

Uighur Yusuf Amat says the Chinese government allegedly forced him into spying on his family and friends in Xinjiang and abroad [Jenni Henderson/Al Jazeera]

UYGHUR MAN WHO CLAIMS HE WAS FORCED TO BE AN INFORMER TO CHINA IN 'SERIOUS CONDITION' AFTER SHOOTING IN TURKEY

He said he started spying in 2012 because his mother was taken hostage, and officials tortured her and threatened to keep her unless he agreed to cooperate

He claimed he had been sent to spy abroad between 2012 and 2018 in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, Al Jazeera reported

He added that Beijing has "countless" such informants across the world, some of whom also abduct Uyghurs and bring them back to China

It was reported Yusufjiang Aimaitijiang had gone outside to get cigarettes when he was shot twice on Monday evening

Using a false name, he told Qatari news service Al Jazeera in February 2019 that he was forced to inform on fellow Uyghurs by China

Agence France-Presse

2:54am, 4 Nov, 2020

An Uyghur man who claimed to have been forced to inform on fellow Uyghurs to Chinese authorities has been hospitalised in a serious condition after being shot in Istanbul, Turkish media reported on Tuesday

Yusufjiang Aimaitijiang had gone outside to get cigarettes when he was shot twice on Monday evening, the private news agency DHA reported

Aimaitijiang suffered injuries to his shoulder and arm while the gunman escaped, the DHA report said. Members of Turkey's Uyghur community said Aimaitijiang was also known as Yusufjiang Emet and Yusuf Amat

Using the name Amat, he told Qatari news service Al Jazeera in February 2019 that he was forced to inform on fellow Uyghurs by China

"My role was to feed information to officials. I reported on everything people did – what they ate, drank, what they did in private in their homes, whether it was friends or relatives, I shared it all," Amat said



There are around 50,000 Uyghur refugees in Turkey, which has linguistic and cultural connections with the Uyghurs

Many have fled a crack-down on Uyghur Muslims in northwest China, where camps and



prisons have been used against them in the Xinjiang region
Beijing says they are vocational centres aimed at combating extremism





Ronna Nirmala

Benar News, 2020-10-23

A police officer escorts three Uyghurs, (left to right) Abdul Basit Tuzer, Altinci Bayram and Ahmet Mahmud, arrested on terrorism-related charges, as they walk toward the courtroom for their trial hearing in Jakarta, March 23, 2015. AP

Four Uyghur Muslims convicted in 2015 of terror-related offenses in Indonesia were deported last month after the Chinese government paid the fines imposed on them, two counter-terrorism experts told BenarNews on Friday

Indonesia Deports 4 Uyghur Terrorism Convicts to China, Experts Say

The four – Ahmet Mahmud, Altinci Bayram, Ahmet Bozoglan and Abdul Basit Tuzer – were sentenced to six years in prison and were fined 100 million rupiah (U.S. \$6,812) by a Jakarta court after being found guilty of entering the country by using fake passports and for attempting to join the Islamic State-affiliated Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen (MIT) militant group Muhammad Taufiqurrohman, a senior researcher at the Center for Radicalism and Deradicalization Studies (PAKAR), said that the four men were repatriated to China

after immigration officers transported them to a detention center from Nusa Kambangan, an island-prison complex off Java, on Sept. 17

Immigration officers came to Nusa Kambangan” with a letter to pick them up, saying they were to be transferred to an immigration detention center,” Taufiqurrohman told BenarNews. He also confirmed the information that Chinese authorities had paid the Uyghur men’s fines

On Friday, BenarNews contacted the Chinese embassy in Jakarta for comment on the four men's deportation, but officials there did not immediately respond

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Teuku Faizasyah, said he had no information on the matter and asked BenarNews to contact the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Reinhard Silitonga, the director general of corrections at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, told BenarNews he couldn't confirm whether the four men had been deported

And officials at the immigration department could not be reached immediately to confirm that the Uyghurs had been expelled

'Vocational centers'

PAKAR's Taufiqurrohman said Indonesia carried out the deportation of the four men in secret because many in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation criticize China's alleged mistreatment of the Uyghurs, who mostly live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China

The Indonesian government would be heavily criticized and be labelled

complicit in the Chinese government's oppression of Uyghur Muslims," if the deportation of the four Uyghurs was made public, Taufiqurrohman said

For more than three years, the Chinese government has allegedly imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs in detention camps and subjected those not detained to intense surveillance, religious restrictions and forced sterilizations, said a report published in June by the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S.-based think-tank

Chinese officials have repeatedly denied these allegations, saying the camps are centers for vocational training and that the thousands of Uyghur Muslims arrested had links to extremism

BenarNews informed Usman Hamid, executive director of Amnesty International in Indonesia, about Deka's and Taufiqurrohman's assertion that Indonesia had deported the four Uyghurs who had been in prison on terrorism charges

Usman said the Indonesian government must provide an explanation on the fate of the four Uyghurs

The Indonesian government must immediately provide an official statement regarding the truth of the report about the deportation of the four Uyghurs," Usman said

Deporting them to a country that could put them at real risk of human rights violations is illegal under international law. We understand that the pandemic situation poses challenges to the government, but deporting foreigners who are at risk of being subjected to human rights violations is not a solution

Four years ago, Indonesia had turned down a request from the Chinese government to exchange a fugitive Indonesian banker captured in China for the four Uyghur prisoners serving terrorism-related sentences

Indonesia told China that a prisoner swap wasn't possible because the charges against the four Uyghurs were different from those against the Indonesian banker

Back then, an Indonesian official who requested anonymity said Indonesia would face international pressure if the country agreed to deport the Uyghur prisoners to China

Giving Uyghurs back to China is the same as killing" them. Most probably, the Chinese government will execute them instantly," the official told BenarNews in April 2019

In the years since, the Indonesian government has faced criticism at home and abroad for its silence on the alleged mistreatment of Uyghurs in XUAR Indonesia – which has played a positive role in the Rohingya about the suffering there, because according to our constitution, occupation and oppression must be abolished," a 48-year-old protester told BenarNews during a demonstration outside the Chinese embassy in Jakarta

Days before the protest, Moeldoko, President Joko Widodo's chief of staff, said Indonesia would not interfere in Chinese do-

mestic affairs when asked why the government was not more vocal about the Uyghur issue

Each country has its own sovereignty to regulate its" citizens. The Indonesian government won't interfere in the domestic affairs of China." Moeldoko said

His comments came after The Wall Street Journal reported that Beijing had launched a "concerted campaign" to convince Indonesia's religious authorities and journalists that the Xinjiang camps were a "well-meaning effort" to provide job training

Expatriate communities in Turkey, other nations

Thousands of Uyghurs have fled China since their alleged persecution began in 2012, and made their way to Turkey and other countries

IPAC's Deka said that between 2014 and 2016, at least 13 Uyghurs had entered Indonesia illegally via the crisis – has shown its commitment to promoting rights elsewhere in the region. It should do no less for China's Muslims," Human Rights Watch said in January

Last December, thousands of people took to the streets in Indonesia and Malaysia to protest China's treatment of the Muslim minority community

The Indonesian government must not remain silent



Malaysia and joined radical groups

They had left China, via the border with Laos, for Thailand, and then continued their journey to join the thousands of Uyghur asylum seekers in Malaysia, Deka said

In Malaysia, they got help to forge documents so they could go to Turkey. However, many of those who made it to Turkey were eventually deported back to Kuala Lumpur. Some of them then crossed to Batam via Johor," said Deka, referring to an Indonesian island near Singapore

In Batam, they were picked up by members of the "Bahrin Naim network," he added, referring to an Islamic State fighter from Indonesia who died in Syria in 2018

The four Uyghurs convicted in 2015 came to Indonesia with the intention of joining the militant MIT group

and "performing acts of terror," said the judge who led a panel of jurists that convicted the men

While the Uyghurs' lawyer had argued that they were Turkish citizens vacationing in Indonesia, government lawyers said the men had fake Turkish passports and were en route to meet Indonesia's most wanted terrorist of that time, Santoso, when they were arrested in Central Sulawesi in September 2014. Santoso was killed by security forces in July 2016

Deka and Taufiqurrohman said the four Uyghurs were among the last Uyghur militants in Indonesia after others were killed by police and troops hunting for MIT militants in Central Sulawesi

Six Uyghur men who joined MIT were killed in 2016 during a large security operation in Poso regency



Press conference in front of the Indonesian Embassy

These Young Uyghurs have been held in Indonesian prisons since 2015, and their sentence expired last September. However, media and social media reported the Indonesian government's deportation of Uyghur youth to China, despite Chinese authorities' outright policies toward Uyghurs in East Turkistan

One of the Uyghur youths, Ahmet Bozuğlu, was not released despite the expi

The East Turkistan Human Rights Association held a press conference in front of the Indonesian Consulate in Istanbul on October 18th to protest the Indonesian government's handover of four Uyghur youths to Chinese authorities

ry of his prison sentence. The information about the others is anonymous

The fate and punishments faced by Uyghurs who have been deported from other countries to China are cruel and brutal. Some of them were tortured and severely punished, some were executed, and some were still missing. So handing over Uyghurs to the Chinese authorities is a historic crime, as it is the process of sending innocent people to death

The Uyghurs are asking the Indonesian government to provide a statement containing the numbers of Uyghurs residing in Indonesia, explaining their condition and whether they are safe. It also clarifies the process of handing over Uyghur youth to the Chinese authorities, which aim to exterminate them

East Turkistan News Agency



Uyghur mosques closed by Beijing, handed over for tourist use



THE CHINESE REGIME HAS DESTROYED OR DAMAGED OVER 16000 MOSQUES IN EAST TURKISTAN SINCE 2017.

By ATSUSHI OKUDERA/ Correspondent

October 15, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

KASHGAR, China—At a domed building here in early October, the Islamic crescent symbol that indicated it had been a mosque had been removed

The interior of the building had also been radically altered into a cafe

What had once been a large prayer room had been turned into a rest area for tourists. Visitors who appeared to be Han drank tea or laid down to rest

A source said the operator of the cafe was a Han from Guangdong province who began operations in May 2019 after rebuilding what had once been a house of worship

One local resident was obviously upset that mosques in Kashgar were being turned into restaurants and rest areas

We are afraid to pray outside of our homes so we" all gather at home to offer prayers," the resident said

UYGHUR MOSQUES TARGETED

Chinese authorities have moved to close a large number of mosques used by ethnic Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

In both the region capital of Urumqi and Kashgar in the western part of the region, a number of mosques had been converted into cafes and other tourist destinations for Han Chinese

And Beijing has not stopped at religious institutions.

In what was described as a state project to turn the ancient city of Kashgar into a major tourist destination, parts of the city where homes and other buildings were constructed in the traditional Uighur style has been torn down and rebuilt over the past decade

According to local residents, a large number of small and midsize mosques that were scattered around the old part of town have been closed over the past two to three years

Another building about a minute's walk from the former mosque also had part of its tower demolished and the former place of worship had also been turned into a cafe

Another mosque in the eastern part of the resiea



Visitors rest and relax in what was once a prayer room of a mosque in Kashgar in the western part of the Xinjiang (Uighur Autonomous Region. (Atsushi Okudera

district had been converted into a souvenir shop offering jade products

Of the six mosques visited in the old city of Kashgar, five had been closed

One Han operator of a cafe said the mosque was being rented from the local government. Mosques are apparently owned and managed by the local government and rented out for other purposes once they are closed

A study by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) found a similar trend in other parts of the East Turkistan Region

In a report released in September, ASPI made a comparison using satellite images. A sample of 533 mosques out of the 24,000 or so in the region was selected. Since 2017, about 65 percent of the mosques had been either demolished or reconstructed for other purposes

Violent clashes between Uyghurs and Han in the past has led Beijing to strengthen its oversight of Islam. One method used is the Sinicization of the religion

A researcher in a Communist Party organ in Xinjiang issued a report in 2015 that said, "The number of mosques in Xinjiang greatly exceeds the number needed for ordinary religious activities and some "have become bases for separatists and radicals

Wang Wenbin, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, harshly criticized the ASPI report, calling it "an

"anti-China fabrication

SINICIZATION EFFORTS SEEN

A similar picture was also seen in Urumqi

The metal gate to one mosque was closed and crescent symbols had been removed from the top of the columns that are an architectural feature of mosques. Peeking over the gate found construction materials and garbage strewn within the building

A Uyghur man who once prayed at the mosque said, "During the New Year, so many Muslims gathered there that some had to pray outside the building because not everyone could get in

According to a Communist Party official of the committee with jurisdiction over the district where the mosque is located, the building was designated in 2017 as dangerous because it did not have sufficient anti-quake measures. The official said the mosque was closed to protect the lives of residents

Another mosque in the Shuimogou district had also been closed a few years ago because it was also classified as dangerous

The ASPI study found that 35 percent of the mosques in Urumqi and 46 percent in Kashgar had been either demolished or reconstructed. The ratios were relatively low because domestic and foreign tourists often visit the two cities

However, in rural areas in the north and south of



Visitors drink tea in what was once a prayer room of (a mosque in Kashgar. (Atsushi Okudera



A souvenir shop in Kashgar sells jade products out of (a building that was once a mosque. (Atsushi Okudera

the autonomous region about 80 percent of the mosques have been demolished

A male ethnic Hui who said he was Muslim indicated that the mosque closures were meant to give Chinese authorities greater control

Closing the smaller mosques and forcing people to gather in larger mosques may make it easier to manage the people," the man said

There were other signs that Beijing was implementing Sinicization of the mosques

One mosque in Urumqi prominently displayed not only the Chinese flag, but also displayed banners with the core values of the Chinese Communist Party

Since the 2015 party decision to promote the Sinicization of religions, mosques have begun putting up banners calling for "ethnic solidarity" and pursuing "the Chinese dream"

. The Qur'ans and religious books were burned

. The graves were destroyed

. Thousands of mosques have been demolished

A visit to Hainan island in southern China in September led to a mosque that displayed not only a photo of Chinese President Xi Jinping, but also a sign urging visitors to read and study from his writings

The intensified crackdown on Uyghurs dates to around 2009 when about 2,000 people were killed or injured in violent clashes between Uyghurs and Han Chinese in Urumqi. Subsequent violent acts in other parts of China were designated by authorities as terrorist acts plotted by those seeking Uighur independence

Western nations have criticized the detention of Uyghurs in what has been described as concentration camps as gross human rights violations



Chinese national flags are displayed around a closed mosque in Kashgar. (Atsushi Okudera)



Construction materials and garbage litter the interior of a closed mosque in Urumqi. ((Atsushi Okudera)

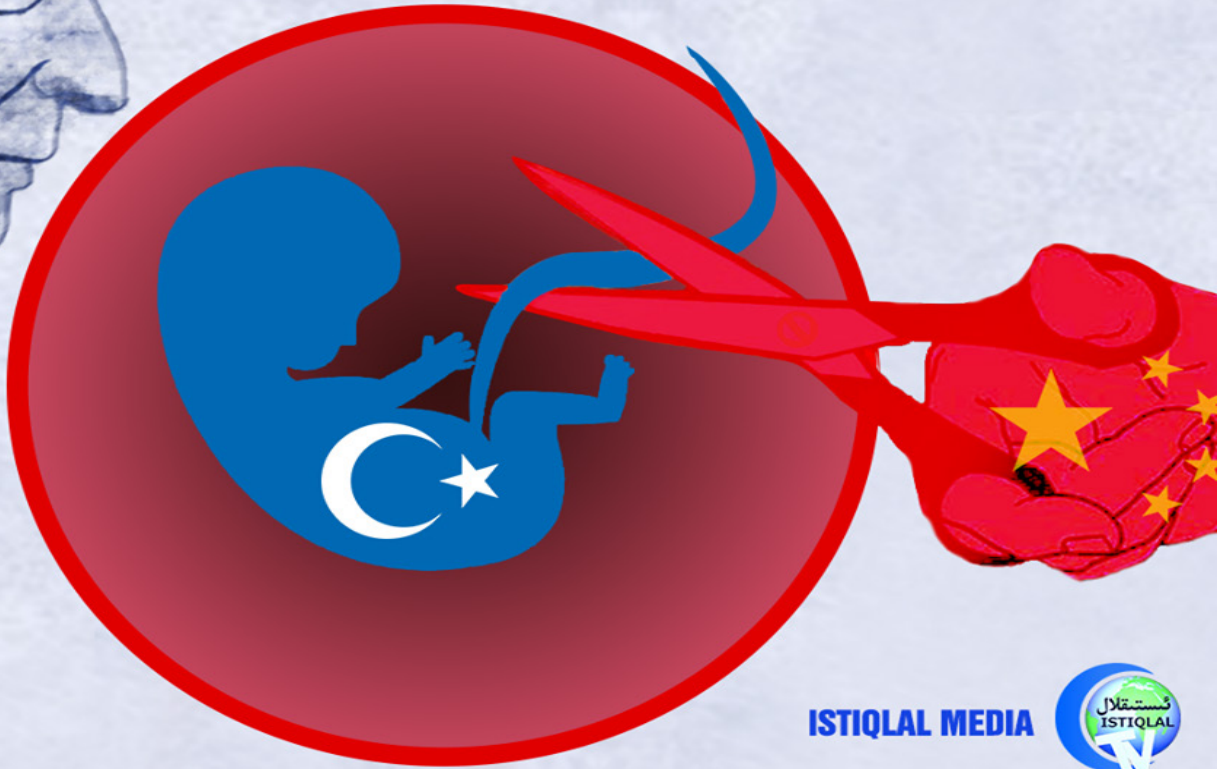




The Qur'ans and religious books were burned
The graves were destroyed
Thousands of mosques have been demolished
In addition to historical monuments and religious schools
Millions of Uyghurs are detained in Chinese prisons
The extermination of ethnic and religious identities (Uyghur and Islamic) continues in East Turkestan by the Chinese authorities, and the brutality is increasing day by day



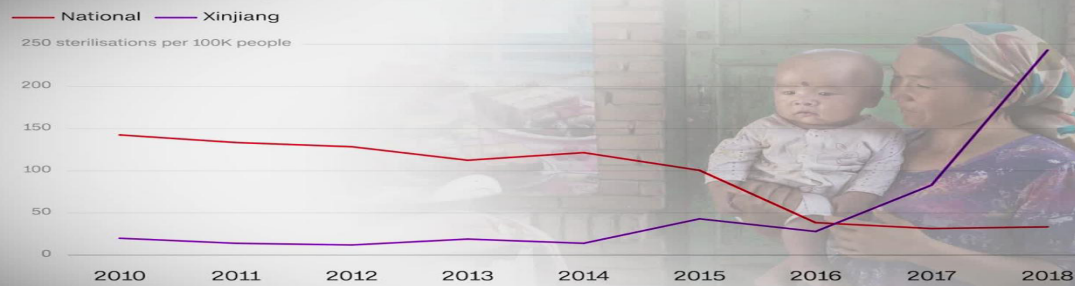
**THE NUMBER OF (FORCED) STERILIZATION SURGERIES
PERFORMED INCREASED FROM 3214 IN 2014 TO
60,440 IN EAST TURKISTAN IN 2018
REPRESENTING AN 18.8-FOLD INCREASE.**



ISTIQLAL MEDIA



Sterilizations per 100,000 population



Source: China's Health and Hygiene Statistical Yearbooks
Graphic: Natalie Leung, CNN



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
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