



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

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

Witness Statement – Summary

Witness Statement

Omer Rozi

Male, Age 50

1. I was born in Toksu county, Aksu, China on 27 September 1970. I am a Uyghur Muslim. I was imprisoned and tortured by Chinese authorities. Threats against my family by Chinese authorities have been used to influence my behaviour in Norway.

Imprisonment and Torture in China

2. I began my education in Islam aged 12, continuing until I became Quadi in 1990. After this, I started a business in my hometown – I come from a business family.
3. In 1993, after 3 years of doing business, I went on the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. This was my second time doing the Haj. When I was departing, Mr Aysa, whom I know from my town asked me to deliver something in an envelope to Husen Qarhojam, there. He told me not to open it. I delivered it to that person indirectly, via a friend.
4. When I returned to China in 1993, after this, I was arrested by Chinese authorities at a bus station in Kashgar and imprisoned. I spent 1 month in prison in Kashgar, where I was beaten up and interrogated. I was accused of sharing a domestic secret with someone overseas. I was then transferred to a prison in Toksu (my hometown), where I was also tortured. I spent 6 months there. My family were able to bribe authorities to secure my release. After this I was free again for 1 month.
5. I was then detained for 2 months without explanation. Following this, I was transferred to Urumqi Number 1 Prison (also known as Bajiahu Prison), where I was tortured. Someone hit my feet with iron. During my interrogation they asked me what secret I shared. I did not know what was in the envelope. I just denied every accusation. They continued my torture by removing my nails. They took me to water-prison twice, both times for 3 days.
6. I was returned to the normal prison where there were 3-4 Uyghur and 2 Han prisoners in my cell. Every 2 weeks, prison guards would come to my cell and beat the Uyghur prisoner. My Uyghur cellmate, called Obulkasim, had a piece of metal underneath his shoe which he sharpened using the bricks in the cell. Obulkasim wanted to stab the prison guards with this. He tried to do this but failed. As a result, he was shot so many times in front of us that his flesh was all over the cell. I was forced using 2 trash bags to pick up his flesh after this.
7. I was then sent to solitary confinement for 1 year, 80 cm width, 80 cm length, located at Urumqi Number 1 Prison.

8. After 1 year, I was transferred to Urumqi Number 3 Prison. Here, they tortured me with water, they shaved my head, asked me to sit on a chair and tied my whole body on the chair. They fastened my head in position, and then they dropped water from a distance of two meters above my head. After a few drops of water, the water hit my head as hard as fists. It lasted 3 to 4 hours at a time. I fainted several times during the process. My feet were also beaten and broken during an interrogation. One Uyghur and three Chinese police tortured me.
9. One time, they put an electric wire inside my penis, when they press a button, the wire turns upside down and ripped me inside. When they removed it, they removed some of my flesh. For 5-6 months after that torture, I suffered pain when I urinated. It was unbearable.
10. One time, a policewoman pushed me down the stairs with my hands tied. She said, "political prisoners are dirty, and I need to wash my hands".
11. As they broke my feet, my family spent money to get me out of prison and into a hospital to repair my feet. After the operation, a doctor who knew my cousin Anver Tursun in the hospital helped me to escape. I hid in Sanji, China for 2 months as an outlaw. After 2 months in Sanji, I fled to Kazakhstan. My cousin Anver Tursun was sentenced to 8 years in prison and later killed in prison.
12. In 1999, after 2 months in hiding in Kazakhstan, I was caught. I was shown by Kazakh police to the Chinese authorities. This was a Friday. They said they would deliver me to China on Monday as my extradition could not be processed over the weekend. According to the Kazakh Police, China pays \$10 M to Kazakh government for my return. I began to bargain with my life with the guards and was able to bribe my way out of custody. I fled to Norway, where I claimed asylum in 2000, via Russia, Finland, and Sweden.

Use of threats against his family by Chinese authorities

13. In 2008 I was in Norway. My mother was forcibly taken to Hajj (pilgrimage), by the Chinese authorities, against her will. She travelled with several members of Chinese intelligence. Once there, she was forced to call me 3 times a day asking to come to meet her in Jeddah. I suspected this was to trap me. I kept saying I would go, but 3 days before the Hajj, I said I was not able to go. In the final call with my mother on that number, I heard someone yelling at my mom in the background before the call ended and was not able to call her on that number again. I then confirmed this was a trap. My mother was able to call me from a Uyghur restaurant after she completed the Hajj and I arranged for her to meet a friend from Norway. They met, but there were about 20 Chinese secret agents around them taking pictures. They questioned her extensively after this meeting. My mother returned to China and died in 2015.
14. I used to be able to talk with my brother and sister frequently sometimes up to twice a day with my sister. In February 2016, Chinese authorities issued a passport to my sister and brother and forced them to meet me in Turkey. In April 2016, my brother and sister and I met in Turkey. We spent 9 days talking.

After they left, I called twice to my brother, but my brother said please don't call me. My brother sent a message to my daughter's WeChat, telling her to tell me that I should not contact my brother. I could not contact him since July 2016.

15. In January 2017, I got a call without a number displayed. I was told on the phone that I would meet my brother and sister. Then they hung up right away. Right after the phone hung up, I got a video call on WeChat. When I opened the WeChat video call my brother and sister were hanging. The police on the video call gave me four conditions.
- a. Condition 1: Don't buy a mosque in Norway.
 - b. Condition 2: Do not go anywhere close to (do not hang out with) the Uyghur diaspora.
 - c. Condition 3: You are not going to send any monetary help to any organisations in Turkey.
 - d. Condition 4: You are going to take a picture with police and send it to us.

Only then will we release your brother and sister. My brother and sister were screaming. It was so sudden that I didn't think of taping it. The last thing I heard was my brother and sister screaming before they hung up. I have not heard anything since then.

16. My brother's name is Mohammedeli Rozi (62 years old-he was a tailor and, later, a businessman). Everyone in his family has disappeared (total eight people). My sister's name is Risalet Rozi (54 years old –previously businesswoman). My sister has disappeared too. My other brother Ehmetjan Rozi has a mental disorder –he also disappeared. My other brother Osmanjan Rozi (previously businessman) has also disappeared. My other brother Yasinjan Rozi had 4 children. He had to hide his twins for two years. After revealing the kids, he had to pay a 50,000 RMB fine. Shortly after this, his entire family disappeared. My brother-in-law Album Kasim is in prison in Sanji for 15 years for receiving money from me. My cousin Abliz Abdullah, who studied in a Islamic Institute, was sentenced to 7 years in prison, and Abliz Adullah's brother was sentenced to 4 years in prison. My cousin Muhammed Ghopur was sentenced to 15 years in prison for memorizing the Quran. I have heard all these news through a person in Kazakhstan, who I have paid to give me information. This person has a Kazakhstani passport and went to the town where my family lived and asked around and found out this information for me. I also learned from this person that my family home had been demolished and made into a park. The address of my house, the address of the demolished house is, Tohsi county, Tohsi Bazaar, House Nr.30 on the People's street.

- 17. All information I have provided in this testimony is true.**

4711 **6 June 2021 (3:53:07 – 4:24:35)**

4712 **Omer Rozi – UTFW-030**

4713

4714 *Counsel – You stated in your statement that the first time you were detained in 1993 in*
4715 *Kashgar, you were tortured, how were you tortured?*

4716 OR – They used all sorts of methods. I was constantly hung and beaten. During this one
4717 month of detention I was often in a hanging position, beaten up, deprived of food, water
4718 and sleep. Then I was taken back to my home county.

4719 *Counsel – After this he was detained for six months in his home county and tortured, how*
4720 *was he tortured there?*

4721 OR – For the first five months I was interrogated daily. Before they asked questions, they
4722 would beat me while I was hung up, with wooden batons. If I passed out, they throw water
4723 on me to bring me back and then ask questions. For the last month I did not suffer that
4724 much torture, then my family managed to secure my release. In addition, I was deprived
4725 from food and water, so when I was released, I was just skin and bones.

4726 *Counsel – You referred to a “water prison”, can you describe what it means?*

4727 OR – You have water up to above your waist. It is dirty water, and then sometimes they
4728 change it to make it colder. They put you in there for three hours at a time. They did not
4729 allow us to stand straight, you are constantly bowing, which is another method of torture.

4730 *Counsel – Can you describe what are the physical and mental consequences of this?*

4731 OR – One of my cellmates was shot dead, repeatedly shot into pieces. And I was forced
4732 to pick up his flesh in a bag. Later I was brought to another prison where I was placed in
4733 solitary confinement for one year. So, I did not speak to anyone during this one year.

4734 *Counsel – Is it correct that your cousin was imprisoned as a result of your escape?*

4735 OR – Yes, my cousin was given an eight-year prison sentence, but he was later beaten
4736 to death.

4737 *Counsel – How did you find out?*

4738 OR – During that period I was in conversation with my family, and I knew he died when
4739 his mother moved to Urumqi. In one of our conversations, she told me “Because of you,
4740 they killed my son.”

4741 *Panel – Did you anticipate that going to Hajj for a second time would cause these*
4742 *consequences?*

4743 OR – No, I did not. If I did anticipate the consequences, I would not have returned.

4744 *Panel – Do you now know the content of the envelope you delivered?*

4745 OR – No, I promised not to open the letter and I fulfilled my promise to deliver it.

4746 *Panel – Your first two detentions were in regular prisons rather than re-education camps,*
4747 *is that correct?*

4748 OR – No it was prison. Even when I was taken to Urumqi, my fingernails were pulled out,
4749 so throughout my detention I suffered torture in interrogation.

4750 *Panel – In these two first prisons, can you estimate the ethnic proportion in these*
4751 *institutions?*

4752 OR – Only Uyghurs. They were all accused of separatism.

4753 *Panel – In these prisons, were there specific rooms where torture took place?*

4754 OR – Yes, it was a separate room. As I mentioned, they pushed a metal nail into my leg
4755 twice. Each time they would insert the nail into my leg they would tell me to confess.

4756 *Panel – Do you consider that the initial shooting of your cellmate could be considered*
4757 *self-defence by the guards?*

4758 OR – The beating of prisoners was constant. Whenever they came to the cell, they would
4759 beat up everyone. Eventually my cellmate tried to take some revenge with a little metal
4760 nail, but he was unsuccessful and was shot dead.

4761 *Panel – Was your cellmate chained at the time? Was he a real risk to the guards?*

4762 OR – Well, we were chained and shackled all the time. It was not something that could
4763 cause any kind of life-threatening consequences. He just tried to take a bit of revenge by
4764 using that nail.

4765 *Panel – When you met your brother and sister in Turkey in 2016, had they been forced*
4766 *to travel to Turkey?*

4767 OR – I believe it was forced and intentionally planned. For three generations they said we
4768 are not allowed to apply for passports. But suddenly in February 2016 they called us to
4769 the office to say that they will issue a passport, and that if we did not have money they
4770 could help buy tickets.

4771 *Panel – When you receive the disturbing video of your brother and sister, it doesn't appear*
4772 *that you were asked to come back, is that correct?*

4773 OR – That is correct, they did not demand that I return.

4774 *Panel – When you saw your brother and sister hanging, can you give a little more detail*
4775 *about it?*

4776 OR – They were in that position (hanged from the ceiling by the hands). I could see that
4777 the feet were about one meter from the ground.

4778 *Panel – You were told that only if you abided by the conditions imposed would they*
4779 *release your brother and sister, who were screaming at the time, is that correct?*

4780 OR – During the time when I was asked to complete these four conditions, I did not hear
4781 any noise, only before they turned off the video did I hear them scream.

4782 *Panel – You have had no contacts with them since?*

4783 OR – No, it has been five years now. This is my elder brother, [Muhametili], who is 62
4784 years old, and has eight of his family members that are disappeared. This is my elder
4785 sister, [Rusalat Rozi], 54 years old, disappeared with two of her children and her two
4786 grandchildren, that's five more people gone. Here is my younger brother who had mental
4787 disability, also disappeared. This is another brother, who became disabled after an
4788 accident, and he also disappeared. My third brother, who had two children and later had
4789 twins, for which they were fined 50,000 Yuan, now they have disappeared also. My
4790 youngest brother had two children, they all disappeared as well. And this is my uncle,
4791 who, after I sent 5,000 Kroner from Norway, was given 15 years sentence for accepting
4792 this money. All my extended family were financially well-off, they had big houses and they
4793 had shops, all the houses were knocked down and converted into a park. I learned that
4794 after sending someone from Kazakhstan to look for my family members.

4795 *Panel – In Paragraph 15 of your statement, you state that the fourth condition is taking a*
4796 *picture with the police, I assume Norwegian police, was this because they wanted to*
4797 *circulate it? To show you were a criminal, a terrorist, or an extremist?*

4798 OR – Yes that is correct.

4799 *Panel – All three?*

4800 OR – I can only guess that. The only thing that I can think of is that they might want to
4801 present me as a criminal in the country where I was.

4802 *Panel – Who were the people who asked you?*

4803 OR – The police.

4804 *Panel – Could you be more specific? Can you say what kind of police?*

4805 OR – All I know is that they were police because they were wearing uniforms. They told
4806 me those four conditions and then I heard the screaming of my brother and sister and
4807 then they turned off the video.

4808 *Counsel – What were the mental and physical consequences, if any, of being held in the*
4809 *water prison?*

4810 OR – Physically, I became weak. Psychologically it took me long to recover, I was almost
4811 finished at that time.