



AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

Witness Name: David Tran (Quoc-Hung Tran)		
Witness category:	fact <input type="checkbox"/>	expert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of testimony: 5 June 2021		
Link to recording*: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWCwLvUIV0g&amp;t=8s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWCwLvUIV0g&amp;t=8s</a>		
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Presentation included:	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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



- I, Dr. David Tran, MD will say as follows.

I am a practicing child and adolescent psychiatrist in the US for the last 25 years. I am a recipient of the American Medical Association Leadership Award and several AMA's Physician Recognition Awards. I was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and am currently the Medical Director of a medical group practice.

I am the founding member and Vice President of Vietnam Democracy Center (VDC), a non-profit research and educational organization with a focus on constitutional framework for a free and democratic Vietnam. VDC has published "A Model Constitution for A Democratic Vietnam" and has promoted this constitutional model to millions of Vietnamese.

1. Preliminaries. The facts set out in this statement are within my own knowledge save where I state otherwise. Where I refer to facts that are not within my own knowledge, I will give the source of my knowledge of those facts.
2. Facts:
  - 1) An overland trek into Southeast Asian countries has been an increasingly common route of escape for Uyghurs fleeing forced labor, organ harvesting and internment camps.<sup>1</sup>
  - 2) Between 2011 and 2015, Sean Roberts, Director and Associate Professor of the International Development Studies Program at George Washington University, estimates that around 15,000 Uyghurs fled Xinjiang to Turkey via Southeast Asia.<sup>2</sup>
  - 3) Chinese reports also suggest that Southeast Asia is the preferred passage out of the country. Vietnam is one of the chosen routes as Chinese nationals do not need a passport to cross the border, just a travel permit - which is easy to obtain. Just for a period of eight months from May 2014 to January 2015, statistics from China's Ministry of Public Security reveal that Chinese border authorities in their campaign against the so-called *jihadi immigration* "have busted 262 human smuggling cases, seizing 352 suspects who allegedly organized such activities and 852 suspects who attempted to cross the border illegally."<sup>3</sup>
  - 4) There is no evidence that this has slowed down. In 2015, the New York Times reported the Chinese police shot and killed two members of the Uyghur ethnic minority trying to flee into Vietnam and "had arrested hundreds of people since last year in an effort to staunch illegal immigration into Southeast Asia."<sup>4</sup>
  - 5) In the last three days of 2020, official Vietnamese news reported 343 illegal immigrants, mostly from China.<sup>5</sup>
  - 6) Desperate to leave China, Uyghurs paid more than 100,000 yuan each (\$15,000) to human smugglers and made their way across the border<sup>6</sup> where they would unknowingly meet a hostile welcome.
  - 7) In 2014, one group of 16 Uyghurs allegedly escaped detention by the Vietnamese border guards and barricaded themselves in a building on the Vietnam's side of the border. Chinese police officers and Vietnamese border guards surrounded the building and killed all the Uyghur men.<sup>7</sup>

- 8) Another report said that some or all of those who killed themselves did so by leaping from the multistory building. Photos on Vietnam's social media showed bodies apparently male being stacked on several carts.



- 9) Other pictures showed old women and young children being returned to China as Uyghur “extremists and terrorists”.



- 10) On the same day, Vietnamese authorities arrested another 21 Uyghurs from China after being alerted by their Chinese counterparts that the group was trying to enter Vietnam by sea.<sup>8</sup>
- 11) Vietnamese press, quick to cover the shoot-out in Bac Phong Sinh, swiftly removed references to Xinjiang in their reports. Photos of four women in the group, all wearing headscarves and distinctive Uyghur clothing, were deleted from official media websites.<sup>9</sup>
- 12) According to their families, many of these Uyghurs who were detained by the Vietnam’s authorities or returned to China have disappeared while in custody.<sup>9,10</sup>

- 13) The unusual fast transfer of bodies and people to the Chinese side without any investigation even after they allegedly killed Vietnamese border guards suggested that Vietnam and China had reached a deal on how to handle the Uyghurs, in contravention of international laws. Carlyle Thayer, a veteran Vietnam watcher in Canberra, Australia, said: "Vietnam appears to be under pressure from China to detain and repatriate Uyghur asylum seekers who attempt to enter Vietnam as a gateway to resettlement overseas, in Turkey for example." Despite this significant flow of Uyghur refugees, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has operated an office in Hanoi for decades but so far it has not received any Uyghur refugee applications.<sup>9</sup>
- 14) The repatriation of Uyghurs in Vietnam also happens in other countries (Thailand,<sup>11</sup> Malaysia,<sup>12</sup> Kyrgyzstan,<sup>13,18</sup> Uzbekistan,<sup>19</sup> Pakistan,<sup>13</sup> Cambodia,<sup>13</sup> Laos,<sup>13</sup> Indonesia,<sup>14</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>15</sup> the United Arab Emirates,<sup>15</sup> Egypt,<sup>16</sup> and Turkey<sup>17</sup>).
3. The information I have provided in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

March 31, 2021

Date



Witness Signature

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3172 **5 June 2021 (07:21:40 – 08:03:35)**

3173 **David Tran (Quoc-Hung Tran)**

3174

3175 DT (QHT) – I’ll give a brief summary...this journey has been increasingly common for  
3176 Uyghurs to escape from Xinjiang. Between 2011 and 2015, around 15,000 Uyghurs tried  
3177 to escape via Southeast Asia.

3178 Chinese reports also suggested that Southeast Asia is the preferred route out of the  
3179 country. Vietnam is one of the chosen routes, as Chinese nationals do not need a  
3180 passport to cross the border – just a travel permit, which is easy to obtain.

3181 Just for a period of eight months, from May 2014 to January 2015, statistics from China’s  
3182 Ministry of Public Security revealed that Chinese border authorities, in their campaign  
3183 against so-called ‘jihadi immigration’, “busted 262 human smuggling cases, seized 352  
3184 suspects who allegedly organized such activities, and 852 suspects who attempted to  
3185 cross the border illegally”.

3186 [...]

3187 On 18 April 2014, Vietnamese border guards and police, acting on a tip from the Chinese,  
3188 intercepted and killed five Uyghur males. This happened at the border between Vietnam  
3189 and China. If the pictures would come up – you can see...at the middle circle – this is  
3190 where it happened. This is the border map between Vietnam and China – Vietnam is in

3191 the bottom of the picture, China is on the top. At this border gate was where the  
3192 interception and killing happened. The rest of the group of 16, which included four women  
3193 and two children, were handed over to the Chinese authorities within hours. On the same  
3194 day, Vietnamese authorities arrested another 21 Uyghurs from China after being alerted,  
3195 again, by the Chinese authorities, that the group was trying to enter Vietnam by sea. This  
3196 happened at the second location – if you can see the right of the photo – at the second  
3197 red circle on the right.

3198 In December 2014, police in [*inaudible location*] shot dead one Uyghur and detained a  
3199 group of 21 people described in Chinese state-run media as “religious extremists” who  
3200 had been trying to cross the border in Vietnam at [*inaudible location*]...this is at the circle  
3201 on the left. In spite of what the state-run media described...an employee of the detention  
3202 centre reported that the group consisted entirely of women and children. Al Jazeera  
3203 reported this group consisted of 19 children. In January 2015, Chinese police shot and  
3204 killed 2 members of the Uyghur ethnic minority trying to flee into Vietnam and “had  
3205 arrested hundreds of people since the year before in an effort to staunch illegal  
3206 immigration into Southeast Asia”.

3207 The police was seen in pursuit of a...suspect who fled into an area near [*inaudible*] city.  
3208 Local residents were asked to take part in the security checks, including the manhunt for  
3209 this suspect. Chinese authorities are known to encourage local people in southwestern  
3210 China to report groups of Uyghurs traveling together. Uyghurs are often placed under  
3211 much tighter security restrictions than other Chinese citizens, facing delays of several  
3212 years in getting passports.

3213 Desperate to leave China, Uyghurs paid more than 100,000 yuan each, or \$15,000, to  
3214 human smuggler, and make their way across the border where many times they would  
3215 unknowingly meet a hostile welcome. Despite this significant flow of Uyghurs, the UNHCR  
3216 has operated an office in Hanoi, Vietnam for decades, but so far it has not received any  
3217 Uyghur refugee applications. The repatriation of Uyghurs in Vietnam also happens in  
3218 other countries – Thailand, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos,  
3219 Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Turkey.

3220 I will stop here for further questions.

3221 *Counsel – In your report, you referred to a campaign of the Chinese authorities against a*  
3222 *‘jihadi immigration’. What is this campaign against ‘jihadi immigration’?*

3223 DT (QHT) – My understanding is that they believe that these are terrorists, and they have  
3224 been trying to shut down the immigration of the refugees from China into Vietnam and  
3225 other Southeast Asian countries. I think this is an effort to stop that migration.

3226 *Counsel – Do you know whether there has been any notable increase in the numbers of*  
3227 *Uyghurs fleeing Xinjiang since 2017-2018, as compared to previous years, for instance?*

3228 DT (QHT) – I don’t have that information, but my belief is that the number of immigration  
3229 or refugees has increased based on anecdotal evidence – mostly because of the number  
3230 of illegal immigration has increased recently. There’s no description of Chinese nationals,  
3231 since the Vietnamese press has eliminated that description recently, so we don’t have  
3232 those specifics about who has actually tried to immigrate into Vietnam.

3233 *Counsel – This relates to one of the photos in your report – you have a photo of a group*  
3234 *of elderly Uyghur women and children being stopped at the border and being returned to*  
3235 *China. And my question to you is, have you got any information on the fate of Uyghurs*  
3236 *attempting to flee who are captured and returned to China?*

3237 DT (QHT) – If I can have the pictures up of that group...I can get into the specifics of that  
3238 incident...

3239 This is an incident that happened on 18 April 2014 – one group of 16 Uyghurs allegedly  
3240 escaped detention by the Vietnam border guards, and apparently barricaded themselves  
3241 in a building on the Vietnam side of the border. Chinese police officers and Vietnam  
3242 border guards surrounded the building and killed [all?] the Uyghur men.

3243 The details of the incident – the best that we can find – is that at 5:30am that day, 18 April  
3244 2014, Vietnamese border guards were informed by the Chinese that a group of Chinese  
3245 nationals would attempt to enter Vietnam illegally. The Vietnamese border guards and  
3246 police intercepted the group and detained 16 people, including 10 men, four women, and  
3247 two children.

3248 The police and guards immediately took the refugees to the border gate, called the  
3249 Chinese authorities, and waited to hand the refugees over to the Chinese. At about lunch,  
3250 1 PM or so, according to the official Vietnamese version, the Uyghurs attacked the  
3251 Vietnamese police. After that, five Uyghurs were killed – most of whom had allegedly  
3252 committed suicide by leaping from a multi-story building – again, this is according to the  
3253 official Vietnamese version. And others were gunned down by Vietnamese police and  
3254 border guards.

3255 The Chinese government, [which] was also on the scene, has admitted that the refugees  
3256 involved in this clash with the Vietnamese border guards are from Xinjiang, but did not  
3257 mention anything about them attacking the Vietnamese police. Other eye witnesses  
3258 reported that the deceased Uyghurs were in handcuffs – so it was raising doubts about  
3259 Vietnam’s official account, this fatal incident.

3260 This photo shows bodies – apparently male – being stacked on several carts after the  
3261 incident. They were getting ready to be transported back to China. The next picture shows  
3262 women and young children being returned to China....they are being returned to China  
3263 as Uyghur “extremists and terrorists”.

3264 Some of the deportees have been sentenced to life imprisonment [up]on reaching China  
3265 – that’s an answer to your question.

3266 One person of the group – if I can see the last picture – her name is [Rizwan?] Tursun –  
3267 she was 18 when this happened. She would be 25 now – she was one of those women.  
3268 She has vanished completely in the police custody. Her father broke [his] three year  
3269 silence to ask for information on her whereabouts and conditions. He had successfully  
3270 escaped with his family, with other family members, into Turkey the year before. He said  
3271 that he has “not learned anything about the fate of my daughter since day she was  
3272 deported to China, and so far none of my relatives in my hometown have been informed  
3273 of any charges against her, nor have any of my friends or neighbours”.

3274 According to their families, not just in this incident, but other incidents, many of the  
3275 Uyghurs who were detained by the Vietnamese authorities and returned to China have  
3276 disappeared while in custody, and nothing has been heard about them.

3277 *Panel – Dr Tran, you are, I believe, a medical doctor in the United States of Vietnamese*  
3278 *heritage. Can I ask...how you came to pursue this line of inquiry about Uyghur migrants*  
3279 *into Vietnam.*

3280 DT (QHT) – My organization has been working with groups within Vietnam to promote  
3281 democracy for Vietnam. This came just by accident – some of the groups that we are  
3282 working with were given information about the plight of the Uyghurs as we were talking  
3283 about...as the investigation of Uyghur genocide was coming into the news.

3284 *Panel – So your interest related to aspects of democracy in Vietnam.*

3285 DT (QHT) – Yes, mam.

3286 *Panel – And could you tell us more about the sources for the information that you've given*  
3287 *us now and in your report. What are your sources for this information?*

3288 DT (QHT) – Some are from the contacts we have, and some are from the groups that we  
3289 [are] working [with] inside Vietnam. I'm sorry, I'm not at liberty to give out their names.

3290 *Panel – So would you say that this is – that you feel that the facts that you have outlined*  
3291 *are thoroughly verified?*

3292 DT (QHT) – Yes, we have verified through a couple sources.

3293 *Panel – You tell us that a reason that this has become a route out of China is because*  
3294 *you just need a travel permit to come across the border into Vietnam. Could you tell us*  
3295 *more about how that works...how people obtain a travel permit to come.*

3296 DT (QHT) – I'm sorry, I don't have that information.

3297 *Panel – And at the border, there's presumably Chinese border authorities checking*  
3298 *documents as well as Vietnamese border authorities.*

3299 DT (QHT) – Yes, mam.

3300 *Panel – You provide information in the report about the increase of trafficking – they say*  
3301 *hundreds of people are crossing using traffickers. What can you tell us about the*  
3302 *traffickers?*

3303 DT (QHT) – I don't have that information for you, mam. I know that the activities have  
3304 increased [in] recent years, but I don't have any specific information about [those]  
3305 activities.

3306 *Panel – How do you know about the amount that is quoted in the report, that has to be*  
3307 *paid to traffickers, which I think you say is around \$15,000, which I think is perhaps just*  
3308 *to get to Vietnamese border?*

3309 DT (QHT) – That information has been published in the past – I think I have a reference  
3310 for that in my statement. I don't remember the exact publication, but it's in my references.

3311 *Panel – So it's a press report, I think.*

3312 DT (QHT) – A press report, yes.

3313 *Panel – You talk about the hostile reception...that Uyghurs receive at the border. And this*  
3314 *incident that you were also just telling us about here – in the report you state that there's*  
3315 *conflicting evidence about actually what happened. So do you think it is actually possible*  
3316 *for us to know what happened – whether people were shot, whether they jumped from*  
3317 *the building?*

3318 DT (QHT) – I don't think that we will ever know the true story about what happened...  
3319 There's the Vietnamese reports, there's also the Chinese report, there's also reports that  
3320 we have from the local people. According to the local villagers, the information that I have  
3321 is that there was no attack on the Vietnamese police, and then that seemed to be  
3322 corroborated [by] the Chinese report [whom were (Chinese authorities)] also on the  
3323 scene.

3324 The Vietnamese report, the official report, said that the attackers actually, the Uyghurs  
3325 actually, grabbed a gun – an AK47 assault rifle – from one of the Vietnamese border  
3326 guards and started shooting. That's the only thing we have from the Vietnamese official  
3327 report.

3328 *Panel – An aspect of the story is that Chinese police officers were there on the*  
3329 *Vietnamese side of the border, as well as Vietnamese border guards. Would that be usual*  
3330 *for Chinese police officers to be operating within Vietnam?*

3331 DT (QHT) – I think that would be a politically sensitive question to answer. I think that they  
3332 should not have been there, but the reports that we have is that they were there on the  
3333 scene after being called by the Vietnamese side, and they actually assisted in the situation  
3334 with the detention and eventual killing of the Uyghurs.

3335 *Panel – Another aspect of the hostile reception you mention is that Vietnamese at the*  
3336 *border detain Uyghurs. Do you have any evidence whether other nationals of China are*  
3337 *detained at the border with China?*

3338 DT (QHT) – The information we have is that the border is actually very [*inaudible*] between  
3339 Vietnam and China, and actually not many were detained or arrested. Most of the  
3340 migration actually goes the other way – from Vietnam to China – for jobs and other  
3341 purposes. The migration from north to south is a lot more uncommon.

3342 *Panel – You talk about the Vietnamese press being quick to cover up the 2014 incident.*  
3343 *Can you tell us how you know that?*

3344 DT (QHT) – First we saw initial reports of this in the official news, and those were quickly  
3345 taken off and it's no longer available. If you search for information regarding this incident  
3346 – it's known as the [*inaudible*] border gate incident – there's no mention of it anywhere on  
3347 any official websites.

3348 We know that Vietnam, like China, they have strict control of the press...thousands of  
3349 news [agencies?] in the press in Vietnam...but they are very similar in the way that they  
3350 present information. I think if you search for it now, there's no pictures, no images, and  
3351 no information regarding what happened.

3352 *Panel – You mention in the report that families say that refugees who have been detained*  
3353 *have disappeared while in custody, either in Vietnam or once returned to China. How*  
3354 *have you heard those allegations?*

3355 DT (QHT) – This has also been reported in the press. There's references to those, to that  
3356 question specifically...I don't remember if it was a report by Radio Free Asia or another  
3357 press agency. But I can give you that information if you would like.

3358 *Panel – And those reports specifically say people have disappeared in Vietnam, as well*  
3359 *as once returned to China?*

3360 DT (QHT) – Yes, mam.

3361 *Panel – So perhaps, just as a bit of context, could you tell us a little bit about the*  
3362 *relationship between China and Vietnam? You mention that you feel that this evidence –*  
3363 *the quick return of bodies and the other cooperation – suggests that there is a Vietnam-*  
3364 *China deal on the Uyghurs, which you say is in contravention of international law. So*  
3365 *could you perhaps just tell us what the broader relationship is between Vietnam and China*  
3366 *– the economic and political relationship between the two countries?*

3367 DT (QHT) – They're both communist states, and their political structure[s] are very much  
3368 similar. Vietnam is controlled by the [Communist Party of Vietnam], much like China is  
3369 controlled by the CCP. I think the relationship, especially regarding internal security, they  
3370 are very closely connected – they assist each other in controlling the population.

3371 Vietnam received assistance from China in this aspect from technical support to financial  
3372 support that they don't have. And so I spoke about this problem because it's in a way a  
3373 violation of international human rights and humanitarian and customary law. It prohibits  
3374 states from transferring or removing individuals from their jurisdictions or effective control  
3375 when there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be at risk of...harm  
3376 upon the return of that individual... can include persecution, torture, ill treatment, or other  
3377 serious human rights violation. Under international human rights law, the prohibition of  
3378 this *refoulement* is explicitly included in the [Convention Against Torture] and also in the  
3379 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.  
3380 So we see this as a human rights violation of the Uyghur people – and how this policy  
3381 has played out in Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.

3382 *Panel – If, as you believe, there's a significant flow of Uyghur refugees into Vietnam, why*  
3383 *do you think there have been no applications to the UNHCR office in Hanoi?*

3384 DT (QHT) – I think they will be stopped from even getting there. I think most Uyghurs are  
3385 somehow prevented from getting to the agency most likely by the Vietnamese officials. I  
3386 think that also speaks to collaboration between the two governments.

3387 *Panel – Do you know if Uyghurs do successfully get into Vietnam, where they may tend*  
3388 *to move onto from Vietnam? Do you know anything about that?*

3389 DT (QHT) – It seems like that the first migration is to a country like Vietnam or [other]  
3390 Southeast Asian countries, and then I think from there they move to – they usually don't  
3391 stay in Vietnam – they would try to have a second wave of migration to a second country  
3392 – Cambodia, or a country that doesn't border with China – and eventually to a place like  
3393 Turkey, and then, finally, many of them would move one last time to the US or another  
3394 western country, like the UK.

3395 *Panel – In your statement, it seems that Han Chinese, I assume it's Han Chinese, citizens*  
3396 *do not require a passport to cross the border from China into Vietnam, but it seems that*  
3397 *Uyghurs do need to pay, as you've stated, up to \$15,000. In your view, is that because*  
3398 *Uyghurs cannot obtain the pass required, and is there any evidence of a discriminatory*  
3399 *policy in that regard?*

3400 DT (QHT) – I think it's difficult to have something of a proof that there's a difference, as  
3401 far as a document, a policy document – but I think, as far as practice, there's been  
3402 publications about how difficult it is for Uyghurs to obtain passports... [It's] worth noting  
3403 that China is not pursuing the repatriation of the Han citizens who also illegally immigrate  
3404 into Vietnam. So there's also a discrepancy there too. So we saw that the killing and  
3405 disappearing of the Uyghur refugees, irrespective of age and gender, it illustrates the  
3406 practice of a much a larger policy.

3407 *Panel – My question is related to the last one. Have you any data on the number of travel*  
3408 *permits that have been given to the Uyghur population?*

3409 DT (QHT) – I don't have that information, I'm sorry.

3410 *Panel – There must be some somewhere – either in Vietnam or...*

3411 DT (QHT) – I'm sure there is.

3412 *Panel – The second question, really, is what is China worried about in allowing the Uyghur*  
3413 *population to leave China?*

3414 DT (QHT) – I think that they – again, this is my personal opinion – I think at the beginning,  
3415 the reason that they stated was [that] they want to prevent people – Uyghurs – from taking  
3416 up...terrorist activities outside of China, and trying to regain their independence for East  
3417 Turkestan. But I think we [are beginning] to see that a lot of the people that they are  
3418 arresting and deporting back to China are children and women. So it seems like this is  
3419 not just limited to Vietnam – in my statement report, it involved at least 12 other countries  
3420 – so there's geographical dimension, and then there's a time dimension of more than a  
3421 decade of trying to suppress this migration, the refugees. So it seems to demonstrate an  
3422 intent – but as far as specific reasons or intent, I don't have the answer to that. I can only  
3423 speculate.

3424 *Panel – Are the human traffickers Chinese or Vietnamese?*

3425 DT (QHT) – They're both. Chinese and Vietnamese.

3426 *Counsel– One very brief question, Dr Tran – the question really is, why? Why would a*  
3427 *Uyghur pay significant sums of money, travel hundreds of kilometres, to seek asylum in*  
3428 *a country that is run by the Vietnamese Communist Party, and, as you said, has very*  
3429 *strong and friendly relations with China. Why?*

3430 DT (QHT) – As I answered before, I think the target destination is not Vietnam. The target  
3431 destination is another country that may, to them, may be more friendly to them, to their  
3432 people. A country like Pakistan or Turkey, for example. And I think, as you already  
3433 probably know, I think even that is becoming problematic for the Uyghur people.

3434 *Panel – Dr Tran, you declined, when asked, to speculate about the reason. Feel free to*  
3435 *give us your opinion even if it is speculation, because we will be free to disregard it if we*  
3436 *don't come to that or a similar conclusion by other means.*

3437 DT (QHT) – If I can speak about the Amnesty International report, where recently, they  
3438 collated information from approximately 400 Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and members  
3439 of other ethnic groups living in 22 countries about people who live abroad. I think what  
3440 they are doing with the Uyghurs abroad – the harassment that they are facing – may  
3441 indicate the reason why the PRC is trying to stop these Uyghurs from leaving China or  
3442 Xinjiang. Of the 400 people that they interviewed, 81 people were threatened when they

3443 tried to speak out. [This] harassment that the Chinese – either they call these Uyghurs to  
3444 harass them or have them... For example, here in Houston, the Chinese Houston  
3445 consulate, when it was still open, actually called the Uyghurs, even [those] with US  
3446 citizenship, to harass them and threaten them. 26 people of the 400 were also asked to  
3447 be informants. 39 people received intimidating phone calls to obtain personal information  
3448 about them. 21 people reported that the Chinese authorities had used social messaging  
3449 apps to track and intimidate them. So the answer that I would speculate is fear; fear of  
3450 being criticized, fear of information about what is happening in Xinjiang being exposed to  
3451 the world.