

## **Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement**

### **UTFW2-010 – Khalmat Rozakhon**

#### **SUMMARY**

Khalmat Rozakhon worked as a technician in various firms in Japan after graduating from Tokyo Institute of Technology in April 2015. As the situation in Xinjiang deteriorated, he decided to remain in Japan, and would only be in contact with his family by phone.

In 2020, Khalmat had a call from his brother, who looked physically diminished. He notably asked Khalmat to not protest against China, and stated that Xi Jinping was good, and so were China's policies. During this call, Khalmat was able to see security agents surrounding his brother. These agents eventually came forward and attempted to intimidate Khalmat.

After this, the witness went to the media in Japan, and in particular to a mainstream TV network. During his next call with his brother and the agents, Khalmat, guided by journalists, attempted to extract information from the agents, while they demanded information relating to the Uyghur Association in Japan, its functioning and its agenda. The conversation was recorded by Japanese media, and later publicised on Japanese TV in June 2020.

## **Witness statement**

**Khalmat Roza**

1. My name is Khalmat Rozakhon. I am 47 years old; I was born on 23rd November 1973 in Chöchek city of East Turkistan. I came to Japan to pursue my postgraduate degree and I graduated my university degree in Nanjing (China). I worked in my homeland for 8 years before I enrolled in the Tokyo Institute of Technology in April 2015. I completed my postgraduate degree in March 2019 and worked as technician in various firms in Japan. Currently I operate my own business and I do business in Japan. I also have a food shop in Japan. I was planning to return home after finishing my education in Japan so I could be a useful source for my people but as the situation deteriorated, I decided not to go back. Starting from July 2018, I lost communication with my family (in East Turkistan). I had a younger brother who got cancer and we intended to bring him to Japan for treatment, but we could not obtain a passport for him. Later, we managed to obtain a passport for him with additional efforts, but his passport was seized by the authorities when he travelled to Chöchek from Aksu to visit my mother. I was planning to bring him to Japan that time. We lost communication in August 2018. My last contact with my brother was in July 2018 and he mentioned to me that he would have left 3- 4 months' time.
2. As I could not get in touch with my brother for some months, I reached to a former Chinese classmate of mine on 11th December 2018, and I was informed the death of my brother about a week prior. My brother died on 3rd December 2018, and I was even not being informed about his death. We were really devastated. A year later, US Government legislated a bill on Uyghurs on 3rd December 2019. Out of expectation, my wife was sent a phone message by my older brother stating, "I want to talk to my brother Khalmat if possible". My wife said: "older brother wants to talk to you". My father passed away years ago, we were 8 siblings with our mother. I am the 4th oldest of the children and there are another male and three female younger siblings after me. My younger brother died. It was the end of December 2019 when I spoke to my older brother (if I remember). Again, in around January 2020, we had a group call with my older brother and a younger sister where I was confirmed the death of my younger

brother. We cried. During that time, I was concerned about the safety of my other siblings and my mother, and I tried to call them but was not successful, nor did they call me. But through their emotions, I felt as if they were being watched hence, I could not say much fearing they might be harassed.

3. Second occasion, I was able to speak to my mother, my younger sister and two older brothers and they were at our house (East Turkistan) and there was no one around them. My mother was ill. Before I expressed to them (could be referencing to the Chinese officials) "I would be taking blood revenge from your idiots if anything happens to my mother", hence my mother was untouched. I saw my mother, my sisters, and brother. We all cried a bit and talked a bit. After that, my brother kept sending message to my wife's phone with "we would like talk to Khalmat Alone". I heard from other Uyghurs in Japan how they were pressured by their families demanding they should not take part in any types of protest or rallies hence thought that my brother wanted to pass me the same message and I kept not answering his call. On 9th May (2020), my older brother called my wife's phone and asked to speak to me directly. I was not at home that day and my wife spoke to him. He was wearing a black face mask, and looked pressed. My wife said, "your brother looked awful, and he was desperate, why don't you speak to him, they are calling tomorrow again". I said OK.
4. Then on 10th May 2020, Sunday. I got a call from my brother at around 6:30pm (evening prayer time). We were at our friend's house. I was passed the phone. When talking to my brother on my wife's phone, I used my own mobile phone to record the conversation as I thought it might be useful for me whenever I missed my family (the recording is available). In our conversation, my brother was unable to stand, I asked what happened? He said, "yesterday I was lifting the hand wash water...." Then I asked if he was beaten but he quickly said "no. no" and tried to change the topic. When he lifted his face mask, I noticed his neck was swollen (you can clearly see in the recording) then I desperately intended to have that conversation recorded from a close angle. In about 8- 10 minutes of our first call, my brother said "don't go to protest, the policy of Xi Jinping is good, China's policy is good (you heard what he said)"

What can one say other than “yes”. Then I conveyed my greetings to my mother and at that very moment, on a “Mother’s Day”, a horrible moment, I confronted a scene where my older brother was surrounded by the security agents (those ghosts). I asked if there was anyone else, my brother said no, and he showed me around. In about ten minute’s time, these guys could not hide themselves anymore, and appeared in the video.

5. They uttered my name in Chinese way 哈里买提 (Halimaite) and it was a feeling of fear and to be frank, I could have killed them if I could. But as my brother was in their hands, I tried calm myself and kept recording the conversation. They mentioned few things about me in the past. They mentioned my attitude to a Kazakh officer (who works under the direction of this Chinese officer) where I ignored him and deleted his contact from my WeChat account. I was asked to stay close to them as they have visited my mother. When he asked me about this incident, I said “yes”. Then he said “we want to be friend with you” but his tone contained intimidation. he said “if you maintain a decent friendship with us, we will assure the safety of your brother”. The last 30 minutes of that call made me feel like being burned in hell fire. They held my brother and demanded me to follow their instructions. They even could not name the official title of the Uyghur Association of Japan, but I had to pretend that I was following them, and I said, “ok we can talk later”. They said, “we will get in touch”.
6. After that incident for about two days, I did not know what to do, I was frustrated, and neither was able to talk to my wife nor say these to anyone else. On the one side, there is my own brother who is being intimated, on the other side is my own community in Japan. and it was really difficult for me. Later I disclosed this to my close friend and the vice president of the Uyghur Association – Brother Abdukerim. We considered to take action by saying “we cannot be intimated by China”. Furthermore, (as in the second video), we thought we had taken right steps. My older brother was ill in first video and he looked well in second video. May be because I accepted their offer. If I refused, they could have broken his leg, or his arm, or cut his ear and thrown him back. If I cooperate with them once and stopped after, they could have done the same mistreatments to my family. After careful consideration, I made a decision to

report this “Terrorists China” (at least I thought so) to the international community. If we consider the international community as the best judge, I am here only reporting the harassment that I experienced. We thought like that and acted like that. We liaised with the mainstream TV network in Japan and people who were concerned the Uyghur rights and I provided my recordings to them. They were delighted with this piece of evidence and informed me that they would be willing to take the next conversation to live streaming if I gave my consent and we agreed. The next call happened at my own home in Japan. The journalists and media people also appeared with their equipment.

7. On 6th June I got a message from my brother telling me that they would be calling me next day (7th June at 7:00pm). It would be 4:00pm local time over there. I said “Ok”. As we had a day of time, I was able to inform the journalists and two media people came and they also recorded the call. I was instructed to ask first “who are you and why should I trust you” in my conversation, journalists also advised me that “they must show their IDs”. I did ask the question and the security officer attending the call, he showed his ID card with letters of 国家安全 (*guojia anquan*, National Security), I could not take any recordings, but the media team has done so. The security officer insisted that “This ID is very confidential, cannot be disclosed to other parties” and also stated that “we are administered by state and not by local government”. Also, part of our conversation was about obtaining Japanese permanent residency and said “we are even able to help you to gain permanent residency in Japan, we have close insiders among Japanese politicians”. I was instructed to ask them “who are the politicians” but they did not respond. He might have told me, but we did not want to keep the conversation long and even did not make timing for the next call.
8. The security officer specifically asked me five questions which I recorded in writing. One was “the executive members of the association who usually join the general meetings” and I was shocked as we had not informed anyone about that meeting, but they have already learnt about that meeting on 7th June while the meeting was scheduled for 26th June. Then he wanted to know “Who the executive members of the association are?” Ilham Mahmut was the president and they even learnt that

Ilham Mahmut is being replaced. No doubt we might have discussed some topics informally, but I was shocked how they could obtain such information beforehand.

9. The Second question was “Where the meeting on 28th June would take place and who will join the meeting”? The Third question was “what is your agenda”. After they said the next question is very important and asked “How the Uyghur Association of Japan communicates with Dolkun Isa and Rebiya Kadeer? How they instruct you and how you implement”. They also asked our next annual plan. After taking notes I answered “Wait, I will answer these later” and avoided the mess. I said, “I could not answer now, will do after checking”. The Japanese media recorded the full conversation and they later used whatever useful for them but not released the full contents. That conversation conducted for more than an hour. My brother seemed to be recovered. After the conversation on 7th June, the Japanese people said that I could not continue like this, and I thought the same. We deleted the WeChat app from my wife’s phone. At least until this news is released, we did not want to be interfered by the Chinese security agents. Another last word that said I still recall that they already knew the meeting location by 9th June even if the information was confidential and only couple of Japanese members knew the details. This is the scary part. They can get any information and we fear the potential harm to our families if the video recording is publicized, we would not be able to save our brother and even could not produce any further news. We immediately deleted the WeChat app from my wife’s phone. Also, we asked other people in our circle to delete the WeChat App from their phones. The meeting was held on 28th June and the former president Ilham Mahmut was replaced with new one and new changes are being made to the association and things are going well. The video recording of my conversation with the Chinese agents were broadcasted on the Japanese TV on 24th June 2020 and spread to whole Japan and later was republished in some other medias then it led the Japanese public to make reactions no to tolerate the China’s mistreatments.
10. I have no intention to become a hero. The only way of saving my brother is to let the whole world to know the truth. There are Japanese journalists in China, and they contacted me from Shanghai advising me that they could contact my brothers and

sisters and they intended to visit my family. The visit of the Japanese journalists and the testimonies to the world could be the only reason for the safety of my family and this is what we aim for. The world is realizing the evil nature of China. Recently a Uyghur woman returned from Japan to visit her father and her body was returned to her home I trust the only way to safeguard the safety of our families in East Turkistan through letting the world know the real situation. I do not want my sisters to face the tragic fate of Uyghur women which was broadcasted by BBC.

**I have read and understood this witness statement and I confirm that I agree with its contents. I understand that this statement will be published on the Uyghur Tribunal website and will be available to the general public online.**

**Signature:**

خەلىپەت روزافون

**Date:**

2021.8.26