

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-004 – Tursun Abduselim

1. My name is Tursun Abduselim and I am 41 years old. I am from Kashgar City, Hangdi Village. I moved to Turkey in 2014. I would like to testify for my mother and brothers who have been missing, without a trace, since 2015.
2. My mother's name is Patem Omar and she would be about 80 years old this year. We last contacted in 2015 and I have no idea whether or not she is still alive. My mother was a housewife and an average citizen. She has never opposed the government in any matter.
3. My elder brother's name is Mematselim Abduselim. He was an average businessman who had done no harm to the government or the country. I also have no information about my his wife's or children's whereabouts. I don't know what has happened to him or his family. In 2015, I learned (from my mother) that he is still alive but I've not seen him since I left the country in 2013/14.
4. My second older brother, Kerim Abduselim, was a skilled worker. He also did not intend to harm the government or state nor did he intend to do anything illegal. My brother is a normal and average businessman.
5. My third brother, Barat Abduselim, was also a businessman. He would not have done anything to threaten or harm the state or the government. My brother had three children. I don't have any news about his wife nor his children. In 2015, my mother said that my brothers are still alive but I haven't seen them since.
6. My fourth brother, Qasim Abduselim, was also a businessman who imported clothes from inland China and distributed them in bulk in Kashgar New Market. He was a government

educated and certified religious educator and Imam. I haven't heard from my brother yet. When the list of Imams who were arrested was released on the Internet in 2017, I saw that Qasim Abduselim had been arrested in 2017 and is still unaccounted for. I never got any other information about my brother. My brother was issued an Imam (religious leader) certification by the government.

7. In addition, my sister (Rizwangul Abduselim) was a housewife and she did not cause any harm to the government or the state. I haven't heard from my sister yet. When I contacted my mother in 2015, she told me they were fine. I don't know if they are still alive and well.
8. My sister, Amine Abduselim, was a housewife with three children and she did not cause any harm to the government or the state. She was just raising her children.
9. My other sister, Maryamgul Abduselim, was also a housewife with three children. She caused no harm to the government or the state. I have not heard from any of them to this date. I have been waiting for the Chinese government to tell me where my relatives are, what they are doing and whether they were alive, etc.
10. I have four children and a wife in the homeland. My wife's name is Bajagul Juma and she was raising my children. My oldest son's name is Abdullah Tursun, my second son's name is Abubakri Tursun, my third son's name is Omar Tursun and my youngest son's name is Tayir Tursun. My children live with their mother. My wife is a housewife. I don't have any news from my wife. My mother said, in 2015, that my children were doing well but I have not heard any other news. I raised a sign with the names of my children and asked for information about their whereabouts in front of the Chinese Consulate. We've been protesting for six months. I have not yet received any response from the Chinese Consulate. Therefore, I am giving this testimony to ask the Chinese Consulate to tell me where my relatives and children are. I will not stop this lawsuit until I get the news from my children and relatives.

11. I also want to testify about why I left the country. I was born in December 1979. I went to school for six years. After graduating from school, I learned carpentry from my brother for two years. My brother and I then worked for two years. I spent a total of ten years studying and doing professional training. Between 1995 to 2013, I was forced to undertake unpaid labor in China because the government threatened to take our farmland if we didn't. This is the oppression that the Chinese government has imposed upon us. My three brothers and I worked in a 4m wide x 6m deep flood canal for 1 month without being paid. The government would have taken our land had we not done that. There was a fish lake at the end of the canal - a rice paddy which our people used to harvest rice. My brother and I worked for 20 days after the canal was completed to build a lake for a Chinese fisherman. I cannot remember the exact year that it happened. I was around 13 at the time. My brother loosened the black mud and I carried it in my lap with only shorts on. We did this work without getting paid. Reporters came and took pictures of the place. However, it never made it onto TV. The Chinese men came and made fun of us. We made the lake 4m wide x 4m deep. It was a very difficult working environment because the water kept leaking. More such frustrating situations occurred. They forcefully ransacked our house claiming that they were going to help us build an earthquake-resistant house. They only gave us 2,000 bricks and ten bags of cement to build a new one. However, it costs 30,000 Yuan to build a house and the bricks that the government gave us would not have been enough for any part of the house. China's purpose in doing this is to destroy our homes and oppress us. They destroyed my house in 2003 and we rebuilt it.

12. As a result of such oppression, I have repeatedly asked the government for a passport to do business abroad because we were no longer welcome in our own land. I applied in 2007, 2008 and in 2009. They did not issue me a passport. I demanded again in 2011 and they still would not issue me a passport. They asked me where I wanted to go, what I wanted to do and they unjustly accused me of being affiliated with terrorists. Eventually,

in August 2013, I was forced to flee the country. That's why my children are left there. To this date, I have not heard from them. The above reasons are why I left China.

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:

Date: