

Uyghur Transitional Justice Database – ANNUAL REPORT 2021

“The persecution of Uyghurs in East Turkistan” (2nd edition)

The *Uyghur Transitional Justice Database* (UTJD) is an ongoing project that focuses on the registration of the disappeared and extrajudicially interned Uyghurs in East Turkistan. The present report introduces various set of data collected by the UTJD, aiming to serve the information needs of the growing community of organizations, UN and government officials, and other concerned individuals who are devoted to seeking accountability for human rights violations against the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

Since 2017, a great deal of news reports and a growing number of research papers have been published, documenting and addressing the human rights violations committed and by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) against the Turkic peoples as well as Hui Muslims. Among these human rights violations in East Turkistan, the establishment of the extrajudicial internment camps, officially referred to as “re-education” or “training” camps, has been the most prominent over the last couple of years.

The Chinese regime has been actively executing coercive ethnocentric Sinicization policies to erase Uyghurs’ Turkic identity (i.e. language, culture, and belief system). Sinicization implies the diffusion of Chinese culture and influence, in this case to the detriment of local minorities’ cultures. These specifically targeted assimilation policies have had an enormous impact on the social interactions and the collective psyche of the Uyghur people both at home and abroad, which in recent years also started to impact the lives of other Turkic/Muslim peoples in East Turkistan.

The report notably explores the historical background of the region of East Turkistan, the marginalisation of Uyghurs and Uyghur culture, the nature of the camp system, and various other forms of persecution inflicted on Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities, such as forced labour or violations of sexual and reproductive rights.

Overall, the report highlights the incoherencies between the Chinese authorities’ discourse on the treatment of Turkic minorities as a part of an “anti-terrorism” policy, and the figures presented in the report, which point to a system of forced detention, ideological indoctrination, mass surveillance, forced labour, coercive family separation, forced contraception, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and separation of Uyghur families.