

Witness Statement

Bumeryem Rozi

Female – Age 54

1. My name is Bumeryem Rozi. I am a Uyghur Muslim. I was born in Kashgar in 1967. I left China in May 2016 and now reside in Turkey. In 2008, I was subjected to a forced abortion. My son and other family members have been detained by Chinese authorities.

Forced Abortion

2. I have in total four biological children (two girls and two boys). The fifth was subjected to a forced abortion. My ex-husband has children from another marriage. In August 2008, I was pregnant with my 5th child. This was illegal by the state. We were prepared to pay the 10,000 Yuan penalty for that, but the authorities refused our offer. The authorities said that if you deliver this baby, we will seal your house and you will be taken to a “People’s Gathering” and we will send your husband to a different “People’s Gathering”. I was planning to run away to somewhere else to give birth to my baby. My husband said if you run away, they will come to me and what will happen? My husband agreed to the abortion in order to avoid this. I had no choice but to say yes to the abortion.
3. The authorities came to my house 3 days before the procedure to tell me they were going to abort my baby. Four individuals; two from the local Birth Control authority and two from the local police station took me from my house and placed me in a civilian car. Three other women travelled with me. The three women belonged to the same Collective, which differed from mine. They took us to Kashgar, where we changed to another car which went to the hospital. The police followed us in a separate car. My husband and the husbands of the other women also followed us in another car. The hospital was the Mother and Baby Hospital of Kashgar.
4. When we arrived in the hospital there were many other Uyghur women from different villages. All of the patients I saw were Uyghur.
5. They put the four women I had travelled with and me into four different rooms, at almost the same time. In all rooms, there was one bed inside. It was there the abortion was carried out. They gave me a tablet. Then 2 hours later they injected my stomach. A further 2 hours later the dead baby came out. I was not allowed to leave the room until the baby came out. I passed out from the pain and I stayed there another half an hour after the abortion.

6. I was 5 months pregnant. In other rooms, I saw aborted babies that were a few days short of being born.
7. After that it was dark already and since that hospital was overcrowded, I decided to go. I paid the hospital 500 Yuan for the procedure. Following this, they showed us to a car, and I travelled home with my husband. I do not know who paid for that car.

Family Members

8. My husband and I divorced and following this, he took custody of my son. He sent my son to live with me when he was 19. Shortly after that, on 20th May 2015, my son was detained by the local authorities. He was taken Chang Ji city prison, which is close to Urumqi.
9. My son was enrolled in a Boxing class – the authorities found out that he was underage and that he spoke to someone there with whom he expressed interest in travelling to Turkey with. When the authorities take anybody including my son, they only give one reason, that they have “offended politics”. We do not know much about politics.
10. We knew around this time that people had been able to buy their sons out of detention with 50,000 Yuan. 10 days after they got bailed out, the same person would be arrested again and a given 10-year sentence. When they took away my son, during this period, I tried to get him a passport, so when he came out, I could get him abroad. A policeman was dealing with my passport request for my son. He passed on the information to an Uyghur and a Chinese police officer. They brought me into a car and offered to release my son for 200,000 Yuan but said there was no guarantee that he wouldn't be arrested again. I tried all possibilities, even to sell my house, to bail my son. My house was only evaluated at 50,000 Yuan.
11. Later in 2015, my son was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment. I left the country full of sadness. On 20th May 2016, I arrived in Turkey. I had no choice but to leave all my kids. My youngest had been sentenced to 13 years. My daughter was accused later on, because her mom went to Turkey – she was sent to the camp. All other children, I have no news. My brother too who was caring for my children was also taken to the camp.

The interviewer asked the witness whether she had understood the contents of the statement and whether she agreed with its contents.

The witness confirmed that she agreed with the contents of this statement orally on 05 March 2021 at 13:23 GMT.