

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-051 – Jasur Habibullah

1. My name is Jasur Habibullah and I was born on the 1st of December 1970 in Urumchi. Here is my story. In the middle of August 2019, a stranger from Turkey added me on WhatsApp and I talked to him. I heard from him that my best friend from back home (in East Turkistan) visited Turkey a few months ago. The guy told me he was my friend's cousin and that my friend wanted him to inform me that he (my friend) was planning to go on a trip to Europe or Dubai soon. At the time, I said: "We can meet. Europe is easier for me - I can't cross the border and go as far as Dubai at the moment."
2. A week later, he (the guy in Turkey) sent me a message again and asked me if I could call my friend back home. I told him that, because of the surveillance and communication restrictions in place at that time, my friend may face some trouble if I called him. But he convinced me by saying that it was safe and that calling my friend back home would not cause any troubles. So, I called my friend. My friend said he couldn't get a visa to Europe and we could meet in Dubai if I could go to Dubai.
3. I didn't want to ask for a leave from work because I had just started my new job at that time. Two or three days later, my friend messaged me and said it's urgent that I give him a phone call. Then I called him and he said: "We have something important to say to you and it must be said face to face." My friend also said that I need to send my passport to his cousin in Turkey but that we could not discuss why over the phone. I was then also able to get permission for a short leave from work. My boss gave me this permission because he knew I was going to meet my long-time friend whom I had not seen for a while. Many people tried to stop me from going to Dubai, especially my relatives.
4. I flew from here on the 9th of September 2019 and before the flight, I sent my plane tickets to my boss in case something happened to me. This is because my boss would have been

the only person who would have searched for me if I had disappeared. I arrived in Dubai and I was welcomed by my friend and two other Uyghur guys at the airport. They took me to a Hilton Hotel which was hundreds of miles away from the airport. We ate a dinner there and while talking over the course of the meal, he said: "What have you been doing for a living, Jasur? We heard that you are doing horticulture. It's hard work. Haven't you thought about doing business?" I asked him what kind of business he was talking about. He finally made it clear and told me that they needed me to insert a USB stick into Ms. Asiya's computer when I go downtown during the weekend.

5. I felt his slightly cold attitude towards me when we first met at the airport but now he was glorifying me. Consequently, I felt like I was falling into a trap. I didn't answer that day and said that I would give him an answer the next day. He said: "You don't have to agree to do it and you can refuse the offer now." I thought about it repeatedly throughout the night. I knew that even if I didn't accept, he would definitely send someone else to Asiya. We stayed because I felt that it was dangerous to leave as I had my children. Over the next few days, he took us out to various places. On the third day, we transferred to another hotel in Dubai. During the transfer process, he took us out to the market again and acted deceptively by saying that he would buy us some stuff.
6. The next day, the day I was going to leave, he asked me to come with him to the other room to talk with him. By the way, on the first day that I had arrived in Dubai, they had taken my passport and had said that they would buy a return ticket for me. I forgot to mention another thing earlier, on the first day he said he was an agent of China's National Security Agency (also known as *Guobao* in Chinese). On the third day after that, he took me to the next room and the person who opened the door was a Han Chinese who spoke very fluent Uyghur. After I entered that room, they asked me if I missed my mother and my hometown. They said that I was working very hard for a living and I would have a much better future if I worked for them. They said: "You can go to the Chinese Consulate whenever you want to and you will be given a visa, or you could visit Turkey, or you could

visit your hometown. We will cover all your expenses. You just need to cooperate with us and work for us. We (the Chinese government) have become very strong now and we can even negotiate with countries like the USA. We even have many people who work for us in the Netherlands.” Basically, they said all of the above with the intention of threatening me. I then told them that I don’t know technical matters about computers. They said their technical experts would teach me how to do it.

7. He said that a list of the detainees in one of the camps in the south of our hometown (aka Xinjiang) was leaked. That list was in Asiya's computer. They said: “All you need to do is to just insert this USB into Asiya’s computer. We want to find out who leaked the list to Asiya and catch them. Don’t worry about it”. I said: “yes”. Then the technician came and taught me. He then handed me the passports. The next day they took me to the airport.
8. When I asked them if this thing (USB) would set off any alarms when I go through Customs and Border Protection Security. I was assured it wouldn’t and they said: “It has been tested many times. Go and do what we have asked of you, then someone will contact you. Even if you don’t do it, someone will contact you.” After that, they spent an hour or so trying to download the WeChat app on my phone but they didn’t succeed. Then they just told me to keep in touch with the people in Turkey. After I agreed, I was able to leave and return to the Netherlands. Again, I sent my return tickets to my boss. When I got back, I went straight to the Asiya’s house and told her what had happened. I suggested that we should insert the USB into her (Asiya’s) computer after we remove all the files from it. Because we knew that they would contact me and ask me about it, we thought that this might help us find other solutions in the meantime. Eventually, we realized that we needed help and we decided to call the police and report the incident. I was worried and anxious the whole night. The next day, I went to talk to my boss and told him what happened. I asked him to help me take Asiya and the children to the USA for safety, through the US Consulate in the Netherlands. I thought that it might help that there was a trade war going on between China and USA. My boss then suggested that there were

two possible solutions. One was to call and report it to the National Security Agency of the Netherlands and the other was to try the aforementioned solution of going to US consulate to seek refuge in the USA. The National Security Agency of the Netherlands replied very positively and said that we wouldn't need to go anywhere because we would be protected by them from then on.

9. During that period, I received many phone calls but I did not answer any of them. The above is basically my story. As far as my personal feelings, I knew that the Chinese government was evil but I have now realized that it is worse than I thought.
10. My boss contacted the National Security Agency of the Netherlands. We also decided, so as to help protect ourselves, to go public through a famous reporter in the Netherlands.
11. A week later, the guy in Turkey messaged me asking how I handled the things I was asked to do. He said that he was asked to keep track of what I was doing. I told him I did not get a chance to do it. I asked the reporter about when the story would be published. We were worried during this time. I learnt that they (the Chinese agents) went to my mother's house many times during those days. They also went to talk to my older sister. They said: "Jasur cannot have a dual citizenship in China anymore. He should send a copy of his passport." They also left their phone numbers so I called them and said: "Providing personal information to others is illegal in the Netherlands so I can't give it to you unless you can get an official document from the police." They went silent after that and hung up the phone. The local police here said I should stop responding to them (the Chinese agents), otherwise they would keep harassing me. I learnt about my mother through my relatives. I heard that the Chinese police had been harassing my 85-year-old mother. I learnt (from my other older sister) that my mother was sent to mental hospital twice. She would sometimes run out of the mental hospital in the middle of the night and hide behind trees. These are the kind of awful and sad things that devastate me every single

time I think about them. I believe they had done these things to threaten and intimidate me. They also told my sister that she cannot travel outside the city of Urumchi.

12. We handed over the USB to the police but the police couldn't deal with it. The police then transferred the USB to the National Security Agency. After a month or two, we were told that they could not tell us the status of the USB investigation.
13. While I was in Dubai, they opened the USB and there were videos of the famous singer Abdulla Abdurehim, a close friend of my mother and a video of my mother being taken by the man named Dolkun who claims to be a director in a Chinese National Security Agency branch. I have these videos in my phone. Regarding the other technical stuff in the USB, the Netherlands National Security Agency investigated and called Asiya. They said there were very important things and they would use it to meet with the Chinese diplomats. The USB has now been returned to us.
14. Other than my friend, I learnt that the other Uyghur person is named Dolet and the Chinese call him Director Do (Do Zong). He was likely the director of the local Chinese National Security Agency branch but it was not very clear what his role was. He just introduced himself as Dolet to me.
15. I forgot to mention another thing. On the third day, before they took me to that Chinese guy's room, they brought another Uyghur guy to the room. This Uyghur guy worked as a driver for us for a couple of days and I learnt that he was a student who lives in Dubai. I also have his photo, which I took secretly. Maybe we can use this as an evidence for other things. I might have photos of the agent named Dolet and other things, such as the hotel details, airplane tickets and my mother's video. If it's not in there I can provide it again. I even have the WhatsApp number of the guy who contacted me from Turkey. That pretty much sums up what happened.

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: