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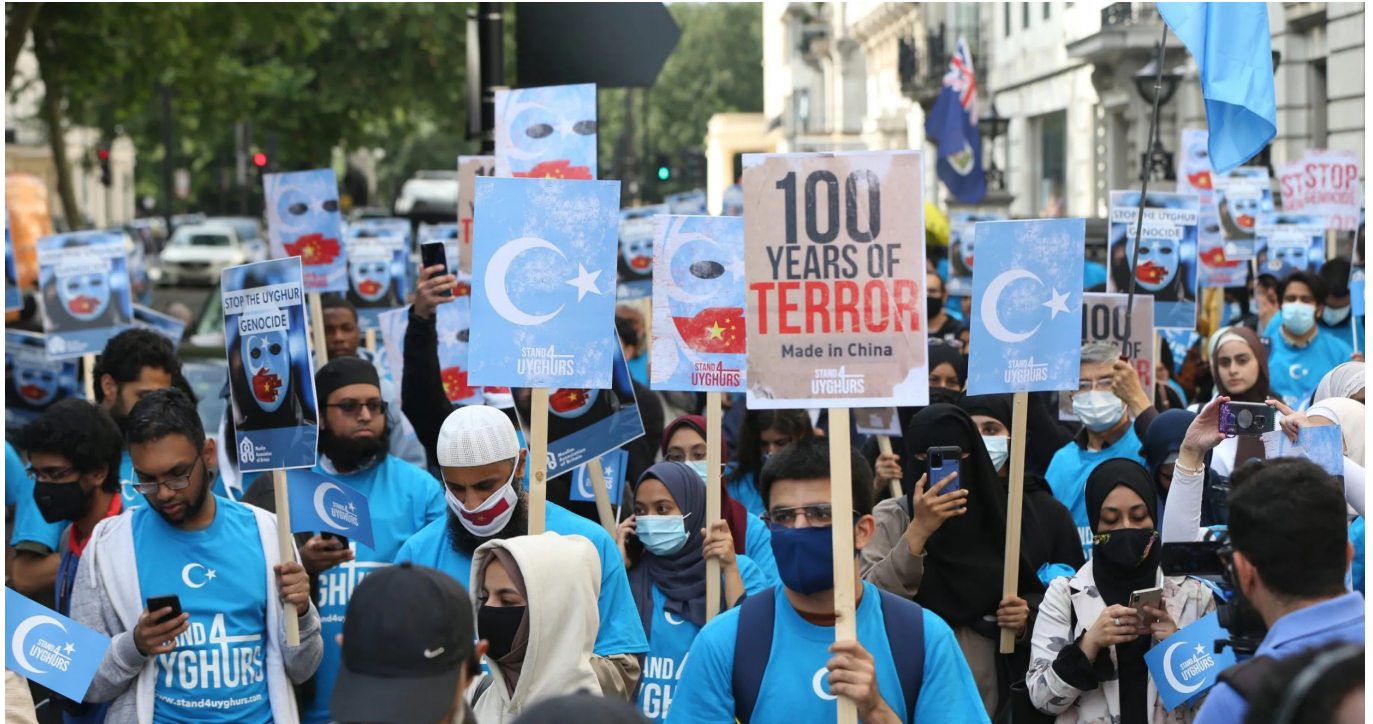
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## China 'Offering Persecuted Uyghur Muslims Thousands of Pounds to Spy for Them'

By James Gooderson, LBC, 2023.2.20

A persecuted Uyghur 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 Uyghur Muslim, according to phone recording obtained exclusively by LBC.

In the phone recording, the suspected officer tells the Uyghur 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 Uyghur community gatherings in the UK and report who had attended.

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

Professor Anthony Glee, 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 Xinjiang in the West of the country.

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 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 Uyghur 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 safety should contact the police."

LBC contacted the Chinese Embassy for a response and they said there was no truth in the allegations being made against Chinese officials and denied any wrongdoing taking place in Xinjiang.

## "Today I Received Uyghur Girls": Uyghur Teenagers as Victims of Human Trafficking

By Gulfiye Y, Bitter Winter , 2023.2.22

A Chinese businesswoman is proud to announce she has received three teenage "Uyghur girls" (维族丫头) from Kashgar, Xinjiang, 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” (维族丫头). 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, Xinjiang. 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 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, Xinjiang, 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 earn? 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 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 Xinjiang’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.'"

Uyghur Jiangwai Food Co., 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:



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 Xinjiang 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,

"Xinjiang: An American fast-food restaurant's job advertisement (for Urumqi) excludes ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. The CCP has adopted a discriminatory policy in Xinjiang, 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 Xinjiang’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 Xinjiang ... into what the government calls ‘surplus labour’ (富余劳动力) and ‘labour transfer’ (劳动力转移) 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 girls”?

## Aziz Abdullah: Uyghur Asylum-Seeker Death Heaps Pressure on Thailand

By Jonathan Head, BBC, 2023.2.21

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 Xinjiang 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 Xinjiang, 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 south-western Xinjiang, 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, 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-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.



## Beijing Pulls the Plug on ChatGPT Over Fears It Could Help Spread US 'Disinformation,' Reports Say

By Beatrice Nolan, Business Insider US, 2023.2.23

Beijing has started to clamp down on access to ChatGPT in China, according to reports.

OpenAI's chatbot is not officially available in China, but some people have reportedly found ways to access it via VPNs or «mini programs» released by third-party developers. Beijing uses its «Great Firewall» to block many foreign websites and applications, including the full version of Google Search.

According to the Japanese publication Nikkei Asia, Chinese regulators have told major Chinese tech firms, including Tencent, WeChat's parent company, to cut access to programs that provide access to the bot.

Tech companies in China that want to develop their own AI chatbots must also report to regulators before any launch, the outlet reported citing unnamed sources.

The move comes amid growing alarm in

China about some of ChatGPT's uncensored responses to users' questions.

Earlier this week, China Daily, a state-controlled media outlet, released a video called «How the US uses AI to spread disinformation,» according to Forbes.

In the video, the presenter calls ChatGPT's answers about Xinjiang that include the reports of human rights abuse against the region's Uyghur Muslims, a «perfectly typed answer in line with US government talking points.»

China has repeatedly rejected any allegations of human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims.

OpenAI and Tencent did not immediately respond to Insider's request for comment made outside normal working hours.



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