

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-009 – Mehmet Tohti Amin

1. My name is Mehmet Tohti Amin (this is the name I am now using). My original name was Tohti Ahun. I am from the 9th Kent of Suluk District, Langger Konasheher Town, Kashgar County, East Turkistan. I do not have any birth records but I was told that I was born in about July 1944. I am now 77 years old.
2. I have seen a lot. I came to Turkey in 1991 and became a Turkish citizen in the 2000s. Right after I became a Turkish citizen, I went to visit my homeland and then made two further visits (in 2007 and 2010). I visited my homeland annually from 2012 to 2017. I have been living here, in Turkey, for 30 years.
3. I have children back in my homeland. I got married to Ms. Mestura here, in Turkey. I have three children with her, two boys and one girl. In 2016, I had decided to go back to my homeland to spend the rest of my life there, hoping to be buried with my parents after I die. However, I had to return to Turkey in 2016 (after staying in my homeland for a couple months) because my children were in Turkey.
4. I stayed there for three months but had lots of trouble with the local Chinese police. They didn't allow me to stay there because of my Turkish citizenship. They said that I had to leave China.
5. I have already talked about this to the media. I don't have to repeat it again. I came back to Turkey in September 2017. Since then I have been unable to go back to my motherland. I have five children back home, three boys and two girls. In 2017, I got news that one of my children was sentenced to 7 years in prison. My child's name is Ghaffar Tohti. In 2017, I learnt that my granddaughter Arzugul was also sentenced to 4 years in prison.

6. In 2017, while I was visiting my homeland, my oldest child was taken to a camp. Until 2017, I was aware of the situation of my five children, 15 grandchildren and great grandchildren (35 people). I have no information about these relatives until now. From what I understand, the Chinese government label those who practice Islam, pray and grow a beard as terrorists and radicals.
7. Recently, I got information (through other people) that our house back in Xinjiang was locked up. As such, I think all of my relatives have been taken away to camps. Talking about the Chinese governments post-1945 crimes would take a lot of time. I have witnessed 5-6 government changes. In Kashkar, for example, this has included the governments of Omar Damolla, Timur Sizhang, Osman Siling, Sawut Damolla, etc.
8. This is all I can talk about. If someone asks me anything further, I would be happy to talk. This is my situation. The older I get, the more unprecedented the persecution and oppression of the Chinese government against us Uyghurs gets.

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:

Date: