



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

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| Witness Name: Patigul Talip | | |
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*Please note that all recordings of the Uyghur Tribunal hearings can be found on You Tube: [Uyghur Tribunal - YouTube](#)

Witness Statement

Patigul Talip

1. My name is Patigul Talip and I was born in 1967 in Kucha, East Turkestan. I got married with Muhemmetimin in 1989. I have five children. The two eldest: my son Salahaddin born in 1990; and my daughter Rukiye, born in 1992 were born in East Turkestan. They had to stay behind when we left China. My husband left in 1994 and I left in 1996. After we left, it was Muhemmetimin's mother, Maryemhan Abdowali, who took care of the kids. Then, my daughter Raziya was born in 1999 in Turkey; and my son Uygur was born in 2001 in Turkey as well. Finally, my youngest child Ahmed was born in 2007 in Sweden. My husband and I went to live in Turkey in 1996. We did not have a valid status there however, so we ultimately applied for asylum in Sweden and moved there in 2004.
2. The reason for us leaving China was that my husband, Muhemmetimin, and his elder brother Kerem taught the Arabic alphabet and the Quran. They were also known to the authorities as they were trying to raise awareness on the fate of Uyghurs, for instance with regards to forced abortions. In 1991, considered an agitator by the authorities, he was sentenced to prison. He was later temporarily released for medical reasons following his torture in detention. He had to go back when his health improved. In 1992 he was brought back to prison. That was around the time of the birth of our first child. I was told he could be found in Urumqi, so I went, and I managed to visit him there. He was barely recognisable because of how badly he was treated (we could not recognise him, but he recognised us and came to us). He remained in jail for two years after that. Then we decided to leave the country, he escaped China in 1994.
3. Today he cannot really speak on this because of the trauma he endured, it affected his memory too. During his imprisonment, Muhemmetimin was taken to forced labour and had to spend sixteen hours a day doing hard physical work. He has frequently faced hunger and was beaten by the police for no reason. He had to carry heavy stones and break these stones into pieces, and when he could not lift stones anymore, he would be clubbed by the guards. In the evening, he had to face interrogations for reasons like "not working hard" or "not admitting guilt." During interrogation, they would take off his nails with pliers and use the pliers to pinch his leg tendons. They would also hit him on the head, so much that he was bleeding from his head several times, and these injuries ultimately caused memory loss.
4. Because of my husband's status of "political criminal" we had to use other people's passports to travel out of China. However, at this point, it was not possible to do the same for my two children. I tried a lot of things to bring them out of the country, like applying to the "family gathering scheme" in Sweden in 2005, so that they may be allowed to join us. The two of them were issued

passports following this application, they even came to Beijing airport and got to the plane, but then they were called out of the plane before it took off. The authorities must have figured that they were going to reunite with us, and they cut their passports. They basically have to ask permission to authorities to travel.

5. Whenever my daughter Rukiye, who remained in China, would contact us, the authorities would pressure her to tell us that we needed to come back. Since they were not able to bring us back from Sweden through our daughter, they arrested her. She was sentenced to three to five years in prison. She has two kids, my grandchildren, and one of them was one year old when she was sentenced. Then, all our family members were forbidden to get in touch with us, under penalty of imprisonment. The last time we were able to talk to anyone in our family was in 2015. We have had no news since then. In particular, I have had no contact with my eldest son Salahaddin since 2014. I do not know if they have killed or imprisoned him.
6. Many of my relatives were imprisoned. The reason for all these imprisonments is that they had contacts with us, who were also close to Kerem Abdulwali, my husband's brother who was a target for the authorities.
 - a. We learnt that Kerem himself had died in prison sometime in 2014 or 2015. He was detained since 1991 and every three years or so he would go to court and the authorities would offer to release him if he stopped talking about Uyghur freedom, which he would always refuse. He had become very weak because of years of deprivation. We were told this by people who used to be his cellmates in prison.
 - b. In 2014, authorities imprisoned two of my husband's younger brothers, Abdurahman and Ibrahim Abduwali. Abdurahman was sentenced to 15 years in prison, Ibrahim was sentenced to 17 years. Ibrahim's wife was also sentenced to 10 years.
 - c. The same year, they also imprisoned two of my younger brothers, Satta and Imam Micit.
 - d. I also know my sister Aigul Abduhilal(born in 1982) and her husband Abduhilal Hassanare detained.
 - e. Many more people were put in detention: my cousin's son Memet Nurla; one of my brothers-in-law Mehmud Mulavut; one of my nephews Ali Rozi; and another of my brothers-in-law, Abdulkhelil Husen, who is also my husband's nephew, etc.
7. I got a lot of this information through my mother, directly on the phone, in 2015. She explained everything to me. She asked me not to blame my relatives for cutting contact: anyone who reaches out to foreigners or people living abroad will see their family suffer. She is seventy-seven years old, and she said she is going to die anyway so she wanted the information to get out. I also got some of this information from someone I met in 2016, in Turkey, as I travelled there for leisure. This person was from Kucha as well, and he told us that all the family had been forced to move to a camp in Kurla.
8. Since all this happened, I have had psychological issues. I have been taking medication for depression, and it has become difficult for me to concentrate and

remember things chronologically. It is very hard for me, all my relatives' troubles happened because they contacted us. My children in China were pressured by authorities to make us come back, and they failed to do so, so now they are considered disloyal and are being punished.

- 465 **4 June 2021 (3:43:10 – 4:12:00)**
- 466 **Patigul Talip – UTFW-018**
- 467
- 468 *Counsel – You stated that your husband was imprisoned 30 years ago for teaching*
- 469 *Arabic, the Quran and raising awareness about Uyghur issues. Could you clarify whether*
- 470 *there were other reasons for his arrest?*
- 471 PT – No, there was no other reason.
- 472 *Counsel – You said your daughter was arrested for failing to persuade you to return to*
- 473 *China? Could you clarify whether this was the sole reason for her detention?*
- 474 PT – There was no other reason. Each time she would call us she would ask that we
- 475 come back. As we did not return, she was arrested.
- 476 *Counsel – How do you know she was arrested?*
- 477 PT – My mother, who is 80 years old, told me on the phone. She knew she would be
- 478 arrested for it, but she still told me about my daughter.
- 479 *Panel – Was 1996 the last time you were in China?*
- 480 PT – Yes.
- 481 *Panel – How old were your children in 1996?*
- 482 PT – My son was born in December 1990 and my daughter in March 1992. So, my son
- 483 was probably about eight years old and my daughter about three years old.
- 484 *Panel – And that was the last time you saw them?*
- 485 PT – I arrived in Sweden in 2004. The last time was through a computer in 2005.
- 486 *Panel – Who was looking after your children after this?*
- 487 PT – My mother-in-law was looking after my children after we left.
- 488 *Panel – What did you do to try to have them leave the country?*

489 PT – I tried everything possible, but I was unsuccessful. The last time they tried to board
490 a plane to Sweden, they were taken off the plane.

491 *Panel – Who took them off the plane?*

492 PT – The Chinese police at the airport.

493 *Panel – So, they had permission to leave the country, but they were stop from boarding*
494 *the plane to Sweden?*

495 PT – Yes, the passport was issued from Sweden, but sadly they were unable to leave.

496 *Panel – Your Mother-in-law was still looking after them?*

497 PT – Yes.

498 *Panel – What did they say regarding your children leaving the country?*

499 PT – They considered us to be a political family, and the condition was that one of us
500 should return, and only then they could leave.

501 *Panel – What did you fear if you returned to China?*

502 PT – My family discouraged me. My family told me that the police was visiting every
503 month, asking if I wrote to them. Actually, I am illiterate, but because of this pressure my
504 family told me not to return. They said if I returned I would be arrested and there would
505 be severe consequences.

506 *Panel – Do you know if they have been detained in the last three years?*

507 PT – My and my husband's relatives have been detained. This is my daughter. She was
508 arrested while she was pregnant.

509 *Panel – These images were sent to you?*

510 PT – Yes, by my mother via the WeChat app on the phone.

511 *Panel – When your daughter was detained, what happened to her children?*

512 PT – I have no idea. I have no information since my daughter was arrested. I was cut-off
513 from everyone. I don't know if my son and daughter are alive or dead.

514 *Panel – It was 2015 the last time you spoke to your mother?*

515 PT – That is right.

516 *Panel – You stated that your husband was tortured, can you talk about what exactly*
517 *happened to him while he was detained and what are the effects of those treatments he*
518 *received?*

519 PT – My husband is diabetic. Apart from that his general physical health is okay, but his
520 mental health is not.

521 *Panel – Did this start directly after his detention? Or could it be something else, like his*
522 *aging?*

523 PT – Not his aging. When he was detained, he was constantly beaten on the head. This
524 had consequences. I often need to remind him of things as he is very forgetful.

525 *Panel – You said that you yourself have had some psychological issues and take*
526 *medication, could you talk a bit more about that?*

527 PT – I am in poor health. I have a document from the Swedish government that says that
528 I have 50% disability so I cannot work. I have to take antidepressants and medication to
529 sleep.

530 *Panel – Since when have you been taking medication?*

531 PT – Since they forcibly took my daughter out of the plane. My condition deteriorated
532 since I learned my daughter was arrested. Only mothers who have children can
533 understand the pain that a mother would suffer in these conditions

534 *Panel – So, you are not in contact with any relative in China, and as far as you know they*
535 *may be detained, correct?*

536 PT – Yes, correct. None of them are outside.

537 *Panel – That is strictly because they are associated to you, correct?*

538 PT – Yes, correct.

539 *Panel – How many have been detained since 2014?*

540 PT – I believe, approximately, over 60 persons of all ages.

541 *Panel – Including your mother-in-law?*

542 PT – My mother-in-law died of natural causes. The other members of my family, I have
543 no idea if they are alive or not.

544 *Panel – Do you know about you children’s education after you left? Did they learn*
545 *Mandarin? Did they go to a boarding school?*

546 PT – As far as I know they went to school, but I don’t know if they went to a Uyghur or a
547 Chinese school.

548 *Panel – How did you manage to leave the country with all this surveillance?*

549 PT – My husband left the country illegally. Me as well, I paid money for someone else’s
550 passport and used that.

551 *Panel – First, are you being harassed by Chinese authorities in Sweden? Secondly, are*
552 *you able to practise your culture, and are you teaching your children to speak Uyghur?*

553 PT – They couldn’t locate me because my name now, in Sweden, is different. My husband
554 was harassed, and only after he changed his telephone number did the harassment stop.
555 And for the second question: yes.

556 *Panel – Do you now have Swedish citizenship?*

557 PT – Yes, I hold a Swedish passport.

558 *Panel – Has the Swedish state done anything to help you? Maybe through their embassy*
559 *in China, to help you locate your relatives?*

560 PT – We have not approached them because we know that the Chinese authorities will
561 not cooperate with them.

562 *Panel – Do you want to add anything?*

563 PT – I just would like to thank you for listening to my sorrow.

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