at night and jumping from her bed in terror. Because you had to do it very quickly, or you could be punished."

After a month, they were transferred to a newly built facility. There, the toilets were inside the cell. However, since it had been erected recently, you could smell the cement, which had yet to dry completely. It was April and the room was very cold and damp, which led to her getting very sick. The guards took her to the hospital in handcuffs and shackles, which only added to the pain. She saw many injured people at the hospital. Most people had urinary disorders.

She had to wait months before her "crime" was announced, at which point she learned that she had

ended up in camp for having stayed 5 years in Kazakhstan.

This camp was in a place called "Zhana Qala" ("new city"), in Xinyuan County. Tursunay:

"Those who were married and had a marriage certificate were allowed to see their spouses once a month."

She was released in December 2018 because her husband was in Kazakhstan.

"There was a sudden change," she recounts, "and they released all the people who had family members in Kazakhstan."

After their release, the former detainees gathered several times to have dinner together. She found that they had changed. It seemed to her that they had lost hope. They started drinking a lot. She'd find herself crying often.

When she went to Urumqi to get a visa for Kazakhstan, the hotels refused to take her unless she went to the police station and registered. Although it was very late when she arrived and said that she could do it first thing in the morning, they still didn't allow her to stay the night. When she wanted to take a taxi to the district where the Kazakhstan visa service center was, the Uyghur taxi driver wasn't able to take her – she later learned that only Han drivers were allowed into that district.

Among her relatives, she has two brothers who were taken to the same camp as where she was. Both of them are now suffering from health issues and have urinary disorders.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd3AiH32JW0>

### **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLLqmeiaS8w>

Testimony 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I77EkVuVeP0>

Testimony 3: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsdAZCvI\\_IM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsdAZCvI_IM)

Testimony 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euLN0wUvoeA>

Testimony 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd3AiH32JW0>

Testimony 6: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKGbXye\\_NZc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKGbXye_NZc)

Testimony 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qncLDQNQezM>

Chinese passport: [https://shahit.biz/supp/2322\\_6.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/2322_6.jpeg)

photo with husband and son: [https://shahit.biz/supp/2322\\_7.jpeg](https://shahit.biz/supp/2322_7.jpeg)

Le Monde feature: [https://shahit.biz/supp/2322\\_10.pdf](https://shahit.biz/supp/2322_10.pdf)

propaganda video: [https://shahit.biz/supp/2322\\_11.mp4](https://shahit.biz/supp/2322_11.mp4)

Entry created: 2019-01-26

Last updated: 2020-09-29

Latest status update: 2020-09-29

## 3101. Adalgazy Zhakai (阿达力哈孜·加海)

Chinese ID: 654224197803111715 (Toli)



### Basic info

Age: 41

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: Jan. 2018 - Mar. 2018

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: has problems

Profession: private business

### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 3: Nurlan Adalgazy, born in 2000, is now a Kazakhstan citizen. (son)

Testimony 2: Baqytbek Bekzat, born in 1981, is a Kazakhstan citizen. (relation unclear)

Testimony 4: Adalgazy Zhakai, born in 1978, is originally from Tacheng's Toli County, but is now a resident of Kazakhstan. He is a survivor of the mass incarcerations in Xinjiang, having spent almost a year in a camp. (the victim)

### About the victim

Adalgazy Zhakai is an entrepreneur, originally from Tacheng's Toli County. After first visiting Kazakhstan in 2013, he moved there with his wife and two children in May 2014, settling in East Kazakhstan's Urzhar region.

He would continue to go back to China frequently, as his daughter later decided to move back there. In 2015, he obtained his Kazakhstan residence permit.

Address on ID: House No. 265, Zhambyqora Village, Aqbal dau Township, Toli County, Xinjiang (新疆托里县阿合别里斗乡江布阔拉村265号).

Kazakhstan residence permit: 040310314.

### Current location

In Kazakhstan.

### Chronology of detention(s)

He went to China on January 17, 2018 to bring his daughter over to Kazakhstan and to collect some unpaid debts. After having his passport confiscated at the Bakhty border crossing, he was asked to go to the village police. Doing so, he was interrogated until eleven at night, before being taken to his relatives' home and told to go to the village government office the next morning.

The next day at the office, he was interrogated again, this time by a lawyer, and then sent home. However, before he could go far, he was called back and told that the superintendent wanted to see him, and was then taken to another office by car, where he would wait until the evening for the superintendent to arrive. The latter then had Adalgazy taken to the public security office, who would send him to a hospital for a medical exam, and then to a camp.

In late February 2018, he would faint and be hospitalized, staying at a special building of the Toli County People's Hospital until late March or early April, before being returned to the camp. He would be hospitalized again for high blood pressure on July 5, 2018, then transferred with others to a new building in the October of that year, before finally being released to house arrest on November 21, 2018.

On July 28, 2019, he would finally be returned his passport, after which he'd return to Kazakhstan on July 31. He would make another trip to Xinjiang later in order to cancel his wife's household registration and to collect the debts owed to him. When the latter proved unsuccessful and he appealed to the local authorities, he was threatened, but not detained.

### **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

The local authorities told him that he had crossed the border too many times and that he had stayed in Kazakhstan for too long.

### **Last reported status**

Released and allowed to return to Kazakhstan.

According to the victim himself, he's become forgetful, has an arm and a leg that often go numb, and has issues with his heart and kidneys.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

It is not clear how his relatives got news of him during his detention [though presumably from relatives]. He and his wife were allowed to talk on the phone on several occasions after his release, however.

Adalgazy's account is an eyewitness one.

### **Additional information**

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### **Eyewitness account**

[The following is an abridged summary, based on the victim's interview at the Atajurt Kazakh Human Rights organization in Almaty, Kazakhstan.]

Adalgazy Zhakai first visited Kazakhstan in 2013, before moving there with his wife and two children on May 19, 2014, settling in East Kazakhstan's Urzhar region. Later, his daughter would return to China and make the decision to stay there, with them going back and forth between these two countries to visit each other regularly. Adalgazy worked as an entrepreneur, and in 2015 obtained his Kazakhstan residence

permit.

On January 17, 2018, he went to China with the goal of bringing his daughter to Kazakhstan, in addition to collecting some unpaid debts. While crossing the Bakhty border, he was told by three Kazakh policemen that he had exceeded his time in Kazakhstan, and was asked to get registered at his village police station. They introduced themselves as working for the local state security bureau – the Tacheng Regional State Security Bureau – and said that they would keep his passport. Adalgazy mentions that they were kind.

The staff at the village police station of Toli County's Aqbaldau Village (in Aqbaldau Township) were less so, however. Adalgazy mentions that they were Kazakh, and were very unfriendly, subjecting him to an interrogation upon his arrival and questioning him until eleven at night. After asking him what he did, they photographed him – taking photos from many different angles, both in sitting and standing positions – and asked him to sign some papers as well as fill in an entire pile of forms. The interrogation covered his entire life, starting from his birth. They scanned each of his ten fingers to get his fingerprints. They said that he had crossed the border too many times.

At midnight, they took him by police car to his relative's house in the village, where he was intending to stay for the duration of his visit, telling him that he needed to inform the village government office of his arrival the next morning. When he got to the office, a lawyer whom he was acquainted with, named Muhiat Qyzyr, questioned him with regard to why he had gone to Kazakhstan and what he did there, asking him why he had stayed there for more than nine months.

Adalgazy then filled out a 3-page form and was sent home. However, having walked around 200 meters from the office building, he heard somebody shouting to him, saying that the superintendent (所长) was coming and wanted to see him. As he was reaching the gate, a police car and an ordinary car stopped nearby, with two men calling him to get into the car to go see the superintendent. Among those in the car was a Kazakh deputy superintendent named Erbolat, who would remain quiet for the duration of the ride.

Although they got to the office at ten in the morning, Adalgazy would end up waiting there until it got dark. For the duration of this time, none of the staff asked him anything or even talked to him, as everyone was busy with their jobs. When the Han superintendent finally came, he was very rude and would tell Adalgazy off without any apparent reason, before joining two Kazakh staff – Ongar and Erbolat – in taking Adalgazy to the public security bureau.

From there, he was sent to a hospital for a medical exam, and then taken to a "training center". Upon his arrival, the staff at the center first ordered him to cut off the buttons and collar from his expensive fur coat and belt. Fortunately for him, Erbolat suggested to just leave the things there, on the grounds that they were very expensive. Adalgazy was then asked to stand facing the wall, something that he found very strange. The staff then asked him to sign a document, but forbid him from asking questions when he asked what the document was.

Next, he was asked to take off all his clothes, including his underwear. The examination that followed included the examination of his genitals, after which he was taken to another room, where he had his head shaved. Six or seven men then put a black hood over his head, manacles on his hands, and took him to the cell. There, he would meet a Hui man – someone whom he knew. He was young, probably born in the eighties, and sold spare motorbike parts for a living. In the past, he would wear a beard and pray.

There were four cameras in the cell. It was around eleven at night when he arrived, and they asked him to sleep without covering his face. That night, there were only 5 people there, himself included: three were asleep, while the remaining one was on duty, "guarding" the others.

The next morning, they were woken up and made to sing the national anthem. Adalgazy saw that the toilet and the sink were in the corner of the room. There were some plastic stools and, after washing up, they formed a line and sat down on the stools to face the TV fixed above the door. There were signs on the wall that listed 11 rules, written in Chinese, that they had to learn by heart. The Hui inmate was the room monitor.

Steamed buns and water were brought in the morning as breakfast. There were two holes in the door – one at the top, which the guards, Kazakhs, used to check on them, and one at the bottom, used for delivering the meals and a bucket of water. The bucket was covered with a sheet of paper and saved for later use, being their only source of drinking water.

Two days later, two men came and took Adalgazy out for a tanhua (谈话, “chat”), taking him away in handcuffs and with a hood over his head. It was about a hundred meters to the interrogation room. There, he was seated in a tiger chair, and the interrogator started asking him if he knew why he ended up in the center. Adalgazy said that he didn't. The interrogator was someone he knew – a man named Nurlanbek. After half an hour, he was taken back to the cell.

The others in the cell had been detained for praying. The camp authorities starved them, feeding them once a day – often giving them only two spoonfuls [of porridge, presumably], and at other times steamed buns. Adalgazy says that the man responsible for delivering their meals was a Kazakh named Egai.

On a number of occasions, Adalgazy was interrogated and asked about, for example, what he did in Kazakhstan and whether or not he was in debt.

On February 26, 2018, he fainted just after having lunch, and was taken by ambulance to an emergency room [presumably, at the Toli County People's Hospital]. The doctors there were Kazakh, but were mandated to talk only in Mandarin, and told Adalgazy that he had ideological problems for speaking to them in Kazakh (his Mandarin being very poor).

The next morning, he was transferred to a different building of the Toli County People's Hospital. His relatives visited and paid 5200RMB for his hospital stay the night before. The building he was in now was still undergoing repairs in preparation to receive sick people from the camps. Adalgazy says that there was an old man in the hospital room who had been to Kazakhstan before as well – he was in a wheelchair, with one side of his body paralyzed. Adalgazy would spend over a month in that building, from February 27 to March 31 or April 2 (he is unclear about the check-out date). He would end up spending a total of around 17000RMB at the hospital.

While in camp, he heard from the conversations between camp officers that there were about 700 people being held there. There were about 30-40 “students” per class, with the auxiliary police (协警) lining up on both sides of the corridor, sticks in hand, as the inmates were led to the classrooms. Failure to submit and cooperate would result in being sent to a solitary-confinement room (禁闭室). In the classes, they studied Mandarin and law, in addition to having lectures about Xi Jinping's policies and how good they were.

During his stay, Adalgazy says that he once saw a woman with her wrists chained to the wall. Young women, he says, were sometimes allowed to feed their babies, with visiting relatives lining up in a hall where they would meet the women inmates, so that the latter could breastfeed their children.

The month of Ramadan and the periods of the two Eids – the Muslim religious festivals – saw the installation of an additional camera above the toilet, so as to make sure that no one was performing ablution.

On July 5, 2018, he was taken to the hospital again, this time because of hypertension. Then, on October 10, 2018, he and others were hooded and handcuffed, to be transferred to a newly constructed building, where they would be held on the third floor and given hospital-patient uniforms [it is not 100% clear, but it appears that they may have been held in a hospital-turned-camp during this time]. They had visits from relatives and could occasionally have video calls with them. Those who were married could meet their spouses in a “special room”, provided the couple could produce the marriage certificate. However, Adalgazy says that meeting one’s relatives was meaningless, since all you could do during the meeting was to praise the Party and its policies.

Towards the end of November [he says “September” in one instance, but this is likely a mistake, judging by the context], he would have yet another “chat”, where the officer told him that his time at the camp was up. At that point, he had already been interned for around ten months. They told him that, upon release, he wouldn’t be allowed to attend any ceremonies, such as funerals or weddings. Another 7-8 people were being released with him. Not quite ready to believe that he was being let go, he found a way to ask some of the camp officers – young Kazakh women – about it. They seemed happy to tell him that yes, he was going to be released, and that they were always happy to see Kazakhs being let out.

At around 8:20 the next morning, he and some others were asked to go upstairs to the third floor, where they had their “graduation photos” taken. For the first five days after the release, he would then be accompanied by two government workers – Zhang Tongya and (the aforementioned) Muhiat Qyzyr – who were assigned to monitor him. In 2019, Adalgazy’s brother passed away, but Adalgazy couldn’t even attend the funeral because he had to ask for permission from the Han cadre, who refused to grant it. The funeral was performed without any Islamic rituals. The brother was 56.

Adalgazy says that he was a big burden and a lot of trouble for the relatives hosting him, as the cadres would come every day to ask him to fill out forms and to take photos of him. They also had to go to the village administration office to pose for a photo in front of the flag. On several occasions, the village office arranged for him to have a phone call with his wife in Kazakhstan, but would take notes of their conversation each time. His daughter in Xinjiang would also have to be present every time that the police or the village office invited him for a “chat” or to fill out some form. This was very hard for her, as she had a full-time job and sometimes it would be difficult to take a day off.

According to Adalgazy, Bauyrzhan Sabyrbai – another reported victim, and also from Aqbal dau Village – ended up dying without being able to return to Kazakhstan, where he had his wife and children. He was never put in a camp, but life under village arrest, with the constant filling out of forms, the constant “chats”, and the constant pressure, was not easy either. Bauyrzhan couldn’t withstand it and died.

After eight months under house arrest, Adalgazy finally received his passport on July 28, 2019, returning to Kazakhstan on July 31. In August, his daughter would come to Kazakhstan as well. Later on, he braved another trip to Xinjiang to cancel his wife’s household registration, intending to stay a bit longer as he wanted to get back a total of 15000RMB that he had lent to two people. However, when he wasn’t able to get it from them and asked the officials for help, the cadres threatened him, accusing him of being a “gangster” and a “loan shark”.

Having returned to Kazakhstan, he is still having health problems. He feels that he’s become forgetful. One of his hands and one of his legs go numb very often. He says that he has issues with his heart and kidneys.

He also mentions an ex-detainee named Monkei, who was in the same camp as him and is now residing in Semei, East Kazakhstan.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQrIRfMGoUU>

### **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rRWpr12h7Q>

Testimony 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2lkmNbNR\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2lkmNbNR_U)

Testimony 3: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGAA4EHLw\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGAA4EHLw_4)

Testimony 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQrIRfMGoUU>

Chinese ID: [https://shahit.biz/supp/3101\\_4.png](https://shahit.biz/supp/3101_4.png)

Entry created: 2019-03-19

Last updated: 2020-05-04

Latest status update: 2020-02-08

## 4980. Memetabid Zeydin

Chinese ID: 653101196402220413 (Kashgar)



### Basic info

Age: 57

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Changji

Status: sentenced (7 years)

When problems started: Apr. 2017 - June 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | relative(s), related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: private business

### Testifying party (\* direct submission)

Testimony 1\*: Anonymous, as reported by AidET. (relation unclear)

Testimony 2\* | 3 | 5: Hebibe Memetabid, originally from Kashgar City. She went to the National University of Malaysia for her bachelor's degree in 2017, and then to the US for her master's. (daughter)

Testimony 4: Official notice to those with relatives abroad, warning the informed party that they will be held legally responsible in the case that their relative does not return to China quickly. (from same town/region)

Testimony 6: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 7: Anonymous, as reported by Amnesty International. (relation unclear)

### About the victim

Memet'abid Zeydin was a businessman who also did charity work for his community.

Address: Orda Street, Kashgar City.

### Current location

A prison in Changji City. [This is presumably Changji Prison.]

### Chronology of detention(s)

Local police formally warned Memet'abid on April 17, 2017, saying that he would be held legally responsible if his daughter, Hebibe, did not return to China in the coming 7 days. She did not, and that same month Memet'abid was detained and taken to a concentration camp in Kashgar City. In September 2020, his daughter learned that he had been sentenced and was now in a prison in Changji City.

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

Because his daughter did not return to China as asked.

### **Last reported status**

Sentenced to 7 years and in prison.

[There is a strong likelihood of him being subjected to forced labor at the Changji Prison, as multiple enterprises have been documented there, including the Changji Xinmao Agro-Pastoral LLC (昌吉鑫茂农牧有限责任公司), the Xinmao Clothing LTD (鑫茂服装有限公司), the Xiabahu Cotton Processing Plant (下巴湖棉花加工厂), and the Changji Prison Coal Mine.]

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

Hebibe learned about the detention and sentencing through relatives.

The notice threatening to hold Memet'abid responsible in the case that Hebibe not return comes directly from the local police organs, who are presumably responsible for his arrest.

### **Additional information**

Amnesty International case info: <https://xinjiang.amnesty.org/#case-SR102>

### **Official notice(s)**

Original: [https://shahit.biz/supp/notori\\_16.pdf](https://shahit.biz/supp/notori_16.pdf)

Translation: [https://shahit.biz/supp/nottran\\_16.pdf](https://shahit.biz/supp/nottran_16.pdf)

Side-by-side: <https://shahit.biz/notview.php?no=16>

### **Police tags**

"intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员), "relative of person involved in an endangering-security case (Xinjiang-wide)" (新疆危安案件人员亲属), "stability-related focus person" (涉稳类重点人)

### **Victims among relatives**

Semetjan Mijit (13571), Hesenjan Mijit (13572), Ablikim Mijit (13573), Metniyaz Hesen (13574), Asimgul Sabit (13575)

### **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 3: [https://twitter.com/Habiba97013872/status/1336697930472976384?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Habiba97013872/status/1336697930472976384?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Testimony 5: [https://twitter.com/Habiba97013872/status/1338714835178184704?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Habiba97013872/status/1338714835178184704?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

photo: [https://shahit.biz/supp/4980\\_1.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/4980_1.jpg)

Testimony 2: [https://shahit.biz/supp/4980\\_2.png](https://shahit.biz/supp/4980_2.png)

Entry created: 2019-07-09

Last updated: 2021-09-23

Latest status update: 2021-05-01

7075. Baqytali Nur (巴哈特阿力·努尔)

Chinese ID: 65412219720626271X (Chapchal)



#### Basic info

Age: 47

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Kazakh

Likely current location: outside China

Status: free

When problems started: Oct. 2017 - Dec. 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: has problems

Profession: private business

#### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 3: Baqytali Nur, as reported by Radio Free Asia Uyghur. (the victim)

Testimony 2 | 4 | 5: Baqytali Nur, a farmer from Chapchal County, but now living in Kazakhstan. He is a survivor of the mass incarcerations in Xinjiang. (the victim)

Testimony 6: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

#### About the victim

Baqytali Nur is married and a father of three, and is originally from Chapchal County. After being a farmer, he started his own business in 2015, exporting vegetables and agricultural goods to Kazakhstan.

Registered address in China: 13 Fourth East Alley, Narhon Street, Chapchal Xibo Autonomous County (察布查尔锡伯自治县察布查尔镇纳尔浑街东四巷13号).

#### Current location

Now in Kazakhstan.

#### Chronology of detention(s)

He was arrested by state security on October 27/29, 2017 (some reports say 27, but he says 29 in his interview to Atajurt) in Qorghas, as he was making preparations to go to Kazakhstan. After a day of questioning, he was taken to a camp - the former No. 3 middle school - in the Chapchal Municipality.

In June 2018, he was transferred to a hospital, but would be transferred back in mid-November, before being released from the camp 2 days later. After remaining under house arrest for 8-9 months, he would manage to get the visa for Kazakhstan in August 2019 and to return there.

#### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

For having gone to Kazakhstan too many times, according to the officials who visited him while he was in

detention.

### **Last reported status**

Released and back in Kazakhstan.

He has had issues with his health (during his year in camp, he got nine different kind of illnesses in his kidney and internal organs, as well as hepatitis and pneumonia).

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

This is an eyewitness account.

### **Additional information**

His story has been covered by Time magazine:  
<https://time.com/5735411/china-surveillance-privacy-issues/>

From the interview to Radio Free Asia  
(<https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/lager-shahiti-12302019222056.html>):

There were ten 6-story buildings at the camp he stayed at, with Baqytali being put in the No. 11 cell on the sixth floor of the No. 1 building. There were 160 people there – Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Hui. He was generally kept with Uyghurs.

His wife, Gulnar, and their children were forced to move to Chapchal County and forcibly take part in classes for 10 hours a day, with a Chinese cadre living in the house until Baqytali's release. In the classes, she was with all Uyghur women whose husbands had been sentenced for 10, 20, or 30 years in prison. They were taught Chinese and law, and were forced to praise China and Xi Jinping. Chinese cadres were placed in all of these women's houses. When the Chinese Spring Festival came, Chinese decorations were hung on the gates of their houses in celebration and the cadres would bring wine, while telling them not to celebrate the Qurban and Roza festivals. The Chinese cadres would also have the women remove their headscarves and would not allow them to pray.

From additional Radio Free Asia coverage  
(<https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/baqiteli-nur-01162020165916.html>):  
According to Baqytali, there are more than 30000 Uyghurs and Kazakhs on China's blacklist in Chapchal County alone.

Additional eyewitness details from another conversation at Atajurt:

There was an Uyghur guy named Ablimit who spat blood but nobody cared. It was almost the same for Baqyt'ali – each time he had a fever, the camp staff, including the doctor there, did not care.

The wives of many of the interned Uyghurs have remarried to Han or Xibo while their husbands were in the camps. Among the Uyghurs he himself knew, 5-6 people's wives had remarried. Once, a cadre came to him and asked him to sign a document that would allow the government to take care of his 2-year-old son. He refused to sign.

The secretary of his village recently contacted his daughter via WeChat to offer them an apartment and

500000RMB.

After being released from camp, about 40 people from the same village, all of them released together, attended a meeting. During the meeting, they were told that there was a confidential government document (红头文件) instructing them to try to marry their children to Han people. As an encouragement, they would get 100000RMB. They were told that it would be for their benefit to get married to a “superior ethnic group” (referring to the Han).

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Baqyt'ali mentions pressure being put on his family in China, with his sister being interrogated in early-mid May 2020 (and not for the first time).

### **Eyewitness account**

[The following is a translation of the victim's interview, as given to Gulzhan from the Atajurt Kazakh Human Rights organization in Almaty, Kazakhstan.]

Gulzhan (G): You're from Termenbulaq Village of Segizsumyn Township in Shapshal County, right?

Baqytali (B): Yes.

G: When did you come to Kazakhstan for the first time and what had you been doing?

B: I started travelling back and forth between Kazakhstan and China in 2007, doing business. I was selling vegetables. On October 29, 2017, I was taken from Qorgas... I stayed for a night there. My uncle had fallen ill in Kazakhstan. So, after loading the vegetables onto a truck to Kazakhstan, I called my family to go to the border to visit him.

G: As you've mentioned earlier, they started taking passports in 2015 in Shapshal...

B: Yes, they took the passports. If I remember clearly, we got our passports back in July 2017.

G: They took your passport in 2015 and in 2017 you asked for it back...

B: Yes, I did.

G: Did they return it without saying anything?

B: I went through the required procedures. I got a paper from the village.

G: How many stamps and signatures did you need?

B: If I'm not mistaken, they attached five stamps... including the stamp of the religious affairs department. Then they said: you've got the required permissions, you can go.

G: When did they return it in 2017?

B: July 2017... Then we got a visa. I got the visa in August 2017. I don't remember the exact date. I wanted them [my family] to visit my uncle [in Kazakhstan] too, since he was seriously ill. He had cancer. Before

that, I had sent batches of vegetables twice, 20 tons and 40 tons. The third time it was 80 tons. Then I stayed for a night there.

G: Did you cross the border on October 27 [mistake], on the same day?

B: No, on October 29 I was in Qorgas. I called them [my family] and they came [to the border]. Then a guy from the Shapshal State Security Bureau came and introduced himself as a head of the bureau. There was another guy, named Murat, from our village police station. They told me to get into a car. I was with my family and we had bought tickets for a bus. I asked them in return why they were requiring me to get into a car and asked what I had done wrong. The guy grabbed me by my coat, and I pushed him back. My children were terrified and started crying. Then they put them into the car. They were taken into a Kazakh guy's car. They took us to our village police station.

I was interrogated separately from my family. They were interrogated as well. They asked me to tell them my crime. I asked in return what my crime was. They said I was trying to escape. I was travelling back and forth to support my family and asked them what I had done wrong, even supposing that I had moved to Kazakhstan. Not only Kazakhs, but the Han Chinese also move to Kazakhstan. What's wrong with that? I've got the passport and visa legally. Have I killed someone? Have I gone against the government? But they wouldn't answer your questions, they'd just tell you to confess. They told me that I had leaked some information. How was that possible? I don't work for the foreign affairs ministry – I'm just an ordinary person.

They questioned my wife, my older daughter, and my younger daughter, who was 14 that year. They then let my family go home, while I had to stay. I was handcuffed and an armed border defense (边防) soldier would guard me. They had questioned me for about 3 hours, if I'm not mistaken. Then the two guys who had interrogated me left, returning after about two hours. Then they took me to the state security bureau by car.

There were chairs there that are used for torturing people. After getting through the main black gate, there were many more gates inside. There were many rooms and I was taken into one of them, where I'd have to put my hands on the iron board of the chair, with my hands being chained [more likely: shackled] to it. There was one Uyghur guy and one Han. Erkin from the state security bureau was there too.

They asked me to confess my crime. Erkin told me to show them how bold I was [denying the accusations]. I think it went on until 4 am, and then they seemed to get sleepy and left me in the room alone, locking it and going out. When I woke up in the morning, a person from our village police office came in. He said: "I'll take you out, brother."

The place he took me was the municipal (城镇) police station. They took my photos and had me leave my fingerprints and signatures on some documents, even though I didn't know what the documents were. They asked if I had had a medical check-up. I told them that I had had one about ten days earlier. The guy who had taken me there left me to another guy, saying he had some business to deal with and handcuffing me to a heating radiator. I asked for water and the Kazakh guy brought me some. The first guy would return when it got dark and asked me to sign another document. Three or four documents, maybe. I had no idea what the documents were.

There used to be the No. 3 Middle School where ethnic minorities studied. In 2015, it was transformed into a vocational school. People would go there for 3-month vocational-training periods. An acquaintance of mine, Erbolat, told me that in 2015 he was first put in prison for 15 days and then sent to spend 3 months in that school. That guy was later put in a camp, too.

A policeman named Bolat took me somewhere and told me that I would spend 15 days at most there, saying that it was just political education. I believed him. He then made a phone call, after which we went through the first gate – a normal gate. The next gate after that was scary – it was tall and topped with barb wire. About 8 meters tall, the height of a two-story building. They removed the shoelaces and buttons from my clothes, after which an Uyghur guy named Kamaljan came over and spoke to me in Uyghur, saying that the students should stay inside the yellow line.

There was another gate with two different doors: one for the teachers and another for the “students”, where they would check you with their electric equipment and search your body before you entered the door. We had to say “报告” (“reporting”) as well. You had to shout “一名学员进去” (“one student entering”), and since I couldn't pronounce the sentence correctly they asked me to say “新学员” (“new student”) louder. There too they had that same line.

Some of the doors the guards could open by scanning their thumbs. There were many gates in a single corridor, and we had to go through about 16 gates before we reached the sixth floor, which was the very top one. There were classrooms on both sides of the corridor. The entrance to our room consisted of two doors, with the door outside chained so that only one person could enter while bending over. Both doors could be locked.

In the beginning, there were 8 people in our room. Except for me, all the others were Uyghur. If I started to talk, the loudspeaker would shout to tell me not to speak. There were cameras and a loudspeaker in the room, and they made it impossible to sleep. It would shout for us to lie down. I'd sleep on the top bunk. After a few days, the number of students increased dramatically, and they'd have to sleep in the aisle between the rows of bunk beds. Once, they brought four old Uyghur men into our room, so we emptied our beds for them and slept on the floor. They were in their seventies, and it was difficult for them to walk. They were ill.

The loudspeaker woke you up at 4 am. After getting up, we'd line up for the toilet. There was only a single toilet in the corridor. One toilet for over 162 people. Meanwhile, the guards would stand next to you with their rifles. The people who had been hired as guards were unemployed young people – their salary now was 4000RMB. They wouldn't listen to you, those illiterate devils. They'd shout at you, beat you. “Sit down!” they'd shout, and we would have to put our hands on our necks and squat. We would do the same in the toilet and when sitting against the wall. I saw guys who couldn't hold it and shit their pants, because of the crowd waiting to use the toilet. They're here in Kazakhstan now.

We'd form a line to wash up, and have breakfast around 6 or 6:30, eating in a canteen outside. Before having our meal, we would sing for about half an hour, standing outside in the cold weather. We'd be very thinly dressed, seeing as they took our coats. We'd be wearing simple cloth shoes. As we sang, there'd be people there from the public security bureau and border defense, as well as others, all of them armed. There was metal netting above us, and on the other side you could see more armed guards. I felt like I was in some facility straight out of a Japanese movie [he means a movie about the China-Japan war]. I was terrified. I thought they would kill us.

They'd order us to finish our meals in ten minutes. We would have rice soup [congee, most likely], but it was so watery that you could only find three or four grains of rice in it. We'd also have a tiny steam bun. We'd always be hungry, but we got used to it.

Then we'd go to the classroom, where there was netting to separate the students and the teachers. The guards would tell us to sit and we'd sit, putting our hands on the backs of our necks and sitting for half an hour. We would sit on stools for 15-16 hours, with any extra movements getting you in trouble. They could kick you, take you to an underground room, or transfer you to the “qiangguanban” (强管班, “strictly

managed class"). I was in the puban (普班, "standard class").

It was very hard for me to wait for the toilet, so once I kicked the door to hurry them up, which resulted in them coming and putting a bag over my head, kicking me, and taking me to solitary confinement for 24 hours. I fell sick and my body temperature would reach 40 degrees. Apparently, I would shout and they would beat me, but I don't remember this – the other guys in the room told me about them beating me up to the point where my head was bleeding, telling me I was only pretending to be ill. I was sick for a month and a half, and I couldn't walk properly. It was cold inside, and I was tired of the beatings.

Once a week, we would take a shower, for which they only gave us five minutes. After the five minutes were up, they'd just kick you in the ass and pull you out of the shower. Your wet head would freeze. Even when it was freezing outside, we would still go to the shower wearing only our slippers. We would sit on our stools in those slippers, too. They didn't allow you to wear shoes. So, I came to the conclusion that they wanted to kill us this way. I just lost hope. Eight months into it, an Uyghur guy named Ablimit collapsed one morning...

G: Were there any people who died in the camp?

B: There was an Uyghur guy, 18 years old. His father died while being transferred from the camp to Qarabura Prison in Kunes. The guy's name is Baratjan. His father was my age, and was given 13 years in prison for visiting Dubai. Baratjan's cell was downstairs, and I'd whisper to ask him the reason while we were in the toilet. After my release, I'd learn that his father's corpse was never shown to any of his family members.

[continuing with what he started saying earlier] I fainted in the afternoon of that day that that guy collapsed. I spat blood, so they took me to a hospital where I would then spend 4 months. It was almost in the same facility as the camp. It used to be an epidemic prevention station.

The doctors would be checked before entering the building. There were both Uyghur and Han doctors. The guys who took me there contacted my family and asked them to pay the medical bills. They paid about 3000RMB – the rest was covered by medical insurance. The doctors would tell me that I had problems with my liver, spinal cord, and lungs, because of the cold. After 15 days, my condition got better. I had been very healthy and had been doing plenty of sports before the camp. I'm not lying – it wasn't a big deal for me to fight 3-4 people. I'm 47 and almost everyone who knew me knew that I was very athletic. I'd be beaten up numerous times [in the camp, presumably].

After four months in the hospital, they'd handcuff and hood me to take me back to the "school" I had been at earlier. One day, still at the camp hospital, they told me that people from the prefecture-level government were visiting, and taught me to say to them that I had come there because I had committed a crime and was a "bufangxin renyuan" (不放心人员, "an untrustworthy person"), and that I was "infected" [with religious extremism].

I forgot to say – I had actually been given a 5-year prison term. It was not a formal court hearing, and nobody from my family attended. They just got together and informed me that I was given 5 years. Later, I learned that my family members had been told that I was given 15.

[On the day of the officials visiting,] a Han cadre came. He was very nice and polite, and asked me why I was there. I told him I didn't know. He got angry and asked me why I didn't know. A guy from the camp [official, presumably] told me to tell him that I was an untrustworthy person, but I said again that I didn't know the reason. After that, the prefecture-level official said: you have visited Kazakhstan too many times and might have gotten infected, and that's why we are checking you. He also mentioned that I had visited

one of the 26 "dangerous countries". It didn't last long and they left. He was carrying a thick pile of materials about me.

I was told that another cadre, from the autonomous-region-level government, would come in three days for a "tanhua" (谈话, "conversation"). A young Han guy came in three days. He didn't ask very many questions, and they were almost the same. He said that he was from the "zizhiqu" (自治区, "autonomous region [government]"). Another one was using a computer to take notes of our conversation. They told me to say good things about the Party. I of course said "yes" – I wanted to get out. I signed a paper and was then taken to the previous camp [from the hospital].

Two days later, all the guys from Termenbulaq Village were released. I think there were about 50-60 people from that village, I don't know. There were still people in the camp when they released us. After my release, I would be placed under house arrest. I'd be either under house arrest or under surveillance for about 8-9 months. I had no idea how it worked, but if I went more than 10 meters from my house, the police would arrive. Maybe because we had our irises scanned and the cameras could recognize us. The police would ask where I was heading and take notes. The village police would beat you.

I would walk with a crutch until May [2019] – I couldn't move my waist. I finally got the visa [to Kazakhstan] on August 15. I've been receiving treatment ever since my release.

G: Who supported your family while you were in the camp?

B: I had left 120000 RMB to them – I was a businessman. Actually, I lost the money for the last 80 tons of vegetables sent to Kazakhstan – they told me that they never received them. I lost 240000 RMB. The truck driver said that he waited for me for a week, but then the vegetables mildewed and had to be thrown out. 80 tons of potatoes. I couldn't get the money for the goods delivered from Kazakhstan to China, either, because those Uyghur businessmen were detained. They were detained because their household registration was in Kashgar while they were doing business in Ghulja. They were good guys, rich and reliable. Many rich people have been detained. I saw five at the camp hospital: Qurban "laoban" (老板, "Boss Qurban"), Musa "laoban" – the owner of the Qizil Bayraq (红旗商场, "Red Flag Shopping Mall") in Ghulja – Mahmut "laoban", Ahim "laoban", and Halmurat "laoban".

I've applied for a Kazakhstan green card, and should get it in a few days. After that I'll apply for the citizenship.

[At camp,] we were shown on TV that China would rule the world. That the whole world will be in their hands. Nobody was allowed to go to mosques.

The 3-4 times I was interrogated all happened at night. At night is when they would take people. They would ask you to tell them about some other people who might have "crimes".

They asked us to not disclose anything and we said we wouldn't. There were five camps like that in Shapshal County, and a mental hospital as well. They'd ask the people inside the camps if they agreed with their children being sent to boarding schools. My oldest daughter, Rosa, and my wife were informed that they would be sent to camp too, but weren't in the end.

Receiving education is a good thing, and if they really provided education the way they're saying, who would be against that? But it's not education – they beat you. Nurlan and Sania and others committed suicide. If those facilities had been good, they wouldn't have killed themselves. Later, they [authorities] said that they had mental problems, but I know that they ended up there for donating to a mosque. There were numerous people who hanged themselves. If everything was good and this was real studying, then

why did so many people kill themselves?

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYLfg7CWu24>

### **Victims among relatives**

Gulnar Omirzaq (10987)

### **Supplementary materials**

Testimony 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYLfg7CWu24>

Testimony 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnj0qzGFKdE>

Testimony 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T05mw5s-smU>

flag ceremony attendance proof: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7075\\_3.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7075_3.jpg)

hospital discharge certificate: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7075\\_4.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7075_4.jpg)

fine notice for too many children: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7075\\_5.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7075_5.jpg)

hospital stay summary: [https://shahit.biz/supp/7075\\_6.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/7075_6.jpg)

Entry created: 2020-01-18

Last updated: 2020-08-14

Latest status update: 2020-06-15

## 8825. Rozimemet Qadir (如则麦麦提·喀迪尔)

Chinese ID: 653222197603200293 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 42

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: concentration camp

When problems started: Jan. 2018 - Mar. 2018

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, "violating birth policies"

Health status: has problems

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Adrian Zenz.

Testimony 2: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 3: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Rozimemet Qadir is a father of four. He had previously engaged in a failed attempt to flee China via Yunnan.

Address: 1-2 Jixiang Fourth Alley, North Qumluq Road, Yengisheher Neighborhood, Bostan Subdistrict, Qaraqash Municipality, Qaraqash County, Hotan Prefecture  
(墨玉县波斯坦街道办事处英协海尔社区库木鲁克北路吉祥4号巷1-2号).

### Current location

At the Qaraqash No. 3 camp.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Sent to the Qaraqash No. 3 camp on February 25, 2018.

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

The Qaraqash list gives two reasons for his detention:

- 1) "Illegally leaving the country" or "attempting to illegally leave the country".
- 2) Having 2 children more than allowed by the family planning policy.

## Last reported status

Detained in camp. He is marked as being under armed supervision (强管).

He suffers from impaired hearing (second degree).

## How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation

The data were obtained from local Xinjiang government documents.

## Additional information

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](http://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

Excerpts from the local government administration reports/conclusions regarding the victim:

"Attempted to leave the country illegally. Was arrested in Kunming while preparing to leave and was kept there for 9 months (2014/10-2015/08). Was later transferred to the Hotan County public security bureau, then released after three months. There still remains a real threat. Violated the birth policy (first daughter over the quota: Rahile, born in December 2012, ID number: 653222201212210020; second daughter over the quota: Mukesina, born in September 2016, ID number: 653222201609250047). Has 10 relatives, 1 arrested, 1 in training. Relatively many relatives arrested. Rozimemet's thought transformation has been average, can do better to admit his mistakes and express regret. Continue training."

## Police tags

"person with a criminal record (national level, not Urumqi)" (刑事犯罪前科人员全国非乌鲁木齐)

## Victims among relatives

Eynalhan Mijit (10127), Mijit Sidiq (10126), Ilyas Rozimemet (10144), Yaqup Rozimemet (10145), Rahile Rozimemet (10146), Muhsine Rozimemet (10147)

Entry created: 2020-05-21

Last updated: 2020-08-14

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

## 9786. Yusupjan Hebir (玉素普江·海比尔)

Chinese ID: 653222198609020298 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 32

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: concentration camp

When problems started: Oct. 2017 - Dec. 2017

Detention reason (suspected|official): ---|related to going abroad, "registration issues", "extremism"

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2|3: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Yusupjan Hebir (potential Mandarin spelling: 玉苏普江·海比尔).

Address: House No. 10, Green Corridor, Sizi Neighborhood (斯孜社区绿色走廊10号).

### Current location

Qaraqash No. 3 Camp.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Sent to the Qaraqash No. 3 camp on December 10, 2017.

(Police records note that he was added to the iTap database on November 16, 2017.)

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

A number of reasons are reported:

- 1) Being classified as a "backflow prevention person" (防回流人员) [someone who returned after being abroad].
- 2) Having two household registrations.
- 3) Having "propagated extremist ideology".

An Urumqi police report also notes that he is suspected of "illegally propagating religious activities"

(涉嫌非法传播宗教活动).

### **Last reported status**

Detained at camp.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data come directly from a local government document.

### **Additional information**

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](http://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

What is likely his relatives' shishkebab shop in Changde, Hunan: <https://archive.vn/ZgFx3>

An Urumqi police report mentions that his second registration is under the name of (Yu)suf Mahmu(t) (苏夫·木哈买), with ID number 652322198005152534 and in Urumqi's Midong District.

Excerpts from the local government administration reports/conclusions regarding the victim:

"Yusupjan Hebir's household registration address has been cancelled. Yusupjan Hebir applied for a passport and left the country twice. In May 2011, he went to Saudi Arabia and came back after 15 days. In November 2011, he went to Egypt and then to Saudi Arabia, came back after 20 days. He used his household registration in Urumqi to obtain a passport and leave the country. Before the departure, he contacted people living abroad who were born in Qaraqash. Family is strongly religious. Yusupjan Hebir and his relatives were selling grilled meat in Changde, Hunan. He was arrested by a Hunan police station for propagating religious activities on 2017/11/01 and was sent back to the district of his jurisdiction. He was investigated, but the evidence was not sufficient. In conclusion, Yusupjan Hebir left the country twice to go to 'focus' countries. Recommended to continue training."

### **Victims among relatives**

Hebir Eysa (9862)

Entry created: 2020-08-13

Last updated: 2021-10-05

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

## 9835. Memetekber Rozibaqi (麦麦提艾科拜尔·如则巴柯)

Chinese ID: 653222198009060018 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 38

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: concentration camp

When problems started: July 2018 - Sep. 2018

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, "violating birth policies"

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2 | 3: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Memet'ekber Rozibaqi.

Address: Apt. 1402, Entrance No. 3, Jinhayu Residence, Yengisheher Community (英协海尔社区金玉华府3单元1402室).

### Current location

In Qaraqash County.

### Chronology of detention(s)

- 1) Sent to the Qaraqash No. 2 camp (July 1, 2018).
- 2) Approved for release from camp.

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

A number of reasons are reported:

- 1) Applying for a passport.
- 2) Having 3 children more than allowed by the family planning policy.

An Urumqi police record also notes that he used another person's registration to get a second-generation ID card (冒用他人户口办理二代证). (He had his phone checked in the city on July 30, 2017, and was added to the iTap database on the same day.)

## **Last reported status**

Still in camp, but likely to be released.

## **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data come directly from a local government document.

## **Additional information**

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](https://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

A company in Qaraqash whose owner has the same name as the victim [possibly the same person]:  
<https://archive.is/mVwiE>

Excerpts from the local government administration reports/conclusions regarding the victim:

"Memet'ekber Rozibaqi has three children. Has applied for a passport. He did not go abroad and did not cause other problems. Memet'ekber Rozibaqi's thoughts have transformed. His family's performance is average, with one family member arrested and many relatives in training. Memet'ekber Rozibaqi can do better to admit his mistakes and express regrets for his previous attitudes. Continue training."

"Memet'ekber Rozibaqi's thoughts have been transformed greatly. He admits his mistakes and expresses serious regrets. Not a threat. His family also faces difficulties, and his father is old and ill. His younger brother is arrested, so there's no one who can take care of the family business. Graduate to community supervision."

## **Victims among relatives**

Ekrem Rozibaqi (10161), Merigul Rozibekri (10162), Abdurahman Rozibekri (10163)

Entry created: 2020-08-13

Last updated: 2021-06-01

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

## 9910. Melike Mettohti

Chinese ID: 653222197003200329 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 48

Gender: F

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: unclear (soft)

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to religion, related to going abroad, relative(s)

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Melike Mettohti (potential Mandarin spelling: 麦丽开·麦提托合提).

Address: House No. 187, Group No. 2, Yuhua Community (玉华社区2组187号).

### Current location

[Presumably in Qaraqash County.]

### Chronology of detention(s)

- 1) Sent to camp (June 2016).
- 2) Released from detention (October 2016).
- 3) Sent to camp (December 2016).
- 4) Released from detention (April 7, 2017).
- 5) Sent to the Qaraqash No. 4 camp (April 11, 2017 / April 4, 2017).
- 6) Released from detention (January 23, 2019).

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

A number of reasons are reported:

- 1) Having "obstinately worn a veil".
- 2) Having a "deeply religious family".
- 3) Going on a Hajj twice.

4) Being a relative of a person who "escaped abroad" (her husband lives in Turkey).

The report mentions that Melike was very adamant about wearing a veil, saying to officials that she had rhinitis and had to wear it, even refusing to leave her house so that she could wear it at home. She stopped wearing it in 2016.

### **Last reported status**

Released from hard detention.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data come directly from a local government document.

### **Additional information**

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](http://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

Excerpts from the local government administration reports/conclusions regarding the victim:

"Family is strongly religious. Melike Mettohti would cover her face from 2002 to 2014. From 2014 to January 2016, she claimed that she did so because of rhinitis. She only stopped covering her face in January 2016, and was one of the last women doing so in the community. Her husband left for Turkey in February 2016 and has remained there until now. He is suspected of being involved in terrorist organizations. Melike Mettohti left the country twice to go on a pilgrimage. The first time, she went to Saudi Arabia on 1994/07/08 (staying for 45 days). The second time she went to Saudi Arabia on 2002/07/08 (staying for 45 days). Presents a definite threat. Continue training."

### **Police tags**

"intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员), "stability-related focus person" (涉稳类重点人)

### **Victims among relatives**

Ehmetjan Enwer (9790), Abduleziz Mijit (10034), Memetemer Mehsut (9866), Memetimin Mettohti (10261), Ekber Enwer (10363)

Entry created: 2020-08-14

Last updated: 2020-08-14

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

## 9926. Emer Memetimin

Chinese ID: 653222197304180296 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 45

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: concentration camp

When problems started: ---

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, "violating birth policies", "untrustworthy person"

Health status: ---

Profession: private business

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Emer Memetimin (potential Mandarin spelling: 艾麦尔·麦麦提敏). He ran a shoe store at the Hope Shopping Mall (希望商城).

Address: No. 12, Alley 235, North Bostan Road, Shatliq Community (夏特勒克社区斯坦街道波斯坦北路235号巷12号).

### Current location

Qaraqash No. 1 Camp.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Sent to the Qaraqash No. 1 camp on either June 1, 2017 or October 17, 2017 [discrepancy in reported dates may be due to time spent in detention center between initial detention and formal transfer].

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

A number of reasons are reported:

- 1) Going on a Hajj without a government-approved tour group. (In 2002, he went to Dubai for shopping and used the opportunity to go on a Hajj.)
- 2) Having 5 children more than allowed by the family planning policy.
- 3) Labeled as an "unreliable person born in the 1970s".

## **Last reported status**

Detained at camp.

He is currently being held at Area No. 1 of the camp.

## **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data come directly from a local government document.

## **Additional information**

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](http://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

Excerpts from the local government administration reports/conclusions regarding the victim:

"Emer Memet'imin is in the 'armed supervision' class. His relatives' performance is average, family is strongly religious. Continue training."

"His relatives cooperate with the neighborhood administration, but still need an educational incentive. Continue training."

## **Police tags**

"intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员)

## **Victims among relatives**

Ablikim Memetimin (9902), Memetimin Omer (10128), Ablet Memetimin (10193), Abliz Ablet (10080)

Entry created: 2020-08-14

Last updated: 2020-08-14

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

## 9935. Ehmettohti Yasin

Chinese ID: 653222197501100013 (Karakash)

### Basic info

Age: 44

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Hotan

Status: concentration camp

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | "violating birth policies", related to going abroad, past "transgressions"

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: The "Qaraqash List", a local government document from Qaraqash County, leaked abroad in the middle of 2019. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2 | 3: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

### About the victim

Ehmettohti Yasin (potential Mandarin spelling: 艾合麦提托合提·亚森).

Address: 11 Yushi First Alley, West Yipbazar Road, Yuhua Community / 79 Yushi First Alley, Yuhua Community (玉华社区依甫巴扎西路玉石一巷11号/玉华社区玉石一巷79号).

### Current location

In Qaraqash County.

### Chronology of detention(s)

Previously detained during the time of the July 5 incident (in 2009).

More recently, he was originally sent to camp by authorities in Urumqi, but was then transferred to a camp in Qaraqash County on August 1, 2018. It is not clear which camp in Qaraqash he was held at, as some records note that he was transferred to the No. 3 camp from Urumqi, while others list him as being at the No. 2 camp.

He was later approved for release [presumably in early 2019, as this appears to be the approximate date of the Qaraqash List].

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

A number of reasons are reported:

- 1) Having 1-2 children more than allowed by the family planning policy.
- 2) Applying for a passport (did not leave the country).

### **Last reported status**

Still in camp, but likely to be released.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data come directly from a local government document.

### **Additional information**

The original Qaraqash list document (with minor redactions): [shahit.biz/supp/list\\_008.pdf](http://shahit.biz/supp/list_008.pdf)

### **Police tags**

"person detained in July 5 incident" (7.5监所羁押人员)

### **Victims among relatives**

Oghulnisa Metniyaz (9823), Memetniyaz Tohti (10122), Sebiay Ehmettohti (10148), Nadire Ehmettohti (10149), Nazaket Ehmettohti (10150)

Entry created: 2020-08-14

Last updated: 2021-05-25

Latest status update: 2019-03-08

13696. Ekber Mehmud (艾克白尔·麦合木提)

Chinese ID: 653125199111015211 (Yarkand)

### Basic info

Age: 27

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Urumqi

Status: sentenced (15 years)

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | "separatism", "terrorism", related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Adrian Zenz.

Testimony 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 3: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Anonymous.

### About the victim

Ekber Mehmud.

Registration address: House No. 118, Group No. 4, Toghraqmazar Village, Arslanbagh Township, Yarkand County, Kashgar Prefecture (莎车县阿尔斯兰巴格乡托格拉克麻扎村4组118号).

### Current location

Xinjiang No. 3 Prison.

### Chronology of detention(s)

He was detained and taken into custody on May 11, 2014. On June 3, 2015, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with release scheduled for May 10, 2029. He was transferred to the Xinjiang No. 3 Prison on June 3, 2015.

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

His case was classified as a "separatism case" (分裂国家案), with the "reason for punishment" (处置原因) given as "organizing, leading, and taking part in a terrorist group" (组织、领导、参加恐怖组织罪). The official crime (罪名) was given as "separatism" (分裂国家罪). It is specified that he was planning to make a Hijrat (migration to an Islamic region).

### Last reported status

In prison.

[There is a high likelihood of him being subjected to forced labor at the Xinjiang No. 3 Prison, as the Xinjiang No. 3 Lathe Factory is based there and is reported to employ the majority of inmates.]

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data were obtained from internal sources in Xinjiang.

### **Additional information**

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### **Police tags**

"person involved in an endangering-security case (Xinjiang-wide)" (新疆危安案件涉案人员), "intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员)

### **Victims among relatives**

Mehmut Memet (13695), Gulember Mehmut (13697)

Entry created: 2021-04-09

Last updated: 2022-05-18

Latest status update: 2019-01-27

14305. Iminniyaz Memet (依明尼亚孜·麦麦提)

Chinese ID: 653125199409115274 (Yarkand)

### Basic info

Age: 24

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Turpan

Status: sentenced (20 years)

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | "endangering state security", related to religion, related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Adrian Zenz.

Testimony 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 3: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Anonymous.

### About the victim

Iminniyaz Memet.

Registration address: House No. 107 [possibly 102], Group No. 3, Aghicha'eriq Village, Arslanbagh Township, Yarkand County, Kashgar Prefecture (莎车县阿尔斯兰巴格乡阿格其艾日克村3组107号).

### Current location

Turpan Prison.

### Chronology of detention(s)

He was detained and taken into custody on April 26, 2012. On April 9, 2013, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, with release scheduled for April 25, 2032. He was transferred to Turpan Prison on October 28, 2013.

### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

His case was classified as "another type of endangering state security case" (其他危害国家安全案), with the "reason for punishment" (处置原因) given as "endangering state security" (危害国家安全罪). The official crime (罪名) was given as "endangering state security" (危害国家安全罪). Specifically, his arrest appears linked to an April 20, 2012 Hijrat case in Yarkand (2012年4月20日在莎车县发生的(4.20)伊吉拉特案件), although the note in the records gives "Osman Memet" as the person suspected of taking part in it, and not Iminniyaz Memet [though it seems likely he

was involved].

### **Last reported status**

In prison.

[There is a good likelihood of him being subjected to forced labor, as the Donghu Cement Factory is based at Turpan Prison.]

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

The data were obtained from internal sources in Xinjiang.

### **Additional information**

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### **Police tags**

"intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员)

Entry created: 2021-04-30

Last updated: 2022-05-23

Latest status update: 2019-01-27

## 14357. Seyitahun Abdukerim

Chinese ID: 65300119???????O? (Atush)

### Basic info

Age: 35-55

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Kizilsu

Status: sentenced (12 years)

When problems started: ---

Detention reason (suspected | official): related to going abroad | related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: private business

### Testifying party

Testimony 1: Anonymous, as reported by Radio Free Asia Uyghur. (from same town/region)

Testimony 2: Local government employee, as reported by Radio Free Asia Uyghur. (from same town/region)

### About the victim

Seyitahun Abdukerim is a Uyghur businessman whose family regularly traded Chinese fabrics in Kyrgyzstan. He is from B iger Village, Azaq Township, Atush, Kizilsu Kyrgyz Autonomous Prefecture, and has four siblings in total.

[As Qurbanjan Abdukerim (older brother of victim) passed away at the age of 54 years old on 27 February 2021, we can infer that Seyitahun Abdukerim (the victim) was younger than 54 years old as of 27 February 2021.]

### Current location

The victim is currently being held at Aghu Prison in Atush. [Officially known as Kizilsu Prison.]

### Chronology of detention(s)

In 2013, Seyitahun Abdukerim sent Ibrahim Seyitahun and Ezimet Seyitahun (his two sons) to study in Egypt after consulting with his older brother, Qurbanjan Abdukerim.

At some point in 2017, Seyitahun Abdukerim returned to Atush from Kyrgyzstan after he was called home by Chinese police. Upon returning to China, the authorities reportedly made him "force his sons to return to the XUAR from Egypt."

Subsequently, Seyitahun Abdukerim and his two sons were all taken into custody by Chinese authorities.

According to Zibibulla (the testifier), Seyitahun Abdukerim (the victim) was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment for sending his two sons to study in Egypt. His two sons were also detained after returning

to China and sentenced at the same time as Seyitahun Abdukerim [presumably in the same trial]. Both of his sons are also currently in prison.

Testimony 2: An anonymous government employee in B iger Village, Azaq Township, Atush, Kizilsu Kyrgyz Autonomous Prefecture reportedly confirmed to RFA that Seyitahun Abdukerim was ordered to return to Atush from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and that the reason for his subsequent detention was that he sent his two sons to study in Egypt. According to that government employee, he is currently in Aghu Prison, Atush, after having been sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment (not 18 years).

### **Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention**

The reason for the victim's arrest and imprisonment was that he sent his two sons to study in Egypt.

### **Last reported status**

The victim was sentenced to either 18 or 12 years of imprisonment at some point after 2017 and is currently being held at Aghu Prison, Atush, Kizilsu Kyrgyz Autonomous Prefecture.

[There is a high likelihood of the victim being subjected to forced labor, as the Kelakeqin Agro-Pastoral LLC (克拉克勤农牧有限责任公司) is believed to operate out of Kizilsu Prison.]

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

Testimony 1: It is unclear how Zibibulla (the testifier) learnt about the victim's situation.

Testimony 2: Although it is unclear which government department they work for, the anonymous government employee in B iger Village presumably had access to official information relating to the victim.

### **Additional information**

Radio Free Asia coverage (Testimony 1-2):

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/egypt-03052021184200.html>

### **Victims among relatives**

Ilham Memetjan (9597), Qurbanjan Abdukerim (14346), Ibrahim Seyitahun (14358), Ezimet Seyitahun (14359), Imran Hekimjan (14360), Medine Hekimjan (14361)

Entry created: 2021-03-29

Last updated: 2022-01-06

Latest status update: 2021-03-05

16523. Nureli Dilmurat (努尔艾力·地力木拉提)

Chinese ID: 650102198306154017 (Urumqi)

#### Basic info

Age: 34

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Urumqi

Status: ---

When problems started: before 2017

Detention reason (suspected|official): ---|"endangering state security", related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

#### Testifying party

Testimony 1|2|3: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 4: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Anonymous.

#### About the victim

Nureli Dilmurat.

#### Current location

Urumqi.

#### Chronology of detention(s)

He was detained and taken into custody on August 20, 2014. On January 22, 2015, he was sentenced to 2 years in prison, with release scheduled for August 19, 2016. He was transferred to Xinshoufan Prison on March 11, 2015.

As of 2017-2018, he was listed, together with approximately 8000 other people, as belonging to the WASFRY group (危安释放人员, or "endangering (state) security released persons"). [This appears to suggest that he was released as scheduled, although it is very likely that he was detained again, given his police tags and the indication that he stayed in the region (as evidenced by a September 2017 police check).]

#### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

His earlier case was classified as an "endangering state security case" (危害国家安全案), with the "reason for punishment" (处置原因) given as "using fraudulent means to obtain a document to go abroad" (骗取出境证件罪). The official crime (罪名) was given as "endangering state security" (危害国家安全罪).

## Last reported status

Not specified.

## How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation

These data come directly from Xinjiang police and government records.

## Additional information

[There is a strong likelihood of his having been subjected to forced labor, as the Lanxiang Heating LLC (蓝翔热力有限责任公司) operates out of the Xinshoufan Prison.]

## Police tags

"person with an endangering-security record" (危安前科人员), "intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员), "stability-related focus person" (涉稳类重点人), "endangering-security released person" (危安释放人员)

Entry created: 2021-08-18

Last updated: 2022-06-04

Latest status update: 2017-09-28

37706. Jelil Eziz (吉力力·艾则孜)

Chinese ID: 653222196403032390 (Karakash)



#### Basic info

Age: 54

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Urumqi

Status: ---

When problems started: July 2017 - Sep. 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad

Health status: ---

Profession: private business

#### Testifying party

Testimony 1 | 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

#### About the victim

Jelil Eziz sells meat at the Hualing Market (华凌市场) in Urumqi.

Residential address (as of August 2017, July 2018): 40 Third Rahet Alley, Tianshan District, Urumqi (天山区热哈提三巷40号).

Other residential address (as of January 2018 [possibly same as above]): Apt. 502, Entrance No. 2, Building No. 1, 214 Yan'an Road, Tianshan District, Urumqi City (乌鲁木齐市天山区延安路214号1号楼二单元502号).

#### Current location

Urumqi.

#### Chronology of detention(s)

Transferred to the Liushihu Police Station on August 26, 2017, following a police check, and later released [it is not clear how long he was held for].

#### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

Detained in August 2017 for being a "dispatched border-control flowback-prevention target" (防回流打派遣工作中的边控对象).

#### Last reported status

Unclear. The latest police check from July 10, 2018 notes him as going through a police check, with it being found that he had no illegal activity.

### **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

These data come directly from police databases in Urumqi.

### **Additional information**

He is included in a list obtained as part of the SenseNets leak (see: <https://www.ft.com/content/9ed9362e-31f7-11e9-bb0c-42459962a812>).

### **Victims among relatives**

Heyrulhan Ehmet (37707)

### **Supplementary materials**

photo (August 26, 2017): [https://shahit.biz/supp/37706\\_1.jpg](https://shahit.biz/supp/37706_1.jpg)

Entry created: 2022-05-01

Last updated: 2022-05-01

Latest status update: 2018-07-10

38470. Ekber Tuyghun (艾克拜·吐依洪)

Chinese ID: 650102198606070712 (Urumqi)

#### Basic info

Age: 31

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Urumqi

Status: in custody

When problems started: July 2017 - Sep. 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, "terrorism"

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

#### Testifying party (\* direct submission)

Testimony 1: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 2\*: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Gene A. Bunin.

#### About the victim

Ekber Tuyghun.

Probable residential address [police office keeping track of him]: Happiness Road Neighborhood, Tianshan District, Urumqi.

#### Current location

Urumqi No. 1 Pre-Trial Detention Center.

#### Chronology of detention(s)

Criminally detained on September 7, 2017 or shortly before.

#### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

Not returning to China in time (逾期入境).

A separate police document lists him as a "suspected terrorist" (涉恐人员).

#### Last reported status

In custody.

[It is also possible that he is subjected to forced labor at the No. 1 detention center, as there is some evidence for this practice existing there.]

## **How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation**

These data come directly from police databases in Urumqi.

## **Additional information**

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Entry created: 2022-06-19

Last updated: 2022-06-19

Latest status update: 2017-09-07

42472. Ebeydulla Obulqasim (艾拜都拉·吾布里卡斯木)

Chinese ID: 650102198605034031 (Urumqi)

#### Basic info

Age: 31

Gender: M

Ethnicity: Uyghur

Likely current location: Urumqi

Status: in custody

When problems started: July 2017 - Sep. 2017

Detention reason (suspected | official): --- | related to going abroad, past "transgressions", "terrorism"

Health status: ---

Profession: ---

#### Testifying party (\* direct submission)

Testimony 1 | 2: Urumqi police records, as reported by Yael Grauer.

Testimony 3\*: Xinjiang government records, as reported by Gene A. Bunin.

#### About the victim

Ebeydulla Obulqasim.

Residential address: 1000 Shamalbagh Alley, Tianshan District, Urumqi.

#### Current location

Urumqi.

#### Chronology of detention(s)

On August 10, 2017, his car was checked while he was returning to Urumqi from East Baiyanggou, with the system flagging him, with it found that he had previously been involved in an "endangering state security" case. The facial recognition app was also used, and flagged him as "flowback-prevention person", with instructions to immediately arrest.

#### Suspected and/or official reason(s) for detention

[Presumably for having previously been involved in an endangering-security case, and for having gone abroad.]

A separate police record marks him as a "suspected terrorist" (涉恐人员).

#### Last reported status

In custody.

## How testifier(s) learned of victim's situation

These data come directly from police databases in Urumqi.

## Additional information

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## Police tags

"intelligence domestic-security focus person" (情报国保重点人员)

Entry created: 2022-09-07

Last updated: 2022-09-07

Latest status update: 2017-08-10