



# World Uyghur Congress

## **PRE-5 JULY 2013 ANNIVERSARY AND RAMADAN CRACKDOWNS: LUKCHUN, HOTAN AND URUMCHI**

JULY 2013

**World Uyghur Congress (WUC)**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past 10 weeks, several incidents have rocked the Uyghur people in East Turkestan (also known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region – XUAR), the People's Republic of China (PRC), representing a great cause for concern and a serious degradation in their full enjoyment of their fundamental human rights

Reports have emerged of arbitrary detentions, harsh sentencing, extra-judicial killings and curbs on the freedom of the press as the authorities try to manipulate the narrative of what has been happening in East Turkestan. These human rights violations have principally happened in predominantly-Uyghur areas at Maralbeshi County (Bucha in Mandarin), Lukchun, Urumchi and Hotan.

In this report, the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has documented, based on reports by media and the Chinese authorities, that a conservative number of 103 people have died, possibly rising to 138, and either 125 or 136 arrests, detentions or both thereof since March 2013; however, the amount of deaths and detentions are potentially much higher, according to information that the WUC has received from the ground. Additionally, this figure for the detentions could again rise further to possibly 735 people, assuming the figures of 200 (or 400) and 199 people detained released by Chinese media on 28 June 2013 and 23 July 2013 respectively are not the same people as those detailed in this report.

In view of the recent developments, the WUC concludes that, rather than embracing a freely pluralist society in which the Uyghur people, their rich language, culture, history and religion can play an important role in an emerging China, the Chinese authorities have been cutting off their nose to spite their face with their continued repressive policies, ignorance and reticence towards the underlying issues, and their placing of legitimate peaceful dissent within the framework of a global war on terror.

## BACKGROUND

### 5 JULY AND RAMADAN: WHY ARE THEY SIGNIFICANT?

In Urumchi on 5 July 2009, some of the most egregious human rights violations took place in modern Uyghur history. In what started out as peaceful protests against the killings of 18 Uyghurs in a toy factory in Shaoguan, Eastern China, on 26 June 2009, swathes of security forces, police and the army swept into Urumchi and began to violently repress the protests.

In the ensuing days and months, hundreds were arrested and sentenced to harsh prison sentences, whilst approximately 26 were sentenced to death<sup>1</sup> in politically-motivated trials marred by a lack of due process and conditions not acceptable by international legal standards. This is in addition to extra-judicial killings, use of torture, curbs on freedom of expression<sup>2</sup> and enforced disappearances,<sup>3</sup> upon which both the WUC and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have reported.<sup>4</sup>

As with many incidents in East Turkestan, the information black out was put in place, which, on this occasion, lasted for approximately 10 months. During this time, it was impossible for Uyghurs to communicate with one another, in addition to journalists and governmental or UN officials being afforded access to assess the situation.

Since 5 July 2009, the above-mentioned issues have remained the current state of affairs. This has had a dramatic effect upon the ability of Uyghurs to freely observe Ramadan each year. There are restrictions placed upon access to mosques (women, minors, state employees, teachers, among others, are refused to enter, with security and police monitoring, inside or outside, and controlling access to them), fasting, being in "groups", reading the Koran, limitations on sermons and crackdowns on religious schools; this is in addition to suppression of both traditional and modern means of discussion and access to information on these issues.<sup>5</sup> Recently, on 10 July 2013, a news report on Indonesian television channel TV One showed very clearly police checking Uyghurs entering the famous Uyghur Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, using in particular metal detectors.<sup>6</sup>

The observance of Ramadan and the arrival of each 5 July anniversary are always particularly sensitive periods, notwithstanding the fact that they broadly-speaking fall annually around the same time. Each year, security is tightened, restrictions upon opinion, expression and speech are enhanced (especially in regard to these events), and numerous incidents arise in which Uyghurs are

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- 1 'Human Rights Violations Perpetrated by the Chinese Government Against the Uyghur people During and in the Aftermath of the July 2009 Protest and Unrest in Urumchi, the Regional Capital of East Turkestan', *The World Uyghur Congress*, published August 2010 (updated December 2010), p.10. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/WUC-briefing-on-hr-violations-during-July-2009-and-aftermath-revised-03-02-2011.pdf> [Accessed 4 July 2013]
  - 2 'Violation of Freedom of Expression in East Turkestan', *World Uyghur Congress*, published November 2011. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2011-11-14-FINAL-Booklet-Freedom-of-Expression-East-Turkestan.pdf>
  - 3 'Cases of Enforced Disappearances of Civilians in East Turkestan after 5 July 2009', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on August 2012. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012-June-21-WUC-Report-on-Enforced-Disappearances-of-Uyghurs-in-China.pdf> [Accessed 4 July 2013]
  - 4 'Human Rights Violations Perpetrated by the Chinese Government Against the Uyghur people During and in the Aftermath of the July 2009 Protest and Unrest in Urumchi, the Regional Capital of East Turkestan', *World Uyghur Congress*, published August 2010 (updated December 2010), p.10. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/WUC-briefing-on-hr-violations-during-July-2009-and-aftermath-revised-03-02-2011.pdf> [Accessed 4 July 2013]
  - 5 'Increased Religious Repression in China Prior to and During Ramadan', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on August 2010. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/WUC-Report-on-Religious-Repression-in-China.pdf>
  - 6 'Etnis Uyghur Sambut Ramadhan di Tengah Ketegangan', *TV One*, published 15 July 2013. See here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsKrWUH5Mz4> [Accessed 5 August 2013]

arrested, detained, tortured, hospitalised, executed and extra-judicially killed.

For more information on the 5 July Urumchi incident<sup>7</sup> and repression of Ramadan,<sup>8</sup> you can see in the corresponding footnote.

### MARALBESHI INCIDENT

On 23 April 2013, the Chinese authorities revealed through its media that at approximately noon 21 people were killed and 19 arrested (11 immediately after, with a further 8 six days later) at Serikbuya in Maralbeshi.

According to the Chinese authorities, 15 community workers, whose role was not specified, accompanied by police, were notified of “suspicious” individuals who, as Deputy Public Security Minister Meng Honwei stated, were allegedly found to be constructing home-made explosives, “lethal weapons” and flags promoting East Turkestan (the traditional name of the land in which the Uyghurs reside) independence;<sup>9</sup> other Chinese media reported that there were pro-jihadist slogans on the flags,<sup>10</sup> without specifying what the slogans actually said, as well as materials for making weapons, combat training equipment and illegal religious materials.<sup>11</sup>

In addition to this, Radio Free Asia reported on 26 April 2013 further clashes in Yengi Awat village (Yingawa in Chinese), the Hotan prefecture, in which 2 “community security officers” were killed, without providing further information.<sup>12</sup>

Within the official narrative, there are many inconsistencies and a lack of independent verification of the facts. We, the WUC,<sup>13</sup> and the Uyghur American Association (UAA),<sup>14</sup> have strong reasons to believe that the official narrative does not reflect the actual turn of events, doubts echoed by the US State Department acting spokesperson Patrick Ventrill in a Briefing on 24 April 2013.<sup>15</sup> These doubts have also been corroborated by a BBC investigation to Serikbuya.<sup>16</sup>

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7 'Human Rights Violations Perpetrated by the Chinese Government Against the Uyghur people During and in the Aftermath of the July 2009 Protest and Unrest in Urumchi, the Regional Capital of East Turkestan', *World Uyghur Congress*, published August 2010 (updated December 2010), p.10. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/WUC-briefing-on-hr-violations-during-july-2009-and-aftermath-revised-03-02-2011.pdf> [accessed 4 July 2013]

8 'Increased Religious Repression in China Prior to and During Ramadan', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on August 2010. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/WUC-Report-on-Religious-Repression-in-China.pdf>

9 '11 More Terrorist Suspects Captured After Xinjiang Deadly Attack', *Xinhua*, published on 29 April 2013. See here: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c\\_132349574.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c_132349574.htm) [accessed 9 May 2013]

10 For information, please see the following:

'China Arrests 19 Over Xinjiang Deadly Attack', *The Guardian*, published on 30 April 2013. See here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/30/china-arrests-xinjiang-deadly-clashes> [accessed 8 May 2013]

'11 More Terrorist Suspects Captured After Xinjiang Deadly Attack', *Xinhua*, published on 29 April 2013. See here:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c\\_132349574.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c_132349574.htm) [accessed 9 May 2013]

'Kashgar Unites to Say Farewell', *Chinadailyasia.com*, published on 30 April 2013. See here:

[http://www.chinadailyasia.com/news/2013-04/30/content\\_15073520.html](http://www.chinadailyasia.com/news/2013-04/30/content_15073520.html) [accessed 8 May 2013]

11 'Kashgar Unites to Say Farewell', *Chinadailyasia.com*, published on 30 April 2013. See here: [http://www.chinadailyasia.com/news/2013-04/30/content\\_15073520.html](http://www.chinadailyasia.com/news/2013-04/30/content_15073520.html) [accessed 8 May 2013]

12 'Second Clash Reported in Xinjiang', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 26 April 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/violence-04262013165708.html> [accessed 8 May 2013]

13 'Call Issued for Independent Investigation on Maralbeshi Incident by World Uyghur Congress and International Community Urged to Follow Up on Recent Arrests', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on 1 May 2013. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/?p=20278> [accessed 8 May 2013]

14 'Unlawful House Search and Arbitrary Use of Lethal Force Results in Nearly Two Dozen Deaths in Kashgar', *Uyghur American Association*, published on 24 April 2013. See here: <http://uyghuramerican.org/article/unlawful-house-search-and-arbitrary-use-lethal-force-results-nearly-two-dozen-deaths-kashgar> [accessed on 8 May 2013]

15 'State Department Daily Press Briefing', *US State Department*. 24 April 2013. See here:

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/201304/20130424146374.html#axzz2SgtPycWO> [accessed 8 May 2013]

16 'Doubts Over China Government Claims on Xinjiang Attack', *BBC*, published 26 April 2013. See here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia->

According to reports from the ground, the violent confrontation commenced as Chinese "community workers" and police illegally broke into the house of a Uyghur family, forced the women present to unveil and the men to shave off their beards,<sup>17</sup> subsequently shooting and killing one protesting Uyghur male, which precipitated the violent clash. As the confrontation escalated, the Uyghurs in the house, feeling threatened, defended themselves with knives and axes.<sup>18</sup> Whilst officially the people in the house burned it down, some experts have made claims that the Chinese police may have in fact firebombed the house with all those inside.

A subsequent undercover BBC investigation by Damien Grammaticas into the incident on the ground largely corroborated with this version of events. Mr Grammaticas informed the BBC-readership that : many of the people to whom he spoke were frightened to speak to him due to fears of reprisals ; many people had been informed to not speak to "journalists" and "outsiders"; and that the official narrative was markedly different from the versions of locals. Mr Grammaticas and his team were subsequently temporarily detained and removed from the scene.

For more information on this incident, please see the WUC's short report on the Maralbeshi incident.<sup>19</sup>

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[china-22319579](#) [accessed 8 May 2013] to view an accompanying video report to this article, see here: China Violence: Ethnic Tension in Xinjiang Province', *BBC*, published on 29 April 2013: See here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-22319688> [accessed 8 May 2013]

17 'China Violence: Ethnic Tension in Xinjiang Province', *BBC*, published on 29 April 2013: See here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-22319688> [accessed 8 May 2013]

18 'China's Black Hole', *Foreign Policy*, published on 26 April 2013. See here: [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/04/26/china\\_s\\_black\\_hole\\_tibet\\_xinjiang](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/04/26/china_s_black_hole_tibet_xinjiang) [accessed 8 May 2013]

19 'Overview of the Maralbeshi Incident on 23 April 2013', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on May 2013. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/April-2013-Maralbeshi-Incident.pdf>

## NARRATIVES

### LUKCHUN, PICHAN COUNTY

Picking up from the original Xinhua source, various media outlets reported in the early hours on 26 June 2013 that an incident occurred in the predominantly-Uyghur Lukchun village in the Turpan Prefecture.

The reports alleged that so-called rioters began stabbing people and setting vehicles alight outside a police station, government buildings and at a construction site.<sup>20</sup> Xinhua reported that 9 police and security guards, along with 8 civilians were killed in clashes with so-called “rioters”, of whom 10 were shot dead by police forces. Three other people were reportedly injured during the clash, and another three arrested. Images posted on the internet showed the brutality of this incident.

Whilst the ethnicity of the individuals who died was not revealed, it was indicated by the naming of the rioters as “knife-wielding mobs”, a standard accusation from the Chinese authorities. At the time, the reasons why this incident occurred were not revealed by the Chinese authorities and media, though, after having previously stated that the incident was the result of “mobs”, the Chinese authorities altered the narrative by describing it as a terrorist incident in later statements and publications.

The Chinese-language Uyghur website [www.uighurbiz.net](http://www.uighurbiz.net), run by eminent Beijing-based Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, who himself was later placed under house arrest, suggested that it was caused as a result of the government’s forced demolition programmes.<sup>21</sup> The Uyghur American Association further remarked in a press release that tensions in the area had been heightened since an incident on 10 April 2013 at Dighar, a village neighbouring Lukchan.<sup>22</sup> According to Radio Free Asia, a 52 year old Han Chinese man reportedly hacked to death a 7 year old Uyghur boy after he along with two friends were suspected of stealing from a kiln at which the Han Chinese man was employed.<sup>23</sup> The timing of the incident coming around the fourth anniversary of 5 July incident and the onset of religious repression ahead of Ramadan should also be taken into consideration when understanding the cause.

### HOTAN AND URUMCHI

On 28 June 2013, the Chinese media released information on further disturbances in Hotan and Urumchi. According to the Global Times,<sup>24</sup> a number of casualties were caused following an incident on Friday in which a purported 100 people attacked a police station in Hotan, Qaraqah County (Moyu in Mandarin) after “gathering at local religious venues,” thus inferring that the 100 individuals were Uyghur. Global Times also reported that another 200 people “attempted to incite trouble” at an important shopping area in Urumchi, though no casualties were recorded.

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20 'Violence in China's Xinjiang Kills 27', *BBC*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-23050288> [accessed 4 July 2013]

21 '吐鲁番鲁克沁镇居民：惨案由强拆征地引发', *uighurbiz.net*, published on 28 June 2013. See here: <http://www.uighurbiz.net/archives/16109> [accessed 4 July 2013]

22 'Uyghur American Association Urges Caution on Details of June 26, 2013 Turpan Incident', *Uyghur American Association*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://uyghuramerican.org/article/uyghur-american-association-urges-caution-details-june-26-2013-turpan-incident.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

23 'Uyghur Boy Hacked to Death', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 9 April 2013. See here <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/boy-04092013190730.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

24 'New Round of Riots Brings Fresh Violence to Xinjiang', *Global Times*, published on 29 June 2013. See here: [http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/792492.shtml#\\_UdGXmfkwe8x](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/792492.shtml#_UdGXmfkwe8x) [accessed 4 July 2013]

Reports from the ground as illustrated by Radio Free Asia (RFA) differed markedly from the official narrative.<sup>25</sup> RFA revealed on 30 June 2013 that Uyghur residents in Hotan were unhappy at a raid on a mosque by the police during prayers, where the local imam was being forced to keep his sermons “in line with political thinking,” following which the Uyghurs protested in the street and were promptly shot at, killing at least 2 people, though later reports suggest the death toll was 15.

As with the Lukchan and Maralbeshi incident, the Chinese authorities were quick to label the incidents as terrorist attacks. However, as the WUC,<sup>26</sup> UAA<sup>27</sup> and other human rights organisations highlighted on both the Lukchan and Maralbeshi occasions, and were corroborated by independent international media,<sup>28</sup> that the lack of ability to verify the facts and the differing reports from the ground compared to the official narrative must urge pause for caution when trying to understand the incidents’ root causes.

It is noteworthy to mention that between the Lukchun and the Hotan and Urumchi incidents, a man was detained for “making up” and “spreading rumours” on 27 June 2013 that 8 people had died in Kashgar.<sup>29</sup> No further mention has been made of this incident.

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25 'Two Uyghurs Believed Killed in Hotan Violence', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 28 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/violence-06282013173938.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

26 'Today's Incident Represents Further Evidence of China's Failed Policies Towards Uyghurs', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/?p=20565> [accessed 4 July 2013]

27 'Uyghur American Association Urges Caution on Details of June 26, 2013 Turpan Incident', *Uyghur American Association*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://uyghuramerican.org/article/uyghur-american-association-urges-caution-details-june-26-2013-turpan-incident.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

28 Various media have corroborated with the difficulties in obtaining information from the ground. This is highlighted elsewhere at various points in the report.

29 '19 Detained for Spreading Rumors in Xinjiang', *Chinadaily*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content\\_16692477.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content_16692477.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

## AFTERMATH

### TELECOMMUNICATION BLACKOUTS AND CURBS ON JOURNALISTS' REPORTING

Access to independent verification of human rights abuses in the PRC is extremely difficult at the best of times, as is frequently reported by international media, NGOs<sup>30</sup> and journalist-NGOs, such as Committee to Protect Journalists.<sup>31</sup> Without independent verification of such events, the validity of the official narrative can only be considered seriously compromised.

Following the Lukchan incident, the WUC and news agencies discovered that there was a telecommunications block put in place on Uyghur phones and internet usage, thus making it difficult to verify. The WUC was able to ascertain via Han Chinese contacts (whose telecommunications were still working) that house-to-house searches were underway in the immediate aftermath.

In spite of the telecommunication crackdown, the Associated Press was able to contact someone at the scene, who reported that the area has been cordoned off and armed police officers were posted at road intersections.<sup>32</sup> They also reported that police, anti-riot forces and paramilitary police were patrolling the town armed with pistols and machine guns, said their source, who refused to give his name out of fear of government reprisals.

Reporting of these latest incidents has been extremely hampered by restrictions on movement, arbitrary detentions and harassment of the independent international media, making it extremely difficult to ascertain the full extent of what happened on the ground. Most strikingly, it appeared that the local Xinjiang Public Security Bureau and other propaganda offices apparently had no information on the incidents.<sup>33</sup>

An AFP article published on 27 June 2013 described how two of their journalists were stopped from entering the area at a manned roadblock 25 miles from Lukchun.<sup>34</sup> A second AFP article dated published on 28 June 2013 further elucidated: "Local authorities followed two AFP journalists in their car and detained them for about an hour, stressing that the site of the attacks was closed to media."<sup>35</sup> The same article cited an interview with a Uyghur from Turpan who said text messages and calls to friends in Lukchun could not be completed. The Epoch Times has also revealed how journalists are being followed and harassed by security forces.<sup>36</sup>

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30 'Xinjiang Suffers Information Blockade Four Years After Demonstrations', Reporters Sans Frontieres, published on 4 July 2013. See here : <http://en.rsf.org/china-xinjiang-suffers-information-04-07-2013,44897.html> [accessed 5 July 2013]

31 Sumit Galhotra, 'Business as Usual', *Committee to Protect Journalists*, published on 2 May 2013. See here : <https://www.cpj.org/blog/2013/05/business-as-usual-under-new-chinese-leadership.php> [accessed 5 July 2013]

32 'State Media: Violence leaves 27 dead in restive minority region in far west China', *Association Press (found in Washington Post)*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1_story.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

33 'State Media: Violence leaves 27 dead in restive minority region in far west China', *Association Press (found in Washington Post)*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1_story.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

34 'Police Block Site of Deadly China Xinjiang Riot', *AFP*, published on 28 June 2013. See here <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j2v3ndcPzNo9dpUx0cqTqWc69dtQ?docId=CNG.8ec4fd1f8299f2d70466a887b180fc9c.261> [accessed 4 July 2013]

35 'Second Clash Hits China Xinjiang in Three Days', *AFP*, published on 29 June 2013. See here: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jHzbIEA81oIXIeZNMziXitHXHww?docId=CNG.afa1c034eb747fe761a5f96d687ec7d3.391> [accessed 4 July 2013]

36 'China's West Erupts in Violence 2<sup>nd</sup> Time in 3 Days', *Epoch Times*, published on 28 June 2013. See here:



Other news agencies such as the BBC and CNN have also been harassed. CNN reporter David McKenzie<sup>37</sup> who reported from Urumchi on 12 July 2013, stated that there was a heavy security presence there with a tense atmosphere. At almost every intersection, there were riot police with automatic weapons and riot gear. The video report also showed military personnel standing in columns in the People's Square in Urumchi, undertaking military drills, with swathes of military vehicles in the background. In a different version of the same report, Mr McKenzie and his colleagues are seen having their identities checked by the police, following which he described that things got "a bit heated" as the police tried to take their camera and delete their footage; they were released after a thorough check of their credentials.<sup>38</sup>

Also, a VRT team of journalists reporting for Belgian Flemish-language news outlet De Redactie reported on 1 August 2013 that their reporters had been detained for 3 hours and had video footage deleted from their cameras after they were attempting to report on the recent situation in East Turkestan.<sup>39</sup>

These sort of restrictions and harassments placed upon free and independent reporting have sweeping human rights implications which go beyond simply the rights of journalists. As the Chinese media is significantly compromised by political interference whereby all articles must be vetted by the local propaganda office,<sup>40</sup> the media is therefore not able to faithfully report the news accurately nor allowing the police, judiciary and the political system to be placed under the scrutiny of civil society.

This also ensures that the full extent of what happens remains hard to ascertain, leaving no accurate picture, and therefore the possibilities of enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary detentions and corruption are left with free reigns to act in whichever manner they wish, or succumb to political pressures with impunity as trials are invariably held behind closed doors.

The WUC's website also experienced difficulties from 26 June 2013 for approximately a week, with it completely non-functionable on 28 June 2013.

## ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

Since the onset of the Maralbeshi incident, between 125 and 136 people have been arrested, detained or both thereof according to the Chinese media, though this figure could again rise even further as will be detailed in this section. Below is a table for when each of these cases was revealed, which also includes one incident of sentencing from several weeks prior to the Maralbeshi incident. For more specific information on, *inter alia*, the names and ethnicity of the individuals, please consult Appendix 1.

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<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/139005-chinas-west-erupts-in-violence-2nd-time-in-3-days/> [accessed 4 July 2013]

37 'China's Ethnic Tensions', *CNN*, published on 12 July 2013. See here: <http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2013/07/12/pkg-mckenzie-china-troubled-edges.cnn.html> [accessed 5 August 2013]

38 'Anniversary of Ethnic Tensions Puts City on Edge', *CNN* (from *Youtube*), published on 5 July 2013. See here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTIn1cySU-M> [accessed 5 August 2013]

39 'VRT-ploeg opgepakt in Chinese provincie met etnische spanningen', *De Redactie*, published on 1 August 2013. See here: [http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws/videozone/programmas/journaal/EP\\_130801\\_JO1?playlist=7.39701&video=1.1691861](http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws/videozone/programmas/journaal/EP_130801_JO1?playlist=7.39701&video=1.1691861) [accessed 5 August 2013]

40 'Xinjiang Suffers Information Blockade Four Years After Demonstrations', *Reporters Sans Frontieres*, published on 4 July 2013. See here: <http://en.rsf.org/china-xinjiang-suffers-information-04-07-2013,44897.html> [accessed 5 July 2013]

Date	Arrested <sup>41</sup>	Detained	Sentenced	Alleged Reasons, Location and Description
26 March 2013	20	20	20	Kashgar and Bayingolin Mongol Prefectures. Organising, leading and participating in terrorist organisation with intent to “incite splittism.” <sup>42 43</sup> All sentenced are likely to be Uyghur.
Late March	3	3	Unknown	Three Uyghurs were arrested and detained following their an attempted exappropriation of their farming-land. <sup>44</sup>
Late March	17	Unknown	Unknown	A mother-in-law of an alleged Maralbeshi fugitive was detained after he and his wife died at the hands of local officials. It is known whether she has yet been released. <sup>45</sup> A further 16 people were arrested around this incident, two of whom were shot and killed. All arrested were likely to be Uyghur due to the context.
April 2013	1	Unknown	Unknown	The anonymised “A Doe” was detained for 15 days of administrative detention for uploading “violent terrorist audio files produced by an overseas terrorist organisation” onto a certain website. <sup>46</sup>
23 April 2013 - Present	19	19	Not yet Unknown	19 arrested (11 immediately after, with a further 8 six days later) <sup>47</sup> Although ethnicity not

41 The WUC has used the official UN definitions of 'arrests' and 'detentions' in the compilation of this report.

42 '5起利用互联网、手机及电子存储介质进行犯罪案件在疆审判', *TS News*, published on 26 March 2013. See here: [http://www.ts.cn/news/content/2013-03/26/content\\_7966387.htm](http://www.ts.cn/news/content/2013-03/26/content_7966387.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

43 'Uyghur American Association Condemns Sentences Handed Down to 20 Uyghurs', *Uyghur American Association*, published on 27 March 2013. See here: <http://uyghuramerican.org/article/uyghur-american-association-condemns-sentences-handed-down-20-uyghurs.html>

44 'Three Uyghurs Held for Resisting Land Takeover', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 12 April 2013. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/dispute-04122013150515.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

45 'Xinjiang Clash Leaves Two Village Officials Dead', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 24 May 2013. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/yengisar-05242013124939.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

46 <http://uhrp.org/press-release/harsh-sentencing-uyghurs-sends-message-fear-fourth-anniversary-july-5-2009-unrest.html>

47 For information, please see the following:

'China Arrests 19 Over Xinjiang Deadly Attack', *The Guardian*, published on 30 April 2013. See here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/30/china-arrests-xinjiang-deadly-clashes> [accessed 8 May 2013]

'11 More Terrorist Suspects Captured After Xinjiang Deadly Attack', *Xinhua*, published on 29 April 2013. See here:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c\\_132349574.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/29/c_132349574.htm) [accessed 9 May 2013]

				revealed, it is clearly inferred due the accusations made that they were Uyghur.
5 May 2013	3 (possibly 8)	3 (possibly 8)	Unknown	Three or possibly 8 students were arrested and detained at Tarim University, Aksu Prefecture. <sup>48</sup>
21 May 2013	1	Unknown	Unknown	An anonymised “Gu Doe” was detained for 5 days of administrative detention for “fabricating rumours on QQ
28 May 2013	1	1		Pamir Yasen was detained for 15 days of administrative detention for spreading rumours on the Sina Microblog. <sup>49</sup>
20 June 2013	19	19	19 (in addition to 6 to administrative detention)	Kizilisu, Aksu, Turpan and Karghilik for inciting ethnic hatred, participating in a terrorist organisation and disorderly behaviour. <sup>50</sup>
26 June 2013	3 or 4	3 or 4	Unknown	The three assailants were reportedly seized subsequently to the incident in Lukchun. <sup>51</sup> However, a later report suggested 4 were captured at the scene. <sup>52</sup>
26 June 2013	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	On the same day as the Lukchun incident, another report of disturbance was revealed in Awat City, Aksu Prefecture. It is unknown if there were any arrests, but the

'Kashgar Unites to Say Farewell', *Chinadailyasia.com*, published on 30 April 2013. See here:

48 'Uyghur Students Detained in Regionwide Crackdown', *Radio Free Asia*, Published on 9 May 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/crackdown-05092013114334.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

49 '公安机关依法查处一网上恶意传播虚假信息行为', *TS News*, published on 3 June 2013. See here: [http://www.ts.cn/news/content/2012-0603/content\\_6891192.htm](http://www.ts.cn/news/content/2012-0603/content_6891192.htm) [accessed 5 August 2013]

50 'Harsh Sentencing of Uyghurs a Sends a Message of Fear before Fourth Anniversary of July 5, 2009 Unrest', *Uyghur Human Rights Project*, published on 20 June 2013. See here: <http://uhrp.org/press-release/harsh-sentencing-uyghurs-sends-message-fear-fourth-anniversary-july-5-2009-unrest.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

51 'State Media: Violence leaves 27 dead in restive minority region in far west China', *Association Press (found in Washington Post)*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/state-media-riots-in-restive-minority-region-in-far-western-china-leave-27-dead/2013/06/26/98d9c6f0-de22-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1_story.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

52 'Fugitive of Xinjiang Attack Captured', *WantChinaTimes*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130701000097&cid=1103&MainCatID=0&utm\\_content=buffer07730&utm\\_source=buffer&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Buffer](http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130701000097&cid=1103&MainCatID=0&utm_content=buffer07730&utm_source=buffer&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Buffer) [accessed 4 July 2013]

				authorities were seeking alleged suspects. <sup>53</sup>
27 June 2013	1	1	Unknown	in the Atush region, police detained a Uyghur man in Azaq township in a raid. Details of the incident were unclear but witnesses said the man's wife collapsed as he was led away by police and she later died in hospital. <sup>54</sup>
28 June 2013	200, possibly 400	Unknown	Unknown	According to Radio Free Asia, following the Hanerik, Hotan incident, 200 people were detained following their protest against the detention of a young Imam. If the policy were to decide to pursue the full 400 protesters, then this number could feasibly reach approximately 400. <sup>55</sup>
30 June 2013	19	19	Unknown	China Daily reported that 19 people have been detained for "making up" and "spreading rumours via text messages and the internet" as the Chinese authorities have been tightening security throughout East Turkestan. <sup>56</sup> Ethnicity not specified, but the detained individuals were reportedly wearing East Turkestan-style t-shirts and that HIV-contaminated blood was found in food; Uyghurs are the victims of an AIDS/HIV epidemic since the late 1990s. This indicates that they were all Uyghur.
30 June 2013	1	1	Unknown	An alleged suspect of the

53 '12 Uyghurs Killed in an Explosion During Police Raid', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/explosion-06262013180111.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

54 'Two Dead in Xinjiang Clash Following House Search', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 5 July 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/attack-07052013165131.html> [accessed 5 August 2013]

55 'Chinese Authorities Confirm Police Fired at Uyghur Protesters', *Radio Free Asia*, published 30 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/violence-06302013201357.html?searchterm=hanerik> [accessed 5 August 2013]

56 '19 Detained for Spreading Rumors in Xinjiang', *Chinadaily*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content\\_16692477.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content_16692477.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

				Lukchun incident was captured whilst on the run. <sup>57</sup>
1 July 2013	Possibly 2	Unknown	Unknown	An image circulating on Twitter showed two Uyghurs being arrested for wearing an East Turkestan flag. However, this could be connected with the arrests on 30 June 2013. <sup>58</sup>
3 July 2013	1 arrest and 1 detention	1	Unknown	Various Twitter users, including friends, and Radio Free Asia reported that reputed Beijing-based Uyghur scholar has been placed under house arrest, after calling for transparency in an open letter <sup>59</sup> ahead of the fourth anniversary of 5 July 2009 Urumchi incident. He has been repeatedly placed under house arrest, put in detention and other forms of harassment for many years. Professor Tohti also revealed that one of his website administrators had been arrested. <sup>60</sup>
8 July 2013	17	Unknown	Unknown	In Qaramay City, 17 Uyghurs were arrested. Nine women were arrested for wearing 'dress with ethnic characteristics' and 8 men were arrested for "accumulating a large beard" as the authorities continued their security crackdown. <sup>61</sup>
15 July 2013	1	1	Possibly forcibly disappeared	A Uyghur student of Ilham Tohti called Mutallip Imin, 24, whose girlfriend had previously been

57 'Fugitive of Xinjiang Attack Captured', *WantChinaTimes*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130701000097&cid=1103&MainCatID=0&utm\\_content=buffer07730&utm\\_source=buffer&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Buffer](http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130701000097&cid=1103&MainCatID=0&utm_content=buffer07730&utm_source=buffer&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Buffer) [accessed 4 July 2013]

58 The image of the East Turkestan t-shirt wearing suspects was distributed on Twitter. You can view the image at this link: <https://twitter.com/ResearChina/status/351591746263715840/photo/1> [accessed 4 July 2013]

59 致全国人大、国务院：关于“7•5事件”后失踪维吾尔人的建议', *Uighurbiz.net*, published on 5 July 2013. See here : <http://www.uighurbiz.net/archives/16385> [accessed 5 July 2013]

60 'Call for Transparency Ahead of Urumqi Anniversary', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 4 July 2013. See here : <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/anniversary-07042013171252.html> [accessed 5 July 2013]

61 '克拉玛依17维人被捕“中国梦”宣传入清真寺', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 5 August 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/shaoshuminzu/ql2-07112013104622.html?searchterm=%E5%85%8B%E6%8B%89%E7%8E%9B%E4%BE%9D17%E7%BB%B4%E4%BA%BA%E8%A2%AB%E6%8D%95> [accessed 5 August 2013]

				detained prior to the recent unrest, was reported by Radio Free Asia to have been taken away by police at Beijing airport as he was preparing to continue his studies in Turkey. He had been volunteering on Ilham Tohti's website. Since his detention, his whereabouts, fate and condition remain unknown. <sup>62</sup>
23 July 2013	199	Unknown	Unknown	Global Times reported that 199 people had been detained for spreading rumours, among other things. No further information was provided. <sup>63</sup>

This then brings the total to 125 that have been confirmed as arrested, detained or both during the past 3 months by the Chinese authorities, which could rise to 136, should we include the other 11 where the situation is not so clear. This figure could again rise further to possibly 735 people, assuming the 200 (or 400) and 199 people detained on 28 June 2013 and 23 July 2013 respectively are not the same people as those detailed above.

The WUC, however, has reason to believe that these figures officially released by the Chinese authorities belie full extent of the situation, as Uyghurs have been reporting from the ground that as many as in their hundreds have been detained. This is notwithstanding a report by Global Times on 23 July 2013, in which it said that 72 people have been placed under administrative detention for spreading rumours about terrorist attacks between 28 June and 15 July 2013. It went further by calculating that 199 people had been ultimately punished during this period for disseminating 809 rumours.<sup>64</sup>

In view of this, the numbers of those detained are very likely to be much higher than what has been calculated in this report and indeed with the information released by the Chinese authorities and media. This is coupled with past experiences whereby restrictions and crackdowns placed on, *inter alia*, independent media verification have brought to question the validity of the official narratives of such incidents.

This is notwithstanding the fact that the PRC is widely reported to be one of the most severe in terms of press freedom, in which Freedom House has designated the PRC as “not free”, giving it a score of 6.5/7 (with 7 being the least free) for its freedom rating, and 85/100 (with 100 being the least free) for its press freedom.<sup>65</sup>

62 'Uyghur Student Detained at Beijing Airport', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 22 July 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/student-07222013204016.html> [Access 5 August 2013]

63 'Rumors Squelched', *Global Times*, published on 23 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/798531.shtml#.Uf-U25JkOdz> [accessed 5 August 2013]

64 'Rumors Squelched', *Global Times*, published on 23 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/798531.shtml#.Uf-U25JkOdz> [accessed 5 August 2013]

65 'China', *Freedom House* annual report on Freedom in the World 2013. See here: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom->

The conflicting and contradicting accounts released by the Chinese authorities, and the lack of willingness to allow independent access to the region, should therefore draw suspicion upon the official narrative of the events. The fact that the complete number of detained – some of whom have been confirmed to have been sentenced to harsh terms of imprisonment – is difficult to ascertain speaks volumes.

Furthermore, many people have clearly stated to some journalists that they fear reprisals by the Chinese authorities. This should remain at the forefront of the mind when assessing the numbers as it suggests that what is known will unlikely be the full story as people have expressed their fear to come forward to report cases in which people have been detained or killed. It is therefore not beyond the realms of possibility that the figures are likely to be significantly higher.

All these detentions were justified on the prevention, in some shape or form, of the three forces of evil – namely “extremism, terrorism and separatism” – under the PRC’s anti-terror drive. This is extremely concerning as Uyghurs are routinely detained on such charges, which are neither clearly defined in national law nor meeting internationally accepted legal standards.

Furthermore, the extent to which there is a sustained threat of terrorism in East Turkestan has been significantly questioned by independent experts.<sup>66</sup> It is frequently remarked that the Chinese authorities press politically-motivated charges of terrorism on peaceful protesters, journalists and government critics in order to silence them during situations sensitive to the Chinese authorities. These trials are always held behind closed doors in conditions marred by a total lack of due process and independence of the judiciary.

The PRC has some of the most flexible and arbitrary anti-terror laws in the world. On 1 January 2013, the PRC made sweeping amendments to its Criminal Procedure Laws, in particular Articles 73, 83 and 91, which cover the derided, vaguely-defined endangering state secrets laws. The Dui Hua Foundation discovered that 50% of these charges are handed down in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which is a region with only 2% of the entire population of the PRC, thus clearly illustrating the discriminatory nature of the application of these types of laws.<sup>67</sup> These new amendments have now further empowered such laws, which were widely used during and in the aftermath of 5 July Urumchi unrest, and have effectively legalised the already wide-spread practise of forcibly disappearing people.

Since 5 July 2009, many people have been detained and sentenced on these types of charges. These include Uyghur journalist Ms Gulmira Imin (case number: A/HRC/WGAD/2012/29),<sup>68</sup> on whose case the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) recently disclosed their opinion that she is being arbitrarily detained by the Chinese authorities after having divulged information on the atrocities committed during the 5 July 2009 Urumchi unrest.

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[world/2013/china](#) [accessed 5 July 2013]

66 Sean Roberts, 'Imaginary Terrorism?', *Ponars Eurasia*, published on March 2012. See here : <http://www.gwu.edu/~ieresgwu/assets/docs/ponars/RobertsWP.pdf> [accessed 4 July 2013]

67 'State Security Stats Highlight Ethnic Unrest, Lack of Names', *Dui Hua Foundation*, published on 8 February 2012. See here : <http://www.duihuahjournal.org/2012/02/state-security-stats-highlight-ethnic.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

68 The full text of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions opinion A/HRC/WGAD/2012/29 can be found at this link: [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/WGAD/2012/29](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/WGAD/2012/29)

This ongoing approach by the Chinese authorities towards peaceful Uyghur protesters (including on the internet), who harbour very real grievances, must therefore bring questions upon whether the individuals in the countless cases mentioned above have actually committed any terrorist activities at all. Even more alarmingly from the information above is that many of those arrested have been detained for things they said or posted onto the internet. This is a serious violation of internationally accepted standards on the non-derogable right to freedom of expression.

On 2 July 2009, the Xinjiang Public Security Department posted images and names of the purported suspects, along with a notice and detailed information on 3 of them.<sup>69</sup> The level of details handed out by the Chinese authorities, and the surreptitious timing of such a notice, is especially alarming in view of the fact that, as was revealed, “whistleblowers” would be rewarded should they divulge information about suspects on whom they know something.<sup>70</sup> Chinese media reported that they were willing to hand out 50,000 to 100,000 RMB (\$8,154 to \$16,308) to informants in a region where, in predominantly-Uyghur areas, the the GDP is, for example, 8,000 RMB in Kashgar 8,000 RMB, whilst in Hotan, it is 5,000 RMB.

This allows for the arbitrary discretion on the part of the potential informants to be coerced by, for example, financial difficulties or racial prejudice during a highly sensitive time. In view of the independence of the PRC's judiciary, this tactic affords no legal protections for Uyghurs who may be detained on arbitrary and false information.

## DEATHS AND INJURIES

In a similar manner to the reported detentions, the amount of fatalities remains murky. In the aftermath of the Lukchun incident, the Chinese authorities altered their death count from originally stating 27 dead (ethnicity not specified, but the number of purported rioters dead was set at 10, and of the other 17, 9 were police and auxiliary officers and 8 were government employees and civilians),<sup>71</sup> with the number rising to 35 (16 Uyghurs, 2 police officers and 11 “attackers”).<sup>72</sup> WUC Spokesman Dilxat Rexit, however, confirmed that, contrary to official numbers, according to conversations with people on the ground that at least 67 people were killed at Lukchun, with the youngest being just 13 years old.<sup>73</sup>

The rise in the number of deceased was not explained, but it appears that the Chinese authorities were quick to allege the incident was a terrorist attack, which may have hastened their response in order to direct the narrative of the incident. The latter Global Times article also reported that 21 police officers and civilians were injured during this incident, whilst not specifying the ethnicity.<sup>74</sup>

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69 '新疆公安厅发布通缉令 追捕11名在逃嫌犯', *TS News*, published on 2 July 2013. See here: [http://news.ts.cn/content/2013-07/02/content\\_8369011.htm](http://news.ts.cn/content/2013-07/02/content_8369011.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013];

'Xinjiang Posts Most-wanted Terror Suspects', *Global Times*, published on 3 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/793380.shtml#UdQGzPkwe8x> [accessed 4 July 2013]

70 'Xinjiang to Reward Terrorism Whistleblowers', *China Daily*, published on 2 July 2013. See here: [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/02/content\\_16704453.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/02/content_16704453.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

71 'Riot Kills 27 in Xinjiang', *Global Times*, published on 27 June 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/791984.shtml#UdPwUvkwe8w> [accessed 4 July 2013]

72 'Riot Toll Rises to 35 in Xinjiang', *Global Times*, published on 28 June 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/792335.shtml#UdPwJfkwe8w> [accessed 4 July 2013]

73 'Second Clash Hits China Xinjiang in Three Days', *AFP*, published on 29 June 2013. See here: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jHzbIEA81olXleZNMziXitHXHww?docId=CNG.afa1c034eb747fe761a5f96d687ec7d3.391> [accessed 4 July 2013]

74 'Riot Kills 27 in Xinjiang', *Global Times*, published on 27 June 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/791984.shtml#UdPwUvkwe8w> [accessed 4 July 2013]



Of the 21 who died in the previous Maralbeshi incident, 10 were of the Uyghur, 3 Han Chinese and 2 Mongolian ethnicities, in addition to the deaths of the 6 Uyghur suspects at the hands of the armed police.<sup>75</sup> However, the death toll appears to have increased to 23, according to later reports.<sup>76</sup>

People have died in other incidents too:

- **30 June 2013:** Radio Free Asia reported that 2 people died in a confrontation between a Uyghur man and police after they were searching the Uyghur man's rented home.<sup>77</sup> Authorities claimed that a Uyghur man was shot dead by police after he had stabbed to death an ethnic-Kyrgyz police officer. This was subsequently corroborated by Global Times,<sup>78</sup> though no further details have been released.
- **28 June 2013:** during the Hotan incident at the Hanerik township, 2 people were initially reported to have died,<sup>79</sup> but subsequent reports suggest the death toll was closer to 15, while a further 50 were injured, as the Chinese authorities admitted that the police fired on 400 protesters.<sup>80</sup>
- **27 June 2013:** between the Lukchun and the Hotan and Urumchi incidents, a man was detained for “making up” and “spreading rumours” on 27 June 2013 that 8 people had died in Kashgar.<sup>81</sup> No further mention has been made of this incident.
- **27 June 2013:** Following the arrest during a house search by police of a Uyghur man, reasons of which have not been explained, the man's wife subsequently died possibly from the stress of the incident, though no confirmation of the cause of death has been divulged.<sup>82</sup>
- **26 June 2013:** an Awat township official claimed that a group of 12 Uyghurs was killed when they were cornered by police after they had eluded a house-search in Ghoarachol's District No. 1.<sup>83</sup>
- **25 May 2013:** at about noon, 3 Uyghurs and 2 Han Chinese people were killed in Kargilik (Yecheng in Mandarin), Kashgar Prefecture, and others injured, following an unspecified clash. Authorities put in place measures to prevent exact information on the incident getting out. However, Radio Free Asia reported from calls with the authorities that they did not know the exact numbers of deaths or injuries, further reporting from a Kargilik local that the death toll may have been 6.

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75 'Overview of the Maralbeshi Incident on 23 April 2013', *World Uyghur Congress*, published on May 2013. See here:

<http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/wp-content/uploads/April-2013-Maralbeshi-Incident.pdf>

76 'Fresh Clashes Hit Kashgar', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 26 May 2013. See here <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/kargilik-05262013195458.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

77 'Two Dead in Xinjiang Clash Following House Search', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 5 July 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/attack-07052013165131.html> [accessed 5 August 2013]

78 'Uyghur Shot in Attack', *Global Times*, published on 11 July 2013. See here: [http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/795332.shtml#\\_UfitOY1kOdx](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/795332.shtml#_UfitOY1kOdx) [accessed 5 August 2013]

79 'Two Uyghurs Believed Killed in Hotan Violence', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 28 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/violence-06282013173938.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

80 'Chinese Authorities Confirm Police Fired at Protesters', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 30 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/violence-06302013201357.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

81 '19 Detained for Spreading Rumors in Xinjiang', *Chinadaily*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content\\_16692477.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-07/01/content_16692477.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

82 'Two Dead in Xinjiang Clash Following House Search', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 5 July 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/attack-07052013165131.html> [accessed 5 August 2013]

83 'Twelve Uyghurs Killed in Explosion During Police Clash', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 26 June 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/explosion-06262013180111.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

- **24 May 2013:** an alleged fugitive from a Maralbeshi incident reportedly killed two officials after a search. He was subsequently beaten to death, and his wife died whilst in police custody from a heart attack during questioning. Local residents, however, suggested that the incident occurred following officials demanding that the man's wife remove her veil. In the same article from Radio Free Asia, 16 people were also arrested, two of whom were shot and killed.<sup>84</sup>

This brings the total known death toll to between the conservative estimate of 103 and the higher estimate of 138. In incidents of this kind, the Chinese authorities frequently understate the amount of detentions and deaths, often portraying the deaths as victims of a terrorist attack so as to cover up a security crackdown.

At this present time of publishing this report, it is difficult to disaggregate the ethnicities of those who have died due to the lack of fully disclosed information. However, all the alleged suspects and most civilians were Uyghur. On the other hand, most of the officials and security force personnel were Han Chinese, which can be explained by the fact that Uyghurs are unlikely to hold such positions due to religious and ethnic discrimination.<sup>85</sup>

For further information, including names, on the fatalities, please see Appendix 2.

### **MILITARY, SECURITY CRACKDOWN AND CURBS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Although security has been increasingly cranked up since the Maralbeshi incident, following the incidents on 28 June 2013 in Urumchi and Hotan, the PRC's response has been to send in swathes of additional police, security personnel and military units into East Turkestan, in particular Urumchi and Aksu.<sup>86</sup> This followed a meeting of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Standing Committee in Urumchi itself, in which President Xi Jinping attended, requesting "they establish an integrated prevention and response system."<sup>87</sup>

In spite of some nominal and empty statements mentioning a change from the traditional military approach, there have been a series of proclamations from the Chinese authorities in how they are and will be dealing with the situation, none of which will adequately address the root causes of unrest.

In one interview, a senior government advisor did say in to the Hong Kong-based Asia Weekly that the Chinese authorities' policies towards their ethnic minorities are failing.<sup>88</sup> This extraordinary statement which, would not have been possible without high level approval, could have given hope in a step in the right direction for the Chinese Authorities policies towards their minorities. However, during a weekend meeting in which Xi Jinping was present, the head of the Beijing delegation sent by Xi Jinping to Urumchi, Yu Zhengsheng, and number 4 in the CCP, promptly

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84 'Xinjiang Clash Leaves Two Village Officials Dead', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 24 May 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/yengisar-05242013124939.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

85 In order to work within the state structure, the official policy is that employees must be atheist, and at times, they must not wear items of clothing or other outward appearances of belong to ethnic groups.

86 'Unveiled Threats', *the Economist*, published on 6 July 2013. see here : [http://www.economist.com/news/china/21580491-more-outbreaks-violence-show-governments-policies-are-not-working-unveiled-threats?fsrc=scn/tw\\_ec/unveiled\\_threats](http://www.economist.com/news/china/21580491-more-outbreaks-violence-show-governments-policies-are-not-working-unveiled-threats?fsrc=scn/tw_ec/unveiled_threats) [accessed 4 July 2013]

87 'Xinjiang Posts Most-wanted Terror Suspects', *Global Times*, published on 3 July 2013. See here : <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/793380.shtml#.UdQGzPkwe8x> [accessed 4 July 2013]

88 'China's Leaders Nervous over Xinjiang', *The Henry Jackson Society*, published on 16 July 2013. See here: <http://henryjacksonsociety.org/2013/07/16/chinas-leaders-nervous-over-xinjiang/> [accessed 5 August 2013]

followed up this interview by saying that they will, “continue to carry out violence against terrorist groups and extremist organizations, and for special operations to increase the pursuit efforts.”<sup>89</sup>

Some of the statements from the Chinese authorities' officials have been explicitly racist: “Anyone in the Xinjiang region whose skin is darker than, let’s say, a mild yellow?” police chief Li Baixing said, “should be asking themselves some pretty searching questions over the next few weeks. We certainly will be.”<sup>90</sup>

This comment was made in the the context of confirming that round-the-clock patrols will be implemented, in addition to spot-checks<sup>91</sup> and security drills by the military.<sup>92</sup> In a post on the Public Security Ministry's website, Meng Jianzhu stated that troops must patrol in all weather conditions, “raise their visibility, maintain a deterrent threat and strengthen the public’s sense of security.”<sup>93</sup>

The Chinese media has also been vocal in their support for the crackdowns on the “three forces of evil” (extremism, terrorism and separatism).<sup>94</sup> They have also drafted in quotes from religious institutions such as the Islamic Association of China, which is run by the Chinese Communist Party and at whose policies Uyghurs chafe, to release statements condemning the attacks as acts of terrorism.<sup>95</sup>

## THE PRC'S OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Some aspects of the Chinese authority’s response has been farfetched. Several officials have issued statements expressing their concerns for the Lukchan incident, including the US,<sup>96</sup> EU,<sup>97</sup> Turkey<sup>98</sup> and Germany.<sup>99</sup> Some of these states have subsequently been on the receiving end of wild allegations from the Chinese authorities.

The Chinese authorities have condemned the US for double standards,<sup>100</sup> whilst accusing Syria

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89 Russel Leigh Moses, 'After Xinjiang Violence, Hints of a New Approach', *Wallstreet Journal*, published on 2 July 2013. See here: <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/07/02/in-wake-of-xinjiang-violence-hints-of-a-new-approach/> [accessed 4 July 2013]

90 'Dark Skinned Suspects Sought in Connection with Xinjiang Incident', *China Daily Show*, published on 20 July 2013. See here: <http://chinadailyshow.com/dark-skinned-suspects-sought-in-connection-with-xinjiang/> [this article has now been removed, but was accessed 28 June 2013]

91 To view the image, see here: [https://fbcdn-sphotos-a-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/p480x480/1003261\\_10151670778518351\\_1607550493\\_n.jpg#](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/p480x480/1003261_10151670778518351_1607550493_n.jpg#)

92 'Anti-terror Drill Staged in Xinjiang', *China Daily*, published on 3 July 2013. See here: [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/photo/2013-07/03/content\\_16716487.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/photo/2013-07/03/content_16716487.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

93 'Beijing Orders Round the Clock Patrols in Xinjiang Following Recent Series of Bloody Clashes', *Associated Press* (published on the Washington Post), published on 30 June 2013. See here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/china-orders-round-the-clock-patrols-in-xinjiang-following-recent-series-of-bloody-clashes/2013/06/29/74340afe-e138-11e2-a0de-145598a7b2b7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-orders-round-the-clock-patrols-in-xinjiang-following-recent-series-of-bloody-clashes/2013/06/29/74340afe-e138-11e2-a0de-145598a7b2b7_story.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

94 'CPC Paper Urges Efforts to Safeguard Social Stability in Xinjiang', *Global Times*, published on 2 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/793197.shtml#UdQWfvkwe8x> [accessed 4 July 2013]

95 'Islamic Association Condemns Xinjiang Terrorists Attacks', *The Standard*, published on 3 July 2013. See here: [http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking\\_news\\_detail.asp?id=38272&icid=2&d\\_str=](http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking_news_detail.asp?id=38272&icid=2&d_str=) [accessed 4 July 2013]

96 US State Department daily press briefing on 26 June 2013 can be viewed here: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dbp/2013/06/211168.htm#CHINA>

97 'EU Says China Needs to Release More Information about Xinjiang Violence, Address Causes', *Associated Press* (published on the Washington Post), published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/eu-says-china-needs-to-release-more-information-about-xinjiang-violence-address-causes/2013/07/01/c0d99cd6-e23a-11e2-8657-fdff0c195a79\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/eu-says-china-needs-to-release-more-information-about-xinjiang-violence-address-causes/2013/07/01/c0d99cd6-e23a-11e2-8657-fdff0c195a79_story.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

98 'Ankara Concerned Over Xinjiang', *Hurriyet Daily News*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/ankara-concerned-over-xinjiang-unrest.aspx?pageID=238&nID=49826&NewsCatID=356> [accessed 4 July 2013]

99 'Menschenrechtsbeauftragter: Erwarte von China transparente Aufklärung der Gewalt in Xinjiang', *Auswartiges Amt*, published on 27 June 2013. See here: [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2013/130627-MRHH\\_Xinjiang.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2013/130627-MRHH_Xinjiang.html) [accessed 4 July 2013]

100 'Washington's Shameful Response to Terror', *China Daily USA*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-07/01/content\\_16700115.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-07/01/content_16700115.htm) [accessed 4 July 2013]

(both governmental and rebel forces),<sup>101</sup> Turkey<sup>102</sup> and Pakistan of training, or acquiescing to the training, of the individuals alleged to be terrorists who purportedly were responsible for these latest incidents.<sup>103</sup>

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101 'China State Media Blames Syria Rebels for Xinjiang Violence', *Reuters*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: [http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/us-china-xinjiang-idUSBRE96005120130701?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter&dlvrit=992637](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/us-china-xinjiang-idUSBRE96005120130701?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&dlvrit=992637) [accessed 4 July 2013]

102 'Xinjiang Terrorists Finding Training, Support in Syria, Turkey', *Global Times*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/792959.shtml#.UdHafuDAUwI> [accessed 4 July 2013]

103 'Beijing Increases Security in Xinjiang', *New York Times*, published on 2 July 2013. See here: [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/03/world/asia/china-increases-security-in-restive-region.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/03/world/asia/china-increases-security-in-restive-region.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0) [accessed 4 July 2013]

## QUESTIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The developments during the past few months are deeply concerning. Whilst all acts of violence should be condemned, this must not afford the Chinese immunity from criticism in how they have failed to deal with the root causes of this unrest, as well as the manner in which they have handled each of the recent incidents.

The underlying root causes include, but are not limited to, repressive policies on Uyghur language, culture, religion and identity, in addition to the use of harassment, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings and the death penalty to silence critics.

This report has noted that, according to Chinese sources, between 125 and 136 people have been arrested, detained or both thereof, assuming we discount the potential figure of 735 based on later reports from Chinese media. A further 103 or 138 have also been killed. However, the fact that many people have clearly stated to some journalists that they fear reprisals by the Chinese authorities is significant. This should remain at the forefront of the mind when assessing the numbers as it constitutes a *de facto* violation of freedom of expression. It suggests that what is known will unlikely be the full story as people have expressed their fear to come forward to report cases in which people have been detained or killed.

One of the most telling examples is evidenced in reports circulating on Twitter and later confirmed by Radio Free Asia that highly-regarded Beijing-based Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti has been placed under house arrest for no discernible connection to the recent events other than issuing an open letter causing for transparency surrounding the 5 July Urumchi unrest.<sup>104</sup> He was placed under house arrest for a second time on 30 July 2013 on the same as the commencement of the US-China Human Rights Dialogue which was taking place in Yunnan Province.<sup>105</sup> Professor Tohti has been detained on numerous occasions in the past for attempting to raise awareness of the human rights violations perpetrated against Uyghurs in the PRC.<sup>106</sup> The effect on the Uyghur community cannot be understated as this incident proves that no matter how prominent you are, which is nevertheless a rarity for Uyghurs, one can never be secure from reprisals. The figures are therefore extremely likely to be significantly higher.

Furthermore, the fact that the Chinese authorities altered their initial analysis of the Lukchun incident from being precipitated by “knife-wielding mobs” to an incident by “terrorists” following the ensuing world-wide media and political attention is an indication that the Chinese have not departed from its usual rhetoric.

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104 'Call for Transparency Ahead of Urumqi Anniversary', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 4 July 2013. See here : <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/anniversary-07042013171252.html> [accessed 5 July 2013]

105 'Uyghur Scholar Ilham Tohti Under House Arrest', *Radio Free Asia*, published on 31 July 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/scholar-07312013173204.html> [accessed 5 August 2013]

106 'Scholar Gets Website Warning', *Radio Free Asia* [online]. Published 10 August 2012. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/ilham-tohti-08102012190908.html?searchterm=ilham%20tohti> [accessed 5 July 2013] ;

'Uyghur Scholar Harassed', *Radio Free Asia* [online]. Published 4 December 2012. see here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/scholar-12042012144309.html?searchterm=ilham%20tohti> [accessed 5 July 2013] ;

'Uyghur Scholar Taken Back Home', *Radio Free Asia* [online]. Published on 2 February 2013. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/scholar-02022013125856.html?searchterm=ilham%20tohti> [accessed 5 July 2013] ;

'Detaining Ilham Tohti in Beijing: Xinjiang Security Sector's Extraterritoriality', *Radio Free Asia* [online]. Published on 2 February 2013. See here: <https://xinjiangreview.wordpress.com/2013/02/04/detaining-ilham-tohti-in-beijing-xinjiang-security-sectors-extraterritoriality/> ;

'Student Battles Travel Ban', *Radio Free Asia* [online]. Published 20 December 2012. See here: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/travel-12202012143138.html?searchterm=ilham%20tohti> [accessed 5 July 2013]

At this juncture, it is noteworthy to add the caveat that, whilst this allegation of terrorism is mostly used against Uyghurs, it has also been used against Tibetans. In May 2008, for example, the People's Daily ran a story alleging that the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) was operating a terrorist camp in India with assistance from Al-Qaeda. The publication called the TYC a “terror group worse than Bin Laden”, blaming them for the 14 March 2008 unrest in Lhasa on them.<sup>107</sup>

All too often when incidents considered trouble by the Chinese authorities erupt in East Turkestan, they attempt to frame such incidents within the context of the global war on terror, and thus the result of external rather than internal issues, so as to divert attention from its official policy of the “harmonious society” that it has created. This was one of the principal philosophies of former China President Hu Jintao,<sup>108</sup> who had previously governed Tibet to much derision by the Tibetan and international communities.

As recently as 28 May 2013, the Xinjiang Deputy Governor Shi Dagang was talking rather patronisingly in this regard,<sup>109</sup> in spite of the mounting evidence that their policies are clearly not working in East Turkestan, as well as in Tibet and elsewhere.

This is sort of confused and in-cohesive policy and reaction from the Chinese authorities is not new. Only ten days after the 5 July 2009 unrest commenced, Xinhua news agency, the CCP's mouthpiece, was claiming that “peaceful and harmonious life” had been restored in East Turkestan,<sup>110</sup> despite well documented evidence suggesting precisely otherwise. This neither reflects the reality on the ground, nor recognises the frequent reports of increasingly bubbling tensions since due to the Chinese authorities' failure to adequately address the egregious human rights abuses associated with this date. Furthermore, a lot of these violations were perpetrated by the same military and security forces that were drafted into East Turkestan on 29 June 2013.

Indeed, Mr Shi's later comments that the terrorist forces were all external to the PRC seem to show the lack of cohesive policy from the Chinese authorities. The XUAR Chairman, Nur Bekri, at whom Uyghurs chafe, has termed the fight against terrorism as a political struggle in which “you die, I live”<sup>111</sup>, a phrase coined by his predecessor, Wang Lequan, whose 16-year tenure was bitterly derided by Uyghurs in East Turkestan. Moreover, on 9 July 2013, China Daily ran a story in which apparent experts were calling on the Chinese authorities to implement a stronger and broader definition of the same anti-terror laws that have been frequently derided by the international community for being too flexible, arbitrary and not meeting internationally accepted standards.<sup>112</sup>

Whilst there have undoubtedly been several serious incidents in which many people have lost their lives, there has been no evidence released to date nor any substantiated claim by the Chinese

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107 'Bhaskar Roy, 'Are Tibetans Terrorists?', *SIFY News*, published on 24 June 2008. See here: <http://www.sify.com/news/column-are-tibetans-terrorists-news-columns-jegr85jijid.html> [accessed 5 August 2013] ;

'China's “War on Terror” in Xinjiang', *The Diplomat*, published on 10 July 2013. See here: <http://thediplomat.com/china-power/chinas-war-on-terror-in-xinjiang/> [accessed 5 August 2013]

108 Matt Schiavenza, '35 People Dead in Chinese Mass-Murder: what happened?' *The Atlantic*, published on 3 July 2013. See here: <http://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/07/35-people-dead-in-chinese-mass-murder-what-happened/277463/> [accessed 4 July 2013]

109 'China Says Xinjiang Minorities Too Busy Dancing to Make Trouble', *Reuters*, published on 28 May 2013. See here: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/28/us-china-xinjiang-idUSBRE94R03Z20130528> [accessed 4 July 2013]

110 'Peaceful and Harmonious Life in Xinjiang Resumed', *Global Times*, published on 15 July 2009. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/china/society/2009-07/447241.html> [accessed 4 July 2013]

111 '新疆主席：反恐是你死我活的斗争', *BBC*, published on 1 July 2013. See here :

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp/china/2013/07/130701\\_xinjiang\\_antiterror.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp/china/2013/07/130701_xinjiang_antiterror.shtml) [accessed 4 July 2013]

112 'Terror Law Called for After Xinjiang Attack', *China.org*, published on 9 July 2013. See here: [http://www.china.org.cn/china/2013-07/09/content\\_29363716.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2013-07/09/content_29363716.htm) [accessed 5 August 2013]

authorities that these were the result of terrorist activities. Further, reports from the ground by witnesses and locals are markedly different to the official narrative. For example, on 1 July 2013, many Uyghurs were using Chinese social media to decry the accusations of terrorism.<sup>113</sup>

This is in a state which is derided by the UN, EU, national governments and NGOs for its lack of independence and transparency of the judicial, police and political aspects of its justice system, in addition to receiving serious criticisms for its use of torture and a legal system with a vaguely-defined definition of terrorism that fails to come close to internationally accepted legal standards. More worryingly, on 17 May 2013, the People's Daily quoting Xinhua boasted that 96% of terrorist attacks have been foiled. Being that there has been no conclusive evidence disclosed upon the incidents, and the afore-mentioned lack of independence of the judiciary, this figure is startling.

One must therefore question whether the evidence of terrorist activities used to “foil” these alleged attacks was in fact true evidence of terrorist activity, or whether it was driven by politically-motivated charges or policies to repress legitimate religious observation and practise. If the latter suggestions were to be correct, as countless precedents suggest, then this figure of 96% uncloaks a sustained repressive policy under the false banner of a war against terrorism, the extent of which was already known is only the tip of the iceberg.

The heavy-handed approach, the flexing of military might and the unsubstantiated terrorist allegations during these latest incidents clearly illustrate that the Chinese authorities have not moved on from their usual method of quelling legitimate dissent. It further stands as a stark reminder to the many families and Uyghur communities affected by the well documented human rights violations from 5 July 2009 that time is not a healer, nor will it ever be if these events periodically repeat themselves due to the Chinese authorities approach to the situation.

Moreover, on 4 July 2013, on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Urumchi incident, the Deputy Secretary of the CCP's Xinjiang Regional Committee confirmed that 50 department-level officials were being drafted into various townships around the region with a “firm political stance [...] to educate the public about the Party's policies on ethnicity and religion, State laws and the importance of unity and stability.”<sup>114</sup> Drafting in officials to promote the widely-condemned current policies elucidates that the Chinese authorities are yet to grasp the real issues that underlie the recent unrest.

Rather than embracing a freely pluralist society in which the Uyghur people, their rich language, culture, history and religion can play an important role in an emerging China, the Chinese authorities have been cutting off their nose to spite their face with their continued repressive policies, ignorance and reticence towards the underlying issues and their placing of legitimate peaceful dissent within the framework of a global war on terror.

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113 'We're Uyghurs. We're not Terrorists. A plea from Xinjiang', *Offbeat China*, published on 1 July 2013. See here: <http://offbeatchina.com/were-uyghur-were-not-terrorists-a-plea-from-xinjiang> [accessed 4 July 2013]

114 'Xinjiang Bolsters Local Officials', *Global Times*, published on 4 July 2013. See here: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/793668.shtml#.UdVYffkwe8w> [accessed 4 July 2013]

**In view of the content of this report, the WUC recommends the following questions for the international community:**

1. upon analysis of these recent events, has there been any substantiated and conclusive evidence of terrorism as the cause of them?
2. In view of the underlying and well reported repressive policies of the PRC towards Uyghurs, alike those towards Tibetans, will the international community make their views better heard?
3. will the international community undertake measures to re-evaluate its bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations with the PRC to include concrete and measurable human rights provisions within its foreign policy framework?
4. will the international community draw closer attention to the PRC's inadequate anti-terror laws?
5. why are so many journalists and internet users being detained?
6. will the international community ask itself whether the PRC's potential readmission as a member of the UN Human Rights Council is appropriate in view of the serious human rights violations being perpetrated against, but not exclusively, Uyghurs and Tibetans?
7. will the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights make a statement on these latest incidents?

**The WUC recommends that:**

1. EU High Representative Baroness Ashton and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights Mr Stavros Lambrinidis make firm, clear and direct representations to the Chinese authorities their, and therefore the EU's, concerns and policies on the Uyghur human rights situation – this is in accordance with Mr Lambrinidis' mandate<sup>115</sup> to show more visibility to the EU's human rights policy, in addition to showing itself fit to be deserving of the Nobel Peace.
2. the EU institutions develop a much more comprehensive, concerted human rights-based approach to its relations with the PRC, and to ring-fence its inclusion into the European Council's Common Foreign and Security Policy;
3. the EU strengthens the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in view of its criticisms;
4. the EU and US Congress, as representatives of the two largest economies in the world, work together to resolve not only the seriously degrading Uyghur human rights situation, but that of the Tibetans, Mongolians, Falun Gong, North Korean refugees, and others;

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<sup>115</sup> To view the mandate of the EU Special Representative on Human Rights' mandate, please see here : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:200:0021:0023:EN:PDF>



- in view of the current US President, Barack Obama, and the EU being Nobel Peace Prize recipients, this relationship would be of great value.

5. the EU establishes a Special Rapporteur with a special mandate for both East Turkestan and Tibet, whilst also a broader mandate to explore other areas of concern as and when it would be deemed necessary to do so;

6. the EU and US to request a permission from the PRC to undertake a fact-finding mission;

7. the relevant UN Special Procedures work closely together to investigate the current state of affairs in East Turkestan

- this includes the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion of belief, in the field of cultural rights, on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; and the Independent Experts on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

8. the relevant UN Special Procedures and human rights treaty bodies convey collectively their concerns on these recent developments;

9. the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council set up a Country Mandate within its Special Procedures on China.

10. the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council block the PRC's potential upcoming re-election to the Human Rights Council on the grounds that a state cannot be admitted whilst serious human rights violations are ongoing;

11. the international community strongly condemns the reported death of a 13 year old child during the Lukchun incident;

12. the international community make minority rights a major ring-fenced inclusion in their agenda for the PRC's upcoming UPR.

**The WUC also recommends the following action-based initiatives:**

1. to establish an independent and comprehensive international inquiry into these incidents to uncover, but not exclusively, the full extent of detentions, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings that have been documented during this period;

- that the international inquiry should have full access to East Turkestan to verify the facts, as well as establish the root causes of these incidents, including the longstanding impunity of the 5 July 2009 Urumchi incident;

2. the Chinese authorities should set up an ombudsman with a comprehensive and entirely independent mandate to receive and investigate complaints of human rights abuses.

**The WUC makes the following recommendations to the PRC:**

1. to overhaul its official policies towards Uyghurs;

- these include, but are not limited to, arbitrary repression of Uyghur religion, culture, and identity, in addition to restrictions on Uyghur education, forced re-locations, and the use of harassment,

arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings and the death penalty to silence critics.

2. to bring transparency, openness and fairness to its legal system, and bring its definitions of terrorism into line with internationally accepted legal standards;
3. to allow verification of the facts by an independent investigation, and to extend an open invitation to the UN Special Procedures as one example of an option to achieve this. This will allow the PRC;
4. to open meaningful dialogue with Uyghurs in order to achieve the above, in addition to the prosperity and peaceful society that it so desires;
5. to allow for the full flourishing of a free, open, transparent and independent judicial system under the scrutiny of a media culture with the same freedoms.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

Below are several tables corresponding to the incidents detailed in the report. Each table here provides the names of those who can be identified as having been detained including their ethnicity, sentences and reasons for their detention where it is possible to know.

#### 26 March 2013 – 20 Uyghurs

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Kadirjan Omer	Uyghur	Life	Leading a terrorist group
Memtimin Bekri	Uyghur	life	organising a terrorist group
Yasinjan Semet	Uyghur	15 years	organising a terrorist group
Tohti Baki		between 5 and 10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Iminjan Memettursun	Uyghur	between 5 and 10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Emetjan Abliz	Uyghur	between 5 and 10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Alim Baki	Uyghur	between 5 and 10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Kerim Ghopur	Uyghur	between 5 and 10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Rozi Barat	Uyghur	life	for organising and leading a terrorist group
Abdukerim Abliz	Uyghur	life	for organising and leading a terrorist group, and conducting disorderly behaviour
Yusuf Emet Rozi Niyaz	Uyghur	between 12-14 years	participating in a terrorist group and disorderly conduct
Nurmemet Rahman	Uyghur	between 12-14 years	participating in a terrorist group and disorderly conduct
Turghunjan Tursun	Uyghur	between 12-14 years	participating in a terrorist group and disorderly conduct
Memet Ehmet	Uyghur	15 years	organising and leading a terrorist group
Ehmetjan Ehet	Uyghur	13 years	organising and leading a terrorist group
Mehmut Tursun	Uyghur	10 years	participating in a terrorist group and illegally crossing a border

Mehmut Abliz	Uyghur	15 years	organising and participating in a terrorist group
Abdukerim Ghopur	Uyghur	10 years	participating in a terrorist group
Yasin Tursun	Uyghur	9 years	participating in a terrorist group
Kerim Memet	Uyghur	10 years	splittism and undermining national unity by creating an online chatroom to spread ethnic separatism, violent terrorism and religious extremism

#### Late March – 3 Uyghurs

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Mettohti Imin	Uyghur	Unknown	obstructing and assaulting a public officer
Abdusalam Mettohti (teenage son of Mettohti Imin)	Uyghur	Unknown	obstructing and assaulting a public officer
Unnamed individual	Probably Uyghur	Unknown	obstructing and assaulting a public officer

By 4 April 2013, these three individuals had been held for more than 10 days and their whereabouts were unknown. The WUC has not been able to ascertain what the situation is today.

#### Late March – 18 Uyghurs (one later died in custody)

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Nurimangul Hashim (wife of Alim Ebey, who was killed at the scene by the police.)	Uyghur	Unknown	Detained and questioned for not removing veil.
Gulqiz Ebey	Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown
16 Unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown

#### April 2013 – 1 individual

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
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A 'Doe' – name anonymised	Unknown	Unknown	15 days of administrative detention for uploading “violent terrorist audio files produced by an overseas terrorist organisation” onto a certain website.
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**23 April 2013 – 19 individuals, including 2 confirmed and 17 others as presumably Uyghur**

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Qasim Muhammad	Uyghur	Unknown	head of terrorist organisation
Muhanmetemin Barat	Uyghur	Unknown	Belonging to a terrorist group
17 Unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown

**5 May 2013 – 3 Uyghurs**

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Alimjan (no surname)	Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown
Dilshat (no surname)	Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown
Ibrahim (no surname)	Uyghur	Unknown	For “having overseas connections”
5 other unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur	Unknown	Being that they are all students, and given the context, they were probably detained for reasons to do with the internet.

**21 May 2013 – 1 individual**

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Gu 'Doe' – name anonymised.	Uyghur	Unknown	Detained for 5 days of administrative detention for “fabricating rumours on QQ

**20 June 2013 – 19 people, 10 confirmed as Uyghur**

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Mehsut Namat	Uyghur	5 years, 6 months	Inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination.
Yasengan Memet	Uyghur	5 years	Inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination.
Alim Memet	Uyghur	13 years	Organising a terrorist group.

Eli Tohniyaz	Uyghur	10 years	Organising a terrorist group.
Eli Samsaq	Uyghur	4 or 6 years	Participating in a terrorist organisation.
Pettar Litip	Uyghur	11 years	Participating in a terrorist group.
Sattar Litip	Uyghur	8 years	Participating in a terrorist group.
Nalihan Abdurahman	Uyghur	7 years	Participating in a terrorist group.
Ehtem Heli	Uyghur	6 years	Inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination.
Memetimin Tursun	Uyghur	2-5 years	Disorderly behaviour.
2 others along with Eli Samsaq.	Presumably Uyghur	4 or 6 years	participating in a terrorist organisation.
7 others along with Memetimin Tursun	Presumably Uyghur	2-5 years	Disorderly behaviour.

#### 26 June 2013 – 3 or 4 Uyghurs

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Yiblayan Eli	Uyghur	Unknown	involved in a terrorist group and the Lukchun incident.
Ahmatniyaz Sidiq	Uyghur	Unknown	Religious extremism, lead terrorist group and planned attack
2 other individuals	Presumably Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown

#### 27 June 2013 -1 Uyghur

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Unknown (male)	Uyghur	Unknown	Detained following a house raid.

#### 28 June 2013 – 1 individual

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Detained for posting “reliable information” on the internet on Friday (28 June 2013) that a riot would take place that day and the next.

**28 June 2013 – 1 plus several others in Hanerik, Hotan**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Unknown	Uyghur	Unknown	Unknown. The Uyghur who was detained was reportedly a young Imam, which was the facilitating reason behind the protests in Hanerik on 28 June 2013, in which many people were arrested and detained
Unknown	Probably Uyghur	Unknown	An unspecified 'several' others were also detained along with the above Imam.
200 unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur	Unknown	Following the arrests of the above mentioned individuals, several hundred (perhaps 400) Uyghurs took to the streets in protest, of whom 200 were detained.

**30 June 2013 – 19 Individuals**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Tu (other names unknown)	Not possible to identify, but could equally be Uyghur, Han or Mongolian.	Unknown	Detained for “spreading rumours.”
18 other unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur due to the fact that they were reportedly wearing East Turkestan-style t-shirts and that HIV-contaminated blood was found in food; Uyghurs are the victims of an AIDs/HIV epidemic since the late 1990s. This indicates that they were all Uyghur.	Unknown	Accused of spreading rumors that unrest also occurred in Urumqi and southern Xinjiang and escaped criminals raped and killed passersby.

**30 June 2013 – 1 Uyghur**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Ahmatniyaz Sidiq	Uyghur	Unknown	Religious extremism, lead terrorist group and planned attack.

**1 July 2013 – 2 individuals, evidence suggests Uyghur**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
2 unnamed individuals	Presumably Uyghur as they are wearing "East Turkestan" t-shirts, although the colours are not the same as the East Turkestan flag.	Unknown	Unknown.

**3 July 2013 – 2 individuals, presumably Uyghur**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Ilham Tohti	Uyghur	None	After Professor Tohti released an open letter calling for transparency on the 5 July 2009 Urumchi incident, he was placed under house arrest. Although not strictly speaking related to the 2013 incidents, it does represent a larger effort to clamp down on criticism since the 2013 incidents themselves, including against prominent critics like Professor Tohti.
Unnamed	Presumably Uyghur as the individual was working as an administrator for Ilham Tohti's website	Unknown	Working on Ilham Tohti's uighurbiz.net website which focuses upon Uyghur rights written in Mandarin.

**8 July 2013 – 17 Arrested, alluding to Uyghur identity**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Reason</b>
17 unnamed individuals - 9 women and 8 men.	Presumably Uyghur as they were	None	Detained for wearing religious and ethnic minority clothing, as



	detained for wearing religious and ethnic minority clothing.		well as for “accumulating large beards.”
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### 15 July 2013 – 1 Uyghur Individual

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
Mutallip Imin	Uyghur	Possibly forcibly disappeared	Volunteer on Ilham Tohti's Mandarin-language Uyghur rights website uighurbiz.net.

### 23 July 2013 – 199 Individuals

Names	Ethnicity	Sentence	Reason
199 unnamed individuals	Unknown	Unknown	Spreading rumours online. Where these include those that have also been previously mentioned is impossible to discern.

### Appendix 2

Below is a table detailing the names and ethnicities of those who died during the recent incidents, where they have been released. As will be clear, there is a dearth of information regarding those who died, which is a major cause for concern.

Date	Fatalities	Names	Ethnicities
30 June 2013	2	Memet Nur (police officer) Unnamed (suspect)	Kyrgyz Uyghur
28 June 2013	15	Unknown	Uyghur
27 June 2013	8	Unknown	Unknown
27 June 2013	1	Hebibe Yasin	Uyghur
26 June 2013	12	Unknown	Uyghur
26 June 2013	35 or 67	Unknown	At least 16 Uyghurs, 2 “police officers” and 11 attackers, who are presumably Uyghurs.
25 May 2013	5 or 6	unknown	At least 3 Uyghurs and 2 Han Chinese, in

			addition to one additional person whose ethnicity remains unknown.
24 May 2013	4	Alim Ebey (suspect – 32)  Nurimangul Hashim (Mr Ebey's Wife)  Memtimin Toshun (official – 52)  Enver Obulqasim (official - 48)	Uyghur  Uyghur  Uyghur  Uyghur
23 April 2013	21 (which rose to 23 in later reports)	Unknown	16 Uyghur, 3 Han Chinese and 2 Mongolian.

Total: 102 or 138