

## **Progress and spending report for shahit.biz**

Time period: April 1, 2024 to July 11, 2024 (3+ months)

### **I. Donations and spending breakdown**

Donations received: 8383.03 USD

Total spent: 12011.07 USD

#### **Breakdown**

- Curator: 3640 USD
- Victim importing: 3000 USD
- Translation: 367 USD
- Research: 3470 USD
- Fees: 1534.07 USD
  - (international transfer commissions, 25;
  - site domain/server, 266.70;
  - Google One online storage, 6.33;
  - regular site backups, 59.85;
  - cybersecurity services, 50.85;
  - internet data plans, 353.61;
  - technology repair/replacement, 424;
  - work space rent, 101.64;
  - Google API fees, 46.06;
  - AI tools, 120.01;
  - VPN subscription: 80.02)

### **II. Staff and project size**

Curator (general management, research, and quality control): 2 full-time

Importers (adding/processing victim information into database): 2 part-time

Translators (translation of primary evidence and site interface): 1 part-time

Site programming and development: 1 volunteer

Research (victims and accountable parties): 3 part-time

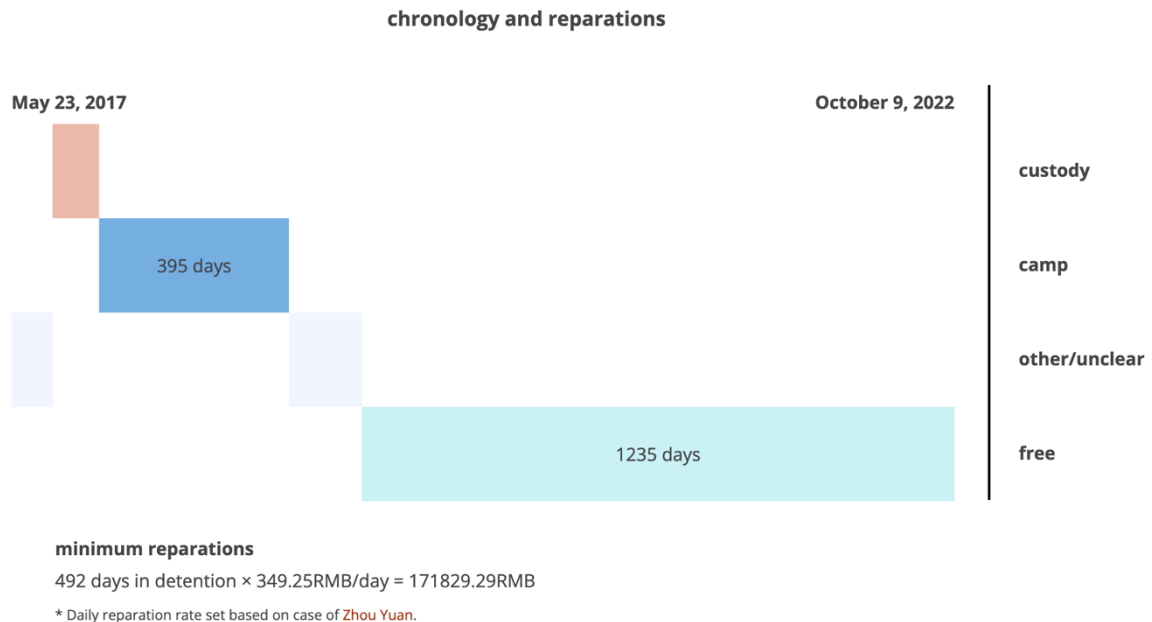
*Two of the part-time staff are themselves victims of the mass incarceration campaign, with the part-time work making it possible for them to cover their costs of living.*

### **III. Progress over the past three months**

#### *Victim documentation (core)*

- 3280 new victims documented (922 high-quality, 2320 medium-quality, 38 low-quality). 920 of them have also been independently corroborated.
- 514 older victim entries have also been updated.

- Detention chronologies [have now been set](#) for almost all victims in the database where this was possible, allowing to visually see what type(s) of detention they were held in, how long they spent there, and the minimum amount in reparations that the government owes them. For example:



*Primary-evidence translation and organization >> <https://shahit.biz/eng/#evidence>*

- Translation of a [police investigation report on Nadilem](#), a woman from Ili, illustrating the invasive surveillance and scrutiny she was subjected to.
- Translation of a [police investigation report](#) confirming the death of victim Tursun Haji in detention.
- Translation of 4 court documents:
  - 1) The [court verdict for Liu Guangfeng](#), a Falun Gong practitioner from Baghrash County.
  - 2) A [recommendation to indict](#) from the Konasheher County police, advising the local procuratorate to issue an indictment against a group of local villagers who allegedly interfered in local elections 6 years earlier. It also establishes the death of a local official in detention.
  - 3) The [court verdict for a Han Christian group](#) in the Bingtuan Seventh Division.
  - 4) The [court verdict for Song Zhigang](#), an ethnic Manchu who was working in Akto County and was a Falun Gong practitioner.
- The translation of several police notes, with the total number translated now passing 700.
- The addition of [Abduweli Ayup's eyewitness account](#), which is the most detailed account of pre-trial detention to date. An illustrated blog version was also published.
- The translation of an [Urumqi police report from May 2018](#), which establishes the detention of three people, one of whom tried to harm herself while at camp by swallowing a paper clip.
- Approximately 1000 new examples of charges vs. actions were added, helping to build the informal dictionary that compares what people were charged with and what they actually did.

Facility documentation >> <https://shahit.biz/eng/#facilities>

- 13 new facilities documented (12 pre-trial detention centers, 1 former prison).
- The newly constructed Kashgar Prison [has been identified](#).

Accountability >> <https://shahit.biz/eng/#account>

- Around 750 new individuals added to the accountability database, with a mix of government and police staff.

Notable cases and/or significant finds

- Discovery of the [Kebirov family case](#), where one brother was detained while another was sentenced to death for “illegal religion”, with their sister married to a deputy commander of the Xinjiang Military District.
- Corroboration of the [detention of prominent educator Turdi Tuniyaz](#), whose training center was subsequently shut down, with many teachers left unemployed.
- Police corroboration of the [detention of prominent musician Senuber Tursun](#), together with the recommendation to have information about her and other celebrity detainees removed from the Chinese internet.
- Information about the [detention and re-detention](#) of a student of the late Abdulhekim Mehsum, a famous religious leader.

Tools, features, and platform improvements

- Addition of around 1000 new name spellings to the [Turkic-Chinese name dictionary](#).

Blog articles

- The [illustrated blog version](#) of Abduweli Ayup’s eyewitness account (already mentioned above).
- A [proposal for an empirical model](#) to estimate sentencing numbers in Xinjiang from prosecution ones, with very accurate results for previous years.
- A [review of all known violent incidents](#) in Xinjiang since 2000, together with a statistical analysis and a worst-case comparison to the equivalent deaths from the mass incarcerations.
- An [update](#) to a previously [published article](#) on the 18000+ individuals sentenced in 2009-2015, giving the fates of an additional 18 people from the list (all were redetained, or got additional sentences before they could finish serving the original).

Known media/research mentions

Media mentions:

- TVO podcast series on Huseyin Jelil: <https://www.tvo.org/podcasts/extradition-the-search-for->

[huseyin-celil](#)

- Radio Free Asia: <https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/turmige-tashlanghan-yashanghanlar-03292024175345.html>
- Bitter Winter: <https://bitterwinter.org/mehmutjan-memet-a-uyghur-is-dying-in-jail-his-familys-pleas-are-ignored/>, <https://bitterwinter.org/uyghurs-in-china-the-most-heavily-jailed-group-in-the-world/>
- Uyghur Human Rights Project: <https://uhrp.org/insights/uhrp-analysis-finds-1-in-26-uyghurs-imprisoned-in-region-with-worlds-highest-prison-rate/>, <https://uhrp.org/insights/the-persecution-of-uyghur-senior-citizens/>
- The Dial: <https://www.thedial.world/issue-17/china-uyghur-books>

Research mentions/citations:

- Musapir, R. Steenberg, "[The Changing Landscape of Uyghur Diaspora Activism](#)"
- G. Shakhanova, "[Normative Power China: Why Kazakhstan is Ignoring the 'Re-education' Camps in Xinjiang](#)"

#### IV. Summary and future plans

The largest hurdle overcome this past quarter was the processing of a list (currently private) of over 5000 detainees from Ili Prefecture who were held in the region's pre-trial detention centers between January and October 2017. Around 300 of them were already in the database and had their entries updated with specific details regarding their arrests, while another 3200 were added as new victims (following the filtering out of those who appeared to be detained for legitimate crimes/reasons).

The addition of Abduweli Ayup's eyewitness account, as a detailed summary of his Uyghur-language memoir, was also a major milestone, since it had been in the works for years and represents the strongest and most detailed eyewitness account of pre-trial detention in Xinjiang. It is complemented by the documentation of another dozen pre-trial detention centers, as we continue to gather the pieces necessary for a comprehensive review article (series) on pre-trial detention centers specifically.

This past quarter has also stood out analytically, with two blog articles using relatively simple mathematical methods to provide answers to certain fundamental questions that have generally been a matter of assumption, speculation, or faith. One article proposed a model to estimate sentencing numbers for Xinjiang, lining up historical numbers of prosecutions and sentences year by year, and then deriving a linear relationship that accurately obtained the sentence numbers from the prosecution ones, thereby making it possible to estimate how many people were likely sentenced in 2019 and after, when the authorities stopped publishing sentencing figures. The other article did a thorough review of all known violent incidents in Xinjiang since 2000, carrying out a statistical analysis and using it to compute a high estimate on the total deaths from violent incidents in the region. It then went one step further, using database statistics to obtain a lower estimate on the total years in detention spent by people in Xinjiang as part of the "counter-terrorism" measures, and

comparing the equivalent death toll from these mass incarcerations to that from the violent incidents (thereby showing that the equivalent losses from the incarcerations were at least four times greater than from the violent incidents, even in the most conservative scenario where the Chinese authorities were given the benefit of the doubt).

In the coming quarter, we plan to wrap up some loose ends with the pre-trial detention detainees list, which includes documenting the police officers responsible for their detentions and adding a couple of new camp facilities. We also plan to go through a companion list of administrative-detention individuals, though these are typically less serious (15 days, nominally), and consist mostly of legitimate offenses (drug use, fights, etc.). Afterwards, we will move on to other internal victim lists, in addition to continuing with those that we've already been working on.

Because the pre-trial detention list gives the specific cell numbers for where people were held, we are also planning to start working on a new interactive feature called "Cellmates", which will allow anyone browsing the database interface to "visit" the specific cells and see who is in there at a given point in time, how many people are in there, from what ethnic groups, and for what "offenses". Most likely, we will pilot this for the [Ghulja City Pre-Trial Detention Center](#), where records suggest an average of around 30 people per cell (double the maximum standard capacity). We will show you specifically who was interned with whom, as of October 2017.

Also on the interface front, we plan to have the new statistics page finished very soon. This is long overdue and should be a huge improvement over the current version.

Finally, there should be notable progress made this quarter on finishing the pre-trial detention center review article (series) mentioned above. Most of the pre-trial detention centers with known victims have now been documented, and the next step is to finish the translation of the detention center construction standards, which should be out very soon also. Afterwards, we will do a statistical summary of the centers' expansion, and finally begin work on the main writing. Given the amount of material involved, there is a strong chance that it will be published as a series, focusing on different aspects (role in the overall detention system, geography and locations, design, conditions inside, etc.).

And we're planning on publishing an eyewitness account from a village work team member, too! As well as to continue with the general accountability work and primary-evidence translation.

## **V. Ways to donate**

We are actively encouraging people to set up small monthly donations via our Donorbox: <https://donorbox.org/xinjiang-victims-database-work>. This is preferred as it helps us stabilize our funding and have a better idea of what is possible in the future. At the moment, only around 40% of our costs are covered by a total of 70 monthly donors, which is of huge assistance but not enough. If you support what we do but are not a monthly donor, please consider joining, as even a modest donation of 10USD/month means a lot to a project with an average spending of 5000USD/month.

For those who would like to make a one-time gift only, we recommend using our GoFundMe fundraiser: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/xinjiang-victims-database-work>. The fees here are slightly lower than with Donorbox, and so there's not much reason to choose the latter if you're only going to donate once. It also has a nice teamwork feel, as you can add your donation to the 2300 that came before it.

Alternatively, you can also transfer one-time gifts directly to the curator (contact us separately for details in this case), which depending on your location may help avoid fees entirely.