

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-068 – Abdukadir Juma

1. My name is Abdukadir Juma and I am from Nazrbaugh Village, Kashghar City. In December 2015, I moved to Turkey with my immediate family using lawful means. I have now been living in Turkey for six years. I am testifying on behalf of my family members who are all residents of Area 2, Nazarbaugh Village, Kashghar City.
2. My older brother, Muhammad Tursun Juma, and his wife, Tursungul Obulkasim, were first detained by Chinese police on the 1st of October 2016 at Kashghar Airport when they were about to board a flight to Turkey with their (at the time) one-year old daughter. They were forcibly stopped and were not allowed to board the flight. They were interrogated about why they were taking a minor for a holiday to Turkey. The couple was reportedly detained in a concentration camp for seven months. But, about two or three months after their release, they were detained once again by the authorities. It is unclear if they are still in a camp or in prison.
3. My two twin brothers, Ibrahim Juma and Ismail Juma, would now be 29 years old. Both of their professions were in Uyghur Medicine. In April 2017, when the Uyghurs were taken to the camps *en masse*, my brothers were also detained in the camps but the reason for this was unclear. I assume that the authorities rounded them up because of their religious beliefs - both were devoted Muslims and studied the Qur'an as children. One, despite his young age, served as a local Imam at a local mosque for a month, by appointment of the local authorities. Since the Chinese authorities targeted religious communities so harshly when they commenced the mass detention, my brothers could have been on the top of the list. Other than that, they had never had any adverse records in the country. They were living their everyday lives and they were 24 when they were first detained. I learnt they had both been charged with a 5-year-long prison term.
4. In 2017, some people that I knew visited Turkey and provided us with some information about our families.

5. My older sister's husband, Dawutjan Juma, was a 65-year-old man at the time and would be 70 this year. He used to have beard. He was a gentle man and used to do business but he was taken to a camp because he grew a beard.
6. As far as I know, my five aforementioned family members are currently facing inhuman treatment in China. Two of them were imprisoned for 5 years in 2016 but it is uncertain if they are alive or dead. There is also no news about the rest of my family.
7. Another figure that I want to testify on behalf of is my religious teacher, Sulayman Tohti from Dondur Area, Pilal Village, Aqtu Township, who was roughly 92 or 93 years old. He was a devout Muslim and a caring teacher. He served for his community for a long time and educated many students with Qur'anic knowledge, even when there were restrictions in place, and he had a very good reputation. His house was next to the Village Committee Administration and even the Administration officers had some level of respect to him despite him being a religious teacher. Unfortunately, when the Chinese authorities started locking up Uyghurs in the camps, this old man was also detained. He was severely tortured for over two months and it was reported that he was taken to the hospital by the authorities but died as a result of torture and other means of humiliation. We also learnt that over 150 individuals from his family were rounded up, imprisoned and even killed afterwards. None of his family was left in the community and my master, Sulayman Tohti, was tortured to death when he was over 92 years old.
8. My father would now be 82 years old but I have no information about his current circumstances, nor whether he is still in the community or whether he was detained and forced into a camp. Since I have had no recent communication, I am unable to determine my family's current situation. My mother passed away in June 2016. Due to the fear of being detained (there is proven evidence that people returning from Turkey would face indefinite detention), we were unable to go back to attend her funeral. Since June 2016, we have witnessed the Chinese authorities committing genocide on Uyghur peoples. This includes, but is not limited to, mass detention, killing in secrecy, physical and mental torture, deprivation of human rights,

deprivation of the right to move and other forms of inhuman treatment and degradation – all have been widely accepted as forms of genocide. I am greatly concerned that my two healthy, young and fit brothers, who did not suffer from any physical or mental illnesses, may have become victims of crimes against humanity. In particular, that of unlawful organ harvesting, which the Chinese authorities have practiced upon Uyghur detainees. They have been missing for over five years and whenever I think about them, the horrific image of their organs being harvested comes to my mind.

9. I would like to state why I left East Turkistan. In 2010 and 2012, the authorities targeted my family and locked up our house on two occasions because I grew beard. They forced me to shave my beard by threatening to confiscate our home if I rejected. In 2010, they dragged everyone in the house outside, including my fragile father and minor children, despite my father's pleas. We had to stay at a relative's home for two days and I had to shave my beard. After shaving, I went to the Party Secretary's Office demanding they return my house keys but they refused to return it because I did not shave my beard completely. Consequently, I shaved my face clear to get my house key. So, in 2010, we were evicted from our house simply because I grew beard.

10. In 2012, the same mistreatment happened again for the same reason - the police accused me of growing a beard again and they locked up our house. I went to the Police Department and asked them why it was a crime to grow a beard and why doing so would lead to me being expelled from my own house. The police told me that it was a part of the local rules and that I would be sent to prison if I rejected them thus I must obey the instruction to shave my beard or face the consequence of my house being confiscated. I shaved again in 2012 and I reported this to the police at the Nazarbagh Police Station. I told a police officer, whose name I cannot remember, and he said I would face same consequences if I did not follow their instructions and I would be denied to access my house. I sobbed. In 2012, when I was making my passport application at the City Public Security Department in Kashghar City, a Han Chinese officer barred me from entering. I asked why and he replied saying: "no beard growing persons are allowed in here". I insisted on entering and explained to him that

I came to make a passport application. He then, in an abusive tone, said: “this is not a place for people like you (*Akhun*).” I asked: “where should I go then?” He said that they would not issue me a passport. I insisted that he tell me the right place to make my passport application. Eventually, another Chinese officer that I knew came and asked me why I was there. When I told him, he asked me to wait for a bit and then took me to his office to ask why I needed a passport. I told him that I was a businessman and that I was intending to open a business overseas. He too said that I had to shave my beard before I made a passport application and that I had to follow their instructions. Thus, I was forced to shave my beard twice; once to save my house and then to apply for a passport. We realized that the situation was deteriorating and decided to leave the country as we were facing numerous difficulties.

11. My wife became pregnant with twins in 2009. One day, we took her to Kirmbagh No.1 Hospital because she was in pain and the doctors diagnosed my wife with Polyhydramnios and had said that the fetus may have been at risk therefore abortion was our only solution. But we refused the abortion as the babies were almost six months old. However, despite us having had this discussion, another nurse injected my wife’s pelvis and stomach. This caused the babies to stop breathing. We argued with them but they had forced my wife to sign a document and we did not even know the content as it was in Chinese. That day, they forcibly aborted our twin babies.

12. In August 2015, the local Administration officers came to our household to complete a form. They asked us many questions. One of the questions was pretty scary as it asked: “what would you say if the Communist Party asked you not to follow any religion one day?” and they forced me to write my answer. They asked if I would agree or disagree. I knew that I would be arrested if said I would disagree but, if I had said that I would agree, I would have gone against my Islamic beliefs. The Chinese officer pressured me to give my answer immediately. I said to them “the Communist Party has designated rules on the people’s religious belief and the Communist Party would not force anyone to believe or not to believe”. My answer caused the Secretary and the Chinese officer to laugh at me. Then, they passed the question and asked me to answer the other questions. They left. I thought it likely that every Uyghur family

would have been asked the same questions so as to check our faith and place a mark on our records. The Chinese government has proven that intention in later years. After this occurred, my family and I discussed about how our normal life would be restricted if we remained in China and that we would have to leave the country to save our lives and protect our dignity. We paid a huge sacrifice to get our passports and left China because I knew that, if we remained, I would be targeted by the Chinese authorities and face harsh treatment.

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: