

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-033 – Habibullah Amat

1. My name is Habibullah Amat and I was born on the 4th of February 1974. My home address was Unit 16, Kokgumbaz 2nd village, Ishikla District, Kucha County, East Turkistan.
2. My family farm and do trade work for a living. Until 1994, I lived in East Turkistan. In 1992, I went to Yarkand County of the Kashgar Prefecture to attend a religious school. As a result, Chinese police (in Yarkand County) detained me for 37 days and fined me 500 Chinese Yuan. As I could not get a passport approved in my hometown, I went to Urumchi and bribed Chinese officials to get a passport there. On the 7th of October 1994, I travelled to Pakistan and spent one and a half years studying English. Then, I moved to Qatar to learn Arabic for a year. I also studied in Syria and Yemen until 2001. In September 2001, I was invited to work as a teacher by a school in the Chinese city of Lanzhou. I travelled directly from Yemen to Lanzhou City.
3. One week later, Urumchi police came to Lanzhou to arrest me and brought me back to Urumchi. They detained, interrogated and tortured me for 91 days, alleging that I had some sort of connection with Bin Laden's terror group. However, they could not prove anything and released me after confiscating my savings (\$1300 USD and 3000 Chinese Yuan). At the time, police from the Aksu Prefecture also interrogated me a couple of times. On the 18th of March 2003, Urumchi *Guobao Daduy* (Secret Police) detained me again, beat me up and didn't let me sleep for 10 days. The interrogation lasted 50 days. They released me after 64 days because they could not prove true their false claim that I was a terrorist.
4. In 2005, I opened a school which specializes in teaching English, Arabic, Chinese and computer subjects. Even though the school was legally approved by the government, the police harassed us frequently, searching school properties and documents.

5. On the 5th of August 2005, Urumchi City, Saybagh District police detained me again and locked me up for 31 days. They released me after I paid a 5000 Yuan ransom. However, just 4 days later, they detained me again and this time it lasted 1 month.
6. In 2009, I went to Kashgar City to attend my friend's son's funeral. Kashgar Yopurgha police detained me, alleging I was a terrorist. In 2004, I was also detained by Korla City police.
7. In between, many temporary detentions and interrogations took place. They released me after I paid the money they asked for. The last time I was detained was in 2009 by the Kashgar National Security Bureau.
8. In 2010, I had to move abroad because the constant harassment and extortion by the police made it impossible for me to continue living in East Turkistan. I spent huge sums of money bribing police and officials to get passports for my family. I came to Syria in 2010 and stayed there until 2012. Then, I moved to Turkey. I currently live in Turkey and teach Uyghur kids their mother tongue and other subjects in a school.
9. Since 2016, I have had no contact with my family back home. I learnt, from indirect sources, that my younger brother (Zakaria Amat who was born in 1993 and lived at Unit 16, Kokgumbaz 2nd Village, Ishikla District, Kucha County) was sentenced to 7 years in jail simply because he performed prayers inside the restaurant he was running. I heard that, later, they added another 10 years to his sentence after the Party Secretary of Kucha County learned that Zakaria is my brother.
10. I also learnt that my elder sister Rukiye Amat (born in 1969) was locked up in a concentration camp. I heard her husband (Nur Kanji) is also in a concentration camp. They are both from Village 3, Daduy 11, Gulbagh District, Bay County. I am unsure about how

accurate this information is because I have had no direct communication with them whatsoever.

11. According to the news I have received, Hajirem Amat, Habibam Amat and their husbands are also in the concentration camps. I have not been able to verify this myself. As I have only heard that they were locked up in the camps, I am unsure if they are alive or dead. I also heard that my youngest sister's husband (Abdusalam Abdurahman, who was from Kashgar) was sentenced to 10 or 11 years in prison. However, I don't know the reason for this sentence.

12. From what I have heard or learnt from indirect sources, I know that between 40 to 50 people from my family and relatives are either in the camps or in prisons. I have no idea whether they are alive or dead because I have lost all contact with them since 2016.

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: