



# WORLD UYGHUR CONGRESS NEWSLETTER NO. 3

OCTOBER 2010



*Rebiya Kadeer's imprisoned son Alim Abdiriyim*

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By Henryk Szadziwski

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### *Amnesty International Urgent Action: Son of Uyghur Activist Tortured in Prison*



Alim Abdiryim, son of Uyghur activist Rebiya Kadeer, is being tortured and otherwise ill-treated in detention, according to his family. They believe his life is at risk. He has been in prison in Urumqi, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China since 2006 on tax evasion charges,

According to sources in China, Alim Abdiryim has suffered a serious deterioration in his health and shows signs of physical and psychological trauma. He is reported to have said that the prison authorities were “turning a blind eye to what was happening” to him in prison, had not given him the medical attention he required, and that if the situation persisted he feared for his life. Rebiya Kadeer and her family believe his life to be at risk unless urgent

action is taken to urge the authorities to address the situation.

Alim Abdiryim was detained on 30 May 2006 and severely beaten by police. On 13 June 2006, he was charged with tax evasion, following an investigation by the authorities into the family business, and “subversion of state power”. In November 2006, Alim was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined 62,500 US\$. He is believed to have confessed to the charges after being tortured while in detention.

Rebiya Kadeer's family has been targeted by the authorities since she was first detained as a prisoner of conscience in 1999. This intensified after she was released on medical parole on 17 March 2005 and left China for the USA. Alim Abdiryim and his brother Kahar Abdiryim were sentenced on 27 November 2006, the day after Rebiya Kadeer was elected president of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC). Amnesty International believes that the pattern of retribution against Rebiya Kadeer's family for her human rights activities casts serious doubt on the credibility of the police investigation into their business affairs and the fairness of the trial process.

#### **PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Chinese, English or your own language:**

- Urge the authorities to ensure that Alim Abdiryim is not tortured or ill-treated in prison and is provided with all necessary medical treatment including for any injuries sustained in custody;
- Urging them to order a full and impartial investigation into allegations that Alim Abdiryim has been tortured and ill-treated in prison with the aim of bringing those responsible to justice;
- Calling on the authorities to end the human rights violations directed at Rebiya Kadeer's family, including torture and ill-treatment in detention, police harassment and other restrictions on their freedom of expression.

#### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 OCTOBER 2010 TO:**

Premier of the People's Republic of China  
WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu  
Beijingshi 100017  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 65961109  
(c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
Salutation: Your Excellency

Chairman of the Xinjiang Uyghur  
Autonomous Regional People's Government  
Nur BEKRI Zhuxi  
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin  
Zhengfu Bangongting  
2 Zhongshanlu, Urumqi 830041  
Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 991 2817567 or 2803621  
Email: master@xinjiang.gov.cn  
Salutation: Dear Chairman

And copies to:

Mayor of Wulumuqi People's Government

Gela YISHAMUDIN Shizhang  
 Wulumuqi Shizhengfu Bangongting  
 72 Nanhulu  
 Urumqi 830002  
 Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu  
 People's Republic of China  
 Fax: +86 991 4689654  
 Salutation: Dear Mayor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

Additional Information:

The Chinese authorities have used the global "war on terror" to justify harsh repression against the ethnic Uighur community in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and to deny them their human rights. Uighurs are the only known group in China currently sentenced to death and executed for political crimes.

Rebiya Kadeer was sentenced in 2000 to eight years' imprisonment on charges of "providing state secrets outside the country", which were publicly available newspaper clippings she sent to her husband in the USA. During her trial, neither she nor her lawyer was allowed to speak in her defence. She was released on medical parole after almost six years in prison in March 2005. She has never been charged or accused of violent crimes. Amnesty International considered her a prisoner of conscience and campaigned to bring about her release.

Rebiya Kadeer's family has experienced intensified persecution by Chinese authorities since she was released on medical parole in March 2005. In 2006 Rebiya Kadeer was nominated by Swedish parliamentarian Annelie Enochson for the Nobel Peace Prize. Annelie Enochson stated in her nomination, "Rebiya Kadeer champions the rights of western China's Uighur ethnic group and is one of China's most prominent advocates of women's rights...[she] has also used her resources as founder and director of a large trading company in north-western China to provide fellow Uighurs with training and employment."

Torture and other ill-treatment are endemic in all forms of detention, although China ratified the UN Convention against Torture in 1988. Amnesty International also receives regular reports of deaths in custody, many of them caused by torture, in a variety of state institutions, including prisons, Re-education Through Labour facilities and police detention centres.

The authorities have passed numerous regulations intended to strengthen the formal prohibition of torture contained in China's Criminal Law. However, the categories of prohibited behaviour are limited, and do not comply fully with definitions of torture under international law. Articles 247 and 248 of the Criminal Law list several offences related to the prohibition of torture; however, these charges can only be brought against a limited range of officials in particular circumstances or places. The prosecuting authorities, who also investigate and prosecute torture offences, set criteria for taking up cases which further limit the application of these provisions.

The broad discretion given to the police by the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) to detain suspects for long periods before trial increases opportunities for torture and other ill-treatment. During this time detainees' access to their families and legal representatives may be limited. Under the CPL, the police should inform the family of a detainee about their arrest and place of detention within 24 hours, except where it "would hinder the investigation" (Articles 64 and 71). However, in practice communication with the family is frequently denied until the detainee is brought to trial or sentenced.

Provisions on access to legal counsel also fall short of international standards. Article 96 of the CPL states that a suspect "may appoint a lawyer to provide legal advice or to file petitions and complaints on his behalf," after the first session of interrogation by the "investigative organ," or from the day when the suspect is subjected to one of the forms of detention or restriction provided by the law. In cases "involving state secrets" the approval of the police is required before a lawyer is appointed or any meeting between lawyer and client can take place.

UA: 199/10 Index: ASA 17/037/2010 Issue Date: 15 September 2010

Originally published at: <http://www.uyghuramerican.org/articles/4956/1/URGENT-ACTION-SON-OF-UIGHUR-ACTIVIST-TORTURED-IN-PRISON/index.html>

The Urgent Action is also available in [Spanish](#) and [German](#).

## ***Uyghur Organ Harvest Witness Narrowly Escaped Deportation***

*By Matthew Robertson, Epoch Times, 28 Sep 2010*

Nijat Abudureyimu woke in fright at 5 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 21 as dozens of policemen piled into his small living quarters in the Commune de Fontainemelon, Switzerland, telling him that he would be sent back to Italy that afternoon.

Mr. Abudureyimu (also spelt as Nijati Abudureyimu) is a [high-profile defector from communist China](#); he says being sent back to Italy is as good as a death sentence.

Since Italy has failed to grant him asylum status before, Mr. Abudureyimu believes that, once in Rome he, would be swiftly shipped to Dubai, the first country he landed in after fleeing China. “There’s no difference to being in China,” he says of the prospect. “Even thinking of it now, I find it extremely frightening.”

*The Epoch Times* today learned of the developments in Mr. Abudureyimu’s case in a telephone interview conducted in Mandarin.

As a policeman in the remote Xinjiang province of China, Mr. Abudureyimu for years bore witness to the Chinese state’s practice of organ harvesting of death-row prisoners—sometimes while they were still alive.

Having fled China in late 2006, he first went to Dubai, then Italy, then Norway, then Switzerland, applying for but not being able to secure political asylum at every step.

Since Italy was the first EU country he arrived at and applied for asylum in, it was to Italy that the Swiss authorities sought to deport him.

He got to Switzerland last November, and has been staying in Fontainemelon, a small village in the west of the country, with the ever-present threat of arrest and deportation hanging over his head.

He told *The Epoch Times* that while he knew a deportation attempt was coming, he did not expect it so soon, nor the force with which the authorities attempted to execute the procedure. “They came with a lot of cars, a lot. And many police officers... There were a lot of people in the room. ‘Stand up, come with us!’” he said, recounting the raid. “They told me take all my clothes off, to get naked. I refused.”

Swiss official Gamma Serge explained this by saying it was part of police regulations, and for the safety of Mr. Abudureyimu to remove his clothes, in case he had concealed a sharp object.

Just before he was to board the plane that afternoon at the international airport, Mr. Abudureyimu was able to consult with his lawyer, Philippe Currat. Mr. Currat advised that he had the right to refuse to board the plane.

This he passed on to the police in the strongest terms—“I was extremely agitated, I said ‘I tell you: I will not board the plane!’”—and after more back and forth, the authorities allowed his return to his residence.

The parting words of the police were that they will be back to try to deport him—when, he does not know.

As the only witness of state-run organ harvesting who is outside China and willing to speak of his experiences, Abudureyimu’s case is important to researchers of human rights in China, and in particular of state-run organ harvesting, who see both immediate and long-term significance in how his case is handled.

“Up to now, I am the only Chinese to come out talking this way about live organ harvesting, and also the only police officer to have worked in a detention center seeing this happen,” Mr. Abudureyimu said.



Researchers Ethan Gutmann and Jaya Gibson (an *Epoch Times* staff member) were the first to learn of Mr. Abudureyimu and his experiences several years ago. His case has been followed with concern and increasingly, frustration, as European governments have consistently failed to address the crux of the issue.

"The West must stand up against tyranny and protect witnesses such as Nijat," Mr. Gibson said in a written statement.

At stake is not just one individual, Mr. Gibson argued, since if Mr. Abudureyimu's case is handled judiciously—if he is able to give testimony to an official body, and granted protection as a political asylee—more witnesses may stream forth.

"If we in the West fail in our duty to protect Nijat and those like him, we are then complicit in the subsequent atrocities that take place when the Chinese Communist Party feels that no one will stand up to them," Mr. Gibson wrote. "Protecting Nijat is the first step."

The Chinese regime has shown that they mean business with Mr. Abudureyimu, having on July 25 detained his older sister, Muyeshaer Abudureyimu, who is still in China, *The Epoch Times* has learned.

The detainment relied on the Chinese regime intercepting the communications of a Swiss journalist, and was an attempt to force Mr. Abudureyimu to stop speaking to the media, a source familiar with the issue said.

Mr. Abudureyimu was released very recently, and he was added to the US State Department's human rights list.

Alim Seytoff, Director of the Uyghur Human Rights Project based in Washington, D.C., said he was pleased that Mr. Abudureyimu was not deported. "I ask Switzerland, as a country of refuge to many refugees from dictatorial countries like China, to reconsider granting asylum to him. Nijat does not deserve to be deported to China or any other country due to his well-founded fear of persecution."

The Swiss Federal Office of Migration said to *The Epoch Times* in an email that, according to the Dublin regulation, Italy should examine Mr. Abudureyimu's asylum application, and that "The highest court in Switzerland, the Federal Administrative Appeals Court, has ordered Mr. Abudureyimu to return to Italy." Italy is responsible for taking measures against threats against him, they said.

Originally published at: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/43018/>

## Featured articles

### **KYRGYZSTAN:**

#### ***Violation of freedom of expression by the interim government must stop***

*By the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)*

*28 September 2010*



FIDH and its member organisation Citizens Against Corruption (CAC) strongly condemn the prohibition, on September 24, by security services of the screening of the Chinese documentary « 10 conditions of love » which tells the story of the well-known Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer.

On September 24, 2010, the organisers of the international human rights documentary film festival “Bir duyno Kyrgyzstan”, among which CAC, were summoned to a meeting with the direction of the historic museum of Bishkek. Upon arrival, they realised that a member of the security services (GSNB) of Kyrgyzstan, and a deputy head of the office of GSNB for the fight against terrorism were also present at the meeting. The organisers of the festival were forbidden from screening the documentary film « 10 conditions of love », claiming that the Uighur diaspora had asked them to delay the projection of the film until after the parliamentary elections which will take place on October 10.

The employee of GSNB first brought up an oral order of the Commander of the Armed forces of the Kyrgyz Republic, then mentioned a letter from the head of the Presidential Administration of the interim government, E. Kaptagayev, forbidding the screening of the film, because of the film’s purported influence on interethnic relations in Kyrgyzstan. According to FIDH president Souhayr Belhassen « It is extremely worrying that such orders violating freedom of expression come from the administration of the Interim President, less than two weeks after the condemnation of human rights defender Askarov to life imprisonment. It is another blow to civil society. »

The movie was screened for 30 minutes after which the museum administration simply turned the lights off. Later on the same evening, the festival’s website [www. Birduino.kg](http://www.Birduino.kg) was hacked.

Tolekan Ismailova, head of the human rights center « Citizens against corruption », declared: « This festival is held in accordance with the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, and neither violates the laws « On culture », nor any agreement that Kyrgyzstan ratified in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The GSNB actions violate the rights of citizens. »

FIDH and its member organisation Citizens Against Corruption urge kirghiz authorities to:

- immediately authorise the screening of the film « 10 conditions of love », and not interfere with the regional screenings planned throughout the country in the framework of the international human rights documentary film festival “Bir duyno Kyrgyzstan”.
- immediately stop the repression against civil society;
- respect fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Originally published at: <http://www.fidh.org/KYRGYZSTAN-Violation-of-freedom-of-expression-by>

More information:

#### **Kyrgyz Security Service Disrupts Human Rights Film Festival**

*Radio Free Europe, 24 Sept 2010*

[http://www.rferl.org/content/Kyrgyz\\_Security\\_Service\\_Disrupts\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Film\\_Festival/2167594.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Kyrgyz_Security_Service_Disrupts_Human_Rights_Film_Festival/2167594.html)

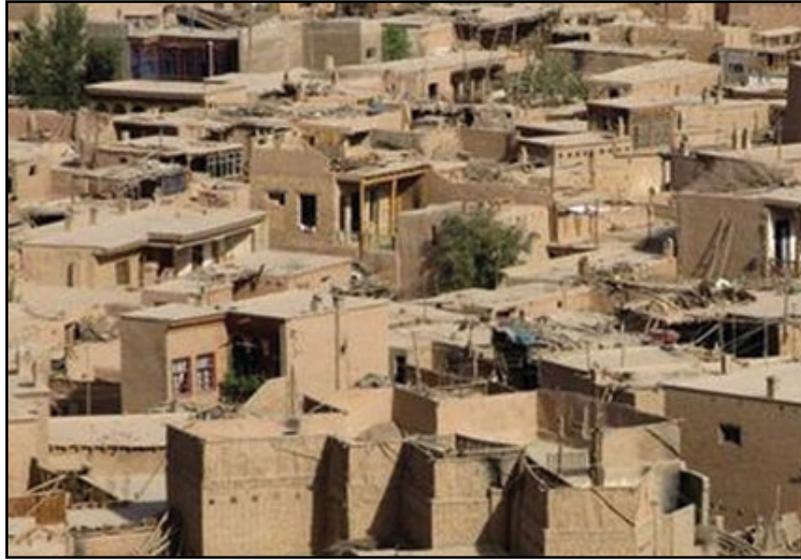
#### **Why Is Kyrgyzstan So Touchy About a Uighur Documentary?**

*Eurasianet.org, 04 Oct 2010*

<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/62072>

## *Xinjiang: Taming China's Wild West*

*By Ben Judah, October 2010*



### **Disappearing: The old wall of Kashgar**

Kashgar is in China — but along Vegetable Market Road they greet each other as Muslims, with a hand over the heart. "Peace be upon you," mutter voices in a bearded crowd as worshippers briskly trot off to the mosque on a hungry Ramadan evening. They wear box-like, embroidered skullcaps and do not look Chinese. Nor do the giggling children who dart across mud-brick alleys, nor do their mothers in brown knotted burqas. Donkeys tug carts of wool and rickshaw mopeds honk through dirty, crowded thoroughfares. The air smells of roasting meat-sticks and gasoline.

This could be anywhere in Islamic Central Asia — were it not for the blinking cranes in the twilight, the Mandarin script and the bulldozers remorselessly demolishing an antique town. Turn off at any corner of Vegetable Market Road and you'll face mounds of rubble, debris and empty squares of dust flecked by trash. Ultra-modern high-rises loom on placards that show the future. Old Kashgar and its way of life are living on borrowed time.

The Chinese government is destroying the mud-brick maze of traditional Kashgar to cement control over its rebellious Turkic natives. They call themselves the Uighurs and are an 11-million-strong nation, more populous than Sweden or Austria, whose nomadic ancestors wandered from the shores of Lake Baikal 1,000 years ago. Uighur horseman once ruled vast stretches of the steppe and Uighur kings grew fat from the Silk Roads that criss-crossed their deserts.

"The beauty of the temples, monasteries, wall paintings, statues, towers, gardens, housings and the palaces built throughout the kingdom cannot be described," gushed the tenth-century Chinese diplomat Wange Yande. Little remains of the trading kingdoms that helped bring Buddhism to East Asia and oriental luxuries to the Caliphate and Europe. Just hollow ruins in the desert, and, of course, the Uighurs themselves.

Power drills and hammers echo through Kashgar. The authorities have set a target of 85 per cent demolition for the old town. The remaining 15 per cent has already been turned into a ticketed tourist attraction. Communist planners have renamed Kashgar — now the more Chinese-sounding Kashi — and are erecting a modern business hub. Minutes from Vegetable Market Road, traffic jams clog glass and steel commercial avenues, shoppers roam well-stocked malls and Chinese tourists peruse a new pastiche "Islamic style" block around the mosque. All roads are wide enough for two tanks abreast. Flanked by a score of fluttering red flags, a bullying mega-statue of Chairman Mao menaces the main square.

Cut out culturally and physically from the new Kashi, the 220,000 residents of old Kashgar are being relocated to a faceless and manageable estate on the outskirts called the "Happy Garden". The authorities have ignored both petitions and appeals from historians and the people behind the hugely successful film

*The Kite Runner*, which was filmed in Kashgar. The Chinese Communist Party has always been unsentimental about buildings.

Beyond Kashgar, motorways as smooth as the M4 have been built over the haunting Gobi desert to tie these distant provinces into the Han heartland. Oil platforms and gigantic wind-farms stretch over the wilderness. Supermarkets, skyscrapers and glistening ultra-sleek airports have sprung up in the major cities. China is marching west. Beijing is determined fully to absorb these traditionally Muslim and restless expanses it has long claimed in Central Asia.

Known as Xinjiang, the "new frontier" in Chinese, this rocky wasteland — the country's largest province — extends across more than 1.5 million square kilometres north of Tibet, arcing out to border Russia and five of the 'stans. The Uighurs, unfortunately, live in China's territorial crown jewel. The soil is a treasure-trove of hydrocarbons and minerals.

Xinjiang is as essential to China's geopolitical ambitions and sense of self as Siberia is to the Russians. Without Xinjiang, China would not be able to feed its factories with oil, gas, coal, uranium and gold. These territories hold more than half its proven minerals reserves and more than 80 per cent of the various kinds of deposits present in the country. Without Xinjiang, Beijing would not have been able to open gas pipelines that reach to the Caspian Sea through Kazakhstan or have plugged itself into precious reserves in Turkmenistan. Without Xinjiang, there could be no plans for a railway connecting Beijing to Istanbul to the Trans-Siberian, or pipelines crucial to growth being built to funnel out Russia's oil. Without Xinjiang, there would be no Chinese roads being cut through the mountains and the steppes into the 'stans, flooding the regions with economic produce and Han migrants.

**Takeaway: China will replace the old mud huts of Kashgar with a new sparkling metropolis for the Hans**

Chinese dynasties have dreamed of mastering the Silk Roads since the third century BC when the first legions traversed the Great Wall during the Han dynasty. Centuries of cyclical protectorates and governorships endured for a few generations each only to be defeated by collapse in the centre, constant Turkic rebellions and the region's fierce geography. Mao, who towards the end of his life explicitly modelled himself on China's founding "Yellow Emperor", Huang-di, was only continuing a long tradition when he launched the Communist Party's "Develop the West" campaign that continues to this day.

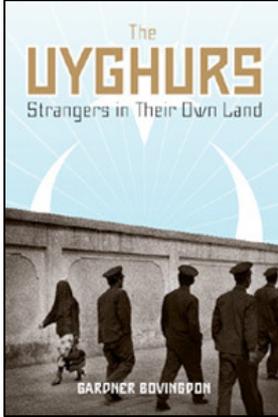
The province's recent history begins when it was annexed along with Tibet in the 18th century to the Manchu Qing dynasty's empire. Almost immediately, they fell into a grey zone between suzerainty and outright incorporation. The early 20th century saw the territory descend into anarchy before coming under heavy Soviet influence. For a while, Stalin even toyed with the idea of annexing it himself. Moscow established a base in the region and Russian workers heavily influenced the evolution of the Uighur language, which adopted the words for both a train and China itself — symbolic of how far the territory had spun from Beijing's orbit. In the late 1940s, a Soviet-inspired East Turkestan Republic flickered into life.

Mao's forces "liberated" East Turkestan from local leaders in 1949. He was convinced that the territories held the resources China needed for an industrial future and the room for both its exploding population and atomic testing. Xinjiang became central to the communists' master plan for superpower status. Han settlers began to trickle into the Chinese frontier. They arrived in Islamic oasis towns unchanged since the Middle Ages, utterly different from the crowded East Asian villages. The pioneers were a mixture of fanatical young communists and the bedraggled remains of the trounced armies of the nationalist generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Many of China's own gulags, the *laogai*, were built in the region. Like neighbouring Siberia, Xinjiang was a desert of promise and exile during the Cold War. Rumours have circulated since the 1960s that the territory housed the largest prison camps in the world, with up to 500,000 inmates.

Only in the past 30 years of reform has Beijing had the muscle and determination to turn East Turkestan into Xinjiang. The figures speak for themselves. Han Chinese constituted fewer than seven per cent of the population in 1949, climbing to 33 per cent by 1964 and 40 per cent by 2000. The Han are now the overwhelming majority in the northern and eastern parts of Xinjiang, although these numbers do not include army personnel serving in Xinjiang and their families or the large numbers of unregistered migrant workers, the floating peasants, who can be found in any Chinese region. Kashgar, at the foothill of the Pamir range and closer to Islamabad than even the regional capital of Urumqi, is the last stronghold of the Uighurs [...]

To view the full article, please go to: <http://www.standpointmag.co.uk/node/3406/full>

## BOOK REVIEW: UYGHURS UNDER SIEGE



Written by Henryk Szadziewski  
24 September 2010

***The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land.***  
**By Gardner Bovingdon. 286 pp, Columbia University Press**

New books about the Uyghur people from China's northwest region of Xinjiang are hard to come by. Books that accurately and objectively document the Uyghur political landscape in the face of rapid change are even harder. Gardner Bovingdon's book is therefore a welcome addition to the literature on a complex, but increasingly important subject.

*The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land* not only provides a newcomer to the subject with a description of the competing representations of the region's contentious politics, but it also offers those interested in issues of ethnic marginalization a window into the dynamics of government policy and varying forms of organized and everyday resistance.

The publication of this book is timely. Unrest in the regional capital of Urumqi in July 2009 created a wider consciousness of the Uyghur issue. Uyghurs have chafed under Chinese Communist Party rule ever since the People's Liberation Army entered the region in 1949 – an action that ended the short-lived East Turkestan Republic centered in Ghulja. Major areas of contention between the Uyghur and the Chinese Communist government have been increasing economic marginalization, lack of political representation, restrictions on religion and cultural practices, as well as accelerated Han Chinese migration into the area.

Conversely, the Chinese government has emphasized the social and material benefits of Chinese Communist Party administration, and the huge injections of financial capital that have been invested in the region since 2000. Xinjiang is central to China's future, and growing, energy needs as the land it sits on has reserves of oil and gas, and acts as a conduit for natural resources from Central Asia. As a result, Beijing is sensitive about criticism of its policies toward the region, and keeps a tight lid on information.

Bovingdon knows his subject inside out and is an experienced guide to Xinjiang's political landscape. Fluent in Uyghur and Mandarin, the author applies a critical eye to academic, activist and government sources in both languages that unlock competing accounts of the region's politics. Bovingdon emphasizes the importance of these accounts, asserting that in an authoritarian context they represent the only available sources with which to analyze politics.

He adds that the political narratives employed by the Chinese government, overseas Uyghurs and Uyghurs in Xinjiang are not misrepresentations, but are, as Bovingdon states, "the very stuff of politics in Xinjiang." The author goes on to explain that "the main actors are consciously engaged in representing their own actions and those of their opponents as they pursue their political aims."

After carefully navigating the fractious history of the region, Bovingdon discusses one of these narrative forms through the intriguing theme of everyday resistance under repressive regimes. Using his linguistic access to the region, the author illustrates the number of daily public and private ways the Uyghur people defy the Chinese regime. From jokes to songs to stories, Uyghurs invoke the symbols of opposition to Chinese authorities. These varieties of resistance either circulate in trusted private conversations or in allegorical form at public performances.

*The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land* explains that such resistance is illustrative of the broad scale of Uyghur discontent, and that the scale of that discontent offers an insight into the spontaneous participation of large numbers of Uyghurs in public demonstrations. This observation has clearly been a preoccupation with Chinese officials who have portrayed Uyghur unrest as the work of a small number of separatists, or terrorists, with the guile to misguide others to join their activities.

While Bovingdon points out that repressive government policies employed to silence Uyghur political contention have exacerbated tensions, the number of protest incidents in Xinjiang has fallen sharply

since 1998. This is a trend contrary to the number of incidents recorded in China as a whole, and diverges from Chinese government rhetoric that has exaggerated security concerns in the region. The appendix of the book offers a very helpful, and meticulously researched, chronological history of protests and violent events in Xinjiang since 1949.

Bovingdon also tackles the representational politics of the Uyghur Diaspora. Once again, Bovingdon knows his history in what has been a complicated evolution in political thought. The book describes the disagreements the diaspora organizations have had over advocacy for independence, armed struggle and the current call for genuine autonomy. It also introduces the main characters involved in this evolution, and the global migration of the diaspora movement from Turkey to Central Asia to the industrialized democracies of North America and Europe. However, in a rare shortcoming, the book is somewhat out-of-date with the very latest developments among the Diaspora organizations such as the call for dialogue, and the growing documentation of human rights abuses.

Nevertheless, *The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land* has far much more to offer. The work is also bold, especially if one considers the challenges it makes to the Chinese government on its record in the region. Uyghur studies is an academic field filled with external pressures to comply with the representations of the contending stakeholders; however, Bovingdon's work does well to call it as he sees it. It sets out to describe differing perspectives, and to offer a framework to understand those perspectives.

With the subject of Uyghurs opening to policy-makers, scholars, activists and the general reader, *The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land* adds substantially to the comprehension of the wider implications of contentious politics in Xinjiang, especially as China assumes greater influence worldwide, and as Central Asia becomes a key player in global energy supplies and security.

*Henryk Szadziwski is manager of the Uyghur Human Rights Project in Washington, DC. He can be reached at [hszad@uhrp.org](mailto:hszad@uhrp.org).*

Originally published at:

[http://asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2715&Itemid=189](http://asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2715&Itemid=189)

## 1. PAST EVENTS

### . WUC Hosted by Religions for Peace, Munich, Germany



On 14 September 2010, representatives of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) participated in an event of the Munich group of the NGO "Religions for Peace." Under the topic "Doing, what unites" Asgar Can, the vice president of the WUC, accompanied by Jana Brandt, assistant in WUC's office in Munich, gave a speech on the role of the WUC in the solution of the conflict in East Turkestan after having briefly introduced Uyghurs' history. He put special emphasis on the achievement of this goal through peaceful and democratic means. The causes and background of the conflict were also approached. After the presentation, Asgar Can answered further questions from the audience about the Uyghur issue.

### . Uyghurs' Plight Discussed on the Floor of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva



The 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council took place in Geneva from 13 September to 1 October 2010. The Society for Threatened Peoples (based in Germany), International Educational Development, Inc. (based in the United States), and the International Society for Human Rights (based in Germany) raised the Uyghurs' plight on the floor of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Society for Threatened Peoples and International Educational Development, Inc. discussed the repression of the Uyghur people in their statements for the general debate on Item 3 ("Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development").

The Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) spoke about the Chinese government's treatment of the Uyghur people as an example of governments' use of security campaigns and the global war on terrorism to repress, persecute, and dilute the cultural identities of minorities in their countries. STP's statement was interrupted three times by China's delegation to the UN Human Rights Council on points of order. China's delegation claimed that the statement did not fall within the confines of Item 3. The United States and United Kingdom delegations defended STP's right to speak. The UK delegation noted that STP properly contextualized its statement within Agenda Item 3. The President of the Human Rights Council permitted STP to conclude its statement. To view a video of the statement, please click [here](#).

International Educational Development, Inc. (IED) urged the Independent Expert on international solidarity to address the situation of ethnic groups that are under consistent verbal and physical attacks by their own and other governments. As an example, IED noted the Chinese government's equation of Uyghurs' peaceful dissent, religious activities, and cultural activities with the "three evil forces" -- terrorism, religious extremism, and separatism.

The International Society for Human Rights discussed the persecution of the Uyghurs and other peoples living under the Chinese government on September 20, 2010 in its statement for the general debate on Item 4 ("Human rights situations that require the Council's attention").

In addition, during the general debate on Item 4, Sweden and the United States addressed general human rights violations in China. Sweden expressed concern over internet censorship in China. In the United States' written version of its Item 4 statement, it expressed concern over recent setbacks in the development of the rule of law, including but not limited to the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, restrictions on religious freedom, and extensive sentences for individuals involved in peaceful political activity. The United States ran out of time when it verbally delivered its statement and therefore did not verbally deliver the segment of its statement that dealt with China.

The UN Human Rights Council has regular sessions three times per year in Geneva, Switzerland.

### . WUC UN Liaison Speaks At UN Human Rights Council Side Event

On 23 September 2010 Kathy Polias, the World Uyghur Congress' United Nations Liaison, spoke about the Uyghurs' plight at the side event entitled "Open Dialogue on Human Rights of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in South Asia and Central Asia" organized and sponsored by the Al-Hakim

Foundation. This event was organized as a side vent of the 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### WUC UN Liaison at Round Table 'Digital Democracy. Using Virtual Ways to Promote Real Rights'



On 27 September 2010 the round table, "Digital Democracy: Using Virtual Ways to Promote Real Right," was organized in Geneva by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational & Transparty (NRPTT) in collaboration with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) as a side event of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council. The NRPTT is an association of citizens, parliamentarians and members of government of various national and political backgrounds who intend to achieve, through nonviolent Gandhian methods, a number of concrete objectives aimed at creating an effective body of international law with respect for individuals and the affirmation of democracy and freedom throughout the world. NRPTT has General consultative status with ECOSOC of the UN. The UNPO is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organisation. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

Panelists: Italian senator Marco Perduca (NRPTT), Marino Busdachin (UNPO General Secretary), Niccolo Figa´-Talamanca (Secretary of No Peace Without Justice), Kathy Polias (UN Liaison of the World Uyghur Congress), Sapideh Sadeghi (West Baluchistan) and Stephane Koch (Reporters without Borders).

Kathy Polias, the World Uyghur Congress' United Nations Liaison, spoke about the state-imposed information blackout in East Turkestan in the aftermath of the July 2009 protest and ethnic unrest in Urumchi (the regional capital), the Chinese government's blaming of Uyghurs' use of the internet for the July 2009 incidents, and the arrest and sentencing of Uyghur website staff.

More information:

<http://www.radicalparty.org/es/node/5134549>

<http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/2010/09/28/internet-and-human-rights-highlighted-alongside-un-human-rights-council/>

#### WUC General Secretary in Japan

WUC's General Secretary Dolkun Isa travelled to Japan from 23 September until 01 October 2010 to participate in several events and meetings. On 25 September, Mr. Isa held a speech on freedom of expression in East Turkestan in a workshop entitled "Committee of Writers in Prison", organised by the Japanese PEN. Invited by the Japanese Uyghur Association, Mr. Isa gave a conference on the topic "Past and Present of the Uyghur Democratic Movement". During his stay in Japan, Mr. Isa attended also press conferences and gave media interviews and met with representatives of Tibetan and Mongolian Groups. On 29 September, he met with members of the Japanese Parliament both from the ruling and the opposition parties. In this meeting the creation of an Uyghur Friendship Group in the Japanese Parliament was announced.

#### WUC's Special Representative Meets Mr. Emir Kir, Brussels, Belgium

Mr.Mehmet Tohti, Special Representative of World Uyghur Congress at European Parliament has met on 24 September 2010 with [Mr. Emir Kir](#), the Secretary of State of the Brussels-Capital Region of Belgium, at his office and sought his help for the future campaign of World Uyghur Congress in this great city. During the meeting Mr. Kir has provided valuable advice and his expertise on connecting the World Uyghur Congress with local media, local community centers, human rights organizations, and influential individuals and made solid promise for future projects. Mr. Kir also expressed his willingness to take part any possible projects of World Uyghur Congress in Brussels to create public awareness about the unacceptable situation of Uygurs in East Turkeistan under Chinese rule.

### Uyghur American Association (UAA) at the West Point

Ms. Kadeer and WUC Spokesperson Alim Seytoff visited the U.S. Military Academy at the West Point for the first time on 29 September 2010. In spite of strong pressure from the Chinese government on the West Point to prevent their visit, the U.S. Military Academy brushed off Chinese pressure and warmly welcomed them. They were warmly welcomed and received by military officers of the Social Sciences Department. Ms. Kadeer and Mr. Seytoff spoke to a class on Human Security regarding the recent history and current human rights situation of the Uyghur people. Surprisingly, the cadets knew the situation of Uyghurs rather well. They asked a lot of intelligent questions, which were handled with great answers by Ms. Kadeer and Mr. Seytoff. They had lunch with both the faculty and cadets on campus discussing current Chinese politics and the U.S.-China relations.

### UAA/WUC Delegation in Utah

At the end of September 2010, Ms. Kadeer, UAA's and WUC's President and Mr. Seytoff, UAA's General Secretary and WUC's Spokesperson, visited the great state of Utah. They spoke at two great universities: Utah University and Utah Valley University. At the Utah University, Ms. Kadeer spoke at the [Hinckley Institute of Politics](#), organized by the China Center and the Middle Eastern Center. At the Utah Valley University, Ms. Kadeer spoke at an auditorium to hundreds of students organized by the China Center. In the evening, they had dinners at both universities with the directors of the respective institutes and the faculty on Chinese politics and East Asian history.

### Demonstrations Around the World on 1 October (Chinese National Day)

While the Chinese are celebrating the 1 October (Chinese National Day) as a national holiday to commemorate the establishment of the PRC, for the Uyghurs it is a day of mourning. Demonstrations were held in different countries to raise awareness on the situation of the Uyghurs and to protest the occupation of East Turkestan 61 years ago.

#### Canada

Organized by the Uyghur Canadian Association, more than 50 Uyghurs [demonstrated](#) in Toronto on the occasion 1 October.

#### Germany

[Two demonstrations](#) were organized by the East Turkestan Union in Europe in front of the Chinese General Consulate in Munich and at the Marienplatz in the very heart of the city. More than a thousand leaflets were disseminated during the demonstrations.



#### USA

Organized by the UAA (<http://uyghuramerican.org/>) and the IUHDF (<http://iuhrdf.org/>), Uyghurs in the U.S. [demonstrated](#) in front of the Chinese embassy in Washington, DC on the occasion of the 1 October, the Chinese National Day, to protest the occupation of East Turkestan 61 years ago.

#### Turkey



More than 150 people [demonstrated](#) in front of the Chinese embassy in Ankara on 1 October. WUC president Mr. Seyit Tümtürk laid a black wreath to symbolize the plight of the people of East Turkestan.

The East Turkestan Youth Association and the East Turkestan Education and Solidarity Association jointly staged a [demonstration](#) in front of the Chinese General Consulate in Istanbul.

#### Netherlands

Organized by the Netherland East Turkestan Uyghur Union, more than 50 Uyghurs [demonstrated](#) in Amsterdam.

#### Norway

The Uyghur Norwegian Association organized a [protest march](#) in Oslo began from the Oslo Central Train Station to the Norwegian Nobel Peace Center.

#### Sweden

Uyghur Sweden Association organized a [demonstration](#) in front of the Chinese embassy in Stockholm. More than 50 Uyghurs and Mongols joined the demonstration.

### Uyghur PEN at the International Book Fair in Frankfurt, Germany



On 06 October 2010, PEN held the event *“The Wild Pigeon”- China’s Forbidden Fable* during the International Book Fair in Frankfurt, Germany. Jana Brandt, World Uyghur Congress’ Project Coordinator, invited the Uyghur PEN (<http://www.uyghurpen.com/>), and Mitchell Albert from the International PEN (<http://www.internationalpen.org.uk>) participated as speakers. The fable *“The Wild Pigeon”* (*Yawa Kepter* in Uyghur), was written by the Uyghur author Nurmuhemmet Yasin in 2004. *“Wild Pigeon”* was first published by the Kashgar Literature Journal. The magazine’s editor, Korash Huseyin, was detained in 2005, and sentenced to three years’ imprisonment for *“dereliction of duty”*. He is presumed to have been released at the end of his sentence in February 2008. Nurmuhemmet was sentenced in 2004 to ten years prison for writing this tragic but beautiful tale of a bird who sets out on a journey of discovery, but is captured and caged by humans. In the end, the pigeon commits suicide rather than live a life in captivity. Chinese authorities interpreted the story as criticism of state control in East Turkestan and charged him under the accusation of *“inciting splittism”*. Why does a government react to a story about a bird in his cage by sentencing the author to 10 years in jail and the publisher to three years? These was the central question of the event. After a short introduction to Nurmuhemet’s biography, Mr. Albert read aloud the whole story, followed by Ms. Brandt who gave a short overview on the Uyghurs human right situation and censorship in East Turkestan.

Uyghur PEN fears for Nurmuhemmet Yasin's life. UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred Nowak met with Nurmuhemmet Yasin in prison in November 2005. Nurmehmet Yasin told him that, during interrogation in November 2004, the police had threatened and beaten him. With four years left of his prison sentence, Uyghur PEN and other organizations have received reports that Nurmuhemmet has suffered repeated torture and beatings, and may have been tortured to death in prison. Since one year nor relatives and family nor the Uyghur PEN have had any contact with him.

Nurmuhemmet is not alone: Neither in the sense that he is forgotten, nor in the sense that he is alone in suffering this fate. Uyghur writers - whether journalists, poets, novelists or academics - walk a fine line in the shadow of government censorship. Political and non-political writing alike risks being interpreted as *“subverting state power.”* Criticism of any government policies can result in being branded an enemy of the state - or, in China's preferred parlance, a *“separatist,”* or even a *“terrorist.”*

The latest [Banned Books Week 2010 \(25 Sept – 02 Oct 2010\)](#), during which Amnesty International directs attention to the plight of individuals who are persecuted because of the writings that they produce, circulate or read, included Nurmuhemmet in the list of urgent cases.

*“The Wild Pigeon”* can be downloaded in its English version [here](#).

## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Grand Meeting of Friendship and Solidarity of Uyghur Youth To Take Place in Munich in October, 2010



The Youth Committee of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) would like to announce the convening of the The Grand Meeting of Friendship and Solidarity of Uyghur Youth (GMFSUY) from 22-24 October, 2010 in Munich, Germany.

The GMFSUY aims to be a global platform for strengthen friendship and a solidarity among the Uyghur youth community around the world and consolidating their campaigns for freedom, human rights and democracy for the Uyghur people. Organized by the WUC Youth Committee, the GMFSUY will be attended by nearly 50 representatives of Uyghur youth community from several countries and it will form an effective network and a functioned mechanism of cooperation among Uyghur youth community. This is a new milestone in building a new generation of young Uyghur community in the Uyghur Diaspora and we are intending to give young Uyghur human rights and democracy advocates a broader view about the current and future accepts of our campaigns.

The GMFSUY will take place at the WUC Headquarter in Munich. The closing ceremony will be held at the *Eine-Welt-Haus* in Munich with a joint Uyghur culture evening.

### 3. LATEST NEWS

*International Media Articles on Uyghur Related Issues from September and October 2010:*

**Uighurs 'prodded' to celebrate Eid**

*Sri Lanka Guardian, 11 September 2010*

<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2010/09/uighurs-prodded-to-celebrate-eid.html>

**'No Passports' For Uyghurs**

*RFA, 10 September 2010*

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/passports-09102010102104.html>

**China Promises Political Reforms**

*RFA, 06 September 2010*

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/shenzhen-reforms-09062010164657.html>

**UAA stands with the victims of terrorism on September 11**

*UAA Press Release, 09 September 2010*

<http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/?p=4450%20UAA%20stands%20with%20the%20victims%20of%20terrorism%20on%20September%2011>

**'Uyghur' or 'Uighur'?**

*RFA, 10 September 2010*

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/uyghur-spelling-09062010161733.html>

**The Tibetan impasse**

*Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, South China Morning Post Op-ed, 10 September, 2010*

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/tibetan-impasse>

**Celebrating Id al-Fitr Under Watchful Eyes of China**

*The New York Times, 12 September 2010*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/13/world/asia/13kashgar.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/13/world/asia/13kashgar.html?_r=2)

**Ex Guantanamo Bay prisoners, 4 Uighur Muslims from China, adjusting well to life in Bermuda**

*New York Daily News, 12 September 2010*

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/2010/09/12/2010-09-12\\_lifes\\_a\\_beach\\_for\\_former\\_gitmo\\_four.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/2010/09/12/2010-09-12_lifes_a_beach_for_former_gitmo_four.html)

**Have a problem with China's government? President Hu wants to hear from you.**

*Christian Monitor, 14 September 2010*

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2010/0914/Have-a-problem-with-China-s-government-President-Hu-wants-to-hear-from-you>.

**Chinese Journalists Risk Their Lives to Expose Corruption**

*Irrawaddy, 14 September 2010*

[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=19476](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=19476)

**Man sentenced over spying on Uighur refugees in Sweden**

*Monstersandcritics, 15 September 2010*

[http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article\\_1585250.php/Man-sentenced-over-spying-on-Uighur-refugees-in-Sweden](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1585250.php/Man-sentenced-over-spying-on-Uighur-refugees-in-Sweden)

**CHRD Report to UN Committee against Torture Highlights Issues the Chinese Government Should be Asked to Address in its Next Periodic Report**

*Chinese Human Rights Defenders, 16 September 2010*

<http://chrnet.org/2010/09/16/chr-report-to-un-committee-against-torture-highlights-issues-the-chinese-government-should-be-asked-to-address-in-its-next-periodic-report/>

**NGOs seek China's accountability over Tibet crackdown at UN meeting**

*International Campaign for Tibet, 20 September 2010*

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/ngos-seek-chinas-accountability-over-tibet-crackdown-un-meeting>

**Tibetan "singing nun" arrives in exile after second period of imprisonment**

*International Campaign for Tibet, 21 September 2010*

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-singing-nun-arrives-exile-after-second-period-imprisonment>

**China's human rights record criticised by MEPs**

*BBC News, 21 September 2010*

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/europe/newsid\\_9016000/9016345.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/europe/newsid_9016000/9016345.stm)

**Are 'Minority' Languages Safe?**

*RFA, 22 September 2010*

<http://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/languages-09222010105909.html>

**Repatriation policy links China to rights violations**

*The Washington Times, 23 September 2010*

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/23/repatriation-policy-links-china-to-rights-violatio/>

**Ban on 'Religious' Clothing**

*RFA, 24 September 2010*

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/clothing-09232010170017.html>

**Group Urges Nobel Award for Chinese Dissident**

*THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 25 September 2010*

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/09/25/world/asia/AP-AS-China-Nobel.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

**A New Shenzhen: Beijing aims to turn the remote western city of Kashgar into the country's next big boomtown**

*News Week, 25 September 2010*

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/09/25/china-s-hottest-cities-and-kashgar.html#>

**China praises its growing transparency in rights report**

*Reuters, 26 September 2010*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68P0MD20100926>

**China warns Norway against peace Nobel for dissident**

*Reuters, 27 September 2010*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE68Q28720100927>

**China police investigate 'black jails' for protesters**

*BBC News, 27 September 2010*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11420443>

**China's Propaganda King Influences Irish Media During State Visit**

*Epoch Times, 29 September 2010*

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/43418/>

**Writers' group slams Iran, China over jailing of intellectuals**

*Monster Sand Critics, 30 September 2010*

[http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article\\_1588083.php/Writers-group-slams-Iran-China-over-jailing-of-intellectuals](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1588083.php/Writers-group-slams-Iran-China-over-jailing-of-intellectuals)

**Gandhi Day 2010: A Time to Reflect, Assess and Act**

*UNPO, 01 Oct 2010*

<http://www.unpo.org/article/11737>

**2010 could be China's year for Nobel Peace Prize**

*Agence France-Presse, 03 Oct 2010*

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/world/view/20101003-295711/2010-could-be-Chinas-year-for-Nobel-Peace-Prize>

**Freedom of speech 'indispensable': China's premier**

*AFP, 03 Oct 2010*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gtTo4pHqwCxzhuMeTbjMeNIh4G1w?docId=CNG.649318c517e989a6cb277015a7fa72dd.fb1>

**Uighur brothers in Jura, six months later**

*World Radio Switzerland, 04 Oct 2010*

<http://worldradio.ch/wrs/news/switzerland/uighur-brothers-in-jura-six-months-later.shtml?21161>

**Uighur leader wishes to visit Turkey at same time with Chinese Premier Jiabao**

*THE ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY, 06 Oct 2010*

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-223617-100-uighur-leader-wishes-to-visit-turkey-at-same-time-with-chinese-premier-jiabao.html>

**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 <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/?p=4872>.

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