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Chinese police in Urumqi in 2010 Photo: Chinadigitaltimes

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Chinese fears of "Jasmine Revolution" unrest lead to clampdown on Uyghurs

Press release published on 1 February 2011 by the Uyghur American Association.

Amidst harsh Chinese security measures to stamp out even the smallest sign of dissent in major Chinese cities, and as Chinese citizens have called for a pro-democracy "Jasmine Revolution", authorities in East Turkestan have acted forcefully to clamp down on Uyghurs and preempt any possible unrest.



Pic: AP

Five Uyghurs were [reportedly](#) detained in the regional capital of Urumchi on February 22 and February 23, where authorities have recently intensified a propaganda campaign against Uyghur democracy leader Rebiya Kadeer. In the predominantly Uyghur city of Kashgar in the southern part of East Turkestan, authorities [deployed fire engines](#) and armored vehicles to ensure that the slightest indication of disorder could be thwarted quickly.

Among those arrested in Urumchi was 23-year-old Halmurat Imin from Hotan, who was detained on February 22 on charges of "illegal possession of a counterrevolutionary propaganda DVD" and "endangering state security" in connection with a campaign to confiscate copies of the DVD "Ten Conditions of Love" and other "illegal" publications and DVDs. The film "Ten Conditions of Love" focuses on the life and struggles of Rebiya Kadeer.

Four young Uyghurs were also detained in front of the Rebiya Kadeer department store in Urumchi on February 23 on charges of "disturbing public order" and "obstruction of public business", and other Uyghurs gathered nearby were forcefully dispersed.

According to [residents of Urumchi and Lhasa](#), the capital of Tibet, armed police have been patrolling the cities around the clock, keeping a close watch on residents. In Urumchi, armed police were seen not only on streets, but also on public buses.

"Chinese authorities are reacting with a show of force, the only way they know how, in response to peaceful gatherings," said Ms. Kadeer. "They view even the possibility of

dissent as a threat to their power that must be eliminated, because the Chinese government has no mechanism to deal with popular grievances. There is no room in the one-party Chinese state for any challenge to their policies."

Chinese authorities have also worked to quickly delete any mentions of a "Jasmine Revolution" appearing in the Uyghur language on the Internet. Officials in East Turkestan have been especially wary of regional instability in the wake of mass protests that took place in Urumchi in July 2009, and have kept a tight grip on the city by installing thousands of video cameras and shutting down Uyghur-run media.

Security forces have been deployed en masse in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities in recent days as calls have circulated online for Chinese citizens to gather in public places to protest in support of political reform and against corruption in the Chinese government. A number of foreign journalists have been [beaten and/or detained](#), even as Jasmine-related protests have largely failed to materialize.

Chinese official media reported on February 23 that four Uyghur men had been [sentenced to death](#) for their alleged roles in three separate incidents that took place between August and November 2010. The Uyghur American Association believes that the death sentences were handed down in an attempt to intimidate the Uyghur population, and questions the fairness of criminal and judicial procedures applied in their cases.

According to a December 30, 2010 report by Radio Free Asia (RFA), 19-year-old Uyghur student [Pezilet Ekber](#) was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve following a closed trial in April 2010 on charges of involvement in violence in Urumchi that took place on July 5, 2009. At least nine executions have been carried out in East Turkestan in connection with the July 2009 unrest in Urumchi.

Uyghur Leadership Training Seminar: "The Uyghur Issue in the Context of China's Democratization Process"

This year's WUC's Uyghur Leadership Training Seminar will take place in March 2011 in several Australian cities.

The World Uyghur Congress with the co-operation of the Australian Uyghur Association, the East Turkestan Australian Association and the Victoria Uyghur Association will hold a democracy-training workshop entitled "The Uyghur Issue in the Context of China's Democratization Process" in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia from March 21 to 28, 2011. The workshop is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for Democracy Foundation (NED).

Prominent Uyghur leader **Rebiya Kadeer**, thrice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, will be attending the workshop.

The workshop will be a week-long event in **three major cities in Australia**. The first workshop will be held in **Sydney** for two days from March 21 to 22. Then on 23 March, there will be a visit to the **Australian Parliament in Canberra** where Ms. Rebiya Kadeer will be addressing interested Parliamentarians (Committee Room 1R1 at 11.00 am). From March 24 to 26, the workshop will be held for the Uyghur community in **Adelaide**. From March 27 to 28, the workshop will be held for the Uyghur community in **Melbourne**.

The training workshop will bring together academics and regional experts, Uyghur leaders and the wider community, political entities, international non-governmental organizations, media representatives and diplomats from the international community, thereby ensuring that a broad range of perspectives is represented.

The general aim of the workshop is to provide the Uyghur community with the knowledge and experience necessary not only to raise awareness of the Uyghur issue in the Western world, but also to build capacity in the field of human rights and democratization efforts. **The main purpose**

of the 2011 workshop is to raise awareness of the deteriorating human rights situation of the Uyghur people since the July 5th Massacre in 2009 within the larger Australian society and government. The workshop will also focus on human rights, democracy and awareness raising programs for the Australian Uyghur community.

Since 1997, the World Uyghur Congress has annually organized "the Uyghur Leadership Training Workshop" with the co-sponsorship of NED and of UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization) in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and the US.

The workshop has proved to be a great success and is another significant opportunity to empower the various Uyghur communities and groups in exile. In the meantime, it has been a great occasion to show the world the difficult position the Uyghurs in East Turkestan are facing.

The workshop usually consists of lectures, discussions, educational visits, interviews with the local media and follow-up programs.

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Chinese Authorities Released Plan to Transfer Uyghur Students to Inner Chinese Cities

Published on 22 Feb 2011 by [RFA Uyghur service](#); translation into English by WUC.



Uyghur women to be transferred from East Turkestan to inner China.

The government of the Uyghur Autonomous Region plans to provide employment opportunities to 280.000 university graduates. There are 16 concrete measures to implement this plan. One of these measures consists of the transfer of students from ethnic minorities like Uyghurs to inner Chinese cities. Uyghur observers are critically regarding this policy.

Over the past years, the Chinese authorities have been transferring mainly young Uyghur women to inner Chinese cities under the excuse of providing employment opportunities. This policy was strongly criticized by the Uyghur community in and outside of East Turkestan and this discontent was one of the factors that lead to the 5 July 2009 events. This new plan reveals that Chinese authorities are not willing to stop this policy, but instead to speed up its implementation and concentrate now on the transfer of Uyghur students.

According to news published on 22.02.2011 at the [Tian Shan Net](#), the official news portal of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region) the regional government adopted a policy to send this year's unemployed graduates from ethnic minorities to 19 cities of inner Chinese provinces. These students are selected by the central Chinese government. The article also stated that the candidates will arrive at their predetermined destination by the end of this month after having passed a selection process consisting of a written exam, medical check as well as a seven day long military exercise. There is no information on how long the training will be and what kind of training the young graduates will receive. The article however indicated that these students will work better for the development of the Uyghur homeland after their return.

Alim Seytoff, the vice president of the Uyghur American Association, told RFA that he is very skeptically regarding this new policy of the Chinese government and stated that it is really strange that the

Chinese authorities are sending already graduated students to receive again a quasi training in inner Chinese provinces. According to the news, candidates from Hoten and Kashgar region have already been selected as planned. There are 369 candidates from Hoten, 1476 from Kashgar and 3500 from Ghulja who will be sent to cities like Beijing and Shandung. The Chinese authorities had transferred large number of mainly young Uyghur girls to factories to inner China under the excuse of policy of "providing employment opportunities to abundant work forces in country sides", and now they began to implement this policy on young students. The observers are closely monitoring the developments.

Students from various educational institutions in Urumqi and the unemployed Uyghur youth constituted the major part of the demonstrators during the Urumqi demonstration in July 2009 – a fact that has received major attention of the Chinese authorities. In his speech to Uyghur students in Urumqi, the governor of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Nur Bekri emphasized this point and stated that the government will increase the priority of the issue of resolving the unemployment rates of young graduates. **The overseas observers are however saying that the Chinese authorities are in fact implementing an assimilation policy of massive displacing of Uyghur youth in inner Chinese cities under various excuses, providing employment opportunities at this time for instance, weaken the national feeling and self awareness of the Uyghur nation and diminish the dissident voice of Uyghurs in the area forever.**

It seems that most of the Uyghurs are not aware of all these intentions of the Chinese government, while they are busy with strive for daily bread. RFA called people in Hoten region to learn if local people are aware of the transfer of graduates to inner China, and an Uyghur women who accepted RFA's interview said that haven't heard about this new policy.

MEDIA WORK

Interview with WUC Secretary General

On **01 February 2011**, Meridiani – Relazioni Internazionali (mRI) published an [interview with WUC Secretary General Dolkun Isa](#) on the work, objectives and perspective of the WUC.

UAA Press Release on Death Sentences Given to Four Uyghurs in East Turkestan

On **23 February 2011**, the Uyghur American Association (UAA) published a [press release](#) on the death sentences given to four Uyghur men in East Turkestan. Courts in Aksu, Hotan and Kumul (Chinese: Hami) sentenced Turhun Turdi, Abdulla Tunyaz, Ahunniyaz Nur, and Abdukerim Abdurahman to death for their alleged roles in three separate incidents that took place between August and November 2010. According to official media reports, the death sentences for the four men have been approved by China's highest court, signifying that they could be carried out at any time. In addition, Yasin Kadeer and Ahmet Kurban were sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve in connection with the incidents.

"By sentencing these four Uyghurs to death, China is attempting to intimidate the Uyghur people, fearing that they will take to the streets to demand human rights, democracy and freedoms from the authoritarian Chinese government," said Uyghur democracy leader Rebiya Kadeer.



UAA calls upon the international community to condemn the death sentences, in light of the disproportionate use of the death penalty against Uyghurs in East Turkestan, the highly charged political environment in the region, and the Chinese government's documented abuse of terrorism as a pretext to persecute Uyghurs, since the men were accused of having carried out "terrorist violence" in the murders of nine people.

In addition, a lack of transparency in the wake of the attack that took place in Aksu, as well as the previous absence of reporting regarding the attacks said to have taken place in Hotan and Kumul, raise serious questions about the criminal and judicial procedures applied in these cases.

See also:

[Exiled Uighurs worried on death sentences](#)

AFP, 23 Feb 2011

[China to execute 4 accused in Xinjiang violence](#)

Associated Press, 23 February 2011

[Muslim Uighurs face death penalty in China over Xinjiang killings](#)

The National, 24 Feb 2011

Interview with Rebiya Kadeer in Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

On **27 February 2011**, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty published an [interview with Rebiya Kadeer](#), WUC's president and Uyghur human rights activist, entitled '**I Can't Say The Struggle Will Always Be Peaceful**'. In the interview Ms. Kadeer speaks about the situation on ground today in East Turkestan, the objectives of the WUC, Uyghur-Han relations, the July 2009 events and Chinese policies in East Turkestan.



PAST EVENTS

East Turkestan Foundation Elects New Leadership

The [East Turkestan Foundation in Turkey elected its new leadership](#) on 11 February 2011. In a democratic election, İlghar Alptekin was elected as the new president, Eser Saka Türkistanlı as the vice president and Babur Khatip Oglu as the General Secretary of the foundation which was founded by prominent Uyghur leader Isa Yusuf Alptekin in 1978. Former president of the WUC Erkin Alptekin, Arslan Alptekin, Hayrinisa Alemdar, lecturer at the Haci Petta University Dr. Erkin Ekrem and the lecturer at the Ankara University Dr. Erkin Emet were also elected to the Board of the East Turkestan Foundation.

20th Anniversary of UNPO and UNPO Presidency Meeting



The **20th Anniversary of UNPO** was marked on **11 February 2011** with series of commemorative events at the Peace Palace in The Hague, including a photo exhibition and an international conference. UNPO Presidency Member and Secretary General of the WUC Dolkun Isa and WUC's Representative to the EU Mehmet Tohti attended the event on behalf of East Turkestan. Following the anniversary celebrations, **UNPO Presidency Meeting** took place and Mr. Tohti attended on behalf of Mr. Isa.

Conference on East Turkestan in Turkey

Organized by East Turkestan Education and Solidarity Foundation in a close cooperation with Bayseher Mefkure Association, a [conference titled "East Turkestan: The Past and Today"](#) was convened in the city Bayseher, Konya, Turkey on 11 February 2011. More than 250 people including the Mayor of Bayseher Cumali Atilla, head of the Municipal Religious Affairs Mustafa Tekin was attended the conference. The WUC vice president Seyit Tumturk, General Secretary of the East Turkestan Education and Solidarity Foundation Abdulhekim Selcuk and Chief Editor of Gok Bayrak Magazine Tursun Suydunlu as well as members of the Bayseher Mefkure Association also attended the conference. Mr. Seyit Tumturk made a presentation during the conference.

WUC Delegation at 39th Congress of the Nonviolent Radical Party, Italy



From 17 - 20 February 2011, the **39th Congress of the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty** took place in Chianciano (Italy). During the 4-day meeting, a large number of leaders and representatives of oppressed people and organizations took the floor to address the 400 participants, among them Rebiya Kadeer who attended the congress together with WUC's special representative in Brussels Memet Tohti. During the congress, Rebiya Kadeer met with leaders of Italian Politics, prominent Human Rights activists and community leaders from all across the world. Ms. Rebiya Kadeer also addressed the congress and introduced political situation of Uyghur people in East Turkistan under brutal Chinese rule and sought assistance from International community. Ms Kadeer's speech is available [here](#).

International Symposium on the Balkan, Turkey

The WUC vice president Seyit Tumturk attended an [international symposium on the Balkan](#) in Kocali, Turkey on 18 February. More than 30 people including Members of Parliaments from Macedonia, Kosovo and Bulgaria as well as representatives of several civil societies and intellectuals attended the conference. Seyit Tumturk presented a speech on the situation of Uyghur people and East Turkestan.

Briefing on the Uyghur Issue for Turkish Parties and Civil Society

The Ankara Office of the East Turkestan Culture and Solidarity Association organized a [briefing on the Uyghur issue](#) to representatives of the Turkish political parties and civil societies for the second time on 19 February. Head of the Ankara Office Hayrullah Efendigi and lecturer at the Haci Tepe University Dr. Erkin Ekrem made presentations respectively on "The East Turkestan Issue and Turkey" and "Uyghur History and the Present Situation: The Strategic Importance of East Turkestan and its Role in Sino-Turkish Relations" during the briefing, which was attended by members of the Youth Union of the Turkish political party The Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Briefing on the Uyghur Human Rights Situation at German Parliament

On **23 February 2011**, during the 32th session of the Human Rights Committee of the German Parliament, a [briefing on the Uyghur human rights situation](#) through the German Government took place. The briefing had been requested by **Christoph Strässer** (MP; member of the Human Rights Committee at the German Parliament and Speaker of the Working Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the political party SPD), following a meeting with WUC representatives in Berlin in January 2011.



Deutscher Bundestag

Panel Discussion on History of East Turkestan, Turkey

Sponsored by the Union of Turkish Municipalities (UTM), a [panel discussion on the history of East Turkestan and its strategic importance to Turkey was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23 February 2011](#). The president of honor of the East Turkestan Youth Association Arslan Alptekin, lecturer at the Celal Bayar University Dr. Ömer Kul made presentations respectively on "Migrating from East Turkestan to India" and "The History of East Turkestan and the Development of Local Government Structure" during the panel which were attended by a number of people including the vice mayor of Zeytunburnu District of Istanbul Ilyaz Saka, president of the East Turkestan Foundation İlghar Alptekin, president of the East Turkestan Education and Solidarity Foundation Hidayitullah Oghuzkan, Ablikim Mehsusn, president of the East Turkestan Refugees Association Yakupjan, president of the East Turkestan Youth Association Tebet Yüçetürk, Orghan Boztürk and representatives from the UTM as well as Uyghurs in Zeytunburnu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

16th Session of UN Human Rights Council



From 28 February to 25 March, the 16th session of the UN Human Rights Council is taking place in Geneva, Switzerland. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The Council was created by the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 with the main purpose of addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. **The WUC is currently lobbying for the inclusion of a mention of the Uyghur human rights situation in the oral and/or written statement of the country delegations or of the NGOs with ECOSOC status.**

3rd Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy



The 2011 Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy will take place on 15 March 2011 at the International Conference Center (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland. The gathering is organized by an international coalition of 25 human rights NGOs, among them the Uyghur American Association (UAA). The Honorary Chair is Dr. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. The Summit will take place in parallel with the annual session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The Geneva Summit will provide a voice for the voiceless and advocate for action on urgent human rights situations. The summit will feature victim testimonies from renowned human rights defenders, dissidents and experts, and produce draft resolutions for the UN Human Rights Council to adopt.

The **program** is available her: <http://www.genevasummit.org/program/2011/en>

Registration and information:

www.genevasummit.org and secretariat@genevasummit.org

Society for Threatened Peoples: Event on the Uyghurs in Munich



On 13 April 2011 at 19.30h (Location: EineWeltHaus Munich), the regional group Munich-Upper Bavaria of the **Society for Threatened Peoples (STP)** will hold an event on "**The Uyghur people in Central Asia and China**". **Nurnissam Schäufele** (historian and translator) will give an introduction on the history of the Uyghurs and **Abduleziz Ahmat** (head of the Uyghur Youth Group of the WUC) will speak about the current situation of his people. The Uyghur dancer **Klare Abdusalam** will perform traditional Uyghur dances.

HIGHLIGHTED INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ARTICLES AND REPORTS ON UYGHUR RELATED ISSUES

Surveillance of Uyghurs Increases in East Turkestan

In January and February 2011, several media articles stated that Chinese authorities are putting Urumqi, East Turkestan's regional capital, under full surveillance. After the July 2009 events, the authorities started to install thousands of cameras not only in Urumqi, but in whole East Turkestan.

According to official numbers, about 40,000 high-definition surveillance cameras with riot-proof protective shells had been installed throughout the region. Nearly 17,000 were added to the tens of thousands already installed in Urumqi last year. The surveillance coverage will continue to grow this year, according to Urumqi Mayor Jerla Isamudinhe, who spoke to the city's legislature over the weekend, Xinhua reported. Surveillance is "seamless" -- meaning there are no blind spots -- in sensitive areas of the city.

"The ability and scale of this new surveillance is unparalleled. ...Police can take away and 'disappear' people at any time," said Nicholas Bequelin, a Hong Kong-based researcher for Human Rights Watch's Asia division. "It is an area where the political repression is the most severe of any part of China."

See also:

[**Restive Chinese city to be under full surveillance**](#)

The Associated Press, 25 January 2011

[**Thousands of cameras watch China's Uighurs, inhibiting discourse**](#)

Tom Lasseter, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 Feb 2011



Surveillance cameras keep watch on the streets of Urumqi, China.
Tom Lasseter / MCT

Travel Ban Extends to Family of Ilham Tohti

According to a [report published by Radio Free Asia \(RFA\)](#) on 10 February 2011, Chinese authorities extended a travel ban to Ilham Tohti's family. Ilham Tohti, an Uyghur economist and professor at Beijing's Central Nationalities University, was informed by authorities in May 2010 that he would be banned from travel outside of Beijing, including to his hometown in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), at least until the end of the year. But before the New Year Public Security Bureau police handed a document which said that no one, including his wife and children, would be allowed to leave the capital.

When Mr Tohti was asked why he decided to accept the interview with RFA, he responded that the authorities did not intimidate him and that it was important for someone to speak out about the treatment of the Uyghur people in China. "**If I say something, they may arrest and kill me. If I don't say anything, they may do the same thing. So why shouldn't I say something?**" He added that "**if someday they arrest me and take me to jail, please write about me. I want the world to know about me and the world to understand what is happening to the Uyghurs.**"

Ilham Tohti has been under close scrutiny since ethnic riots rocked Urumqi two years ago. Tohti's website, Uyghur Online, on which he publishes articles about Uyghur issues, is under near-constant attack by hackers and is inaccessible within China and only available for short spells abroad. Uyghur Online publishes in Chinese and Uyghur and is widely seen as a moderate, intellectual website addressing social issues. Authorities have closed it on several previous occasions.



Ilham Tohti RFA



Committee to Protect Journalists Report: *Attacks on the Press in 2010*

On 15 February 2011, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) published a report entitled "[Attacks on the Press in 2010](#)" which is a worldwide survey on press freedom around the globe. According to the report, at least [34 journalists were imprisoned on 1 December 2010 in China](#), tying Iran for the highest figure in the world and reflecting a significant jump from the 24 imprisonments that CPJ documented in 2009. According to the CPJ, the increase was propelled by a series of imprisonments of Uighur and Tibetan journalists that began in the latter half of 2009 and continued into 2010, the details of which emerged only recently in scant news accounts of the detainees' court proceedings. The Uighur and Tibetan journalists covered ethnic issues and the violent regional unrest of recent years, topics that are officially off-limits. Mainstream Chinese journalists were virtually silent as these ethnic writers and editors were charged and convicted on a series of antistate crimes.

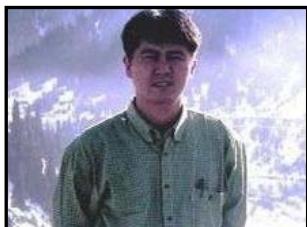
The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

CHRD: Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in China 2010

The ongoing crackdown on activists following an online call for "Jasmine Revolution" protests is a chilling reminder that defending human rights is a perilous occupation in China. **The general environment for China's human rights defenders (HRDs) deteriorated in 2010.** Through reviewing CHRD's reporting over the past year and surveys conducted with defenders around the country, CHRD finds that activists continued to face severe restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association as well as the right to an effective remedy. **They were routinely subjected to arbitrary detention—CHRD documented a total of 3,544 new incidences of individuals arbitrary detained for exercising or defending their own or others' human rights in 2010—as well as tortured, disappeared and harassed.**

This is the [fourth annual report produced by Chinese Human Rights Defenders \(CHRD\)](#) examining the extent to which the Chinese government has failed to fulfill its obligations to protect the rights of HRDs, as defined by the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Some of the key findings of this report include: Authorities maintained a firm grip over online freedoms as the cat-and-mouse struggle with netizens continued; Officials placed further restrictions on individuals' freedom of association; Activists sought creative ways around tight control over freedom of assembly; Human rights defenders faced arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances.

Sentence Upheld for Christian Uyghur Detained on Account of Faith



Alimujiang Yimiti CSW

On 03 March 2011, [Christian Solidarity Worldwide \(CSW\) informed in a press release](#) that an appeal in the case of Alimujiang Yimiti has resulted in his 15-year sentence being upheld by the Higher People's Court of Xinjiang, China. The Uyghur convert from Islam to Christianity has been detained since 12 January 2008. He has been convicted of "instigating separatism and revealing state secrets to foreigners". A notice was sent to Mr Yimiti in mid-February, informing him of the result of the appeal. An earlier appeal in March 2010 had also failed.

In 2009, a United Nations Working Group defined the detention as "arbitrary," concluding that Mr Yimiti was detained "solely on account of his faith". Those close to the case have always maintained that Mr Yimiti is innocent and that he would not have had access to state secrets as an agricultural worker. His case has drawn widespread international attention and is the harshest sentence given to a Christian in a decade.

Prior to his arrest, Mr Yimiti worked as a project manager for Jirehouse, a British company that was targeted in a series of closures of foreign companies belonging to Christians in Xinjiang in 2007. The Chinese government initially accused Mr. Yimiti of illegal religious infiltration. These charges were later changed and he was convicted of the state secrets charges at a closed trial on 6 August 2009. The trial reportedly did not follow due procedure in Chinese or international law and Mr Yimiti had limited access to his lawyers during this time.

MORE MEDIA ARTICLES

Uyghurs / East Turkestan

Uighurs not eligible for UK passports “at least for the next several years”

Royal Gazette, 09 Feb 2011

<http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20110209/NEWS/702099914/1001>

China: Almost gone but not forgotten

Nzherald.co.nz, 16 Feb 2011

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=10706361

Uyghurs Targeted Amidst Reform Call

RFA, 28 Feb 2011

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/reform-02282011114853.html>

Catching a whiff of jasmine in Kashgar

Economist, 20 Feb 2011

http://www.economist.com/blogs/asiaview/2011/02/precautions_xinjiang

Xinjiang 'Tense' Amid Arab Turmoil

Radio Free Asia, 22 Feb 2011

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/turmoil-02222011124714.html>

Arab Protests Add to Uighurs Pains

OnIslam & Newspapers, 26 Feb 2011

<http://www.onislam.net/english/news/asia-pacific/451252-arab-protests-add-to-ughurs-pains.html>

A Right Without a Remedy

New York Times, 28 Feb 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/01/opinion/01tue1.html>

Tibet

China needs political liberalisation: Dalai Lama

Times of India, 10 Feb 2011

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/China-needs-political-liberalisation-Dalai-Lama/articleshow/7463694.cms>

China Steps-up Religious Restrictions Inside Tibet

The Tibet Post International, 15 Feb 2011

<http://www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/tibet/1461-china-steps-up-religious-restrictions-inside-tibet>

China calls for renewed fight against Dalai Lama

BBC News, 25 February 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12575470>

China

China AIDS activist gets 1-year prison term after altercation at hospital, plans to appeal

The Associated Press, 14 Feb 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5irWNVBMGiq7g5Glla74C8iG2Hgyw?docId=5928032>

China Tops Media Crackdown

RFA, 16 Feb 2011

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/journalists-02152011150510.html>

China's Intimidation of Dissidents Said to Persist After Prison

New York Times, 17 Feb 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/19/world/asia/19china.html?_r=1&ref=global-home**China Assails New U.S. Policy on Internet Freedom**

The New York Times, 18 Feb 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/18/world/asia/18beijing.html?ref=china>**China, with Iran, was world's top jailor of journalists in 2010**

TibetanReview.net, 18 Feb 2011

<http://www.tibetanreview.net/news.php?cat=2&&id=8382>*****China, North African and 'Jasmine Revolution'*******China stresses need for stability in Egypt**

AFP, 12 Feb 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h1x-4L-CxvZSf9yKk9p5v3EMzlg?docId=CNG.07088ff3eeabac81457bfb188943f8a.891>**'Jasmine revolution' posting calls for demonstrations in 13 cities**

Guardian.co.uk, 20 February 2011

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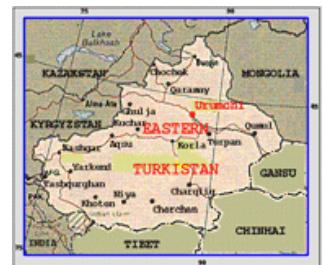
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The Uyghur People

The Uyghur people are indigenous to East Turkestan [also known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwest China]. For many years, the Chinese government has waged an intense and often brutal campaign to repress all forms of Uyghur dissent, crack down on Uyghurs' peaceful religious activities and independent expressions of ethnicity, dilute Uyghurs' culture and identity as a distinct people, and threaten the survival of the Uyghur language. The authorities have routinely equated Uyghurs' peaceful political, religious, and cultural activities with the "three evils" – terrorism, separatism and religious extremism – and have couched their persecution of the Uyghurs as efforts to quash these "three evils." The authorities have also economically marginalized the Uyghurs in East Turkestan through intense and blatant racial discrimination in employment. The Uyghurs are a Turkic people and have long practiced a moderate, traditional form of Sunni Islam, strongly imbued with the folklore and traditions of a rural, oasis-dwelling population.

East Turkestan

East Turkestan lies in the very heart of Asia. Situated along the fabled ancient Silk Road, it has been a prominent centre of commerce for more than 2000 years. The current territorial size of East Turkestan is 1.82 million square kilometers. The neighboring Chinese province annexed part of the territory as a result of the Chinese communist invasion of 1949. East Turkestan borders with China and Mongolia to the east, Russia to the north, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to the west, and Tibet to the south. According to latest Chinese census, the current population of East Turkestan is 19.25 million, including 7.49 million ethnic Chinese illegal settled in East Turkestan after 1949 (the ethnic Chinese numbered 200,000 in 1949). The 9.6 million Uyghurs constitute the majority. However, the Uyghur sources put the population of Uyghurs around 20 million.



Events of 5 July 2009

The human rights situation of the Uyghur population in East Turkestan has been dire for decades and has even worsened since the July 2009 protest and ethnic unrest in Urumqi, the capital of East Turkestan. The July 2009 protest began with a peaceful demonstration by Uyghurs in Urumqi that was brutally and lethally suppressed by Chinese security forces. The Uyghurs were protesting against a lack of government action in regard to a deadly attack on Uyghur factory workers in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province in the south of China. The violent and illegal reaction of the Chinese security forces to the peaceful protest led then to ethnic violence and riots between Uyghurs and Han Chinese, during which hundreds of Uyghur and Han Chinese civilians were killed. According to data published by the Chinese Xinhua news agency, 197 people were killed, but the World Uyghur Congress estimates – based on eyewitness reports - that more than 1000 people died in the riots. However, until today, the exact death toll on both sides is not clear since so far no independent investigation of these events has been undertaken.

About the WUC

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) is an international umbrella organization that represents the collective interest of the Uyghur people both in East Turkestan and abroad and promotes Uyghur human rights and a peaceful and non-violent solution based on rule of law for the conflict in East Turkestan.

WUC's monthly newsletter provides the latest information on Uyghur related issues and informs about the work and activities of the WUC and its affiliate members. Older editions of the newsletter can be viewed and downloaded in pdf format from the [web](#).

To subscribe for WUC's e-mail service, please fill in this [form](#). If you wish to stop receiving e-mails from the World Uyghur Congress, please send an e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject to contact@uyghurcongress.org.



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Support the World Uyghur Congress!

The WUC is organised as a non-profit organisation and relies on membership fees, grants and donations, which help the organisation to sustain its work and activities. Your donation will support our efforts to promote the preservation and flourishing of a rich, humanistic and diverse Uyghur culture, and to support the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, democratic means to determine their own political future.

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