

# Taiwan Reports 9 Chinese Aircraft In Its Air Defense Zone

*By Reuters, February 24, 2022*

TAIPEI (Reuters) -- Taiwan's air force scrambled again on Thursday to warn away nine Chinese aircraft that entered its air defense zone, Taiwan's defense ministry said, on the same day that Russia invaded Ukraine, a crisis being watched closely in Taipei.

warn the Chinese aircraft and air defense missiles were deployed to "monitor the activities," the ministry said, using standard wording for how Taiwan describes its response.

Taiwan has been warily watching the Ukraine crisis, nervous that China may try to take advantage to move on the island.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has complained of regular such missions by the Chinese air force over the last two years, though the aircraft do not get close to Taiwan itself.

The number of aircraft involved was well off the last large-scale incursion, 39 Chinese aircraft on Jan. 23, and since then, such flybys have been sporadic with far fewer aircraft.

The ministry said the latest mission involved eight Chinese J-16 fighters and one Y-8 reconnaissance aircraft, which flew over an area to the northeast of the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands at the top end of the South China Sea.

Taiwanese fighters were sent up to

While Taipei has not reported any unusual movements by Chinese forces, the government has increased its alert level.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, and routinely condemns U.S. arms sales or other shows of support from Washington.



An F-16V fighter jet is pictured during an annual New Year's drill in Taiwan on Jan. 5. © Reuters

Speaking in Beijing earlier on Thursday when asked about the new U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Tan Kefei reiterated that Taiwan was a “core issue” of China’s and it would tolerate no foreign interference.

“We urge the U.S. side to recognize the high sensitivity of the Taiwan issue, stop interfering in China’s internal affairs and stop pla-

ying with fire on the Taiwan issue,” Tan said. In the 12-page Indo-Pacific strategy overview issued earlier this month, the Biden administration vowed to commit more diplomatic and security resources to the region.

On Taiwan, Washington would work with partners inside and outside the region to maintain peace and stability in the strait dividing the island from China, it said.

## Report On China Ex-Soldier’s Xinjiang Philanthropy Raises Ire Of Uyghur Activist

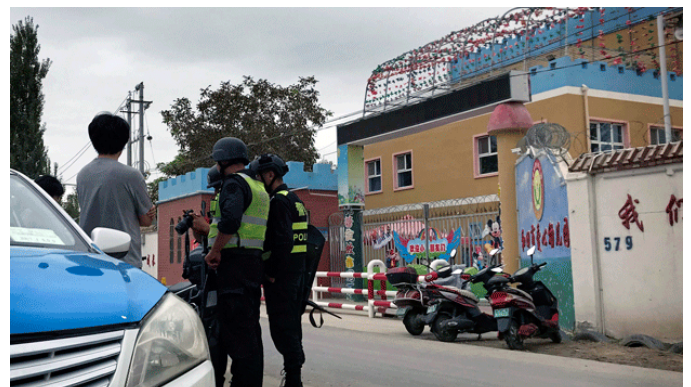
*By Mihriban, 2022.02.24*

**They say China’s veneration of Shen Jianjia contrasts starkly with the detention of Uyghur do-gooders.**

The Chinese media’s praise for a Han Chinese man as a “model philanthropist” helping minority students in northwestern China’s Xinjiang has outraged Uyghur activists who note that China has jailed numerous Uyghur philanthropists under a mass internment drive that has created many orphans.

Shen Jianjia of Tikes county in Ghulja (in Chinese, Yining) was lauded for helping 175 Uyghur, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz students live in his home for free during the past 30 years while they completed their schooling in an article published on Tengritagh (Tianshan), the official website of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) government.

The article describes Shen arriving back at his home on the evening of Feb. 15, China’s Lantern Festival, after celebrating the Lunar New Year in another part of the country. He and the four students, who live in his home



*Security personnel inspect journalists’ camera equipment outside the Hotan City Kindness Kindergarten in Hotan, East Turkistan, Aug. 30, 2018.*

*Associated Press*

while going to school, along with their parents gathered to celebrate the holiday with him.

With “wholehearted warmth Shen helped the children for many years with no regrets,” the article says.

One student had been living in Shen’s house for seven years from when he began junior high school until he graduated from the local vocational and technical school, according to

the report.

“We celebrated a happy Lantern Festival together,” Shen is quoted as saying in the article.

The retired People’s Liberation Army soldier who is now a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) official in Tikes county moved to Xinjiang with his parents and five siblings when he was two years old, according to the report.

In the past few years, he has received awards from the Chinese government for being an “ideological and moral building exemplar,” a “model of ethnic unity,” and a “philanthropist.”

Ilshat Hassan Kokbore, vice president of the executive committee of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC), expressed disgust at what he said was propaganda about the former soldier in Xinjiang.

“A Chinese colonialist PLA soldier helping native children of East Turkestan has appeared in the Chinese media while millions of native Uyghurs have been imprisoned in camps and prisons, and their children have been deprived of parental care and have become the subjects of Chinese colonial boarding schools which are called ‘kindergartens of angels’ and ‘schools of angels,’” he said. East Turkestan is Uyghurs’ preferred name for the Xinjiang region.

Kokbore said that the Chinese government needs such propaganda to cover up its colonial policies and genocide of Uyghurs in Xinjiang in light of accusations of genocide and crimes against humanity by some members of the international community.

“Their goal is very obvious — to cover up the genocide they are committing and to show that the CCP and its government is the savior and helper of the native people and to tell the world that what they are doing is good instead of evil,” he said.

### Tragic fate of Uyghur philanthropists

RFA has previously reported that authorities have arrested and imprisoned Uyghur philanthropists who had made significant contributions to education and helped children in Xinjiang, as part of the Chinese government’s campaign to wipe out Uyghur society and culture.

Many of them have been among the 1.8 million predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities believed to be held in a network of detention camps in Xinjiang since 2017. Beijing has said that the camps are vocational training centers and has denied widespread and documented allegations that it has mistreated Muslims living in Xinjiang.

Kokbore said that the story of Shen Jianjia contrasted wildly with the tragic fate of Uyghur philanthropists such as Nutay Haji and others who focused their work on helping Uyghur children and students.

Nurtay Hajim, a respected businessman who amassed a fortune through an international tourism and a shipping firm, financed the establishment and operations of the Nurtay Iskender School for Orphans in Ghulja. The school offered free accommodation, food, and education for Uyghur children whose parents had died or were imprisoned. He is





believed to have received a lengthy prison sentence in 2018.

Another Uyghur philanthropist, Ablimit Hoshur Halis Haji, was taken into custody in Xinjiang's capital Urumqi (Wulumuqi) in 2018 by a unit of the State Security forces known as the Guobao. His detention was said to be directly linked to his establishment in 1994 of the Halis Foundation, a charitable organization whose goal was to help elite Uyghur students attain higher education and financial aid for study abroad.

"Our philanthropists ... who opened schools for the orphans, including Chinese orphans, and who had done many times better than this Chinese soldier, were imprisoned and turned into criminals by this Chinese regime," Kokbore said. "This is all about covering up their crime of genocide."

Kokbore condemned China's veneration of Shen Jianjia, because he was a member of the PLA, which has been the "backbone of repression" in Xinjiang since the occupation of the region by the Chinese Communist Party after 1949.

"By choosing and praising a former Chinese People's Liberation Army soldier, the Chinese colonialist government was trying to justify Chinese PLA's crimes against Uyghurs," he said.

Turghunjan Alawudun, director of WUC's religious affairs committee, said that China's story about Shen as a form of domestic propaganda aims to undermine Uyghurs' religious beliefs, customs, and culture on and that the government does not respect the religious freedom of ethnic minority groups as it claims it does.

"This is another lie by the Chinese government by saying that China is helping the native children of the Kazakhs, the Kyrgyz, and the Uyghurs," he said. "While they are committing genocide against Uyghurs, they are telling this lie of a Chinese soldier being an angel who helps the children."

"With this propaganda, China is trying hard to speed up the assimilation of native children," he added.

The example of the Chinese philanthropist "is an open example of the Chinese policy to exterminate the Muslim faith of such children," he told RFA.

"Uyghur children eating at a home of a Chinese is against our belief system in Islam," he said. "The average Uyghur parent is against letting their children eat at a non-Muslim Chinese home."

**Translated by the Uyghur service. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.**



# China Committing Systematic Genocide Of Uyghurs: Report

*ANI 25 February, 2022*

**Birth rates in Xinjiang fell 24 per cent in 2019, compared to a nationwide decrease of 4.2 per cent, according to Al – Arabia Post.**

**It further reported that the Chinese government statistics reported that from 2015 to 2018, birth rates in the mostly Uyghur regions of Hotan and Kashgar fell by more than 60**



*Beijing [China], February 25 (ANI): The Uyghur genocide in China is the characterization of the series of ongoing human rights abuses against other ethnic and religious minorities in East Turkistan by the Chinese government, resulting in the severe birth drop in the region.*

China asked a Uyghur athlete to light the Olympic cauldron at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Games to distract viewers from the genocide of the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs in China's far-western Xinjiang region, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said.

"This is an effort by the Chinese to China's constitution guarantees its citizens "freedom of religious belief" but this right exists in name alone, something the country's Christians can also attest. In Xinjiang displaying any outward sign of religious faith now renders one subject to suspicion and an indeterminate period of detention. Under Xi Jinping, the president, only worship of the party and his leadership is allowed. Thousands of mosques and shrines dating back to the 10th century have been bulldozed, although officials deny they are destroying these sites, insisting they are merely working "to protect them".

Beijing claims to be fighting a "war on terror" in Xinjiang, pointing to the region's bor-

ders with Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, and the number of Uyghurs who have joined groups such as Islamic State or carried out attacks in China. Yet the campaign the authorities have waged in the years since Xi came to power goes far beyond any plausible counterterrorism campaign. As well as the detentions and the relentless surveillance and harassment, the government has embarked on a programme of forced assimilation that seems intended to destroy the Uyghurs' identity.

Given the extent to which Xi has personalised power in China, it is inconceivable that he does not know what is happening in Xinjiang. He could halt these policies immediately if he wanted to. Instead, as detailed in leaked documents, he has urged officials to show "absolutely no mercy" in what he characterises as a "struggle against terrorism, infiltration and separatism".

This is not happening in isolation. Xi has presided over a broad crackdown on human ri

## "My Childhood Friends Are in a Chinese Jail"

*By Dilmurat Mahmut, Bitter Winter, 02/25/2022*

**Sentenced to 13 years in jail: Niyaz Qahar. Uyghur culture is being eradicated in East Turkestan (Ch. Xinjiang). Young men I grew up with are incarcerated or have "disappeared."**

I used to be very passionate about becoming a writer when I was very young. That childhood dream faced some serious challenges as I grew older, because I quickly noticed the deep injustices and maltreatments my people, the Uyghurs, were facing in the majorita-

rian Chinese state. During my early teenage years, I learned that I belong to a group whose status is second-class vis a vis the majority Chinese.

Still, I did not want to give up my dream despite the reality that I would be in trouble if I decided to write about the truth. Thus, I went to a university to study Uyghur literature, which was still tolerated to some extent by the Chinese government. This program was completely abolished five years ago from all educational institutions in East Tur-



kistan (Ch. Xinjiang). For that reason, I feel so lucky that I chose to study that subject, which enabled me to learn about our own cultural heritage and literary figures and their works. The Chinese government has long ordered to eliminate all books that are related to Uyghur culture and identity.

Banning Uyghur culture, both Islamic and secular, from Uyghur lives has become a state rhetoric and policy in the last five years. However, this does not mean such a development is new; Uyghurs have always faced various degrees of restriction upon their religious and cultural rights. During the past five years I have witnessed the culmination of such oppressions.

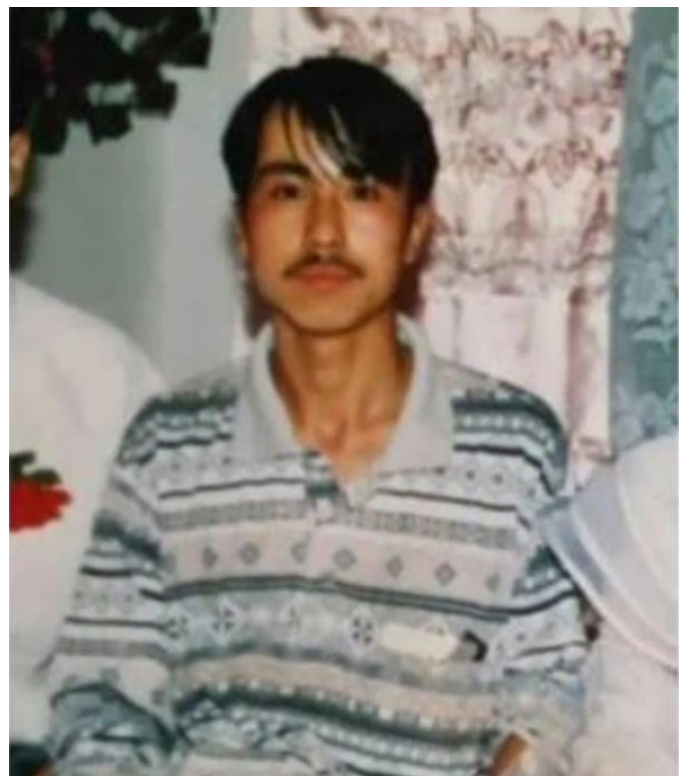
Over the past decade, many of my friends and relatives have become victims for following their very limited cultural and human rights. Among them, I want to highlight my two childhood friends, Niyaz Qahar and Abduwahit Semet. They are either in prison or have simply disappeared. I feel lucky and guilty at the same time for not having lived with them in East Turkistan during its darkest time.

Niyaz studied Uyghur literature at the same university I attended in the 1990s. After graduation, he became a journalist at a newspaper company in Urumqi. In the summer of 2009, I remember calling him from the UK, and he said not to call him from the UK at this time. We did not stay long on the phone before hanging up each other. A student protest had just happened in the city where there was a bloody crackdown on the students by the government.

After a few days, I found that I could not communicate with anyone in our homeland, and soon realized that the whole internet and international phone service had been shut down in East Turkistan. Only after ten months, was I able to hear the voices of my

parents over the phone again. I remember I cried as I had not spoken to them for so long. Soon afterwards, I learned that Niyaz had been sentenced to 13 years in prison just because he sent some photos of the students' protest to a foreign media outlet. He was charged with the crime of "revealing state secrets."

About four years ago, I learned that my other friend, Abduwahit, had been sent to jail in 2016. That was the year the Uyghurs in the diaspora started to lose contact with their loved ones back home. I know that in his late thirties he became a very pious man who would strongly encourage his two daughters to wear the hijab. He was accused of being a terrorist, just because of his open religiosity. I only know that much about his fate. I don't know where I can learn more about his situation. I know that no one can find out his whereabouts, as he is a "terrorist" in the eyes of the Chinese government. Nobody knows if he is alive or dead. I only hope and pray to God that he is alive and has not become the victim of forced organ



harvesting, as there is growing evidence that this is occurring. I should say now that all Uyghurs have become potential terrorists or extremists in the eyes of the Chinese Community Party, not only him and other pious Uyghurs. However, these people are facing the most brutal treatment.

I always dream of them and wake up with a very heavy heart. In my dreams they chat with me, smiling, just like in good old days. I can only dream of their faces as I saw them more than a decade ago. I don't know how they look like now. I don't want to imagine

how they look now actually, which is very painful. I always feel I have done nothing for them. I don't know what else I should do apart from what I am doing now. I only hope I can see them again alive one day. I hope we will be able to have a reunion before everything is too late. We know that the Chinese government has been primarily targeting religious people for organ harvesting because their organs are healthy as they abstain from drinking or smoking. Thinking of this makes me more worried about Abduwahit's safety.





**The Chinese regime has been ignoring global criticism  
and continuing its genocide crime in East Turkistan.**

