

Hello! My name is Shemshinur Tursun. I am an ethnic Uyghur. I moved to Turkey from Xinjiang, China seven years ago. My parents – father Tursun Barat, 69 years old, and mother, Zahida Halpuaji – visited me three times. The last time I spoke to them was in October 2017. That was it – I lost contact with them afterwards. In April 2018, I learned that my parents had been detained, and that the Chinese authorities had sentenced them to 20 years in a secret court. The main reason was that they had visited me – their daughter. I don't know now if they are alive and where they are! My parents are educated people, both are retired, and all their lives they had worked for the government. My father, Tursun Barat, had served in the ethnic unity department in Ghulja City (“Yining” in Chinese), while my mother, Zahida Halpuaji, had worked as a doctor in the “Ethnic Friendship” Hospital, also in Ghulja. They both have issues with their health. Both have diabetes and are insulin-dependent. My father has heart issues and my mother has serious problems with her liver. What they have been accused of is absolutely absurd. My parents are educated and modern people. They were not involved in any politics, and were absolutely no threat to China. I want a response from the Chinese government! What's happened to my parents?!

Also, I would like to ask about my aunt Hamida Halpuaji's situation. She is my mother's sister. She spent 40 years as a literature teacher in Ghulja City's No. 2 middle school. She is an “accomplished teacher” and retired. Like my parents, she visited her children – my cousins – in Turkey. On December 1, 2017, while she was visiting her sons, she received a call from the school where she had worked, where they asked her to come back urgently because of some issues related to her pension. She left immediately. As soon as she arrived, my aunt, ___ years old, was detained. And not just her. They were taken away in an unknown direction. Since then we don't have any news of her situation.

This is the worst for the children and the parents – this frightening, silent uncertainty! How can old, sick people be a threat to the national security of China? What ridiculous and absurd accusations the authorities place upon the helpless, illegally sending them to jails full of such people.

I am not afraid of you – lying Chinese killer party! You've destroyed so many helpless people and millions of lives and deprived millions of children of their parents. I am not afraid of you – hypocritical Chinese policies! Answer me: WHERE ARE MY PARENTS?! Or can you only be brave with the weak, the old, and the children?