

# Abduweli Ayup

## Full statement

1. My name is Abduweli Ayup. I was born in Kashgar city, China, in 1973. I am currently residing in Turkey. I was detained by the local Chinese State Security Police from August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 until November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The reason was because I was promoting, online, the linguistic rights of Uyghur people and in the process of opening two kindergartens in the Uyghur mother tongue in Urumqi and Kashgar. First, I was detained and then the court was in July 2014.
2. The first time I was detained was in a place called Yanbulaq detention centre. It is in Kashgar city, in Doletbagh Township. I was interrogated by the police from Urumqi. They were from the Urumqi Public Security Department, State Security Branch. At the Yanbulaq Detention centre I saw that there were police from Kashgar Public Security Department, State Security Branch there.
3. In that interrogation room there was a Tiger Chair, it is special chair for political prisoners in Kashgar. He asked me to sit in the Tiger Chair. There were two SWAT, and the interrogators were three. They interrogated me from 3 o'clock PM until maybe 9 o'clock PM in the evening.
4. During that time, first of all they threatened me. At first, they threatened me to life imprisonment. And then they used an electric stick. They shocked my right arm and once in the armpit. This is in the interrogation room. And then they accused me of being a spy for the CIA and for instigating separatism and inciting people to break Chinese stability and Chinese language policy.
5. Then at 9 o'clock PM they sent me to the cell. During that interrogation I didn't confess, I didn't say yes because the questions were always yes or no questions, there was no description. Like 'you are trained in the US to support separatism, right or no? You have this mother language kindergarten to encourage people to separate the country, right or not?' Just this method, you have to answer yes or no. There is no way to describe, there is no way to defend yourself.
6. They were mainly about me encouraging people to go the street on July 5<sup>th</sup> Urumqi riots. 'Yes or no? You supported the anti-China organisation called the Ford Foundation. Yes or no?' Just these kinds of questions. I kept saying no. That's why they put the electric stick on to my right side. And then they said, 'we will see if you say yes or no'. The exact words were 'our interrogation technique is better than the CIA'. That's the exact words they said.

7. Then the two police took me to the cell. In the detention centre where I stayed, the interrogation centre and the building of the dormitory (the building of the cells) are separated. It is not in the same building. The interrogation building is in front, and the cell building in the back. They took me there. There was a big black gate with a small door in it. Then the guys who took me there left.
8. Three police received me and asked me to sign the papers and then they asked me to strip off my clothes. Then there were about ten, or more than ten guys, they were common criminals wearing white stripe with grey uniform. They were about ten, at that time it felt like many because they surrounded me. I was inside surrounded, and they asked me to take off my whole clothes and they asked me to bow. Just like a dog, dog style. Then the sexual abuse happened.
9. At about 10 pm they put me in the cell. There was another Uyghur, we stayed together for one night. His name was Emet Khari. I still remember his name.

### **Second Detention Centre - Urumqi**

10. After that the next morning at about 9 o'clock AM the police came and took me to the building I was interrogated in and from there took me outside and we flew to Urumqi. It was August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We arrived about 11 AM and then they drove me to the State Security Office, and they interrogated me.
11. It was the same questions as Kashgar, like 'are you a separatist, an American spy, a CIA agent?' There was nothing new. 'Did I encourage people go to the street, promote independence, encourage separatism?'
12. I know all the interrogators names actually. Still, I can remember all of them. The guy who took me from Kashgar his name was Muhter Amat. Another was called An Jinkun, he is a Chinese state security official. Another guy is Ekbar. Those three Uyghurs I know, and they participated in the interrogation in Kashgar and Urumqi.
13. After this ordeal, I was taken to a hospital. As I had a hood placed over my head, I don't know which hospital it was. You have to strip off, but this time there were no prisoners, criminals, around me. Just the police and the doctor. Because there was a doctor with a white uniform, I felt happy because in my expectation doctor is better, doctor is more human than police. Because of that I wasn't so terrified. The first time (in Kashgar) I stripped off I feel very bad, but the second time (in Urumqi), because of the doctor there I believed that doctor couldn't do that, doctor is not so bad like that.
14. I stripped off and they took a picture of my front side and asked they me to read something. I know they carried out a full body check, X-ray, taking saliva, urine, poop, and blood samples, applying a cold gel before examining

- different body organs. Then they took my facial recognition data. This was done by the doctor and the police helped him. The doctor wrote it down and the police took the picture.
15. I think there were four police and one doctor. I can recognise the doctor, but I do not know his name. I know one of the police, his name is Barrat but the others I forget their names because we didn't meet again. But Barrat I did meet again.
  16. Then they took me to the detention centre. In Urumqi the detention centre was not in the same place as the state security office, it was a little bit different. In Kashgar the interrogation centre was in the same place. In Urumqi I drove first to the police department, state security department actually. Then after the hospital they drove me to the detention centre. It was the Tian Shan district detention centre because it was written on my uniform.
  17. At that time, I wore orange t-shirt with blue shorts. Orange means political prisoner. Grey means you are, for example, maybe a thief, maybe a robber, maybe a killer. I do not know their crime.
  18. I went to the detention centre. It is the same process. They put me in the cell.
  19. In the cell it was very bad. One criminal he beat me very badly. Another guy ordered him to beat me. Even in the cell there is an interrogator. That interrogator interrogated me. He asked me to kneel down in front of him. In the detention cell they hung me up in the toilet. The toilet is covered with glass and they hung me on the toilet and asked me to confess what I have done against the government; 'why I was wearing a political prisoners uniform?'. The questions were similar.
  20. Then the next day I was asked to start my training. You had to learn not to answer the question. The prisoners train you not to answer the question. They always ask the question and then asked me to say yes or no. It is very bad. If you say something else, they will beat you. You have to remember that you are always the one who has to say yes or no. It is this kind of method to train you.
  21. There were I think six Han. There were fifteen or seventeen prisoners in the cell. Uyghur were the majority and Chinese were minority; there were six Chinese and nine Uyghur. If it is not seventeen it is fifteen, I am not sure. For me it is seventeen. Maybe seventeen.
  22. There is a wall, and those numbers are written on the wall. On the bed there is ten. On the floor it sleeps... its seventeen yes.
  23. The Han Chinese give the orders. The interrogator is also Han Chinese but the guy who beat me is Uyghur. He is a drug addict. All of them are prisoners. The system exists outside, and the system exists inside. When you go to the

- interrogation room there is the police, there is the interrogator, there is the SWAT (armoured police). Inside is the same. There is a boss (chief of the cell), there is an interrogator, and the guy in charge of punishment.
24. The prison authorities condoned this conduct. There are three cameras so the police can see 24 hours what we were doing. If those prisoners behave well by treating us badly the police gave them a promotion or hashish, marijuana and cigarettes; it is a bonus for the job. Because they are not getting a salary maybe.
  25. In Kashgar the prison cell is dangerous, it is very small. There is a small window. It is very low, when I stand up, I almost touch the roof. It is very depressing. In Urumqi it is better, it is high, it is tall. It is maybe three metres high and it is about 20 squares meters.
  26. The police interrogation started on the Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. I arrived there on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August. I think the interrogation started the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. In the interrogation room there is a cage, iron cage. Inside the cage there is a tiger chair.
  27. The interrogation centre is in the same building as the cell, but I think it is a different place in the building because it is a big building. It felt like I had to walk for a long time away from the cell because I was chained. They put a chain on my feet, so it is very hard to walk. It has two rings and then the chain is connected to the two rings and those two rings are on your ankle. When you walk the ring hurts on the side of your ankle.
  28. In the interrogation room there were three police. There were always three. In Urumqi they didn't beat me so hard, they just slapped but they didn't use electric shock; I am lucky. The interrogation is similar. Like, 'you are going to separate Xinjiang from China through mother language kindergarten. This is your excuse. Your real goal is to build a country'. They said that Dhaka university students protested against the language policy of Pakistan, at the end Bangladesh became an independent country. They told me my real goal was to build a country not to build a Kindergarten. The question was the same: yes or no?
  29. In Kashgar they told me it would be life imprisonment but in Urumqi they told me fifteen years. I don't know why it became less.
  30. That interrogation happened again and again. In Urumqi the interrogation was most different because of sleep deprivation. Always from the morning, sometimes two o'clock AM. Long interrogation. It continuously happened until September 10<sup>th</sup>.
  31. The second detention centre there were at least six blocks. I know this because I stayed in the sixth block meaning there were another five. In every block there were two lines. On each side there was ten cells. Twenty in each

block. In every cell I stayed there were seventeen detainees. If one cell is seventeen, ten is one hundred and seventy. You put ten cells on the other side, it is three hundred and forty. There were six three hundred and forty people per block.

### **Third Detention Centre - Urumqi**

32. Then on September 10<sup>th</sup> I was transferred to another detention centre. It was Urumqi Detention Centre Number Three. I heard Rebiya Kadeer stayed there. The police told me it is a very special detention centre for political prisoners because Rebiya Kadeer stayed there. Rebiya Kadeer is a Uyghur political leader. She is in the United States right now. She stayed in the detention centre for five years and they told me this detention centre is the one that Rebiya Kadeer stayed and in this detention centre my uniform changed. I wore a red uniform there.
33. The same thing happened as at the second detention centre. It is interrogation and beating. But this time something was added. They stripped me off and put water, because in September it is very cold, so they flush cold water on your body. It is very cold.
34. The interrogation is still the same, like yes or no questions. I kept saying no. This time the sleep deprivation was longer. In the previous detention centre I was interrogated in the daytime and sometimes it was very late, like 12 o'clock PM. But in the new detention centre it was very horrible. They would not allow me to sleep entire nights. Once I remember it was two and half days, they asked me questions and I would just sit on the tiger chair. Two and a half days. Sleep deprivation is very problematic.
35. In that detention centre I got a skin disease because it was really crowded. It was many people; I stayed with twenty-three. The lights were turned on twentyfour hours a day in all detention centres.
36. In the third detention centre there were a few Uyghurs; most of the prisoners were drug addict Han Chinese or killers. Most of them. I was the only Uyghur at that time in that cell.
37. In the new detention centre, sleep deprivation was very heavy. They always forced me to answer the question and didn't let me sleep. Sometimes I would feel really sleepy and they would slap me and give me some medicine. It makes you wake up. I know that once they interrogated me for two and a half days. I slept for a day after that.

38. This time they asked me something about the Uyghur Human Rights Project and Radio Free Asia. They asked me about them because I subscribed to the Uyghur Human Rights Project when I was in the US studying for my Master's degree and I automatically received a message from them. And I went to my friend's home and he was working for Radio Free Asia at that time, so they asked me these two questions: 'what is your relations to Uyghur Human Rights Project and Radio Free Asia?' They asked these questions again and again. In Kashgar they said that 'Rebiya Kadeer sent you to Kashgar, sent you to Urumqi'. This time they changed it to 'Radio Free Asia sent you to here and Uyghur Human Rights Project sent you to here'. I said no.
39. It continuously happened until December 24<sup>th</sup>. That was the last day. They stopped the interrogation. I felt a bit relaxed. But it started again in January 2014. That interrogation continuously happened until the middle of March.
40. Then in the middle of March the prosecution came and asked me to confess to illegal fundraising. In China there is the police, the prosecution and the court. The three work together. The prosecution came and they forced me to accept an economic crime, like illegal fundraising. I said no, I will not accept that. They told me that 'if you will not accept, we will charge you again with separatism. Choose one, separatist or illegal fundraiser'. I chose the economic crime, illegal fundraising. Then the interrogation stopped after that. I signed a document stating I illegally fundraised.
41. In the third detention centre, until March, most of the prisoners were Han Chinese. But after March, especially after May 2014, Uyghurs became the majority and Han Chinese became the minority. After May all the detainees were Uyghurs.
42. They don't know about politics. I can give you one example; I forgot his name. There was a guy from Kashgar, Beshkerem Township, a very handsome young guy, about 25 or 26 years old. He organised a donation to Uyghur orphan kids because of this he was arrested. Another Uyghur, I know his name, he was from Hotan. His name, I still remember Nurmemet. He was arrested because he said in a Uyghur market that a banana wasn't healthy. Because of this he was arrested. Another Uyghur, I can remember his name, Imam. He got arrested because he wrote a song about his mother. But the government described it as him writing a song not about his mother, but his country, East Turkistan. These were the kinds of ridiculous cases. If they considered them political prisoners, I am the head of political prisoners. I am the top political prisoner. If they say that those guys who are singers and ordinary Uyghur guys are political prisoners, I am the top of political prisoners.
43. In May 2014 the number of Uyghurs increased a lot. Uyghurs became the majority and Han Chinese became the minority.

44. In the third detention centre it was not very big. I stayed there for a long time, almost a year. It was not very big. It was like two blocks. One block was twenty rooms. And another block twenty rooms. Every cell was twenty people, that means there was four hundred in each block. Two blocks were eight hundred people. Not more than eight hundred. Maybe less than eight hundred but not more than eight hundred. It was not very big, just two blocks. One corridor with ten each side. And two blocks.

### **First Trial**

45. In July we went to court. It was fake, there was no court. There were prosecution and police, there was a court but there was no audience. It was a fake version of a real court. They asked us those questions. All of us answered yes. There were three of us. I am the leader and the other is our Director in charge of communication and social media and the third is our accountant. Our kindergarten accountant. We were three and there was a judge and there was a recorder and then on the right side there was a government appointed lawyer, three lawyers. The other side there were three defence lawyers. The question was the same. 'Did you participate in illegal fundraising?' I said yes. 'How much?' I said 590,000 RMB. Then they asked us to sign all of the answers we gave. It was more than 100 pages. Every page I needed to sign. They did not allow me to read the document. They asked me to sign and I signed it. Because I knew everything was fake. Those papers are fake so all three of us just signed.

46. After two weeks there was a real court. At the real court there was my wife, my older sister, my mother, my two older brothers and my cousin there. There were about twenty to thirty in the audience. It was the same. Totally the same questions and the same answers. I know it was just a game they were playing. I said yes. I answered something longer because I wanted my mother and my family members to hear my voice. I wanted them to hear my voice, that's why I talked to them. If they were not there, I would not have talked. I just wanted to imply that I was good, that I was strong. Don't worry about me. But I didn't really answer their question actually.

47. In August I received the sentence. They sentenced me to 18 months and fined me 90,000 RMB. Or 100,000 RMB. It was 90,000, I think.

48. We were appointed a lawyer. I had seen a lawyer, but I didn't hire them. They didn't defend anything they just sat there. One lawyer talked about how Chinese policies were good for the people, especially for Uyghurs. Something like that, nothing to do with the case. He did government

propaganda in front of us. All three of us were there. The judge was Hekim Ahon. There were three Uyghur prosecutors. One was called Quddus. The other was a Uyghur lady called Aysel. The third one I forgot the name.

#### **Fourth Detention Centre - Urumqi**

49. Then I transferred to another detention centre. This was the fourth time I transferred. In Chinese it is the Midong (米东) detention centre.
50. That was the worse one because in Tian Shan District detention centre or the Urumqi Detention Centre Number Three we had a place for fresh air. But in the fourth place there was no chance to have fresh air. You had to stay in the 20 square metre place without fresh air; toilet and eating, everything inside. The toilet was not a flushing toilet; it was a hole actually. It was very dirty. I stayed there.
51. Most of them were Uyghur, I think it was 80% Uyghur. This time it was crowded. It was about 20 people, maybe 19, maybe 20. Mostly Uyghur. When I arrived at the Midong (米东) detention centre most of them were Uyghurs. We had some Hui but they were not political prisoners. They were drug addicts or thieves.
52. In detention centres Uyghur means political prisoner, political prisoner means Uyghur. I met a guy in the third detention centre, he was a Hui Muslim, he was arrested because he prayed with a Uyghur Muslim. That is why he got arrested. But he got arrested because of praying, but he didn't wear an orange uniform. And we had a Chinese political prisoner. Chinese political prisoner means Christian. But those Christians never wore orange uniforms, the political prisoner uniform. And they never wore handcuffs and chains on their feet. So, it was unfair. Uyghur political prisoners were treated differently from Han Chinese. And Hui was treated differently. The Hui man didn't wear political prisoners uniform. Political prisoners uniform meant you were always under pressure, always beaten, always tortured. I told you, Uyghur political prisoner always wore chains on our feet and handcuffs on our hands. The Hui Muslim didn't wear anything. That Chinese Christian he didn't wear anything.
53. I even know his name that Chinese political prisoner. He set fire to a Chinese temple in Urumqi. His first name was Wang. You can check it out, it happened in Urumqi on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. That guy stayed with me and he was treated better, much better because he was Han Chinese, and he was never beaten.

## **Second trial**

54. In October they asked me to go to court again. I went there and realised my two friends had appealed. This time they didn't play the game. We went to the court directly. The first was the District Court, the second was the Municipal court. It is a little bit higher. We were in the court. This time I said that it was wrong. I stayed in the detention centre with the wrong trial. I had nothing to do with illegal fundraising. Those interrogators and those prosecution forced me to accept this. I said this. My two friends said the same thing, it's wrong.
55. After that we drove from the court back to the detention centre and on November 20<sup>th</sup>, about 3 o'clock PM they released me. I was sentenced to 18 months first and then they cut three months, so I served fifteen months in total. I got out November 20<sup>th</sup>. They cut it because my two friends appealed it. But they didn't tell me and when I was released, I learnt it from my brother.

## **Release**

56. I went home to Kashgar. Because of my criminal background, my ID card was checked all the time. Totally different. Different system when I got out. Every 200m there was a police checkpoint. Every village there was a government official building. In Kashgar in every village there was an armoured vehicle and a tank. Every village there was an administration and a tank and armoured vehicle. It was just like the second world war was happening there. When I was out it was a totally different situation. Like 100%. When I came out it was a police state and a soldier's state. I stayed for a while. Because of my criminal background the police said I am not welcome in Kashgar. Because I had a criminal background. They forced me to leave Kashgar because I didn't have a place to rent because of my criminal background. You cannot live here. I moved different places and stayed a week and then they forced me to leave. I moved three places in Kashgar because of my criminal background. And then they said you are not welcome in Kashgar.

## **Karakax List**

57. The Karakax List is authentic because the list is from China, from Urumqi. From government officials. This is as much as I can tell you. I cannot tell you more. From Urumqi through Facebook messenger from government officials. I verified it and I found 29 Uyghurs are in Istanbul. Their names are

mentioned in the list and I found them in Istanbul. I talked to them and most of them are afraid to talk. But there is a lady she talked to the media and confirmed her family members are on the list. Her name is Rozinisa Mettohti.

### **Aksu List**

58. I received the Aksu List from Human Rights Watch. It lists people from Awat County of Aksu Prefecture. We hid the county because Human Rights felt that if we say the County it would be dangerous to the people on the list because the Chinese government would have been able to identify the people. I verified it by asking members of the Uyghur diaspora who are from Awat if they recognised anyone. We verified over a hundred names on it. There are more than 2000 Uyghur detainee names on it. We have some details like a lady who was arrested for calling her younger sister in Turkey for 58 seconds. It is written in that document. Some people were even arrested for staying in the same hotel as former detainees.

### **Zhu Hailun**

59. Between January 13<sup>th</sup> 1998 to July I worked in Kashgar for Zhu Hailun (朱海仑). He was the party Chief of Kashgar City, CCP Local Branch. I worked under his administration as a translator, and I translated his orders. I translated his speech to the audience. I translated his conversation with other Uyghurs. But he speaks Uyghur very well. If you translated something wrong, he could find out. But he doesn't speak Uyghur to Uyghurs if he doesn't have to.

60. In 1998, in I think February, around Ramadan he said 'fasting is indoctrinated by feudal ideology'. In China feudal means old, backward and primitive. The translation feudal into English is not the exact work. In Chinese feudal means you are backward and not civilised and primitive, the opposite side of the civilised world.

61. I think it was in May we had a conversation with about 20 or 15 Uyghurs in the office and he said the 'Koran is bullshit and it has obscene things mentioned in it. Even the Koran teaches you how to sex'. Because at that time I was forced to translate that, I felt very bad about it.

62. At the same time, in May or April or March, there was a short demonstration in front of the Kashgar municipality building because farmers were not allowed to grow vegetables on their land. They grew some vegetable and

- government officials ordered them to stop. The farmers grew very angry and went to the city municipality. Zhu said 'this is a kind of separatism because they discussed this issue in the mosque'. He said 'it means the Uyghur separatists used the Mosque as a fort and they want to separate'.
63. He has a negative attitude against Uyghur culture and books. He ordered other Uyghur officials to search Uyghur houses and apartments one by one.
64. I wrote a petition saying we should have a weekend and depending on Chinese labour law we should have a weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Fifteen or seventeen other Uyghur and Han Chinese signed. We sent it to Zhu Hailun and he said 'searching Uyghur houses and books is a government policy and if you think it is not right, if you think working on weekend is not right, if you complain about this, it means you are complaining about the Chinese communist party. It is political, it is a symptom of anti-Communist Party, anti-China, behaviour'.
65. At that time, he ordered Uyghur teachers not to teach and to do the job the dormant officials should do. For example, search Uyghur houses for so-called illegal books. I felt sad because kids were playing, and no one was taking care of them, I feel very sad for those kids.
66. He also once said, 'your God is shit'.
67. He treated Uyghur officials differently to Han officials. Our 15 Uyghurs had to work in villages and Han Chinese officials worked in the office.
68. At the time I had English books, when I was reading them he said 'don't read English books', he said 'because of that you wrote that petition'. He put a connection between me reading English books and me writing the petition to ask government to not force us to work at the weekend.
69. We had a conversation during Ramadan, at that time in that township all restaurants shut down and he had no place to eat, not only him but me. He said 'we need to solve this problem, because so many years after liberation Uyghurs still believe this way of life. We should solve this problem'. At that time, I am very brave, I said 'this not a problem you should solve, this is not a problem it is part of life. I had a debate with him, and I said 'this is a way of life you should respect'. He said very clearly, 'this long after liberation Uyghurs still have this belief, still have this way of life, we should modernise them, make them behave like Han Chinese do'. 'Especially', he said, 'Uyghur treat their religion very strictly, it's the origin of the problem'.
70. Zhu Hailun's signature was on the China Cables. I was a translator, so I always translated his orders and documents, so I am familiar with his signature.