



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

Witness Name: Muetter Iliquid		
Witness category:	fact <input type="checkbox"/>	expert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of testimony: 4 June 2021		
Link to recording*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aLUj1sQDgQ&t=34128s		
Time stamp (start/end): 02:45:50 – 03:42:00		
Report included:	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transcript included:	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation included:	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

*Please note that all recordings of the Uyghur Tribunal hearings can be found on You Tube: [Uyghur Tribunal - YouTube](#)

Uyghur Transitional Justice Database – ANNUAL REPORT 2021

“The persecution of Uyghurs in East Turkistan” (2nd edition)

The *Uyghur Transitional Justice Database* (UTJD) is an ongoing project that focuses on the registration of the disappeared and extrajudicially interned Uyghurs in East Turkistan. The present report introduces various set of data collected by the UTJD, aiming to serve the information needs of the growing community of organizations, UN and government officials, and other concerned individuals who are devoted to seeking accountability for human rights violations against the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

Since 2017, a great deal of news reports and a growing number of research papers have been published, documenting and addressing the human rights violations committed and by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) against the Turkic peoples as well as Hui Muslims. Among these human rights violations in East Turkistan, the establishment of the extrajudicial internment camps, officially referred to as “re-education” or “training” camps, has been the most prominent over the last couple of years.

The Chinese regime has been actively executing coercive ethnocentric Sinicization policies to erase Uyghurs’ Turkic identity (i.e. language, culture, and belief system). Sinicization implies the diffusion of Chinese culture and influence, in this case to the detriment of local minorities’ cultures. These specifically targeted assimilation policies have had an enormous impact on the social interactions and the collective psyche of the Uyghur people both at home and abroad, which in recent years also started to impact the lives of other Turkic/Muslim peoples in East Turkistan.

The report notably explores the historical background of the region of East Turkistan, the marginalisation of Uyghurs and Uyghur culture, the nature of the camp system, and various other forms of persecution inflicted on Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities, such as forced labour or violations of sexual and reproductive rights.

Overall, the report highlights the incoherencies between the Chinese authorities’ discourse on the treatment of Turkic minorities as a part of an “anti-terrorism” policy, and the figures presented in the report, which point to a system of forced detention, ideological indoctrination, mass surveillance, forced labour, coercive family separation, forced contraception, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and separation of Uyghur families.

272

4 June 2021 (02:45:50 – 03:42:00)273 **Muetter Iliqud**

274

275 MI – I am a researcher at the Uyghur Transitional Justice Database in Norway. I will be
276 presenting on our annual report for 2021. The project was first funded on a voluntary
277 basis in 2018 and later received funding from in 2019. We are building a comprehensive
278 database to document the atrocities against Uyghur and other populations in 2017.
279 Allowed the local government to transfer those influenced by extremism to camps. Our
280 annual report 2021 examines the reality of East Turkestan by analysing the data.

281 The report was made to fit the tribunal's deadline but it will be updated in due course. We
282 have tried to collect as much as information as possible. This is a general overview of the
283 data so far. We have 232 in concentration camps, 257 in prison and 5,567 missing people.
284 3000 are saved in our offline database. 2,567 people are connected to the online
285 database. The chapter in our report is based on the Uyghur language - there would be a
286 shift to memory only information in primary schools in Chinese only.

287 The Chinese state has arrested more than 100 Uyghur intellectuals who have navigated,
288 art, literature and academia. According to the UTJD 365 are registered as either missing,
289 detained, sentenced since 2016. We have also included three statements in our database
290 in our current annual report, then Abdurahman Imam Habdullah, is a Uyghur linguist and
291 researcher who previously worked at Xinjiang County – he participated in composing the
292 Uyghur dictionary, and published academic papers. He was arrested in early 2019 for an
293 alleged crime of terrorism. There is a statement from his son living in Norway in exile.

294 Yalqun Rozi is a public figure, journalist, writer and literature critic who was born in Atush
295 in 1966 and graduated from Xinjiang university, he worked as an editor in publishing. He
296 has written many books about Uyghur language, history. He was detained in October
297 2017 soon after he returned from a trip abroad. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.
298 He was accused from attempting to incite separatism. A statement about him is provided
299 by his son where he testifies for his father via video testimony which has been transcribed.
300 We have included a chapter on July 5 2009 uprising, Uyghur peacefully took to the streets
301 to protest against the Chinese governments arrest on Uyghurs working at a toy factory.

Hearing Transcript: 04.06.21- 07.06.21 – Uyghur Tribunal

302 *Panel – Do you speak the language? How many languages do you speak?*

303 MI – Uyghur is my mother tongue but I speak 4 other languages, Mandarin. I was raised
304 in Norway and also I speak English.

305 *Panel – How many of these people did you personally interview?*

306 MI – I can't give that estimate, but for this past year I have been interviewing about 50-
307 100 direct and indirect witnesses. I have also interpreted for some camp survivors.

308 *Panel – So many of these you have mentioned you have personally taken them.*
309 *Presumably anyone can enter it?*

310 MI – We use several types of methodology – sometimes open source, information which
311 is openly available, some via social media. Sometimes these are labelled as unconfirmed
312 – many testifiers in many diasporas use this to express them. What we do when we collect
313 this data is to try reach out to them and ask them to confirm the evidence of the testimony.
314 At that point the testimony is labelled as confirmed. Each one on the database is verified
315 then.

316 *Panel – In terms of protecting their identities are they happy for them to be revealed?*

317 MI – We have two types of databases – offline and online. The online one we get the
318 testifiers permission who can choose between the online and offline. The offline is not
319 connected to the server so is 100% protected and only some of the team members can
320 access this data. We cannot guarantee there are no cyber-attacks but the testifiers are
321 aware of the situation.

322 *Panel – So, are people frightened to come forward?*

323 MI – Yes, that is why we do have 3000 offline databases. The offline are not made public.

324 *Panel – These data include both offline and online? So, it is fairly open. Have you cross*
325 *referenced to other Uyghur databases?*

326 MI – We are aware of other databases but we do not cooperate with them so I cannot
327 comment on their methodology or whether it overlaps.

328 *Panel – These data are not generalizable as they are self-selected. So, you can't use this*
329 *data to say x number of intellectuals etc.?*

330 MI – We cannot generalize.

331 *Panel – For example, in table one, you have numbers for professionals, but this is from*
332 *this stage of the research?*

333 MI – The question were they actually attacking people who were professional and
334 intellectuals. We assume that this is happening. Our job to investigate and we try and
335 collect data and for other organizations who can use this information.

336 *Panel – This is a secondary database. How do we know the people you know were telling*
337 *the truth? How do you check?*

338 MI – We ask them about the source of the information they are providing. For example, if
339 they say families are detained in the camps, how do they know this. We ask how they
340 know about their families.

341 *Panel – How do we know the pictures you use from google are true?*

342 MI – I was not too much involved in the data analysis part. We have a satellite expert
343 doing this job. He refers to google earth and applications such as HERE WeGo and
344 analyses them based on that. If the panel has questions on this basis, we can reach out
345 to this as I was not involved in this.

346 *Panel – You were talking about the estimate on the number of people interned, they seem*
347 *to be different. Is there any way you can check they are correct?*

348 MI – We refer to different references, the data we have is based on what we have. It is
349 5567 in total, we do not have in total in references, it is not that everyone can come to us
350 and report the data. Regarding villages and cities, 448 Uyghur women also have IUDs
351 inserted after the first child, whilst in cities it – this does not fit with 451 it sort of contradicts
352 it.

353 *Panel – Geoffrey is saying that you were asked to prepare a specific report and could*
354 *answer more detailed questions in September. The questions you asked were they*
355 *reporting or were they in the camps themselves (table two)?*

356 MI – This was partly open source and several media had been reporting about this. We
357 also based this on open source.

358 *Panel – So one person reporting could be reporting for four or five people?*

359 MI – Usually not unless they are in a family. They report about four/five people – the
360 religious scholar part would just be one person.

361 *Panel – When you say non-religious do you mean Muslim but not observing customs?*
362 *And they are not practicing?*

363 MI – Not religious, means not religious at all. Not practicing means they say they are
364 Muslim but not daily practicing. Practicing means they do pray 5 times a day for example.

365 *Panel – What is the difference between men and women in your figures here?*

366 MI – We do not have a gender differentiation right now.

367 *Panel – In terms of the separation, are they separated according to their age? And where*
368 *do they go?*

369 MI – It differs, most of them one of their parents are living abroad and some other who
370 testifies for their nephews, they know the parents are taken to the camps and the aunt
371 knows the child was sent to the state-run orphanages.

372 *Panel – Do the parents know where the children are? Can they visit them?*

373 MI – No as they are taken to state-run orphanages as the parents are in the camps, or
374 the parents are abroad.

375 *Panel – There are some single parents still working in the community, are they allowed*
376 *in?*

377 MI – We do not have a report on that. If the parent is there, we do not collect data on
378 them.

379 *Panel – The Tribunal needs to understand how much reliance we can place on your*
380 *report. And so I would like to ask what steps you have taken, or whether you have turned*
381 *your mind to any confirmation bias that has taken place. In the narrative part you rely on*
382 *secondary literature which you cite thoroughly, have you considered that you might be*
383 *then studying open-source material and the satellite imagery with a particular outcome in*
384 *the front of your mind or particular interpretative outcome. Have you taken any steps to*
385 *minimize this? Have you thought what it might mean from the PRC?*

386 MI – No because we do have this confirmed and verified selection process. The open-
387 source information is unconfirmed unless we reach out to that witness. We use our
388 guidelines to label the testimony as confirmed, we cannot label as verified as this is
389 challenging due to China shutting down information channels. We cannot verify but can
390 confirm via testimony by conducting the interview. We do have other methodologies; it is
391 not just open source. We have a UTJD registration form and we use the network of camps
392 who visit the website and can fill out the online forms which is available in different
393 languages. There are different variables, full names, ID number, year of birth, education,
394 religious, travelled abroad, if family members abroad, if CCP party member. Everyone
395 has exactly the same amount of information. Some are more detailed and some are less.
396 For the past six months we have been providing the statements to the Uyghur Tribunal
397 so you can see what it looks like. We have other methodologies such as
398 telecommunications - we carry out interview via skype and phone calls which is part of
399 our process. This data is usually more accurate than the online forms as we can directly
400 interpret. We also sometimes do face to face interviews by travelling to different countries
401 around Europe. In some cases, we have local volunteers in different countries which carry
402 out the interviews based on our guidelines. We also interview on paper which we use due
403 to increased harassment from the PRC, for those who are scared to use the online
404 submission. So, people can also provide information on paper to protect privacy.

405 *Panel – Different number of people can have different number of births, is that central?*

406 MI – The format is the same for everyone. Anyone can fill out the information if they know.
407 It is not required to fill out all variables.

408 *Panel – You say when the AP in 2020 talked about deliberate measures of population*
409 *having children, you say this is nothing new. Why does it take the journalist so long to*
410 *come up with the truth?*

411 MI – It is not new as sterilization has been taking place for the last few decades, China
412 has been implementing different policies in different parts of east Turkestan, some parts
413 they are stricter such as the northern parts are freer, vs the southern parts are stricter.
414 According to our references they insert IUD and sterilization has been documented before
415 the past five years, dating back to over 10 years ago in the countryside. There have
416 always been different policies. In those counties, it is not very developed from a
417 technological side so it is not easy to communicate with those there. That is the reason
418 why journalists have not been covering this.

419 *Panel – In the fact statements, we have come across number of coloured uniforms in the*
420 *camps, do you have a system of codifying them and who decides this?*

421 MI – The red and orange uniforms according to the China state media are used for forced
422 labour and prisoners who worked in force labour. We combined this data with satellite
423 images, we cannot state strongly this is a forced labour camp but we strongly suspect
424 that this is one. We then submit this data to other investigators.

425 *Panel – Have you come across other colours or the number 54?*

426 MI – No.

427 *Panel – How do the authorities decide hair growth is a sign of extremism and at what*
428 *length does it become a sign of extremism, is it clear to Muslims in the region what is*
429 *allowed and what is not?*

430 MI – It is not an easy question – keeping Qu’ran in home, wearing hijab are all signs in of
431 extremism in the home. I did translate the entire list to English – you can see people are
432 detained for different reasons such as having more than two children, or visit the mosque
433 and these are signs of extremism. Nothing is explained.

434 *Panel – Can you explain the difference between concentration camps, prison and labour*
435 *camps?*

436 MI – Concentration camps are usually referred to as vocational training centre and re-
437 education facility. The prison, according to our data, refers to those who are already
438 sentenced to prison such as one man from the slide I showed before. He was interrogated
439 for two years in concentration camp, he was taken to a sham trial and sentenced and
440 moved to prison. Labour camp we refer to the detention facilities from the construction
441 courts which collect people and use them for forced labour.

442 *Panel – What is the actual physical differentiation between concentration camps and*
443 *prison?*

444 MI – The re-education facilities they do not go through a judicial process. The prison ones
445 there are usually a judicial process taken maybe in a secret way and then they will get a
446 document saying they are sentenced but without any lawyer or judicial support.

447 *Panel – The sources of information for the database, were they all diaspora?*

448 MI – Yes.

449 *Panel – Is there any guess as to how many Uyghurs there are in the overall diaspora*
450 *around the world?*

451 MI – I can give an estimate for Europe which is about 15,000. I do not know about the
452 rest.

453 *Panel – Out of 15,000 in Europe how many have you contacted?*

454 MI – I got involved in July 2020, I was in contact with more than 50-100 during the past
455 year. Some other sources are based on open source and also online registration form
456 and other volunteers based in other countries like turkey and Istanbul where there is a
457 larger Uyghur community. It is those volunteers who take case of them there.

458 *Panel – The diaspora Uyghur in Europe and elsewhere are not united in a single body,*
459 *and they don't necessarily share each other's information?*

460 MI – There are other databases, the Uyghur communities in the US they testify.

461 *Panel – We repeat to provide this report on the basis of the work you have been able to*
462 *do – it was provisional and interim. If we present questions to you after these hearings,*
463 *can you answer by September?*

464 MI – Yes.



Uyghur Transitional Justice Database Annual Report 2021



Muetter Iliqud

Den norske Uighurkomiteen | Norwegian Uyghur Committee

03.06.2021 London

Uyghur Transitional Justice Database

- Uyghur Transitional Justice Database (UTJD) is an ongoing project that focuses on the registration of the disappeared and extrajudicially interned Uyghurs in East Turkistan
- Founded on voluntary basis, in 2018. Later received grants from National Endowment of Democracy (NED), July 2019
- Aiming to serve the information needs of the growing community of organizations, United Nations, government officials, etc.
- In this report, the referential term 'East Turkistan' will be used instead of 'Xinjiang'





Table of Contents

- Historical background of East Turkistan
- Post 9/11 repression of the Uyghurs: “war on terror” erodes away Uyghur identity
- The marginalization of the Uyghur language
- July 5th uprising and its implications
- The camp system: a mean of inflicting state terror
- The Pathologization of Uyghur Religiosity
- Uyghur Forced Labour
- The Chinese Regime’s Genocidal Policy: Forced Contraception, Sterilization & Abortion
- No one is safe: an analysis based on the Uyghur Transitional Justice Database



Data

Uyghur Transitional Justice Database ([UTJD](#))

an ongoing project that focuses on the registration of the disappeared and extrajudicially interned Uyghurs in East Turkistan. We are building a comprehensive database to document the ongoing atrocities being committed by the Chinese Communist Party toward the Uyghurs.

now
232<
Concentration Camps

now
257<
Prisons

now
5567<
Missing People

Historical Background and Situation Today

The Uyghurs in occupied East Turkistan daily live in fear, insecurity, brutality. The suffering continues in secret from the world. All information is heavily censored by all means.

- 01 | Manchu Qing Empire (1759-1911); Republic of China (1911 - 1949); Communist China (1949 -)
- 02 | Large scale of Han resettlement programs .
- 03 | establishment of the Production and Construction Corps (PCC), 1954 (兵团)
- 04 | Uyghur language: 1956 - Cyrillic based script, 1960 - Cyrillic-based script was superseded with the roman alphabets, 1984 - the arabic based script brought back again, 2017 - Uyghur language is banned at schools
- 05 | Post 9/11 repression of the Uyghurs: “war on terror” erodes away Uyghur identity



Marginalization of Uyghur language

- From September 1, 2017, East Turkistan experienced another new language policy, the so-called “bilingual” education across all elementary and junior high schools in East Turkistan started shifting to Mandarin-only education, the end goal would be that all teaching materials and the medium of instruction would be only in Mandarin Chinese
- UTJD database: **365** intellectuals are registered as missing / detained / sentenced



Abdurrahman Imam Hemdullah



Yalqun Rozi

July 5th Uprising

- On July 5, 2009, Uyghurs peacefully took to the streets in the city of Ürümqi, to protest against the Chinese government's handling of the recent deaths of and brutal attacks on Uyghurs working at the Xuri toy factory
- According to official numbers, two Uyghurs were killed, and 120 people were injured
- According to another eyewitness account reported by The Guardian the real death toll was more than 30
- Witness statement of Adil Alim, student at the Faculty of Law, Xinjiang University



Verdict of "No Guilty"

The camp system, a mean of inflicting state terror

- our researchers have identified and mapped more than 530 suspected detention facilities
- 232 suspected “Re- education Camps” (集中营/再教育培训中心)
- 257 Prisons (including detention centers) (监狱和看守所)
- 152 Bingtuan Laogai (劳改农场监狱)
- Statistics dated to 14.05.2021



Fig.2 Location of the two Camps in Aqsu city. Oct.24, 2018, approximately 1200 detainees (Shown with red scope line), dressed in orange or red-colored work uniforms, were lined up in rows and escorted from the high-security gate to the forced labor factory.



The Pathologization of Uyghur Religiosity

Religious Atmosphere	Number	Ratio
Not religious	62	11.3%
Not practising	33	6%
Practising	361	65.7%
Religious scholars	93	17%
Total	549	100%

Table 2: Distribution on detainees religious atmosphere

43<

Coercive family separation

Missing children under 18



Muhlise Memutjan (11)



Aiyishe Abduweli (10)



Seypidin Turghun (7)



Thanks

Muetter Iliqud
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