



ISTIQLAL ENGLISH

WEEKLY JOURNAL of PRESS

12 - 18 December 2022



istiqlal English

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turkistanpress.com



The Urumqi Fire: “A Mother Desperately Threw Her One-Month-Old Baby Out of the Window”

By Kok Bayraq, Bitter Winter, 2022.12.15

In a social media video post, a Uyghur woman in East Turkistan complained about the tragedy her family faced during the fire in Urumqi on November 24: “My sister couldn’t get out of her unit and couldn’t escape from the fire, throwing her one-month-old baby out of the window.” Crying, she continued: “The firemen couldn’t even catch the baby. The child’s brain was broken into a hundred pieces!”

She was not alone in her statements. Many others on social media exposed several major lies in China’s press release about the incident. The authorities wrote that the building was in a low-risk area, so the building’s doors were open, and the residents could have escaped. Logically, a mother whose house is on fire would hold

her baby in her arms and run away from the fire.

This mother was desperate to get herself and her child out of the building because the door was locked. Realizing that her child could not withstand the fire and smoke for long, she threw him out of the building so that he might have a chance to survive. This is the most powerful proof that China’s “the doors were open” claim is a lie.

China attributed the carnage to the weak self-defense capabilities of the residents of the building. Yet, another photo on social media shows a man clinging to the wall of a building as he climbs out of the window of his home and steps on the window edge. This scene proves that the victims had shown extraordinary skills trying to

save themselves and had tried to their last resort. The windows were the only way out. That mother also threw her baby out the window as a last resort. She had not lost her mind; she had no other choice.

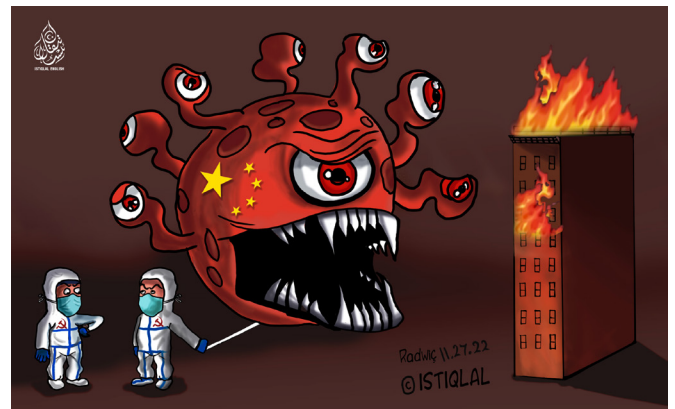
The Chinese officials may mean that the locks on the doors to the units and corridors could have been broken, had the residents tried. The head of Uyghur Aid, Norwegian activist Abduweli Ayup, said, "This is a building where Uyghur traders live, and most of these traders have been in camps for [the last] six years. Expecting mothers and children trapped in the building to break down the locked doors is nothing more than blaming the victims for the crime."

China has stated that ten were killed and nine were injured in the incident. The post about the baby who was thrown from the building, reads: "There were seven people in the unit, including four sisters and one brother who were taking care of my sister who just gave birth one month ago. All of them are gone because of the locked doors of the building." And it was confirmed that five people died from the home of Khambarnisahan, who lived on the nineteenth floor. Those two units alone make for twelve casualties.

A Chinese media has reported that three floors were burned and four floors were filled with smoke. If there were no survivors in a unit on the 19th floor that was not burned by the fire, and only the smoke reached it, then it is impossible to imagine the survival of people on the three floors below who were burned. On social media, the death

toll is currently 44. It looks credible, and is more than four times the official account given by China.

China also praised the firefighters, who were unable to put out the fire after three hours, for "successfully performing their duties." When a building catches fire, it is well known that people may jump from it



out of fear that they will not be saved. In firefighting, there must be a rescue device or measure for this possibility. However, the baby who was thrown from the building did not survive because the firefighters were either unprepared or made no attempt to save him.

According to reports, at the scene, Uyghur youths, such as Iminjan and Abdulla Ablet, broke into the building and rescued three children and four mothers. On their last attempt to enter, they lost consciousness due to a lack of oxygen and were taken to the hospital. This work should not have been left to them, given the many firefighters on the scene. The boys were able to save seven people without proper equipment; they had nothing more than their bravery and desire to help others. The firefighters, with their training, experience,



and equipment, could perhaps have saved nearly every resident of the building if they had performed their jobs appropriately and had received adequate instructions.

The fire brigade arrived immediately with enough manpower and equipment, but it did not act adequately. There may be two reasons for this: the excessive barriers and locks set up to prevent socializing, which restricted their movement, and the impact of propaganda portraying Uyghurs as enemies of the state and “terrorists.” This propaganda, which has been circulating for decades, may have discouraged any expression of sympathy and mercy.

Therefore, the “success” of the firefighters is just another lie.

The lies were not just about the result of

the Urumqi fire but also the cause of the fire tragedy, another proof that this regime has built and maintained its existence through propaganda.

China’s false news is not news. Exposing this lie is not meant to criticize China because a regime that is burning its citizens cannot be corrected through criticism. The goal is to draw international attention to the Urumqi fire, which is one of the most tragic events in recent history, especially in the age of the Internet, where we can see its horrific images. It is also to prevent the fire from crossing the borders, because the People’s Republic of China has its dreams of world hegemony and a world dominated by the Chinese Communist Party is a word where more tragedies like the Urumqi Fire will occur.

British Ex-Cops Accused of Training Chinese Police Aiding Xinjiang Abuses

By Nigel Nelson, Daily Mirror, 2022.12.17





London Policing College had a five-year contract, running until 2023, to train cadets from Chinese police academies in counter-terrorism using the UK's Prevent strategy.

Senior former cops have been accused of training Chinese police who could serve in the country's Xinjiang province where Uyghurs are persecuted.

And it is claimed they only stopped when they were about to be exposed in a shock report by campaign group Freedom from Torture – which also revealed £71,000 of British aid money was going into the project.

London Policing College had a five-year contract, running until 2023, to train cadets from Chinese police academies in counter-terrorism using the UK's Prevent strategy.

The private firm is headed up by ex-Met Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rod Jarman.

Former Chief Superintendent Parm Sandhu and counter terror specialist Kyle Hardcastle are also on the team.

The FFT report said: "British-trained police in any part of China are at risk of participating in the perpetration of systematic torture and repression of minorities in Xinjiang.

«The police have been at the forefront

of a horrifying campaign of violence and repression carried out under the guise of counter-terrorism."

Abuses against Uyghurs and Muslims in Xinjiang include torture, forced labour, forced sterilisation and mass internment.

The Government has described the oppression as "horrific abuses on an industrial scale" and in January 2021, the Foreign Office set guidelines to ensure UK firms did not profit from human rights violations there.

But the FFT's Roslyn Rennie claimed: "LPC kept the project going until we told them in April we were publishing our report – more than a year after the guidance to stop."

Foreign Office minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan last week said the project was part of efforts "to reduce human rights violations... through better policing".

She added: "The LPC have now ceased all programmes in China."

The British Council, which delivers UK aid, said: "The aim of this collaboration project was to improve international teaching standards in police education."

Neither the LPC nor Mr Jarman responded to requests for a comment.

The United States Needs to Do More to Help Uyghur Refugees

By Andrew Hartnett, International Policy Digest, 2022.12.16

The Uyghur minority in China is suffering terrible persecution. Human rights advocates and organizations accuse the Chinese government of committing



genocide against the Uyghurs, a Turkic minority of some 12 million in western China. Uyghurs trying to escape from China's brutality have a difficult time reaching safety.

The United States is failing Uyghur refugees and asylee applicants. We need to change restrictive policies and find ways to help them. By granting Priority 2 (P-2) status in the U.S. refugee program, Uyghurs can bypass referrals from other entities, like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to reach safety more quickly.

Granting Uyghurs P-2 status is feasible within the current refugee system. According to Olivia Enos and Hardin Lang, Washington has a track record of success. For example, Enos and Lang note that special P-2 status has been granted to Thai and Myanmar refugees, Middle

Eastern religious minorities, and Iraqis who helped the U.S. The authors assert that Washington is also considering survivors of Islamic State genocide and citizens of Hong Kong for P-2 status. P-2 status would be crucial for Uyghurs who are stranded in Thailand and facing the risk of being extradited to China through red notices via Interpol.

Processing Uyghurs using P-2 status is manageable due to the relatively low number of cases. According to the Uyghur American Association, the U.S. is home to only 8,000-10,000- of the nearly one million Uyghurs living outside of China. Most of the countries hosting Uyghurs have likely finished processing or are in the middle of processing cases, so the number of Uyghurs coming to the U.S. would probably remain low. The couple hundred remaining would

pale in comparison to other categories of asylum seekers and refugees, such as those from the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Syria, who arrive in the U.S. by the thousands.

Through the successful use of P-2 status for Uyghurs, the U.S. will also bolster its reputation as a defender of human rights. U.S. allies, as well as victims of authoritarian governments around the world, will be inspired by the example set by the U.S. in pushing for Uyghur dissidents to have a safe haven. Meanwhile, Beijing will witness that Washington doesn't just use the Uyghurs as a talking point but matches its rhetoric with actions. As the Uyghur community in the U.S. grows, greater public awareness and support for it will increase which is exactly the opposite of what Beijing wants.

Some may argue that the Uyghurs aren't important to the average American or policymakers in Washington. However,

members of Congress from both parties have already demonstrated a willingness to help Uyghurs resettle in the United States. A bipartisan bill, the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, encourages allies and partners to make accommodations for Uyghurs fleeing China. Other pieces of bipartisan legislation, such as the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and the Uyghur Policy Act of 2022 show strong interest in supporting the Uyghurs. The cost of resettling some 5001,000- Uyghurs who enter the U.S. through P-2 status wouldn't exceed \$15 million, a figure that is well within this year's refugee budget. This relatively small cost makes the case compelling.

By ensuring that Uyghurs have a path forward to resettle in the United States, we will uphold our values and set a strong example for other countries to protect the lives of countless innocent people.

Uyghur Groups Demand U.S. Executives at Chinese Surveillance Firm Resign

By Jimmy Quinn, National Review, 2022.12.15

Several Uyghur human-rights organizations have asked employees of Dahua, a Chinese video surveillance firm involved in mass atrocities, to step down, and for the company's various business partners — which include some big-name companies like Amazon, Costco, and Walmart — to “decouple” from it.

“We write to urge that you decouple from Dahua. Dahua is actively, knowingly harming

the safety and well-being of millions,” the groups wrote, in an open letter addressed last week to dozens of recipients and shared with National Review. The Uyghur organizations involved in this campaign include the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, the Uyghur Human Rights Project, the Uyghur American Association, and the Campaign for Uyghurs.

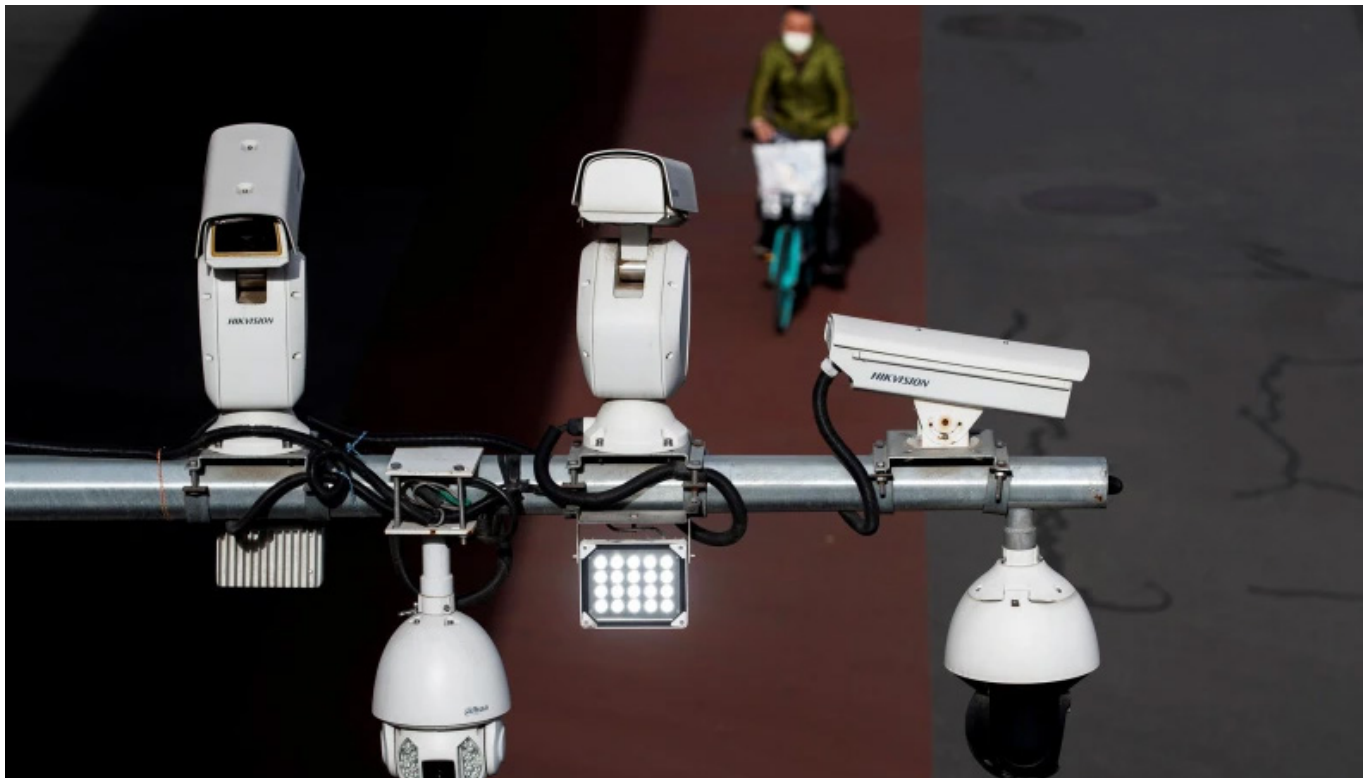
While it's the Chinese Communist Party



that is carrying out a campaign to destroy Uyghurs — recognized by the U.S. and other countries as a genocide — numerous companies, including those with deep ties in Western countries, have played a leading role in assisting that effort.

Dahua in particular is one of the worst

descriptions suggest that this system has been developed in partnership with private security and technology companies which supply the requisite technology, including for in-person and electronic monitoring in the form of biometric data collection, including iris scans and facial imagery.”



offenders, as it has provided video surveillance equipment to the authorities in Xinjiang as they have built up a 21st-century open-air prison in the far western region.

The U.N. human-rights office, in a noteworthy report this year, recognized “what has been alleged to be a sophisticated, large scale and systematized surveillance system in practice, implemented across the entire region both online and offline.” The report, which found reasonable basis to assess that Beijing might be carrying out crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, also said: “Available

Dahua has one of the surveillance industry’s largest market shares and a robust international presence. However, in recent years the U.S. has slapped Dahua with various sanctions and penalties in light of reports that it plays a key role in Beijing’s repression. The firm has been added to a list of U.S.-designated Chinese military companies, an investment blacklist, the Commerce Department’s export blacklist, as well as a prohibition on purchases of Dahua equipment by federal agencies and the company’s involvement in federal contracting work.

Yet Dahua counts several major international partners, including major companies like Amazon and other players in the tech space. Amazon Web Services, which recently won a Pentagon cloud-computing contract, also hosts a streaming platform through which Dahua customers can view their video feeds remotely — a business arrangement that might violate a legal ban on federal contractors' relationships with Chinese military companies.

The Uyghur groups wrote to three Dahua executives at the firm's U.S. subsidiary: CEO Tim Wang, director of sales Greg Cortina, and director of marketing Tim Shen. They also wrote to Wayne Hurd, the vice president of sales for North America, who is based in Canada.

After National Review requested comment directly from each of the four executives, Dahua Technology USA's media team issued a statement, saying, "We understand and respect the rights of some NGOs to express their opinions." It went on to claim that Dahua is "not owned or controlled by

any government" and a "private business" that follows the laws of each country in which it operates. The statement continued:

Like all technology companies, we recognize that we are limited in our ability to control how our end-user customers deploy our products, but we strive to reduce the risk of ours being used for unethical or illegal purposes. That includes our commitment to not develop or market products that target a specific group based on ethnicity, race or national origin.

Those claims, however, are undercut by reports that Dahua did just that — developing cameras that can recognize specific races and alert law enforcement when Uyghurs are found — as well as the fact that it is partly state-owned.

"Dahua is not simply a passive supplier that 'does not control how its technology is used,' contrary to what you might have been told," the letter stated. "As the CCP sketched its plan to destroy millions of lives, Dahua held the pen."



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