

Witness Statement – Summary

Witness Statement

Omer Rozi

Male, Age 50

1. I was born in Toksu county, Aksu, China on 27 September 1970. I am a Uyghur Muslim. I was imprisoned and tortured by Chinese authorities. Threats against my family by Chinese authorities have been used to influence my behaviour in Norway.

Imprisonment and Torture in China

2. I began my education in Islam aged 12, continuing until I became Quadi in 1990. After this, I started a business in my hometown – I come from a business family.
3. In 1993, after 3 years of doing business, I went on the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. This was my second time doing the Haj. When I was departing, Mr Aysa, whom I know from my town asked me to deliver something in an envelope to Husen Qarhojam, there. He told me not to open it. I delivered it to that person indirectly, via a friend.
4. When I returned to China in 1993, after this, I was arrested by Chinese authorities at a bus station in Kashgar and imprisoned. I spent 1 month in prison in Kashgar, where I was beaten up and interrogated. I was accused of sharing a domestic secret with someone overseas. I was then transferred to a prison in Toksu (my hometown), where I was also tortured. I spent 6 months there. My family were able to bribe authorities to secure my release. After this I was free again for 1 month.
5. I was then detained for 2 months without explanation. Following this, I was transferred to Urumqi Number 1 Prison (also known as Bajiahu Prison), where I was tortured. Someone hit my feet with iron. During my interrogation they asked me what secret I shared. I did not know what was in the envelope. I just denied every accusation. They continued my torture by removing my nails. They took me to water-prison twice, both times for 3 days.
6. I was returned to the normal prison where there were 3-4 Uyghur and 2 Han prisoners in my cell. Every 2 weeks, prison guards would come to my cell and beat the Uyghur prisoner. My Uyghur cellmate, called Obulkasim, had a piece of metal underneath his shoe which he sharpened using the bricks in the cell. Obulkasim wanted to stab the prison guards with this. He tried to do this but failed. As a result, he was shot so many times in front of us that his flesh was all over the cell. I was forced using 2 trash bags to pick up his flesh after this.
7. I was then sent to solitary confinement for 1 year, 80 cm width, 80 cm length, located at Urumqi Number 1 Prison.

8. After 1 year, I was transferred to Urumqi Number 3 Prison. Here, they tortured me with water, they shaved my head, asked me to sit on a chair and tied my whole body on the chair. They fastened my head in position, and then they dropped water from a distance of two meters above my head. After a few drops of water, the water hit my head as hard as fists. It lasted 3 to 4 hours at a time. I fainted several times during the process. My feet were also beaten and broken during an interrogation. One Uyghur and three Chinese police tortured me.
9. One time, they put an electric wire inside my penis, when they press a button, the wire turns upside down and ripped me inside. When they removed it, they removed some of my flesh. For 5-6 months after that torture, I suffered pain when I urinated. It was unbearable.
10. One time, a policewoman pushed me down the stairs with my hands tied. She said, "political prisoners are dirty, and I need to wash my hands".
11. As they broke my feet, my family spent money to get me out of prison and into a hospital to repair my feet. After the operation, a doctor who knew my cousin Anver Tursun in the hospital helped me to escape. I hid in Sanji, China for 2 months as an outlaw. After 2 months in Sanji, I fled to Kazakhstan. My cousin Anver Tursun was sentenced to 8 years in prison and later killed in prison.
12. In 1999, after 2 months in hiding in Kazakhstan, I was caught. I was shown by Kazakh police to the Chinese authorities. This was a Friday. They said they would deliver me to China on Monday as my extradition could not be processed over the weekend. According to the Kazakh Police, China pays \$10 M to Kazakh government for my return. I began to bargain with my life with the guards and was able to bribe my way out of custody. I fled to Norway, where I claimed asylum in 2000, via Russia, Finland, and Sweden.

Use of threats against his family by Chinese authorities

13. In 2008 I was in Norway. My mother was forcibly taken to Hajj (pilgrimage), by the Chinese authorities, against her will. She travelled with several members of Chinese intelligence. Once there, she was forced to call me 3 times a day asking to come to meet her in Jeddah. I suspected this was to trap me. I kept saying I would go, but 3 days before the Hajj, I said I was not able to go. In the final call with my mother on that number, I heard someone yelling at my mom in the background before the call ended and was not able to call her on that number again. I then confirmed this was a trap. My mother was able to call me from a Uyghur restaurant after she completed the Hajj and I arranged for her to meet a friend from Norway. They met, but there were about 20 Chinese secret agents around them taking pictures. They questioned her extensively after this meeting. My mother returned to China and died in 2015.
14. I used to be able to talk with my brother and sister frequently sometimes up to twice a day with my sister. In February 2016, Chinese authorities issued a passport to my sister and brother and forced them to meet me in Turkey. In April 2016, my brother and sister and I met in Turkey. We spent 9 days talking.

After they left, I called twice to my brother, but my brother said please don't call me. My brother sent a message to my daughter's WeChat, telling her to tell me that I should not contact my brother. I could not contact him since July 2016.

15. In January 2017, I got a call without a number displayed. I was told on the phone that I would meet my brother and sister. Then they hung up right away. Right after the phone hung up, I got a video call on WeChat. When I opened the WeChat video call my brother and sister were hanging. The police on the video call gave me four conditions.
- a. Condition 1: Don't buy a mosque in Norway.
 - b. Condition 2: Do not go anywhere close to (do not hang out with) the Uyghur diaspora.
 - c. Condition 3: You are not going to send any monetary help to any organisations in Turkey.
 - d. Condition 4: You are going to take a picture with police and send it to us.

Only then will we release your brother and sister. My brother and sister were screaming. It was so sudden that I didn't think of taping it. The last thing I heard was my brother and sister screaming before they hung up. I have not heard anything since then.

16. My brother's name is Mohammedeli Rozi (62 years old-he was a tailor and, later, a businessman). Everyone in his family has disappeared (total eight people). My sister's name is Risalet Rozi (54 years old –previously businesswoman). My sister has disappeared too. My other brother Ehmetjan Rozi has a mental disorder –he also disappeared. My other brother Osmanjan Rozi (previously businessman) has also disappeared. My other brother Yasinjan Rozi had 4 children. He had to hide his twins for two years. After revealing the kids, he had to pay a 50,000 RMB fine. Shortly after this, his entire family disappeared. My brother-in-law Album Kasim is in prison in Sanji for 15 years for receiving money from me. My cousin Abliz Abdullah, who studied in a Islamic Institute, was sentenced to 7 years in prison, and Abliz Adullah's brother was sentenced to 4 years in prison. My cousin Muhammed Ghopur was sentenced to 15 years in prison for memorizing the Quran. I have heard all these news through a person in Kazakhstan, who I have paid to give me information. This person has a Kazakhstani passport and went to the town where my family lived and asked around and found out this information for me. I also learned from this person that my family home had been demolished and made into a park. The address of my house, the address of the demolished house is, Tohsi county, Tohsi Bazaar, House Nr.30 on the People's street.

- 17. All information I have provided in this testimony is true.**