

## Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

### UTFW2-028 – Abdurrahman Tokhti

1. My name is Abdurrahman Tokhti. I am from Bashtugmen Village, Aksu Prefecture, East Turkestan. I graduated from elementary and middle school in the same village. I graduated from junior middle school in 2005. Then, in 2006, I studied reading the Qur'an as an apprentice of the Imam of the mosque in my village. I continued to live in that village, after graduating from my Qur'an studies, until 2009. In early 2009, I moved to Urumchi. I studied Islam there and continued my religious education. After completing the rest of my religious study, and after the Urumchi Massacre, I returned to Aksu on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. After staying in Aksu for a while, I returned to Urumchi in mid-2010.
2. While I was undertaking my religious studies in Urumchi, I learnt that a police chief (named Emir, from my hometown village back in Aksu) was looking for me in Urumchi because the police has learnt that I was studying religion. Upon learning of the arrival of Emir, I fled from Urumchi to some other provinces in mainland China. During this time, I lived in Henan Province and Xi'an Province for a year. During this time, my father bribed 80,000 RMB to a man named Officer Abla, a police chief at the Aksu branch of Domestic Security Department (also known as *Gubao* in Chinese) within the Public Security Bureau, to drop the so-called investigation and harassments against me. Once my father paid the bribe, I was able to return to Aksu after Officer Abla called me and said: "Just come back, I will take care of the matter."
3. I then lived in Aksu for a year or two. My passport was issued in March 2013 while I was living in Aksu. Immediately after my passport was issued, I used it to apply for an Egyptian visa. After my visa was issued (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013), I left Urumchi for Beijing and then travelled from Beijing to Egypt. I landed in Egypt on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, I moved to Turkey. After arriving in Turkey, I took a Turkish

language training course for a while. Then, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, I got married to my wife (Farida Yasin). After my wedding, my son Abdulaziz was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2014 at New Horizons Hospital in Turkey. After my son's birth, we continued our lives again.

4. On January the 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Turkish government detained me at the Kumkapi Removal Center in Istanbul on the grounds that my residence permit had 'expired'. I was released after three months in detention. In March 2016, my daughter (Nadire) was born at Fatih Hospital in Istanbul. I couldn't be around when my daughter was born. After I was released from the Deportation Center, I continued my work and continued to make a living by buying and then renting/selling cars. In August 2016, my wife and mother-in-law (who had come to visit) went back to East Turkistan saying: "the kids are too young. I will take the children home, raise them for a while and then send them back to Turkey." After my wife and two children left, my wife was detained at Urumchi Airport (in August 2016) for three days after she landed.
5. A month later, after being arrested again, interrogated and severely beaten, my wife was released on bail only after my father paid about two to three hundred thousand RMB. I later learned that, after being released on bail, my wife recovered a bit but she was detained again and sentenced to 10 years in prison in January 2017. Even after hearing this news, I stayed silent because I thought that my parents, in-laws and other relatives might be affected. At 3pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2019, I came across a video on the social media app called 'Douyin' (a Chinese version of the 'TikTok' app which is for international users outside of China) in which my son was speaking to the camera at a children's camp. From that day on, I began to testify constantly.
6. After my testimony interview with the BBC, I was threatened by the Chinese Consul in Istanbul in June 2019 who said: "Hold on, don't do that, don't testify". However, I

replied with: "I will." He later used threats such as "you might be hit by a car and die."  
But I didn't care. I replied: "Do what you can." I continued.

7. In March 2020, I received the news that the Chinese regime detained my whole family including my parents, my two brothers and my two sisters. My father's name is Tokhti Amet (68 years old), my mother's name is Ainurkhan Qasim (58 years old), one of my brothers' name is Ametjan Tokhti (37 years old), my other brother's name is Memetjan Tokhti (35 years old), one of my sisters' name is Aigul (29 years old) and my other sister's name is Arzigul (26 years old). I have received news that my whole family (including my wife, my two children, my parents and my brothers and sisters) are being held as hostages. I have not yet heard which prison they are being held in, why they were detained or the length of their prison sentence.

**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:**