



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

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Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-010 – Khalmat Rozakhon

SUMMARY

Khalmat Rozakhon worked as a technician in various firms in Japan after graduating from Tokyo Institute of Technology in April 2015. As the situation in Xinjiang deteriorated, he decided to remain in Japan, and would only be in contact with his family by phone.

In 2020, Khalmat had a call from his brother, who looked physically diminished. He notably asked Khalmat to not protest against China, and stated that Xi Jinping was good, and so were China's policies. During this call, Khalmat was able to see security agents surrounding his brother. These agents eventually came forward and attempted to intimidate Khalmat.

After this, the witness went to the media in Japan, and in particular to a mainstream TV network. During his next call with his brother and the agents, Khalmat, guided by journalists, attempted to extract information from the agents, while they demanded information relating to the Uyghur Association in Japan, its functioning and its agenda. The conversation was recorded by Japanese media, and later publicised on Japanese TV in June 2020.

Witness statement

Khalmat Roza

1. My name is Khalmat Rozakhon. I am 47 years old; I was born on 23rd November 1973 in Chöchek city of East Turkistan. I came to Japan to pursue my postgraduate degree and I graduated my university degree in Nanjing (China). I worked in my homeland for 8 years before I enrolled in the Tokyo Institute of Technology in April 2015. I completed my postgraduate degree in March 2019 and worked as technician in various firms in Japan. Currently I operate my own business and I do business in Japan. I also have a food shop in Japan. I was planning to return home after finishing my education in Japan so I could be a useful source for my people but as the situation deteriorated, I decided not to go back. Starting from July 2018, I lost communication with my family (in East Turkistan). I had a younger brother who got cancer and we intended to bring him to Japan for treatment, but we could not obtain a passport for him. Later, we managed to obtain a passport for him with additional efforts, but his passport was seized by the authorities when he travelled to Chöchek from Aksu to visit my mother. I was planning to bring him to Japan that time. We lost communication in August 2018. My last contact with my brother was in July 2018 and he mentioned to me that he would have left 3- 4 months' time.
2. As I could not get in touch with my brother for some months, I reached to a former Chinese classmate of mine on 11th December 2018, and I was informed the death of my brother about a week prior. My brother died on 3rd December 2018, and I was even not being informed about his death. We were really devastated. A year later, US Government legislated a bill on Uyghurs on 3rd December 2019. Out of expectation, my wife was sent a phone message by my older brother stating, "I want to talk to my brother Khalmat if possible". My wife said: "older brother wants to talk to you". My father passed away years ago, we were 8 siblings with our mother. I am the 4th oldest of the children and there are another male and three female younger siblings after me. My younger brother died. It was the end of December 2019 when I spoke to my older brother (if I remember). Again, in around January 2020, we had a group call with my older brother and a younger sister where I was confirmed the death of my younger

brother. We cried. During that time, I was concerned about the safety of my other siblings and my mother, and I tried to call them but was not successful, nor did they call me. But through their emotions, I felt as if they were being watched hence, I could not say much fearing they might be harassed.

3. Second occasion, I was able to speak to my mother, my younger sister and two older brothers and they were at our house (East Turkistan) and there was no one around them. My mother was ill. Before I expressed to them (could be referencing to the Chinese officials) "I would be taking blood revenge from your idiots if anything happens to my mother", hence my mother was untouched. I saw my mother, my sisters, and brother. We all cried a bit and talked a bit. After that, my brother kept sending message to my wife's phone with "we would like talk to Khalmat Alone". I heard from other Uyghurs in Japan how they were pressured by their families demanding they should not take part in any types of protest or rallies hence thought that my brother wanted to pass me the same message and I kept not answering his call. On 9th May (2020), my older brother called my wife's phone and asked to speak to me directly. I was not at home that day and my wife spoke to him. He was wearing a black face mask, and looked pressed. My wife said, "your brother looked awful, and he was desperate, why don't you speak to him, they are calling tomorrow again". I said OK.
4. Then on 10th May 2020, Sunday. I got a call from my brother at around 6:30pm (evening prayer time). We were at our friend's house. I was passed the phone. When talking to my brother on my wife's phone, I used my own mobile phone to record the conversation as I thought it might be useful for me whenever I missed my family (the recording is available). In our conversation, my brother was unable to stand, I asked what happened? He said, "yesterday I was lifting the hand wash water...." Then I asked if he was beaten but he quickly said "no. no" and tried to change the topic. When he lifted his face mask, I noticed his neck was swollen (you can clearly see in the recording) then I desperately intended to have that conversation recorded from a close angle. In about 8- 10 minutes of our first call, my brother said "don't go to protest, the policy of Xi Jinping is good, China's policy is good (you heard what he said)"

What can one say other than “yes”. Then I conveyed my greetings to my mother and at that very moment, on a “Mother’s Day”, a horrible moment, I confronted a scene where my older brother was surrounded by the security agents (those ghosts). I asked if there was anyone else, my brother said no, and he showed me around. In about ten minute’s time, these guys could not hide themselves anymore, and appeared in the video.

5. They uttered my name in Chinese way 哈里买提 (Halimaite) and it was a feeling of fear and to be frank, I could have killed them if I could. But as my brother was in their hands, I tried calm myself and kept recording the conversation. They mentioned few things about me in the past. They mentioned my attitude to a Kazakh officer (who works under the direction of this Chinese officer) where I ignored him and deleted his contact from my WeChat account. I was asked to stay close to them as they have visited my mother. When he asked me about this incident, I said “yes”. Then he said “we want to be friend with you” but his tone contained intimidation. he said “if you maintain a decent friendship with us, we will assure the safety of your brother”. The last 30 minutes of that call made me feel like being burned in hell fire. They held my brother and demanded me to follow their instructions. They even could not name the official title of the Uyghur Association of Japan, but I had to pretend that I was following them, and I said, “ok we can talk later”. They said, “we will get in touch”.
6. After that incident for about two days, I did not know what to do, I was frustrated, and neither was able to talk to my wife nor say these to anyone else. On the one side, there is my own brother who is being intimated, on the other side is my own community in Japan. and it was really difficult for me. Later I disclosed this to my close friend and the vice president of the Uyghur Association – Brother Abdukerim. We considered to take action by saying “we cannot be intimated by China”. Furthermore, (as in the second video), we thought we had taken right steps. My older brother was ill in first video and he looked well in second video. May be because I accepted their offer. If I refused, they could have broken his leg, or his arm, or cut his ear and thrown him back. If I cooperate with them once and stopped after, they could have done the same mistreatments to my family. After careful consideration, I made a decision to

report this “Terrorists China” (at least I thought so) to the international community. If we consider the international community as the best judge, I am here only reporting the harassment that I experienced. We thought like that and acted like that. We liaised with the mainstream TV network in Japan and people who were concerned the Uyghur rights and I provided my recordings to them. They were delighted with this piece of evidence and informed me that they would be willing to take the next conversation to live streaming if I gave my consent and we agreed. The next call happened at my own home in Japan. The journalists and media people also appeared with their equipment.

7. On 6th June I got a message from my brother telling me that they would be calling me next day (7th June at 7:00pm). It would be 4:00pm local time over there. I said “Ok”. As we had a day of time, I was able to inform the journalists and two media people came and they also recorded the call. I was instructed to ask first “who are you and why should I trust you” in my conversation, journalists also advised me that “they must show their IDs”. I did ask the question and the security officer attending the call, he showed his ID card with letters of 国家安全 (*guojia anquan*, National Security), I could not take any recordings, but the media team has done so. The security officer insisted that “This ID is very confidential, cannot be disclosed to other parties” and also stated that “we are administered by state and not by local government”. Also, part of our conversation was about obtaining Japanese permanent residency and said “we are even able to help you to gain permanent residency in Japan, we have close insiders among Japanese politicians”. I was instructed to ask them “who are the politicians” but they did not respond. He might have told me, but we did not want to keep the conversation long and even did not make timing for the next call.
8. The security officer specifically asked me five questions which I recorded in writing. One was “the executive members of the association who usually join the general meetings” and I was shocked as we had not informed anyone about that meeting, but they have already learnt about that meeting on 7th June while the meeting was scheduled for 26th June. Then he wanted to know “Who the executive members of the association are?” Ilham Mahmut was the president and they even learnt that

Ilham Mahmut is being replaced. No doubt we might have discussed some topics informally, but I was shocked how they could obtain such information beforehand.

9. The Second question was “Where the meeting on 28th June would take place and who will join the meeting”? The Third question was “what is your agenda”. After they said the next question is very important and asked “How the Uyghur Association of Japan communicates with Dolkun Isa and Rebiya Kadeer? How they instruct you and how you implement”. They also asked our next annual plan. After taking notes I answered “Wait, I will answer these later” and avoided the mess. I said, “I could not answer now, will do after checking”. The Japanese media recorded the full conversation and they later used whatever useful for them but not released the full contents. That conversation conducted for more than an hour. My brother seemed to be recovered. After the conversation on 7th June, the Japanese people said that I could not continue like this, and I thought the same. We deleted the WeChat app from my wife’s phone. At least until this news is released, we did not want to be interfered by the Chinese security agents. Another last word that said I still recall that they already knew the meeting location by 9th June even if the information was confidential and only couple of Japanese members knew the details. This is the scary part. They can get any information and we fear the potential harm to our families if the video recording is publicized, we would not be able to save our brother and even could not produce any further news. We immediately deleted the WeChat app from my wife’s phone. Also, we asked other people in our circle to delete the WeChat App from their phones. The meeting was held on 28th June and the former president Ilham Mahmut was replaced with new one and new changes are being made to the association and things are going well. The video recording of my conversation with the Chinese agents were broadcasted on the Japanese TV on 24th June 2020 and spread to whole Japan and later was republished in some other medias then it led the Japanese public to make reactions no to tolerate the China’s mistreatments.
10. I have no intention to become a hero. The only way of saving my brother is to let the whole world to know the truth. There are Japanese journalists in China, and they contacted me from Shanghai advising me that they could contact my brothers and

sisters and they intended to visit my family. The visit of the Japanese journalists and the testimonies to the world could be the only reason for the safety of my family and this is what we aim for. The world is realizing the evil nature of China. Recently a Uyghur woman returned from Japan to visit her father and her body was returned to her home I trust the only way to safeguard the safety of our families in East Turkistan through letting the world know the real situation. I do not want my sisters to face the tragic fate of Uyghur women which was broadcasted by BBC.

I have read and understood this witness statement and I confirm that I agree with its contents. I understand that this statement will be published on the Uyghur Tribunal website and will be available to the general public online.

Signature:

خەلىپەت روزافون

Date:

2021.8.26

1 **10th September 2021 (1:17:15 – 2:07:00)**

2 **Helmet Rozahun**

3

4 *COUNSEL – My first question for you Mr. Rozahun is about the video with the National*
5 *Security Bureau official. Can you confirm whether the Japanese media verified the*
6 *authenticity of the official you've identified in the video or whether that video underwent*
7 *any verification process?*

8 HR – There are two videos. First, I recorded on the 10th of May. And the second one
9 was actually recorded by the media in June 7th. There is a pretty big media company
10 that recorded. During the second time we had the video call, I asked their ID, they
11 have shown their proper state police ID on the screen.

12 *[interruption]*

13 HR – Also my brother confirmed that they were state police

14 *COUNSEL – You stated that the Chinese national security agents initiated the calls*
15 *with you through your family. Are you able to tell us why you might be targeted?*

16 HR – From 2018-2019 I've lost contact with my family completely. Then on secondly
17 on the 3rd of October 2017, they contacted my wife asking to speak to me. Since 2018
18 I was one of the very active members in Japan to expose what is happening and the
19 genocidal policies. So, I became the executive member of the Japanese Uyghur
20 Association in 2019. In my opinion, the reason they targeted me was because an
21 executive member and they wanted to obtain information from me

22 *COUNSEL – You stated that after the second call with your relatives you ignored your*
23 *older brother's calls. Was that because of your political activities in Japan?*

24 HR – When I had the phone call and spoke to my brother, and I knew he was under
25 pressure. I also heard there was widespread situation among Japan that the security
26 palace and all of family members put under pressure to communicate with them and
27 provide information. And I knew the purpose of their information that's why I ignored
28 their calls.

29 *COUNSEL – Subsequent to that episode Mr. Rozahun you spoke to Japanese media
30 and your story has been covered. I guess there are two questions here: what was the
31 reason for that? And second has there been any retaliation against your family for that.*

32 HR – Well on the first video call, you can see from this photograph. [*Mr. Rozahun holds
33 up photo to the camera*] You can see that my brother's neck was swollen. When I
34 asked him, it was because of the incident with water. When I was carrying water, I had
35 an incident and hurt my back – that is what he told me.

36 [*interruption*]

37 *COUNSEL – Perhaps I could remind the witness of the question: why did you take this
38 case to the media and was there any indication retaliation?*

39 HR – As I mentioned earlier, as I spoke to my brother for the first time I could see– it
40 was visible that he was abused. Then I also caught the police with him– later I
41 caught the policemen and when he spoke to me very rude, intimidated me. initially
42 my plan was to record the audio of the conversation, however seeing my brother, the
43 state of my brother, I decided to take video which lasted about 40 minutes. After seeing
44 the state of my brother. I had a fight in my head, I've been thinking '*what can I do to
45 help my brother?*' Then, thinking about how to save and rescue my brother's life. I had
46 to make some decision: either I work for them, spying help them provide information.
47 I also know that the situation demanding from them I know could become more, it will

48 increase, also I worried for my brother. Whether they would break his leg or torture
49 him, that was extremely difficult decision for me. Then I thought: there might be
50 some kind of justice. If I can expose the suffering and what is exactly happening to my
51 brother, then the Chinese government might stop and there might be some kind of
52 justice. Well in my opinion what the Chinese government is doing is state terror against
53 me, this is like terrorist taking hostage of my brother and demand money and this is
54 exactly what is happening to me. They are taking hostage of my brother and putting
55 pressure, forcing me to do this against him and that's why I thought it's important for
56 me to expose this to the media through media.

57 *COUNSEL – Thank you, I will pass this onto the panel*

58 HR – Regarding about the retaliation, I lost contact, no information regarding my
59 family, siblings.

60 *PANEL – Thank you for joining us and good morning. Can I go back? From my
61 calculation, you've been going from Xinjiang for about 20 years now. Can you tell us
62 how easy it was to leave, to travel, to get a passport and to go to Japan, when you
63 left?*

64 HR – I left my country in 2005, it has been 16 years now. At the time the situation
65 wasn't as serious as it is now. If we pay extra money, we could get it. The purpose of
66 my visit to Japan was to study and to do a postgraduate degree.

67 *PANEL – If one looks at the period up until you went to Japan, the first of the 2 phones
68 in summer 2018. What communication did you have with your family? Was it relatively
69 easy to contact your family back home in Xinjiang up to that stage, up to the two phone
70 calls?*

71 HR – Well I had my own business, my own company. I wasn't involved in any political
72 movements so therefore my situation was better. From 2016-18 I could contact my
73 family about once or twice a month using the WeChat application.

74 *PANEL – And during this period, up until this first phone call May 2018. Had you ever*
75 *been contacted by anyone who was a state official or a Chinese communist party*
76 *official?*

77 HR – Up until August 2018 I was able to speak to my younger brother, as he had
78 cancer at the time so he was brave enough to contact me, that was the last time I
79 spoke to him, that was August 2018. And then between 2018, until December 2019, I
80 lost contact I didn't have direct contact with anyone also because of this situation I was
81 aware of the situation so with the deteriorating situation, I deleted the WeChat app
82 from my phone. I didn't have any communication from my phone.

83 *PANEL – You said from your statement, that security officials knew a fair bit about*
84 *you. Can you give us some sense about the depth of information they had about you*
85 *& your activities in Japan?*

86 HR – Well during the first video call, it didn't come across that they knew anything. But
87 during the second video, when the media recorded that conversation, I realized they
88 knew so much about the association, Uyghur Association in Japan including the
89 names of the executive members also some of the activities we carried out there. So,
90 what surprised me most is that we planned for an event on the 24th of June and that
91 was only among the 7 executive members however they knew about it. That was kind
92 of miss, in my opinion

93 *PANEL – It is clear from your situation that the authorities had a fair amount of*
94 *information on the Association. I just wanted to ask what extra did they expect from*
95 *you... because they seemed to be well informed already.*

96 HR – Well the video, when it was released, I believe it was the 24th of June and we
97 didn't inform all 7 members of the executive committee instead we only shared the
98 information amongst the 4 of us. Because we did have some suspicion and I wondered
99 because they couldn't get anymore information. They therefore expected to target me.

100 *PANEL – Because when you look at one of the transcripts of the call, that the securities*
101 *official made, to help you which I think from the transcript was one of your ambitions,*
102 *there didn't appear any pressure to return to China but rather to stay in Japan and to*
103 *help state security officials with information about the association in Japan.*

104 HR – Well I don't really know what their purpose was but I can only guess and they
105 said we know you don't have residency, permanent residency in Japan and if you
106 collaborate with us we can help you that and in addition we can help you with other
107 things to make your life easy. Most importantly we can guarantee the safety of your
108 family members

109 *PANEL – Because later on in the second call, I think your brother wants you to not*
110 *only cooperate but to contribute and to not to believe anti-Chinese stories– and to*
111 *return to Xinjiang. Do you think that for family reasons? Because that is obviously quite*
112 *different than working on a residency for you?*

113 HR – My family believe that he said all that under pressure, on the video you can see
114 that he was looking around as he was seeking an answer of what he should say next.
115 You know also hints that you know, you should understand. He used language like
116 you know it, you should understand– so all of that, you should understand. He didn't

117 speak freely, he was speaking under pressure. And if you really watch the video
118 carefully you can see there is one incident that they kind of pushed my brother very
119 rudely.

120 *PANEL – Thank you, one last question. At the end of your statement, you refer to a*
121 *Uyghur woman returning to Japan visiting her father but then her body returning home.*
122 *Could you say more about what happened in this incident?*

123 HR – The person I mentioned, the young lady, her name is *Migmay* She was studying
124 at Tokyo University in August 2019 she went home after learning her father was
125 detained. We had a really close relationship, after she went home one year later, we
126 learned she died in detention. So we contacted the Japanese media to report what
127 happened to her. Also Radio Free Asia also reported what happened to her, so RFA
128 reported she was detained in a camp where she died

129 *PANEL – You talk about the officials from the security bureau is this the same thing*
130 *as the Xinjiang security bureau or is it another branch based in Beijing?*

131 HR – As I stated in my statement, the person who spoke to me is from the state security
132 palace. They are directly operated or controlled by the central government not the local
133 or provincial government.

134 *PANEL – Do you know who is in charge of the SP, security bureau? Do you know who*
135 *is in charge of the security bureau mentioned in the report?*

136 HR – Well based on what he said [holds up photo to the camera] he said we are directly
137 controlled by the central government. And we can control any central embassy and
138 have direct communication with them.

139 *PANEL – Could you please let us know, if any of your colleagues had similar*
140 *approaches to them by Chinese authorities for information?*

141 HR – Well yes, I can give you the example; the vice president *Ahmet Liptip* he also
142 experienced a similar thing, they pressured him after holding (the police) his father as
143 a detainee. Pressurizing him to provide information. Also, there is ongoing pressure
144 against Abdul Karim who is the current president of the Japan Uyghur association,
145 they are continuing to pressurize him to stop his activities, so there are similar
146 situations

147 *PANEL – We're out of time. Thank you very much for attending the tribunal and*
148 *providing evidence which has now concluded.*

149 HR – Can I say a few words?

150 *PANEL – Go ahead.*

151 HR – I was just like to say that through giving evidence, I would like the world to learn
152 what is, I want more pressure to the Chinese government and to relieve my people of
153 the atrocity they are facing.