Top Story
- Uyghur Political Prisoner Noor-ul-Islam Sherbaz Dies in Jail

Featured Articles
- 2nd Anniversary of Cambodia Extraditions: Grave Concern over Enforced Disappearances of Extradited Uyghurs
- Four Uyghurs Arrested for Attending Koran Study Group in Urumqi

Media Work
- New WUC Publication: Booklet on Freedom of Expression
- WUC Homepage Available in Russian
- AI Video: Rebiya Kadeer - Working for the rights of Uyghurs in China
- Open Letter by Rebiya Kadeer on the Death of Václav Havel

Past Events
- Tokyo Symposium and Gathering for Asian Democratization
- UN Forum on Minority Issues
- WUC Delegation in Geneva
- EP Subcommittee on Human Rights: Hearing on China
- WUC Secretary General at HR Symposium, Prague
- Uyghur Demonstration on International Human Rights Day
- 39th Congress Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational & Transparty
- China Culture Year in Turkey
- ISHR Working Committee on China
- Annual Meeting of Norway Uyghur Committee (NUC)
- Commemoration Event in Memory of Isa Yüsuf Alptekin
- Netherlands East Turkestan Uyghur Union Visits Uyghur Asylum Seekers

Upcoming Events
- No upcoming events for January 2012.

Highlighted Media Articles and reports on Uyghur Related Issues
- “The Xinjiang Procedure” by Ethan Gutmann
- CPJ: “China's jailed Uighurs: Out of sight, not out of mind”
- “Uyghurnomics”: Blog by UHRP Manager

More Media Articles
TOP STORY

Uyghur Political Prisoner Noor-ul-Islam Sherbaz Dies in Jail

A young Uyghur died in a Chinese jail in Xinjiang last month shortly after a visit from his mother, who reported signs of abuse, the young man’s father said.

“My son has died,” said Sherbaz Khan, a Pakistani, speaking in an interview with RFA. “Many, many Uyghur people are dying in Xinjiang.” Noor-ul-Islam Sherbaz, then 17, was detained following ethnic disturbances in the regional capital Urumqi in July 2009, and was charged last year for what authorities said was his role in inciting the unrest. A Chinese consular officer in Pakistan surnamed Li had assured him that his son was in good health and would be released in five to six months, said Khan, who was deported from Xinjiang into Pakistan on June 10, 2010.

Li also warned him not to speak to reporters about his son’s situation. But a friend with connections to the Urumqi jail said that his son had been regularly beaten with electric batons.

“Many young Uyghur men and women are also badly beaten,” Khan said his contact told him. “They are beaten constantly. They are given only two hardened steam buns with boiled water to eat each day. Their cells are cold and tiny, with 20-25 people put into spaces meant to hold 4-5.”

On Nov. 13, Khan said, Chinese officials asked his wife—who lives in Xinjiang and whose younger sister is married to a high-ranking police officer—to come to the jail at 10:00 a.m. to visit her son. She was allowed to see him for only 20-30 minutes, Khan said.

“Later, we learned that on that same day, at around 10:00 p.m., my son had died ... His mother saw him in the morning, and in the night he was gone. They said my son had died in the hospital,” Khan said. “I heard that they gave him a lethal injection.”

Khan said he instructed his wife not to take charge of their son’s body until he was able to come to Urumqi from Pakistan. “I applied for a visa, but the Chinese embassy in Pakistan told me to wait until they had ‘news from the top.’ We waited for three days. In the end, they insisted on burying him themselves. Police were everywhere, and they refused to let anybody see him.”

Though the Pakistani embassy in Beijing offered to arrange transportation and bring his son’s body to Pakistan, the Chinese authorities “did not agree,” Khan said. “They knew that I would arrange a postmortem examination to determine the cause of death. Now my son is dead,” Khan said. “My wife and I are now dead, too.”

Calls seeking comment from the Chinese consulate in Pakistan rang unanswered on Monday. [...] 

See also:

WUC Political prisoner Database, entry for Noor-Ul-Islam Sherbaz

China: Risk of torture for 17-year old in China


FEATURED ARTICLES

2nd Anniversary of Cambodia Extraditions: Grave Concern over Enforced Disappearances of Extradited Uyghurs

WUC Press Release, 19 Dec 2011

19 December marks the second anniversary of the illegal and forcible return of 20 Uyghur asylum-seekers (including one woman and two children) from Cambodia to China and the Chinese authorities still have not disclosed their whereabouts and legal statuses. The Chinese government had promised the international community that it would deal with these Uyghurs transparently upon return. The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) is gravely concerned about their well-being and is also worried about other cases of enforced disappearances of Uyghur refugees and asylum seekers after their return to China from different countries in the Asian region.

Under the excuse of the “global war on terror,” launched after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, the Chinese government has drastically increased its crackdown on all forms of peaceful political,
social and cultural Uyghur dissent. The past ten years have proven that Uyghurs fleeing suppression and discrimination in East Turkestan are at extreme risk of being deported back to China, where they face enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture and execution. In the past decade, at least 170 Uyghur refugees, many of whom had been granted UNHCR refugee status, have been forcibly returned from countries with strong economic and diplomatic ties to China:

A part from the Cambodian case mentioned above, Kazakhstan has deported at least 20 Uyghurs after 9/11, among them Ershidin Israel in May 2011. The same month, Tajikistan deported three Uyghurs with Turkish citizenship to China. Kyrgyzstan has extradited around 50 Uyghurs to China since 2001 and Uzbekistan another two, among them Huseyin Celil, who was sentenced to life imprisonment after his return. Myanmar forcibly deported 17 Uyghurs in January 2010, Laos returned seven Uyghurs in March 2010 and Nepalese authorities have extradited at least nine Uyghurs since 2001.

Since 9/11, Pakistan has deported 28 Uyghurs to China, most recently on 8 August 2011, when five Uyghurs, among them one woman and two children, were sent back to China. The Uyghur refugee Nur Muhemmed was handed over to Chinese officials in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 August 2011. Only two weeks later, on 18 August, Malaysia extradited eleven Uyghurs to China.

Most of these people have “disappeared” after their forcibly return to China in a kind of black hole. “The disappearance of these Uyghur individuals is emblematic of the absence of the rule of law in China,” stated Rebiya Kadeer, WUC President and former prisoner of conscience, and multiple-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Although the Chinese government has alleged that these Uyghurs committed criminal and violent acts, the government has not produced any evidence to substantiate such allegations. The government routinely makes unsubstantiated accusations against Uyghurs of crimes and violence and also regularly equates Uyghurs’ peaceful political dissent, as well as peaceful religious and cultural activities, with terrorism, religious extremism, and separatism.

Countries that handed over Uyghur refugees to China were granted economic and diplomatic benefits, ignoring the fact that these extraditions represented a flagrant violation of international human rights treaties, especially the UN Convention Against Torture, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as international customary law.

The WUC condemns these forcible returns in the strongest possible terms and calls on the Chinese authorities to immediately disclose these Uyghurs’ whereabouts and to provide the charges, if any, that have been made against them.

The WUC also calls on the Asian governments to end their prioritization of questionable commitments with the Chinese government over their international human rights obligations – especially in regard to denials of asylum and forcible return of asylum seekers.

See also:

Uigurischen Flüchtlingen aus China wird in Asien Schutz verweigert Vereinte Nationen sollen Schicksal von 20 verschwundenen Flüchtlingen aus China klären

GbV, 19 Dec 2011

Los uigures en el exilio piden el cese de las extradiciones forzadas a China

EFE, 20 Dec 2011

Two years on, deported Uyghur asylum seekers remain “disappeared”

UAA Press Prelease, 20 December 2011

Four Uyghurs Arrested for Attending Koran Study Group in Urumqi

Originally published by Radio Free Asia, translated by China Aid, 30 November 2011

Four Uyghur men were arrested last Saturday in their apartment in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang, for “engaging in illegal religious activity.” The local police confirmed the arrests to Radio Free Asia but refused to give any details. An overseas Uyghur organization said that a “Hundred Day Crackdown” was launched in Aksu last week and so far 11 people have been arrested, including women, and that more than 20 people were fined for engaging in religious activities.

The religious faith of Uyghurs in China has always been a concern of the international community. Recently, across most of Xinjiang, a severe crackdown has been launched on so-called “illegal religious activities.” The authorities regard any study of the Koran done outside government-approved venues to be “illegal activity.” On Wednesday, Dilshat, the spokesperson of the German-based World Uyghur Congress, told Radio Free Asia that at least four young Uyghurs were arrested recently in Urumqi for engaging in religious activities. He said, “On the 26th, Urumqi police burst into Room 602, Unit 7, Building 2, on South Road in Dalan Town and arrested four people, accusing them of illegal scripture exposition and being engaged in religious activities. Police beat and insulted them, confiscated some religious publications, and are holding them at the police station on Minghua Street.” When our journalist called the police station, the police confirmed the arrests but refused to say how the case was being handled. […]

http://www.uyghurcongress.org
As a warning, the authorities are fining people who study the Koran, Dilshat said, and so far 23 people have been given fines of 2,000 yuan to 5,000 yuan. He said, “The Department of Public Health in the Yutian district of Hetian county issued a notice to investigate Uyghurs who wear veils. They even set up a special task group to detain and investigate serious offenders.” He also said that 27 retired Uyghurs officials in Hetian county were required to sign a statement pledging that they, as well as their spouses, children, relatives and friends, would no longer participate in religious activities. The Land Resources Bureau of Moyu county issued a notice forbidding officials and employees, as well as their families and relatives, to wear veils and other clothing with strong religious connotations, or to engage in any illegal religious activities. Offenders are subject to fines ranging from 1,000 yuan to 3,000 yuan. According to Hetian city’s official website, the Yutian county Public Health Department is starting a special “unveiling” campaign within the entire countywide public health system. It said that all public health agencies and all public places are required to become free of veiled women as quickly as possible. Officials, employees and their families in educational institutions are not to wear clothes with strong religious connotations such as the “jilbab” [a traditional Islamic outer garment that looks like a long raincoat or trenchcoat].

See also:

China: Muslim Uighur District Reportedly Tries Veil Ban
Huffington Post, 15 Dec 2011

Western China city seeks to banish Muslim veil
Reuters, 15 Dec 2011
UN Forum on Minority Issues

Members of the WUC leadership, including WUC President Rebiya Kadeer, attended the fourth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 29 and 30 November 2011. The main focus of this year’s forum was “Guaranteeing the rights of minority women”. The WUC was part of a UNPO delegation.

On 30 November, Ms. Kadeer also participated in a side-event organized by UNPO and the Minority Rights Group on “Violence against minority women and their access to justice”, speaking about the situation of Uyghur women in East Turkestan.

See also:
Elimination of Violence Against Minority Women
UNPO Paper, 25 Nov 2011

UNPO Representatives Prominent At UN Forum On Minority Issues
UNPO, 5 Dec 2011

WUC Delegation in Geneva

While in Geneva for the fourth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, the WUC delegation (President Rebiya Kadeer, Vice President Asgar Can, Secretary General Dolkun Isa and spokesman Alim Seytoff) met with officials from UNHCR and the OHCHR to discuss different human rights abuses against the Uyghur population in East Turkestan.

EP Subcommittee on Human Rights: Hearing on China

On 5 December, the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament in Brussels held a public hearing on “Human Rights in China and the role of the European Union following the last meeting of the EU China Human Rights Dialogue”. The programme included Barbara Lochbihler (Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights), Sophie Richardson (Asia Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch), Sharom Hom (Executive Director, Human Rights in China), Mehmet Tohti (Special Representative of the WUC to the EU) and Ray Murphy (Acting Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights).

Mr. Tohti’s intervention is available here.

The video recording of the hearing is available here (starting at 16:45)

See also:
Yawropa parlaméntida uyghurlar heqqide guwahliq bérish yighini ötküzüldi
RFA, 5 Dec 2011

WUC Secretary General at HR Symposium, Prague

On 9 December, the symposium "Epoch-Making Power of Free Speech" organized by Vaclav Havel Library took place in Prague. WUC Secretary General Dolkun Isa was invited to participate in the "Evening of Solidarity" and gave a speech on freedom of expression in East Turkestan. Pictures of the event are available here.

Uyghur Demonstration on International Human Rights Day

On 10 December, the International Human Rights Day, the WUC and the East Turkistan Union in Europe staged a demonstration in Munich to draw attention to the Chinese government’s systematic human rights violations against the Uyghur people in East Turkestan.

Also the Uyghurs in Vancouver demonstrated in front of the Chinese embassy in Canada on 10 December, the International Day of Human Rights.

Organized by the Turkish World Human Rights Foundation a conference was convened on 10 December in Ankara, Turkey. Hayrullah Efendigil, head of the Ankara Office of the East Turkestan
Culture and Solidarity Association, attended the conference on behalf of the WUC and raised the issue of violations against the human rights of Uyghur people in East Turkestan.

39th Congress of the Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational and Transparty

The 39th Congress of the Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational and Transparty was summoned in Rome from the 8 to 11 December. WUC president Rebiya Kadeer attended the Congress along with scores of prominent participants including political representatives, members of Parliament and members of governments, activists of human rights and of democracy coming from over 40 countries all over the world.

China Culture Year in Turkey

A China Culture Year, which marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Turkey in 2011, began on 12 December in the Turkish capital Ankara. Organized by the East Turkestan Culture and Solidarity Association, a group of Uyghurs and Turks protested in front of the main hall of the event center against the human rights violations of Uyghur people in East Turkestan.

On the occasion of the 2011-2012 China Culture Year in Turkey, the Niğde University of Turkey organized a conference titled "East Turkestan Issue and the China Culture Year in Turkey" on 12 December. The WUC vice president Seyit Tumturk attended the conference and spoke on the current situation in East Turkestan and the human rights violations against the Uyghur people.

ISHR Working Committee on China

The German-based International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) established a Working Committee on China. WUC Secretary General Dolkun Isa attended the first session which took place on 17 December in Frankfurt.

Annual Meeting of Norway Uyghur Committee (NUC)

The Norway Uyghur Committee (NUC) convened its annual meeting on 17 December in Norwegian capital Oslo. More than 50 people including members of the Norwegian Uyghur Committee and the Uyghurs in and around Oslo attended the meeting and reviewed the annual working report of the NUC presented by the NUC president Mr. Perhat Yaqup. The WUC vice president Semet Abla informed the public about the upcoming 4th General Assembly of the WUC and called them for actively supporting this important political event.

Commemoration Event in Memory of Isa Yüsuf Alptekin

On 18 December, the East Turkestan Foundation organized a commemoration event in memory of the 16th anniversary of the death of Mr. Isa Yüsuf Alptekin, one of the great Uyghur politicians in recent Uyghur history. More than a 100 people including relatives of Mr. Isa Yüsuf Alptekin, members of the WUC Standing Committee, representatives of East Turkestan organizations in Turkey as well as Turkish civil societies attended the commemoration event.

Netherlands East Turkestan Uyghur Union Visits Uyghur Asylum Seekers

A group of delegates organized by the Netherlands East Turkestan Uyghur Union (NETUU) visited several centers for asylum seekers in Netherlands on 18 December where dozens of Uyghur asylum seekers are currently living. The NETUU delegation studied the current situation of these asylum seekers and heard their difficulties. The NETUU gave advice on many of their concerns and assured that they will raise the plight of the Uyghur asylum seekers to the relevant Dutch authorities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

No upcoming events for January 2012.

HIGHLIGHTED MEDIA ARTICLES AND REPORTS ON UYGHUR RELATED ISSUES

“The Xinjiang Procedure” by Ethan Gutmann

"Chinese medical authorities admit the lion’s share of transplant organs originate with executions, but no mainland doctors, even in exile, will normally speak of performing such surgery."

On 5 December, the writer and investigative journalist Ethan Gutmann published an article entitled "The Xinjiang Procedure" about organ harvesting on Uyghur political prisoners in The Weekly
Few days later, Congressman Pitts entered "The Xinjiang Procedure" into the Congressional Record.

See also:
Étan gutman: «xitayning shinjangdiki organ tijaritining jeryani» Muxbirimiz irade
RFA, 2011-12-16

Former Uighur Surgeon Discloses Live Organ Harvesting in China
NTDTV, 20 Dec 2011

**CPJ: "China's jailed Uighurs: Out of sight, not out of mind"**

On 8 December Madeline Earp, CPJ Senior Research Associate published the article "China's jailed Uighurs: Out of sight, not out of mind" on imprisoned Uyghur journalists, blogger and writer.

**“Uyghurnomics”: Blog by UHRP Manager**

*Uyghurnomics* is a blog written by Uyghur Human Rights Project manager Henryk Szadziewski. The blog features occasional articles on the development economy of East Turkestan under Chinese government initiatives such as Western Development. Economic policy is one of the key strategies the Chinese state employs in the transformation of East Turkestan's society, as well as to influence the nations of Central Asia. Articles in the blog cover themes such as Uyghur economic marginalization, Chinese government performance and the role of the Central Asian economy. *Uyghurnomics* frequently examines how a human rights-based approach to development may better serve a grassroots and Uyghur-centered path for economic well-being among the Uyghur people.

### MORE MEDIA ARTICLES

**Uyghurs / East Turkestan**

*China* China rushes thousands of police to restive Xinjiang  
The Times of India, 25 November 2011

Uighur film 'too hot' for ABC Asia  
The Australian, 09 December 2011

Kirk Relies on Chinese Propaganda to Assess Uyghurs  
The Weekly Standard, 14 December 2011

Dozens 'Disappeared' After Assault  
RFA, 16 Dec 2011

Neighborhood in far west China tries veil ban  
AP, 16 Dec 2011

Seven Detained Over Kadeer DVDs  
RFA, 07 Dec 2011

**China**

China: Enforced Disappearances on the Rise  
The Independent, 5 December 2011

Dui Hua Estimates 4,000 Executions in China, Welcomes Open Dialogue  
12 December 2011

US and Nobel winners slam China’s rights record  
The Australian, 12 December 2011

China's Latest Legal Crackdown  
The Wall Street Journal, 12 December 2011

US ambassador says China’s rights situation worsens, while overall ties grow  
The Washington Post, 14 December 2011

[back to top](http://www.uyghurcongress.org)
ABOUT THE UYGHURS

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 in 2010, the current population of East Turkestan is 21.81 million including 8.75 million ethnic Han Chinese (40.1%) illegal settled in East Turkestan after 1949 (the ethnic Han Chinese numbered 200,000 in 1949). The Uyghurs make up around 10.2 million Uyghurs (according to the 2000 census; the numbers for 2010 have not been published yet) and constitute still the majority of East Turkestan. However, the population shifts more and more in favor of the Han Chinese and make the Uyghurs strangers in their own land. However, Uyghur sources put the real 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 WORLD UYGHUR CONGRESS

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. For more information, please visit our website.

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 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

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.

Beneficiary Name: Weltkongress der Uiguren e.V (The World Uyghur Congress)
Bank code: 700 700 24
Account No.: 244 089 901

For transfers from abroad:
IBAN: De 93 700 700 24 0244 089 901
BIC-Code: DEUTDEDBMUC

Thank you for your continued support.

© 2011 World Uyghur Congress | Published: 23 December 2011