



Uyghurs Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts in Turkey



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
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THE UYGHUR-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS ORGANIZATION WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED WITH ITS OPENING IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

The Uyghur Malaysian Relations Organization is the first organization established in the Southeast Asian region as a base for the Uyghur (East Turkistan) cause. The opening of the organization was attended by leaders of local NGOs,

academics, media representatives, government representatives, parliamentarians and representatives of political parties.

This step is historic and important for the East Turkistan issue in Malaysia.





Uyghur children play near a cage protecting Chinese paramilitary policemen in Urumqi, capital of East Turkistan, in a file photo.

UYGHUR WOMAN SERVING 21 YEARS IN JAIL FOR SENDING CHILDREN TO RELEGIOUS SCHOOL

Ayshemhan Abdulla is one of scores of Uyghurs punished by Chinese authorities for the ‘crime.’

By Shohret Hoshur for RFA Uyghur
2023.03.01

Twenty years ago, when Ayshemhan Abdulla, sent her three teenage children to a local home-based religious school, little did she know that her action would later land her in prison for 21 years.

At the time, the Uyghur housewife, now 62, thought she was doing what was best for her two daughters and one son by ensuring they received Islamic religious instruction in keeping with their Muslim Uyghur identity in East Turkistan.

When Chinese authorities began the “strike hard” campaign in East Turkistan in 2014, they imposed severe penalties on Uyghurs, arrested them arbitrarily, and

began a propaganda drive against the group’s ethnic customs and religious faith under the guise of promoting modernity.

As part of the campaign, authorities destroyed mosques, restricted religious practices, forbid Islamic garb and long beards for men, banned Islamic names for children, and prohibited fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

By 2017, the situation for the repressed minority group had grown worse. That year, authorities began forcing what would amount to roughly 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities into “re-education” camps. Chinese officials claimed the camps were vocational training centers meant to prevent

terrorism and religious extremism.

Beyond the detentions, authorities subjected Uyghurs to intense surveillance, torture, forced labor, involuntary sterilizations and other severe human rights abuses.

Abdulla got caught up in Chinese authorities' dragnet in East Turkistan, where more than 11 million Turkic-speaking, mostly Muslim Uyghurs live.

They arrested Abdulla, a resident of Ghulja county, or Yining in Chinese, and sentenced her to 21 years in prison in 2017 for sending her children to a house religious school, said a security chief from her village in Qarayaghach township.

"She is serving her prison term in Baykol Women's Prison in Ghulja city," said the man who declined to be named out of concern for his safety. "For each child she sent, she received seven years in prison."

Authorities also took Abdulla's children to a camp and held them for more than a year, but later released them, the village security chief said.

Many Uyghurs over 60 were arrested and sentenced to harsh prison sentences for sending their children to religious schools though they had done so more than a decade ago, according to the Xinjiang Police Files, a cache of millions of confidential documents hacked from Xinjiang police computers and released in May 2022. Though Abdulla was not on the list, the files indicate that the arrests of innocent people were not legal.

'Incompatible with relevant laws'

A Uyghur former police officer, who declined to give his name for fear of his safety, said Abdulla's harsh sentence was likely not the decision of judicial authorities but made by the Chinese Communist Party's political and legal committee.

The former policeman, who now lives in Sweden, said he believes Beijing authorities set their own arrest numbers and told local authorities who should receive harsh punishments.

"Sentencing someone to such a long prison term is incompatible with the relevant laws," he told Radio Free Asia.

"Beijing's central government might have given the local political and legal committee assignments to harshly punish Uyghurs in the concentration camps since the mass detention started in 2017," he said. "There was an order and pressure from Beijing, and thus they arbitrarily detained and harshly sentenced innocent Uyghurs to meet Beijing's quota."

The Chinese apparatus at various levels completed their "assignments" by imposing a "seven-year prison sentence for each person who sent her kid to religious school."

The former officer said misuse of legal power and abuse of the law were rife when he worked in the police force in Xinjiang in the early 2000s, though Chinese authorities tried to justify their policies.

Back then, no matter if legal authorities

held open or secret trials, they always used to inform the convicts' families about their sentencing and their right to oppose the court's decision, he said.

"They attempted to go by some rules and legal procedures to deal with the arrested then," the former policeman said. "It was impossible to imagine someone being sentenced to 21 years in prison for sending her children to a religious school when I worked 20 years ago."

"Compared to then, the situation has worsened dramatically now," he said. "At present, they have no shame at all in breaking their laws and openly abusing

them."

Other women in Qarayaghach met a similar fate.

Halide Qurban, a Uyghur from the same village as Abdulla, received 18 years in prison, 14 years for sending her two children to a religious school and four years for illegal praying activity, the village security official said.

"She was an illiterate woman and she died in prison because she had diabetes," he said.

Translated by RFA Uyghur. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Matt Reed.

AHEAD OF CHINA HEARING LAWMAKERS SHARE NEXT STEPS THE US CAN TAKE FOR UYGHURS

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

NPR, February 28, 2023

The U.S-China relationship will come under further scrutiny on Tuesday night, when a newly created House committee focused on the strategic challenge China poses holds its first hearing in prime time.

It's likely to cover a lot of ground, including security concerns around TikTok and Chinese aggression over Taiwan, as NPR's Deirdre Walsh reports.

The full name of the bipartisan panel is the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. And

that wording is intentional, its leaders told NPR.

"We want to make sure that we are constantly making a distinction between the party and the people," said Wisconsin GOP Rep. Mike Gallagher, who chairs the committee. "The threat comes from the party. We don't have a quarrel with the Chinese people, and the Chinese people are often the primary victim of CCP oppression and repression."

Gallagher and Illinois Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, the ranking Democrat on the panel, spoke to Morning Edition's Steve Inskeep ahead of the hearing.

In a wide-ranging conversation, both

lawmakers shared their concerns about China — including its treatment of Uyghurs, the largely Muslim ethnic group living in East Turkistan.

Uyghur kids recall physical and mental torment at Chinese boarding schools in East Turkistan

In recent years as U.S.-China relations deteriorated, the U.S. has called those actions a genocide, a label that China rejects (even though its ambassador to the U.S. told NPR last year that it was re-educating Uyghurs).

The U.S. has taken some actions, including sanctioning Chinese officials over human rights abuses in East Turkistan and passing the Forced Labor Prevention Act, which requires companies to certify they

are not using forced Uyghur labor. But the lawmakers want to do more — starting by raising awareness and building support for what Gallagher calls “practical next steps.”

“I think in East Turkistan, we’re seeing a preview of the future that the Chinese Communist Party has in store, not only for the rest of their citizens, a future of total techno-totalitarian control, but increasingly a model they want to export around the world,” he says. “So I do think we have an important function in terms of shining a light on these horrible human rights abuses from there.”

What else can the U.S. do?

Uyghur-American journalist Gulchehra Hoja spoke to Morning Edition last week



Uyghur children play near a cage protecting Chinese Protesters in Washington, D.C., gathered earlier this month to mark the anniversary of the 1997 Ghulja massacre of Uyghur protesters in the East Turkistan.
Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

about her experiences growing up in East Turkistan, leaving for the U.S. and reporting on her homeland from abroad, and the repercussions her family faced as a result.

[And she offered a message to the Chinese government:](#)

“Even you lock down so many millions of people, even you kill them, you cannot kill their hope, and you cannot kill their dream,” she said. “Even they monitor them 24/7, but you never know what is inside their heart. Our country is alive in our heart. No power can change that.”

Inskeep played those words to the lawmakers on Tuesday and asked: [What can the U.S. do for the people of Western China?](#)

Gallagher says the next step would be ensuring full implementation of the Forced Labor Prevention Act, which President Biden signed into law in Dec. 2021.

[After The Balloon: Where US-China Relations Go Next](#)

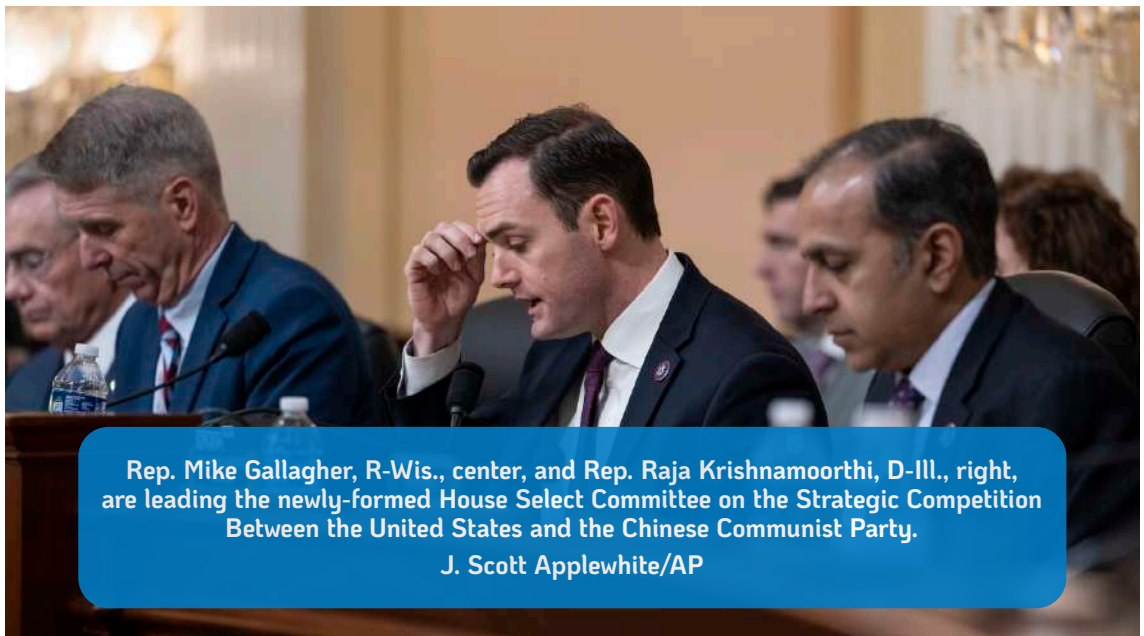
He would also like to impose more control on U.S. investments in China so that “we are not unwittingly funding communist genocide or [People’s Liberation Army] modernization,” which he sees as a job for lawmakers in Congress.

Krishnamoorthi notes that fundamental human rights are at stake, and that the U.S. could be doing more to protect them than it has in the past.

Decades ago, Congress would hold regular hearings on China’s treatment of Tibetans — but stopped after China gained entry to the World Trade Organization in 2001.

[New Report Details Firsthand Accounts Of Torture From Uyghur Muslims In China](#)

“I think that when we started delinking, for instance, preferred trade status to progress on human rights starting in the 1990s ... I think we gave [China] carte



Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., center, and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., right, are leading the newly-formed House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

J. Scott Applewhite/AP

blanche to do whatever the heck they want with the Uyghurs — and for that matter, Tibetans or Hong Kongers and so

forth,” he says. “And I think we need to take another look at this going forward.”

CHINA ‘OFFERING PERSECUTED UYGHUR MUSLIMS THOUSANDS OF POUNDS TO SPY FOR THEM’



Uyghurs face torture, forced labour, and human rights violations in Camps in East Turkistan. Picture: Getty

By James Gooderson

@JamesGooderson

LBC, February 20 2023

A persecuted Uighur Muslim who fled China and took up residence in the UK was offered thousands of pounds a month to spy for the country, LBC can reveal.

A suspected Chinese security officer appeared to blackmail a Uighur Muslim, according to phone recording obtained exclusively by LBC.

In the phone recording, the suspected officer tells the Uighur Muslim: “There are clean easy jobs available during normal working hours, you can earn up to 7 to 8 thousand dollars a month, first, you need to find out comprehensive information for us.”

The man, who asked to be called Arman, told LBC that the officer wanted him doing reconnaissance by attending protests and Uighur community gatherings in the UK and report who had attended.

He was also told to note down names of Uighur refugees who have given interviews to journalists and to discover what certain Uighur pressure groups were planning.

Read More: Shock as police tell Iranian broadcaster to leave London as officers ‘can’t protect them from regime killers’ on UK soil

Read More: UK sanctions Iran’s prosecutor general after execution of British man accused of spying for MI6

Professor Anthony Glees, Director of the Centre for Security, and Intelligence Studies at the University of Buckingham said: “This is standard totalitarian espionage tradecraft. They want to do the things they set out to do.

“To steal our secrets, meddle in our politics, interfere with our stance on

human rights and to undermine and subvert our willingness to defend our values and other’s values with all the means at their disposal.”

Researchers estimate that nearly two million Uyghurs have faced what the UN calls mass arbitrary detention. Uyghurs face torture, forced labour, and human rights violations in Camps in East Turkistan.

China’s government has repeatedly denied these claims, calling it the “lie of the century”.

Arman told LBC that the toughest part of the phone calls is talking about his family. He told LBC that the security officer said: “We will make sure you can speak to your mother regularly; we will help you to send your child to the UK.

“To help you, for you to reunite. And, if any



Arman said he was told to attend rallies and protests in the UK to see who was in attendance. Picture: Getty

of your relatives are in prison in camps, in detention, we will make sure to release them, so they have a normal life”.

Asked if he would ever be tempted to accept the offer, Arman said: “Yes of course it is tempting, it is not the money, it is the fact that I can speak to my mother, not much time left to live.

“It’s a very complicated feeling but I cannot do that because my conscience wouldn’t allow it.”

Charles Parton a Senior Associate at RUSI, former diplomat in China and a special advisor on China for the foreign affairs select committee, said: “Intelligence services don’t just concentrate on one target - if you see another opportunity [to conduct espionage] of course you go for it.

“I think it’s a cancer in our society: like a cancer in the body, which might start

in one part of the body, it can spread to others.”

LBC has also heard unverified anecdotal evidence of at least two other Uighur Muslims who have had contact with the Chinese state based in the UK.

The Home Office said in a statement: “We continually assess potential threats in the UK, and take protection of individuals’ rights, freedoms, and safety in the UK very seriously.

“The Home Office works closely with other government departments as well as relevant agencies and law enforcement to protect people identified as being at risk and ensuring that the UK is a safe and welcoming place for those who choose to settle here.

“Anyone who believes that a crime has been committed or is concerned for their

AZIZ ABDULLAH: UYGHUR ASYLUM-SEEKER DEATH HEAPS PRESSURE ON THAILAND



Aziz Abdullah (right) and family before they fled to Thailand

By Jonathan Head

BBC News, Bangkok

The death of a 49-year-old Uyghur asylum-seeker in Thailand has prompted pleas from rights groups to find a humane solution to the plight of around 50 Uyghur men who have been detained for nine years.

Aziz Abdullah died after he collapsed in the Immigration Detention Centre in Bangkok where he was being held.

He was part of a wave of more than 350 Uyghur asylum-seekers who fled from East Turkistan in western China in 2013, and were detained in Thailand.

China has been accused of committing crimes against humanity against Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in East Turkistan, where human rights groups believe more than a million people have been held in a vast network of detention camps in recent years. Beijing, which calls them “re-education camps”, denies all allegations of abuse.

Aziz Abdullah had been a farmer in a remote part of East Turkistan, and arrived in Thailand with his pregnant wife, his brother and seven children sometime in late 2013.

Activists who have been in touch with inmates at the Immigration Detention Centre say he had been seriously ill for more than three weeks, but that the Thai authorities had refused to send him to hospital until he collapsed.

“He was coughing and vomiting blood - he could not eat,” says Polat Sayim, the Australia-based director of the Refugees Centre of the World Uyghur Congress.

“A doctor at the IDC examined him and said it was not a real sickness, that his condition was normal.”

He was finally taken to hospital after his collapse, but pronounced dead soon afterwards. The death certificate issued by the hospital specifies a lung infection as the cause of death. Activists say his group was trying to reach Malaysia,



Thailand decided to repatriate 109 Uyghurs to China in 2015, despite pleas from the UN

and eventually Turkey, when they were intercepted in southern Thailand.

At the time, most Uyghurs claimed to be Turkish to avoid being repatriated to China, and Turkey was giving some of them citizenship. In early July 2015 the Thai authorities allowed 173 of them, including Aziz Abdullah's wife and children, to be flown to Turkey.

However, China objected strongly to this, accusing Turkey of interfering in a bilateral issue and of "conniving in illegal immigration activities".

The Thai government had also allowed Chinese embassy officials to visit and assess the asylum-seekers, and on 8 July 2015, in defiance of pleas from the UN's refugee agency UNHCR and several governments, Thailand forcibly repatriated at least 109 Uyghur men, putting them on a plane, handcuffed and hooded, back to China.

They included Aziz Abdullah's brother.

They were described by Chinese state

media as being members of people-smuggling gangs, with some accused of involvement in terrorism. There has been no information about the fate of the men after their arrival in China.

The Thai government defended its decision, saying the Chinese had asked for all the Uyghurs to be repatriated, but that it had only sent some.

Six weeks later, a powerful bomb exploded at a shrine in central Bangkok that was popular with Chinese visitors, killing 20 and injuring many others. The Thai government insisted that it was a consequence of rivalry among people-smuggling groups, but evidence that emerged afterwards pointed to Uyghur militant groups as the likely perpetrators.

Two Uyghur men were detained and charged with the bombing, although one of them, who insists he is innocent, may just have been another asylum-seeker, caught when Thai police raided a house thought to have been used by the bomb-



Adem Karadag , front, and Yusuf Mieraili arrive at a military court in Bangkok in 2016

makers.

Their trial has been repeatedly postponed, more than eight years after they were arrested; the Thai authorities seem in no hurry to finish it, and the two men are languishing in custody.

Until last year the remaining 50 or so Uyghur detainees were being held in detention centres in different parts of Thailand, but after three of them managed to escape they were all moved to the notoriously overcrowded Immigration Detention Centre in Bangkok.

Conditions are poor, say activists trying to help them, and the Uyghurs are kept separated from each other, with almost no contact with the outside world.

“It is even worse than regular Thai prisons,” says Chalida Tacharoensuk, from the People’s Empowerment Foundation, which has been pushing for better treatment of the Uyghurs.

“It is very crowded. There is a lack of food, and the food provided is not healthy. There is no halal food for Muslim detainees. The drinks are not clean either - they have to drink tap water. There is barely any healthcare. If they get sick, they only get pain-killers or similar medications.”

Phil Robertson from Human Rights Watch said: “This death is an entirely predictable outcome of a Thai policy decision to lock away these Uyghurs and, essentially, to throw away the key.

“Clearly no thought was given to the health implications of indefinite detention in cramped, unsanitary immigration cells with wholly inadequate healthcare and nutrition.”

The BBC tried calling a spokesman for the Bangkok IDC but was unable to get a response. A spokesman for the Thai police had no comment.

The UNHCR says it has been allowed no



access to the detainees. The Thai National Human Rights Commission has also been seeking permission to visit the Uyghurs in the IDC for several months.

It was finally given a date this month, and will go in later this week.

The Thai government has promised to work with the UN to improve the screening and treatment of the tens of thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers who are inside the country, but this has yet to bring any significant improvements to

conditions inside the Bangkok IDC.

Campaigners believe the Uyghurs would be very likely to get third country resettlement if Thailand was willing to release them. But, according to a well-placed Thai source, the government's concern over upsetting China is too great.

Aziz Abdullah's body was eventually released to members of the Thai Muslim community, and he was buried in a cemetery at a mosque close to the Chao Phraya River in central Bangkok.

RIGHTS GROUP CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AFTER UYGHUR MAN DIES IN THAI DETENTION



Andrew RC Marshall/Reuters People thought to be Uyghurs are transported to a detention facility in southern Thailand in 2014. Around 350 Uyghur asylum seekers were arrested by Thai authorities in 2013 and 2014.

Jacob Goldberg

Staff Editor and Reporter, Investigations

The New Humanitarian, 17 February 2023

BANGKOK

A human rights organisation is calling on the Thai government to investigate the death of a Uyghur asylum seeker who had been in immigration detention for nearly nine years.

Aziz Abdullah, 49, was part of a group of around 350 Uyghur men, women, and children who left China and were arrested upon entering Thailand in 2013 and 2014.

In 2015, 172 of the women and children were resettled in Turkey. A few weeks later, the Thai authorities deported 109 of the group to China. The UN Special Rapporteur on torture at the time expressed concern that the move amounted to the international crime of refoulement exposing the group to the risk of torture.

Around 50 Uyghur asylum seekers, including Abdullah, have since remained in Thai immigration detention, held almost completely incommunicado, without access to lawyers or international aid organisations. They were kept in various Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs) throughout Thailand until 2022, when an escape attempt prompted Thai authorities to consolidate the group at Bangkok's Suan Phlu IDC.

"Their living conditions are very bad," Polat Sayim, director of the World Uyghur Congress's Refugees Center, told *The New Humanitarian*.

Sayim, who spent two years in Thailand monitoring the group, said they are unable to leave the small rooms they share with dozens of other detainees, receive just two meals per day, do not receive clean water, and are forced to endure secondhand smoke.

Aziz Abdullah's health problems date back at least to 2018, when he began

reporting problems with his lungs and heart, according to Sayim.

"Many times, he went unconscious, fell down, and then he asked for the doctor, but they never took him to the doctor," he told *The New Humanitarian* by phone.

"About three weeks ago, he started vomiting blood and could not eat food," Sayim said. "Whatever he ate, he threw up."

This incident prompted Abdullah's cell mates to inform the police who staff the IDC of his condition. According to Sayim, he was seen by two doctors – an IDC staff doctor and one from outside – but they didn't seem to think much was wrong with him and took no action.

"By locking these Uyghur men up in immigration detention and essentially throwing away the key, Thailand is blatantly violating their international human rights obligations."

Abdullah was then placed in a room by himself, where he spent eight days, during which time he began speaking to himself and lost control of his bowels, according to Sayim. He was then brought back to his shared room.

On 11 February, Sayim said, Abdullah collapsed and became unresponsive. Only then was he brought to a hospital, where he was proclaimed dead that evening. A Thai death certificate, a copy of which was shared with *The New Humanitarian* by Sayim, lists pneumonia as the cause of death.

The New Humanitarian tried to reach the Suan Phlu IDC for comment but the number appeared to have been disconnected.

A staffer at Thailand's National Human Rights Commission told The New Humanitarian she wasn't aware of Abdullah's death, nor the circumstances surrounding it.

Abdullah is the fourth Uyghur asylum seeker to die in Thai detention over the past nine years: Two children died in 2014, and a 29-year-old man died in 2018, according to the World Uyghur Congress.

The Uyghur rights group has demanded that the Thai government investigate Abdullah's death, release the remaining 49 asylum seekers from detention, and allow them to seek resettlement.

"By locking these Uyghur men up in immigration detention and essentially throwing away the key, Thailand is blatantly violating their international human rights obligations," said Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's deputy Asia director.

"These are refugees who should be protected. It is the epitome of Thai government cruelty that they continue to hold these men in cramped cells 24 hours a day without ever seeing the sun, and with inadequate food and medical care. The only surprising thing is that more of these detainees have not already died," he added.

"Thailand must end this nightmare, and let them go so they can travel to their desired destination and reunite with their families overseas."

"TODAY I RECEIVED UYGHUR GIRLS": UYGHUR TEENAGERS AS VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"Labor transfer agents" in Mainland China boast on social media that new shipments of Uyghur young women have arrived, as if they were just another commercial good.

by Gulfiye Y

Bitter Winter, 02/22/2023

A Chinese businesswoman is proud to announce she has received three teenage "Uyghur girls" from Kashgar, East Turkistan, who traveled more than sixty hours, apparently still in their school

jackets and attire, to be interviewed and given a medical check-up, assigned a dormitory, and put to "work" the next day.

This was a video posted on the social media Kuaishou (literally "Quick Hand"), which has since been removed. But it can be found here.

The woman video-recorded the three sleeping girls and posted the video to the social platform with the title “Today I Received Uyghur Girls”. They were arriving at the Oaks Air-Conditioning Factory in Mainland China. Very professional of her ... unless it was to serve another purpose. The woman appears to be part of a government-sponsored “labor transfer agency.”

Here is a translation of the video from Chinese: “Today, the three people I received are Uyghur girls from Kashgar, East Turkistan. They have been in the car for more than forty hours and they are all asleep now [She shows the image of three Uyghur girls sleeping as she repeats:] travelling in the car for more than forty hours, [...] there seems to have been a

transfer in the middle, and a total of more than sixty hours in the car... They are all asleep now. [Camera turned to street view] Now we are on our way to Oaks Factory and an immediate interview, will prepare the dormitory as soon as the interview is over. Tomorrow morning, we will have a physical examination and afternoon training. The day after tomorrow they can officially go to work. I wish everyone smooth work and good health.”

Why does the image of child / human trafficking come to mind? Could it be the youth of the girls? Or maybe the tone of the speaker along with her non-verbal signals referring to the “Uyghur girls”? The perceptible attitude that the girls are goods “received” in some commercial transaction? The posting of the video by



Andrew RC Marshall/Reuters
People thought to be USleeping beauties: the three Uyghur girls have arrived. From Kuaishou.



Another image of the three sleeping Uyghur girls posted by the “labor transfer agent” on Kuaishou.

the “labor transfer agent” seems more akin to an advertisement of the “Uyghur girls” than a workforce transaction notification.

Another video by this same “labor transfer agent” calls for Uyghurs willing to travel to Mainland China for work. This was a video posted on the social media Kuaishou (Quick Hand) that has also been removed. But it can be found here.

Translated from Chinese: “Hello everyone, Yicheng Workforce here. We expect to leave on the fifth or sixth day of the first lunar month, The Oaks (Aokesi) Air-Conditioning Factory in Nanchang, Jiangxi and the TCL Air-Conditioning Factory in Wuhan, Hubei. The age introduction target is 16 to 53, no limit of male or female, regardless of education. Of course, the first batch of departure includes a special discount on the welfare policy. There are many benefits, such as free bedding and free medical examinations, and large gift packages. Well, this is the first group of people to depart. The factory is particularly supportive, because many Han friends have not returned to work after returning home for the New Year. The factory has a large number of orders and there is also a large number of workforce shortages. Well, if you want to go, hurry up and we will organize the departure in a unified manner.”

So what is the real story? The tone and presentation of the recruiter implies a voluntary and beneficial offer of gainful employment; even an enticement with

benefits and “gifts.” But—what about 16-year-old?

And the three teenage girls? What could have possibly persuaded them to “voluntarily” leave their homes in Kashgar, East Turkistan, their families, their friends, their support, their world, and travel to a far side of China where their language is not spoken, but actively suppressed, and any Uyghur and Muslim is discriminated against? How long will it take for them to find that their dormitory is a fully monitored, secure prison? That they will have no freedom of moving about? That they will have to attend long study sessions with songs and chants praising Xi and the CCP? That their wages will be a fraction of what their Han co-workers earns? That they will be in debt to cover their travel expenses and other charges? That anything they say that is “unacceptable” will earn a severe punishment? And any “indiscretion” at all will send them to “re-education camps” or worse? They will experience the full force of the Sinicization policy.

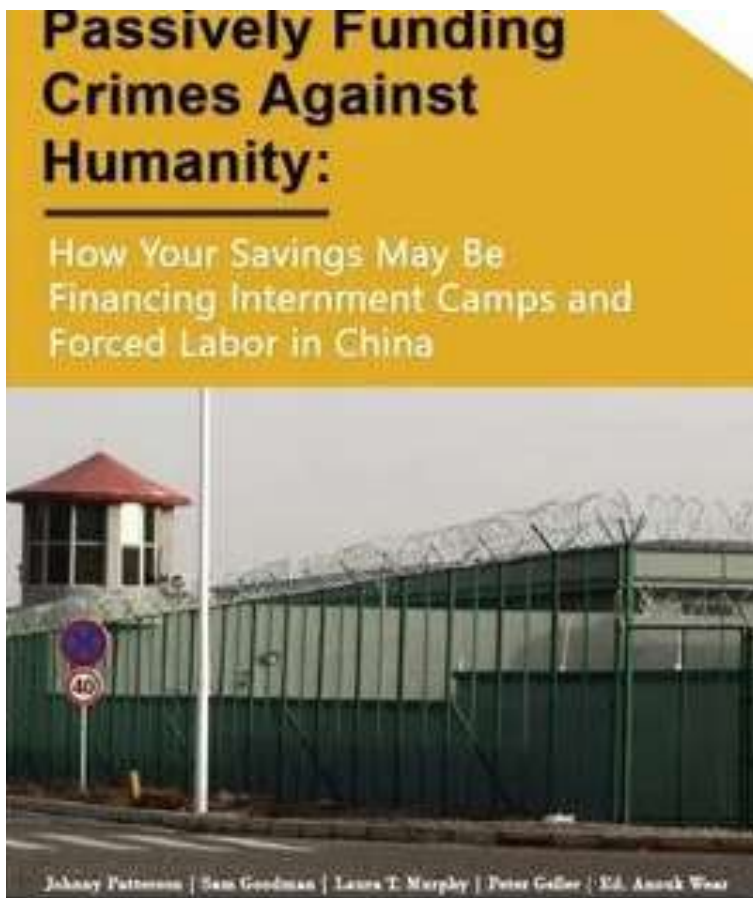
The girls will be alone and unprotected, under the complete and total control of their “employers.” Any abuse they may encounter will go unpunished. Their problems have started with communication issues as seen in this video (title: “Uyghur Translator for Future Job Recruitment”). But then, with the Chinese Party-State actively involved in a campaign of forcefully assimilating Uyghurs into Han Chinese society by means of mixed marriages, these teenage

“Uyghur girls” are prime candidates for such marriages.

Hong Kong Watch (HKW) and the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, Sheffield Hallam University, in their recent report titled “Passively Funding Crimes Against Humanity;” offered evidence of human trafficking and compulsory labor and (at a minimum) abuse of vulnerability, deception, restriction of movement, isolation, intimidation and threats, retention of identity documents, withholding of wages, and debt bondage. The report implicates a multitude of companies, investment funds, and

pension funds engaged in investments and direct involvement in constructing the Uyghur camps and surveillance systems, and in actively using Uyghur forced labor obtained through state-sponsored transfer, or sourcing from suppliers that use such forced labor.

The Uyghur Tribunal in their final report made over a dozen references to “labor transfer.” No. 914: “there is evidence that suggests ‘an enormous state-engineered profit motive for companies to engage in poverty alleviation.’ It appears that Han-run businesses profit from the forced labour programme. These programmes



Cover of the report “Passively Funding Crimes Against Humanity.”



Sheffield Hallam University
Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice

are facilitated by labour transfer agencies that can receive rewards of up to 100 yuan per person transferred.”

No. 920: “In 2021, the BBC (John Sudworth) released a report which said: ‘This overarching goal of assimilating Uyghurs into China’s majority Han culture is made clear by an in-depth Chinese study of East Turkistan’s job-transfer scheme. Written by a group of academics from Nankai University in the Chinese city of Tianjin, it concludes that the mass labour transfers are ‘an important method to influence, meld and assimilate Uyghur minorities’ and bring about a ‘transformation of their thinking.’ Uprooting them and relocating them elsewhere in the region or in other Chinese provinces, it says, ‘reduces

Uyghur population density.’”

The Nankai report reveals what appears to be the real motivations—or at least part of them—of the government: “Eastern and central regions should have mandatory annual quotas of arranged East Turkistan labourers, which greatly helps to alleviate the shortage of labourers in [these regions] and appropriately reduces labour costs.” A “severely excessive number of Uyghur rural surplus labourers was caused by lax family planning policies that created an ‘excess population’ representing a ‘latent threat to the current regime.’”

As evidence, you can look at a video titled “Jiangsu Food Company recruits 500 Uyghurs to Promote Positive Energy and Help Farmers”: “Hired by Jiangsu Food Company, Uyghur Jiangwai Food Co.,



Jiangsu Food Company recruitment publicity targeting the “Uyghur ethnic group.” Screenshot.



The discriminatory job ad of Pizza Hut Bo Bakery in Urumqi. Source: RFA.

Ltd. recruits 500 Uyghurs. Master plan: the first batch of fifty people. The second batch of hundred people.”

Now, compare that recruitment in South-East China to one in Urumqi reported by RFA: “East Turkistan: An American fast-food restaurant’s job advertisement (for Urumqi) excludes ethnic minorities in East Turkistan. The CCP has adopted a discriminatory policy in East Turkistan, not only excluding ethnic minorities ... from official positions, but now applied to private companies as well. ‘Pizza Hut Bo Bakery,’ an American fast-food restaurant in Urumqi, issued a job advertisement stating that it is recruiting thirty Han, Hui and Mongolian waiters, as well as part-time students, with an hourly salary of 12.8 yuan. ... the employment of ethnic minorities must first go through political review. Even general work has ethnic discrimination.”

The Uyghur Tribunal’s final report adds in No. 924, by quoting researcher Adrian Zenz: “New evidence from the Nankai Report, other Chinese academic publications and publicly available government documents provides strong proof of the systemically coercive nature of East Turkistan’s labour transfer programs and underscores a process-oriented approach towards designating such programs to be forced labour. These sources also show that the primary aims of labour transfers are not economic, but political and demographic. Government

documents state that labour transfers are part of ‘raising population quality.’”

And in no. 926: “The study [Nankai report] explained how the People’s Republic of China (PRC) has placed millions of indigenous Uyghur and Kazakh citizens from the East Turkistan ... into what the government calls ‘surplus labour’ () and ‘labour transfer’ programmes. An official PRC government report published in November 2020 documents the ‘placement’ of 2.6 million minoritised citizens in jobs in farms and factories within the Uyghur Region and across the country through these initiatives. The government claims that these programmes are in accordance with PRC law and that workers are engaged voluntarily, in a concerted government-supported effort to alleviate poverty. However, significant evidence – largely drawn from government and corporate sources – reveals that labour transfers are deployed in the Uyghur Region within an environment of unprecedented coercion, undergirded by the constant threat of re-education and internment. Many indigenous workers are unable to refuse or walk away from these jobs, and thus the programmes are tantamount to forcible transfer of populations and enslavement.”

As for the three teenage “Uyghur girls,” I cannot imagine that they will have “smooth work and good health.” What future awaits these teenage “Uyghur



Head of East Turkestan solidarity foundation calls on political groups to 'set aside differences in these difficult times'

UYGHUR VOLUNTEERS COMFORT SURVIVORS IN TÜRKIYE'S QUAKE-HIT KAHRAMANMARAS PROVINCE

Sibel Morrow |

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Anadolu Agency

KAHRAMANMARAS, Türkiye

In the immediate wake of Türkiye's devastating twin earthquakes, a team of Uyghur volunteers from East Turkestan was among the first to respond to the disaster.

"As soon as we saw the extent of the destruction, we decided to come to Türkiye's Kahramanmaras province to help however we can," Seyit Tumturk, an Uyghur Turk who hails from East

Turkistan, told Anadolu.

Tumturk is the head of the East Turkistan Culture and Solidarity Association and the East Turkistan National Assembly. Both organizations are based in Türkiye's central Kayseri province.

"After gathering aid contributions in Kayseri, we immediately set out for Kahramanmaras with a truckload of food, clothing, blankets, and mattresses," said Tumturk, who has been living in Türkiye since 1965.

"Since our arrival here, we have hardly slept at all," he added.

On Feb. 6, southern Türkiye, along with parts of northern Syria, was rocked by back-to-back earthquakes measuring 7.7 and 7.6 on the Richter scale.

The epicenters of both earthquakes were in Kahramanmaras, where they caused widespread death and destruction. The tremors also struck nine other provinces – Hatay, Gaziantep, Adiyaman, Malatya, Adana, Diyarbakir, Kilis, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa.

As of Monday, the total death toll in Türkiye stood at 31,643 and is expected to rise further as more bodies are found.

According to Tumturk, he and his fellow Uyghur volunteers have been “deeply affected” by what they have seen, both in Kahramanmaras and other quake-hit areas.

His foundation has since dispatched six truckloads of aid to Kahramanmaras, where it has been distributed to quake survivors, many of whom have been rendered homeless.

Three dozen members of Tumturk’s foundation are currently working in different areas of the earthquake zone, where they wake up early each day to prepare hot meals for survivors and local rescue workers.

In the days following the twin quakes, foundation members also contributed to

search and rescue efforts, which remain ongoing until now.

“Some of our members helped rescue children who were buried under the rubble in Kahramanmaras,” Tumturk said.

Turkic solidarity

The disaster, Tumturk said, had also served to shed light on the “deep solidarity” shared between the world’s Turkic community.

“This community isn’t limited to the nation of Türkiye and its 85 million inhabitants,” he said.

“It’s comprised of Turkic people from all over the world,” he added, “including the roughly 35 million who reside in Chinese-occupied lands.”

Tumturk was quick to point out that the Feb. 6 earthquakes took a “steep physical and financial toll.”

“But despite the loss and devastation,” he said, “the Turkic people have the strength and fortitude to overcome these current hardships.”

Tumturk urged Turkish political groups to “set aside their differences in these difficult times.”

“At the end of the day, we’re all Turks,” he said. “And together, we can overcome any adversity.”



Uyghurs Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts in Turkey

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What is happening in East Turkistan?

What is true and what is false?

The “ISTIQLAL” journal uses reliable sources, evidence and witnesses to reveal China’s crimes against humanity and shine a light on the oppression in East Turkistan as well as exposing China’s fake news propaganda.

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