



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

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

Gulbahar Haitiwaji (or Mahmuthan)

Full statement

1. I was born in Ili on December 24, 1966. After successfully completing my compulsory education (primary and junior high school), I was admitted to the Urumqi Petroleum Institute in 1984. After my college graduation, I started working in Karamay in 1988.
2. In mid-November 2016, a colleague from my workplace named Shohret in my country communicated with me on WeChat and informed me to return to my country to apply for retirement before December 2nd of that year. I had been in France for almost 10 years, and I had never participated in any anti-Chinese demonstrations or political activities and had not experienced any harassment from the domestic police during my many trips (4 Times) back to China, so I decided to return in person and arrived at Urumqi airport on 25 November 2016.
3. On 30 November 2016, I went to the office to work on the retirement formalities. 15 minutes after I came to office, the police officers from the local police station came to the office and asked me to follow them to the police station to answer some questions. At the police station they asked me to put all my personal belongings including all my jewelry in a locker and then in the interview room (a normal room) they asked me to answer all the information about my 10 years in France, including my daughter's school and my husband's job. After I answered all the questions truthfully, I asked them, "Now that it's over, can I go back?" Their answer was, "It's just beginning." Then I was asked to go to another room and answer all the questions again there. They also made notes about it in the computer. Finally, I was asked to sign. When I finished signing, they showed me a picture of my daughter holding our East Turkestan flag at an anti-China protest in France and asked me if I knew anything about it. At that time, I was really worried because according to Chinese law, it was against the law. I explained at the time, "This is a photo of my daughter participating in a protest in France without my knowledge during my return to China in 2009. When I went back, I saw this photo and strictly criticized my daughter and asked her not to participate in any demonstrations or activities ever again. She hasn't participated in any events anymore." They took notes on that, too. After I answered all of their questions, I asked them: is it over now? I'm I allowed to leave? Their response was: this had just started. Then, they took me to another room and repeated all those questions again. They made a note on the computer and forced me to sign on the document after all questions. I signed. I was brought into the police station around 9 a.m. and was released around 5:30 p.m. They confiscated my passport and then asked me to fill out the address and contact information of where I wanted to stay while visiting my family.

4. I only knew one of the three police officers who were holding me at that time, Yarmamat, who was responsible officer from Kuenlun Police Station for keeping in touch with me, for example, if I wanted to go to another city, I needed to inform him in advance, and I could not go to another city without his permission. One day he called me and told me that they were returning my passport to me. I was very happy to come to the police station on 29th of January 2017. After waiting for about two hours, three Uyghur police officers came, a woman named Subinur and one police officer named Osmanjan and another one police officer, his name I could not remember, and they took my pictures and recorded my fingerprints. Then I was taken to a hospital, where they did basic medical tests, such as a medical test, a urine test, blood test, recorded my voice and so forth. Finally, I was arrested back at the detention center where they forced me to sign a document. I found out that the document was a document accusing me of disturbing the social order and trying to agitate people to divide the country's territory. At first, I declined to sign it, but finally, after being forced to sign it, I realized that I had to sign it or else I would not be able to escape from the situation. Finally, I decided to sign.
5. After signing, I was taken to a room to change into my prison uniform, and I was photographed (frontal and profile), weighed and measured for height. Then I was handcuffed and shackled, and finally I was taken to my cell. There were 9 people living in the cell, and by the end of that month there were more than 30 people in the cell. The next morning after breakfast (thin rice and a piece of steamed bread), it was maybe 9.30 in the morning, a black bag was put on my head and my hands were handcuffed behind my back and taken to the so-called "interrogation room." They asked me all the same questions about my time in France that they had already asked me at the police station, and the questioning continued all day. During the interview they asked me if my husband had sought political asylum in France, and I answered truthfully, "Yes". So, I did not hide the truth (my husband's situation) and answered all the questions truthfully. After that, I spent 4 months in the detention center, where the conditions were very bad, the blankets they gave us were awful, the food conditions were very bad, we had porridge and steamed bread every day, and we were shackled every day. We were forced to take turns on duty every day. The weather in Karamay was very cold, sometimes even reaching minus 28-30 degrees, so we often caught cold while on duty, and we were forced to memorize the rules and regulations of the detention center, and in general the environment was very harsh. On April 20th of 2017, I was placed in another room. On a Monday, the 5th of June 2017, I was assigned along with about 40 people to a concentration camp located in Jayran Bulak. I could not find the camp on the map when I got back, but it was located in the middle of the local district prosecutor's office and the district court.
6. There was a changing room at the entrance of the camp, and we changed from our detention center uniforms to our own clothes when we left the detention center, and then changed from our own clothes to camp uniforms at the police station. After we changed our clothes, we were assigned to the dormitory (cells), which they called a re-education camp, but in fact it was no different from a

prison. At first, we did two weeks of military training, and the age of us ranged from 17 years, the youngest to almost 70 years old, the oldest. Older cellmates often collapsed because they could not handle the training.

7. The windows of the cells were sealed from the inside with iron and steel, we could see the outside only through tiny round holes made on the steel board. Every day we were forced to repeat various songs that praise the communist party and cell rules, and there were lessons in Chinese, politics and history. There were written and verbal exams every Friday. At first, we were scared when our cellmates fainted or got sick and were pulled away by the ambulance, but as time goes by and we were getting more and more accustomed every day, we got used to it.
8. At first in the camp, we could chat with our cellmates in other cells, but after the Chinese Communist Party's 19th meeting was held in October or November, the system in the camp became stricter and stricter, and even in the end, we couldn't chat with our cellmates, and even going to the toilet during class breaks was supervised, so we had to take turns to go to the toilet in each group. Once a month we had the opportunity to contact our local families or relatives by phone, but each time we were accompanied by the police or camp staff and they recorded all conversations in detail, and it was forbidden to communicate in Uighur but only in Chinese. Communication in other languages was also forbidden in the camps, only Chinese was allowed, and if anyone was caught, he or she would be severely punished.
9. In the camp there were teachers from different ethnic groups, I still remember many of their names (Nasin Laoxi, Haou Xaolou, Mikhray, Gheni, Hu Shi, Güzel, Rishat, Yao Penpen and others), each teacher was responsible for four or five students, they did not teach but were responsible for maintaining order, for example, I had high blood pressure, my teacher was responsible for buying me medicine from the pharmacy. It was decided by the Camp rulers that we were forced to keep a diary every day, and then every three to four days the teachers should sign the diary for approval, but of course we couldn't write about the real situation, we could only write about how good the Party and the motherland is.
10. After a year in the camp, the officials (called Gao Zhuren, Liu Dao) informed us that we would be taken to court and convicted individually. As the number of people forced to be brought to the camps increased, there was no room for so many people in the camps, as one camp could hold up to about 300 people, and we heard that two other camps had been built in the area. On 18 October 2018, after dinner, our so-called classroom teacher gave us black bags to put all our personal belongings in, then we were taken to a hall where they made us take off our clothes, then in order to prevent us taking something from there, they demanded us be naked and ordered us sit and rise many times. Then they made us wear clothes again, and finally we were taken downstairs and each police officer had a black bag. At about one or two o'clock in the night all the people were covered with black bags then we got on the bus and after about

15 minutes of driving we arrived at the new camp (the name of that place called Chi Sansi).

11. The rules and regulations of the new camp were very similar to those of the previous camp, the only characteristic was that they prepared a hall as a courtroom, and from 5 November 2018 they arranged for us to be convicted in court every day (about 3 to 4 people per day), although we were innocent.
12. Before the trial, the teacher started to give us a lecture, telling us not to be afraid, and that this is just a show trial, so that we can know what kind of sentence we will be given if the trial really starts. On 22 or 23 November 2018, they suddenly informed me that my case was going to be heard that day. They didn't inform me in advance, and those who were due to be tried that day followed the four teachers and waited outside. They took us to a big room which seems to be prepared for mock trial. It was not a real courtroom. There were a lot of police officers inside, someone was videotaping, one Chinese teacher was in charge of giving them an account of how we behaved in the camp, and another Kazakh policeman was in charge of recounting our guilt. They were not wearing formal uniforms. The police officer who described my crime said that my crime was that I sold my house in 2006 and revoked the citizenships of four people.
13. My trial was held on 22 or 23 November 2018, I recall. I was taken away together with 3 other women in a courtroom. This was not a real court either, our so-called teachers said. That was really a strange room, like a hall. In front sat the judges without real judicial clothes. Prosecutor sat next to the judges. Defense lawyers were not admitted. Defendants sat in the opposite seat of the judges together with their respective teachers. Behind us, there were witnesses. Behind me sat my sister and two people from neighborhood committee in Karamay. And in the last row sat our relatives. My younger sister came to the court.
14. At the court, one woman got 3 years imprisonment and I was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. I was charged with having surrendered ("deleted") the citizenship for my husband and my two daughters. I was also accused of selling my apartment and not showing loyalty to the motherland. And that I did nothing when my daughter took part in an anti-Chinese demonstration.
15. I had 2 minutes to defend myself. I explained that I love my homeland and have never been disloyal to it my whole life. In fact, I had not changed my own citizenship, despite living in France for more than 10 years. With respect to my husband and my daughters, they changed their nationalities because there is no dual nationality in China and my family members wanted to keep French nationality. The fact that my daughter participated in an anti-China demonstration is not my responsibility.
16. After the verdict they told me that it was an imitation of a court and if it had taken place in reality, I would have really received 7 years. Therefore, I should be glad that I ended up in a re-education camp and have a chance to learn well about

loyalty to my homeland. If I deliver good results during my training in this camp, I don't have to count on 7 years. It all depends on me. I promised that I would make an effort in my training. After the verdict I had to sign the document. I was nevertheless really terrified because of their punishment of 7 years imprisonment of me.

17. After the trial I got 15 minutes to talk with my sister, they asked me to sign on my confession paper. The people who finished the trial are not allowed to meet the ones who didn't finish yet. There was one lady who's been sentenced to 9 years because she went to Saudi Arabia. There's another one sentenced to 7 years because she visited Turkey. Another one sentenced to 10 years because she was wearing hijab and she sent money to someone in Turkey.
18. On 23 December 2018, one day before my birthday in 2018, my family, my mother from Gulja/Yining and my sister from Urumqi, was supposed to visit me. But this visit has never happened. One day before the planned visit, I was taken away. They tied my hands and feet again. Tied up and with a black hood over my head, I was driven for about 30 minutes, accompanied by 2 policemen, to another District Detention Center. When we arrived, the black hood was taken away from my head, my feet were freed from ankle cuffs. Then I could see that this is a Karamay district detention center. But it was a different one, not the one in which I was first arrested. When I entered the cell, I saw my cellmates that I had met 2 years ago. They also asked me what I was still doing here. So, we exchanged our stories with each other. I told them I hoped to be released within a few days, but day by day I started to think that my release will take a long time. During our exchange, another woman came to our cell. Her name was Arzigül. Her daughter lives in the Netherlands. The women who came next day, also had relatives living abroad. So, I understood the logic why we ended up in the detention center again.
19. After 10 days of my stay in this prison, 2 policemen came to question me. After our conversation, I found out that they know nothing about me. The interview took place in the beginning of January 2019. After that there was a silence. My days continued to pass in this cell.
20. After that on 4 March 2019, 2 other policemen or intelligence officers came. Their names were Osmanjan and Dilmurat, they were Uyghurs. After the short questioning they were gone again. The next day, another intelligence officer arrived. His name was Taskyn, he was a Kazakh. I heard very often from prisoners about his name. He said that yesterday his colleagues questioned me. But they wrote only 2 sentences about me. That's why he came today in person. He told me that in order to understand me-we have to start from the year 1985. I immediately panicked, because in 1985 there was a student protest movement in Urumqi and my husband and I, as students at the time, participated in that movement. I started my story and didn't want to tell anything about my years of study, he wanted exactly the events took place in year 1985. He threatened me verbally and hit the table. In the end I told him that I had participated in the movement. But at that time, I didn't know why, it was just cool

for everyone, that's why I was there. I did not tell him about my husband's participation. The next day, he asked me about my husband, especially he was interested in the exile organization in which my husband had worked, it was about the World Uyghur Congress and its chairman Mrs. Rebiya Kadeer. In the beginning I denied everything, then they made me repeat it during the interviews. In the end, I said everything about myself as they wanted to hear it.

21. "A legitimate institution?" they asked. I was very nervous and scared and stammered, "No, it's an illegal organisation". They asked again, "What kind of organisation is it?" I replied, "What kind of institution is it? It's an illegal organisation." At this point the police officer would put words in my mouth and they would ask: "Is this organisation trying to divide? I answered "Yes". "Are they trying to split Xinjiang from China?" Then I answered "Yes". They kept leading me to say what they needed to say and kept asking the same questions over and over again. After two days of repeating this, on the third day they said to me that I would ask you the same question again and you would answer as you had answered before. I then agreed. Since the same questions had already been repeated, I was able to give my answers without interruption. On the fourth day they said they wanted to re- interrogate again and to record the questions. On the fifth day they said that the previous recording was not clear and they wanted to repeat it. In retrospect I see that they were actually training me to give answers that had already been formulated and to be able to answer fluently. To make sure I didn't have a clear idea, they would tell me seriously before the end that I had to think about which students from Karamay I had met in 1985 and what I had said and done, and that I had to answer tomorrow. I would think about these questions and stay awake all night, so I would be scared until the next day. But they wouldn't ask anything about it, they would ask other questions, and I would be in a trance. They asked me if I had ever been to Norway. I said I had. They then asked who I had gone to see. I said I had gone on a trip with my husband and hadn't met anyone. They asked me, "Where are your classmates from Oslo?" The couple were just our classmates. I replied, "They didn't meet us, and they don't live in Oslo." They asked me where they lived, and I said I didn't know the name of the city, they lived in another city. They asked "Did they not say they were coming to meet you when you went from France to Norway?" I said "They didn't come over". I would go back to my room and I would be very nervous and scared all night because I didn't want my friends to get into trouble and I was scared and worried if they had any photos. I'd been to Malika, Parhat's wedding, so I was worried if they had photos of it as evidence, if they would be punished tomorrow, if they would bring those photos and throw them in my face and punish me. I couldn't sleep all night, I was so scared and worried. Then on 11 March 2019 no one came for me and on 12 March 2019 they came for me, although my hands have been tied and feet have been shackled already, they put a black hood on my head on that day. Instead of taking me to the interrogation room where they had interrogated me for six days straight, they took me outside. Before they started interrogating me, they had been asking me what my husband had done in the past ten years and why I had not reported it to them. I replied, "My husband works to earn money, he works to support the family, I don't know what he has done outside, and he

won't report to me what he has done. I don't know what activities he's been involved in and he never tells me about them. How can I answer you guys if I don't know anything?" At that time, I was very adamant about not saying anything, but at that time they threatened me, saying that I was not cooperating with them.

22. Because I had lost a lot of weight at that time, more than 15 kilos, and I weighed less than 50 kilos at that time. I was already skin and bones, and wherever I was hit I would hit the bones directly. It was snowing outside, and I had cloth shoes on my feet, so we walked for a long time, up the stairs, and then down some aisles before we got into a room. There were a lot of people in that room I guess, because it was very noisy, and you could hear a lot of people. I heard someone say loudly, "Take the handcuffs off her hands." Then the policeman who brought me in asked, "What about the leg irons?" And then the voice said, "What about the shackles?" Then someone opened the hood on my head a little bit so that my eyes could be exposed. I looked over my head a little bit and saw Taskyn, and I just looked at him and then I looked down. Then I saw the secretary of the police station in Karamay. He said, "After the interrogation over the past few days, you have cooperated positively and sincerely, and you have confessed your faults very well, now we need to do a video recording with you in connection with the interrogation over the past few days. I agreed.

23. A few other policemen then took me to a bathroom, which was actually prepared with hair dye, cosmetics and other things. One of the barbers dyed my hair and then they told me to do my own make-up and I did it all. After that they took me to another room where there were two cameramen and they gave me instructions on what I should say to the camera, in the middle of which Taskyn, the police officer, gave me instructions on what I needed to say, including introducing myself. At the beginning of the video, I introduced myself as being born in Ghulja in 1966, having been employed in Karamay in 1988 and never having been involved in any political activities, and explained that our life prospered thanks to good government policies, including the good benefits in Karamay, followed by my husband's departure from the country and the serious mistakes my husband had made in going astray. Even my daughter acted wrongly because of my husband's bad influence, and all because of Rebiya Kadeer's misguidance. They asked me to denounce Rebiya Kadeer, saying that she was a devil, that she had always been a rumour-monger, and so on, which I did.

24. I felt scared and guilty at the same time. I recorded a video about how China is doing, how fast it is developing, how happy the people are, how every time I go back to China, I find that the country is getting better and better, how proud I am to be a Chinese, how I will stand up for my country unconditionally wherever I am, and how I hope my family will choose the right path as well. Then the video recording ended. Afterwards I felt extremely sad and guilty. I couldn't sleep for many days. Afterwards they gave me good meals and told me that I couldn't go back to my cell after I dyed my hair like that, so they gave me a single-person cell and they didn't put me in leg irons. I couldn't sleep, I was

suffering inside, and I suddenly remembered a video Rebiya Kadeer had posted many years ago, where she said that the Chinese government would make the people they were imprisoning condemn her and frame her, that this was a government ploy and that she wouldn't blame the people who chose to speak out to save their lives in this state. I felt a little better thinking about it. But the mental torture and anguish never lessened. I thought it would be over after this recording, but it wasn't. They made me record the same video over and over again, maybe seven or eight times, and then one time when I was talking about condemning Rebiya Kadeer, I sighed unconsciously, which caused a lot of resentment from everyone. They were very angry and they scolded me very harshly for not agreeing with what I said or even protesting against it.

25. On 12 March 2019, they told me I could leave. I said yes. I was not excited because it was the same for me whether I was on the outside or inside. It was also a prison without a roof on the outside. In the afternoon they gave me the black hood and took me to an apartment, a nicely furnished apartment, fully furnished. As soon as I walked in the door, I smelled naan bread. I had never eaten naan bread in two years. I didn't know it was there and after about an hour I said I needed to go to the bathroom and then two female police officers took me to the bathroom, and I looked out the window and realized that this was the detention center I had been detained in first time. This detention center was above the Karamay wholesale market. After they built the new detention center, this house was idle. It was previously used for detention center's leaders as a dining room. There is one room where you can walk around, and one room is a bathroom. There were eight female police officers and three male police officers living with me, and the shifts changed 24 hours a day. They are responsible for supervising me. There was a woman named Lifengmei, who was the guardian of the female inmates in the original detention center, and she was very powerful and we were all afraid of her. The names of the three male officers were Taskyn, Ablajan, and Mardan, and in May a policeman named Israel came in the back. The female police officers were Lifengmei, Yangmeng, Wangqian, and Zhang something.

26. I was put under house arrest there. I contacted my family in France for the first time on the 18 March 2019. Before this phone call, they kept teaching me how to answer their questions, including telling them that I had rented a house by myself, that there was no one around me, and that I was free to move around, and so on.

27. Then they asked me to tell my husband and daughters to remove all information about China from Facebook and other social media. I told my family, but they didn't do as they were told, and then Secretary Luo came to me in the middle of the night and very angrily questioned me why my family hadn't removed the content in question. I immediately called again in front of him. They deleted it right then and there.

28. On 11 April 2019, they took me out for the first time and went to the mall. I bought some clothes for myself. They took pictures of me just off to the side

while I was paying. In fact there were four police officers who went out with me. I went out again on the 20 April 2019. On 2 May 2019, they took me out again. On 2 June 2019, they took me to the 2nd apartment resided in 22nd building, of Tongshun residential neighborhood in Karamay city. It was a house on the first floor, with three rooms, a living room, a dining room, all furnished. There was a male police officer in one room and two female police officers in another room, and for the first time I was in a room by myself. But this time I was relatively free. I could go out whenever I wanted, but the police would still follow me. It was a Rozi Heyt (Eid al fitr) On 4 June 2019, my mother and my sister arrived on 18th of June. The police officers moved out, and so that my mom wouldn't know they were police officers, they acted like they were community workers and would come to surveil me twice daily. My mom and sister stayed for three days and left. After my mom went back, she had a stroke due to high blood pressure and needed to be hospitalized for surgery. I called the police officer named Israel immediately after I received the news from my sister and he said he would ask for permission from his superiors and get back to me. I was approved to go to Ili to take care of my mother and he went with me. I was in the hospital taking care of my mother and he would call me every day to go out and meet him to debrief him and ask me if my family had called and if there was a recording of the call. Because I would have to keep a recording of every call. I then replied there was nothing special about it. After 15 days in the hospital, my mother was discharged on 20 July 2019.

29. About a week later, Israil telephoned me and asked me to go out and meet with him alone. I did not know that there were other police officers. I saw the police officers Taskyn, Ablajan and Lifengmei, and I was very nervous and didn't know why they were there. They asked me to write a confession of guilt. They explained to me what I needed to write. I wrote and signed it. The date written on it was March (although actually it was July). On 30 July 2019, they asked me if I wanted to go back to Karamay before they left, and I stayed at the Mingzhu Hotel (明珠大酒店) . Then I went to get my passport photo taken. I was hopeful, but I was also very afraid that they would change their mind. They told me that there would be a court decision in August.

30. On the 30th July 2019, I submitted my passport application. On the afternoon of 2 August 2019, Taskyn asked me to meet with him and we went to the courtroom, where there was a judge, a recorder, a video shooter, two police officers, and then I came in. They started reading the not guilty verdict. Then they said I was free and they wouldn't follow me. When I got back to Ili, I decided to go to Altay to visit my husband's parents. I went to Altay on the 14 August 2019, and came back to Ili on the 15th August 2019, there is a 3-6-9 rule. Within three hours, you have to go to the local police station to declare. Within half an hour after I went to the police station, two police officers came to the house and asked me to fill out some forms. Within an hour after they went out, two more police officers came and told me to go see their chief. I was very angry and nervous so I called Taskin and asked him if he had said no one would bother me anymore. I went to the police station and when I entered the office the Han police officer was very bad and harsh to me, he said I didn't report myself

immediately after coming to Altay, I said I reported myself within three hours but he insisted that I didn't report myself to the police station immediately after arriving in Altay. He threatened to keep me in the Altay camp for two years. He shouted at me that he didn't want me to underestimate him and that he had the right to keep me in the camp. I was so scared and angry. I thought I was going to spend time in another camp. Then the policeman went out and another Kazakh policeman explained to me that I should not misunderstand and sent me back. I went back the next day and Taskin called me again and asked me to go to Karamay to cooperate with the investigation.

31. After I went back again, on the 18th August 2019, they called me and demanded that I come back to Karamay. I asked them if my passport was out and they told me to say goodbye to my family and then come straight over. So I went over and before I got my passport, Secretary Luo called me to meet and encouraged me to say more good things about them and asked if I would be willing to give them information about people in Uyghur overseas. I said I couldn't give you a 100 percent guarantee right now, but I would report back to you if there was anything that jeopardized national security. We reached an agreement and I got my passport. They told me not to break the connection. That night I went to my sister's house and the next day I went to buy a ticket, but there was no place that sold international tickets. I finally got back to France on the 21st of August 2019.
32. There are some other things I witnessed in the detention camps and wish to speak about. The sanitary conditions inside are very poor, they stipulate that we can only take a shower once a week, but since it is stipulated that people in this room go to the shower today and people in that room tomorrow, but those teachers won't have time to take us to the shower on time, often we have ten days or even more than twenty days when we take a shower. We couldn't go to the bathroom anytime either. All the washing time was less than ten minutes. There were only five cubicles in the toilet. We had to wait in line and have to wait in line for the teacher to take us to the toilet and then to wash up. Fortunately, our camp had more toilet breaks than the other camps. We were allowed to go to the bathroom five times. Once in the morning, once after lunch, once during recess, once after lunch break, and once before bedtime. But the toilets would not be open for us at all times. Sometimes a good policeman would open it for us and sometimes we had to hold it for ourselves. Someone in the room next to us wanted to go to the bathroom, and then the policeman didn't agree to open the bathroom for her, so she defecated on herself.
33. The food in the camp is very poor, no meat, no oil, only vegetable soup, just some vegetables boiled in water. There is also "polo," but what they call polo is just rice and two slices of carrot.
34. When I was in the detention center, they handcuffed my hands and feet to the bed from April 1st to April 20th. I asked why and they said this was an order from above. Usually, they made us squat with our heads in our hands. On that day there were twelve of us, four of us were political prisoners and the others

were criminal prisoners. They handcuffed all of us to the bed with chains. This was the punishment I received while I was in the detention center. I don't know for what reason. There were twenty women in some cells, and then all of them were wearing yellow vests, and all but two or three of them were handcuffed. Because it was necessary for someone to serve food. We were chained to the bed on April 1st and chained until April 20th. I was unchained only when I had to be moved to another room, but I was still shackled. And there were some other women who were chained to their bed longer than me and I think some were chained for 2 months. We were not allowed to speak the Uyghur language to communicate. We had to obey everything they said. One time the policeman asked us what color this wall was and we said it was white, he got angry and then said no, this wall is black, you have to remember, this wall is white when I say it is white, black when I say it is black. The next time he asks we will say this wall is black. We will be punished if we communicate in Uyghur language, a whole room of people will be punished. They would punish us for a whole week for crawling and cleaning all the hallways and aisles, as well as the toilet restrooms. We would have had no dignity at all. We were not allowed to have any inclination for religious activities at all. We were not allowed to wash our faces with our hands, and we were watched by a police officer every time we washed our faces. Nor could we cover our faces with our hands. Because that action was considered by them as the action of prayer. We could not close our eyes either. It would also be considered as praying. We will be severely punished.

35. On another occasion, there was a woman named Nurgul who came in the camp with an operation on her stomach and a stitch wound, and she started to pick at that wound herself, using hidden pieces of glass and wire to pick at it, thinking that once the wound became inflamed, she would be released. However, the pieces of glass and wire she had hidden were discovered, and because the toilet also had a camera, she was punished before us and taken to the detention center in handcuffs and shackles for further punishment. We could not ask questions or refuse to obey, nor could we question them, but we would be punished. We would sit on that tiger chair for 24 hours, 48 hours, or even 72 hours. These are the punishments they give us. There are cameras everywhere in the detention center, even in the toilets and bathrooms. There were also cameras everywhere in the camp, even in the toilets and bathrooms. Everything I said is my personal experience, and I guarantee the truth of all the statements.

4813 **6 June 2021 (05:36:00 – 06:27:05)**

4814 **Gulbahar Haitiwaji UTFW-006**

4815

4816 *Counsel – Can you explain the situation in the detention centre that you were first taken*
4817 *to?*

4818 GH – On January 29 2017 I came from Gulja to Karamay police station. Three policemen
4819 from the state security department came and they took me away and they tested my eyes,
4820 my voice, took blood from me and after they did all the checks, they took me to the
4821 hospital. After this they did a medical examination which included urine tests, heart check,
4822 blood pressure test and also, they checked my organs. They took me to Karamay city
4823 detention centre. they forced me to sign a document that confesses I committed to disrupt
4824 the social order. At the first centre I had to take off my clothes and change to the orange-

4825 coloured centre uniform. They took my pictures from the front and side, they measured my
4826 height and weight and they shackled my feet and detained me.

4827 *Counsel – Please tell us about the conditions.*

4828 GH – The total I was detained in two detention centres and two camps. The condition of
4829 the camps is very bad. There are just little holes into steel and no air coming through the
4830 camps. Everywhere there is a camera. Every move is monitored by the camera. In the
4831 camp speaking in Uyghur language is prohibited as well as any religious gesture is
4832 prohibited. The light is on 24/7 and every night we had to take turn to guard and sleep.
4833 Every day we studied for 11 hours including history, Chinese language and Chinese law.
4834 Also, we learned about educational things against religious extremism and the rules and
4835 policies of the camp. We also sang red songs. Everything we had to learn has to be
4836 memorised as every Friday we sat for an exam. From October 2017 we started to write a
4837 diary but every three/four days the teacher would take them and check the content.

4838 This is the condition of the concentration camp. The condition of the detention camps are
4839 different. We used to wear less clothes and it was colder. We were taking outside in few
4840 clothes, and the temperature was –28 degrees.

4841 *Counsel – You said it was very cold in Karamay which prohibited you doing your duty,
4842 what duty was that?*

4843 GH – It is very cold still there, there is a room where they would take us once a day
4844 sometimes twice in a room for having air, which was very cold. When we came back to
4845 our cells, they made them colder by putting on the air-conditioning. Every night we took
4846 turns to watch and do this duty at night.

4847 *Counsel – You said you have to keep a diary; can you explain what was the content of
4848 the diary and what did you have to write in it?*

4849 GH – Initially the teachers said write whatever you feel and think. But since teachers
4850 would check it and we do not whatever we really think or feel as we are not allowed to
4851 express our feelings or views. We only have to write something praising China's

4852 communist party or unhappiness about the condition. Only appreciation of the authority
4853 and life we have been offered by the CCP.

4854 *Counsel – Do all the inmates have a diary?*

4855 GH – Yes.

4856 *Counsel – Then you had two weeks military training – can you explain the nature and*
4857 *purpose of the training?*

4858 GH – That training happened when we came to the camp the first two weeks. That training
4859 included standing up, turn left/right/back, and also stand still for half an hour. The training
4860 was undertaken / instructed by the military personnel. The purpose is absolutely obeying
4861 what we are ordered to do. It is a training of loyalty and obeying the rules. The camp
4862 detainees are from 17-70 years old. Due to age and some health conditions for some
4863 detainees the training was very harsh and some were unable to do the training, and some
4864 fainted.

4865 *Panel – In October 2018 you were moved to another camp where there was a courtroom,*
4866 *is that correct?*

4867 GH – Yes, correct there is one.

4868 *Panel – Eventually you had a hearing in which you family members participated, correct?*

4869 GH – Yes, only just my one sister from Urumqi.

4870 *Panel – You were released in March 2019 accepting all charges against you and forced*
4871 *to give an interview live on camera denouncing your family members, correct?*

4872 GH – Yes.

4873 *Panel – The Chinese government claims you lied about being forced to come back to*
4874 *China, they say you came on your own volition. And they said you lied about being*
4875 *detained. They also say you were involved in terrorist activities. Do you want to respond*
4876 *to these charges?*

4877 GH – This is not surprising; they just deny whatever I said and what is happening to my
4878 homeland. Every witness talking about what they have been through. This is not a special

4879 case that China is denying. They are accusing everyone of being a terrorist in my
4880 homeland. While I stayed in France for ten years, ending at the end of November 2016,
4881 within the 10 years I did not take part in any anti-China activities at all. On 19 August 2019
4882 when the Chinese government issued my passport, the Secretary told me the camps are
4883 correct and told me the camp operation was the correct thing to do. They asked me to
4884 inform whatever is happening here outside to the authority.

4885 *Panel – In France did you work and did you work for a French or Chinese company?*

4886 GH – It is a French one.

4887 *Panel – Do you speak French?*

4888 GH – Yes, a little bit.

4889 *Panel – When you went back on the 21 August 2019 you had been subject to three years*
4890 *of harsh imprisonment and substantial brainwashing. Did those managing you think you*
4891 *were a reliable brainwashed person who would take the message of China back to*
4892 *France?*

4893 GH – No it did not change my mind. If it did, I would have done the order that the secretary
4894 public security office told me to do. I did not follow what he told me to do. Maybe they
4895 think I am or else they would not have released me.

4896 *Panel – To your arrest in November 2016, you had in for years in France gone back and*
4897 *forth to China, do you think when they arrested you, they had a plan for you in particular?*

4898 GH – I think they have a plan because when we visited in 2012, 2014 the Chinese public
4899 security officials met with my husband. I am innocent and they know I am innocent. Simply
4900 they arrested me in order to get revenge for my husband. This is my guess; I am not sure.

4901 *Panel – Please consider two possible plans: either, from the beginning, knowing you are*
4902 *integrated into French society, may they have planned from the beginning to brainwash*
4903 *you and send you back? Or was it connected to the medical tests you had when you were*
4904 *first tested?*

4905 GH – I am unable to say much about it.

4906 *Panel – Having experienced ten years of French culture, did you with that experience*
4907 *notice changes in China over those years when you went back and forth?*

4908 GH – Yes, I did notice changes. When I went back, first I went to Urumqi, in my old home
4909 town, Karamay. When I realised the changes, there are more checkpoints, cameras
4910 everywhere, people were transferred from one place to another everywhere is monitored.
4911 The checkpoints are targeted to Uyghurs only not for the Chinese.

4912 *Panel – Did you have any fear your organs might be harvested?*

4913 GH – No I did not have that concern. When I went through the medical exam first, after I
4914 was taken to the hospital again but all this time, I never suspected whatever they are
4915 doing to Uyghurs.

4916 *Panel – What did you think was the purpose of the medical examination?*

4917 GH – Initially at the beginning the female doctor told the police that I had high blood
4918 pressure so they have to be careful.

4919 *Panel – You may know we have heard evidence of people detained medically tested, but*
4920 *we have not heard of one having voice recorded, why do you think they recorded your*
4921 *voice at that first test?*

4922 GH – My thinking is that the authorities wish to identify the communications inside the
4923 country and abroad to recognise the voice.

4924 *Panel – Why did you not change your passport to French when your husband and*
4925 *daughter had changed theirs?*

4926 GH – Because my mother and mother-in-law are elderly and I kept my Chinese passport
4927 for convenience of travel so I did not need a visa.

4928 *Panel – Could it be possible your colleague was told by the police to tell you to come back*
4929 *for retirement and what was the point of the retirement?*

4930 GH – I believe the phone call I got was purposeful, the police may have asked him or told
4931 him to ring me. As soon as I arrived within 15 minutes the police came to me. Regarding
4932 my pension, the importance is that after my daughters graduated my thinking was, I may

4933 be able to help my relatives back home in my country and maybe I would go back to my
4934 country.

4935 *Panel – Could you explain what the purpose of chaining you to a bed for nearly 3 weeks*
4936 *in 2019?*

4937 GH – It was 1 April – 20 April 2017. I was chained for 20 days. I saw people chained for
4938 more than 2 months. we were not told of a purpose; we were told it was ordered from the
4939 top.

4940 *Panel – You describe mistreatment, caught speaking Uyghur you would be severely*
4941 *punished. Do you have any idea what the purpose of the punishment and humiliation*
4942 *would be?*

4943 GH – I believe the purpose is just plan to destroy us mentally and physically. And make
4944 us absolutely obey them and follow whatever they say. The end result is genocide.

4945 *Panel – Did you see this punishment having this impact, in the sense of destroying them*
4946 *mentally and physically from the other inmates locked up with you?*

4947 GH – There is no chance of we can talk with other inmates in the camps or detention
4948 centres. Although I am unable to talk with others, the other people I was detained with in
4949 the same cell, I heard from them they will not achieve its goal of destroying us. I believe
4950 the torture and humiliation made Uyghurs stronger.