

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-055 – Rana Jumahun

1. My name is Rana Jumahun. I was born in Ghulja City. My hometown is Ghulja and my neighborhood is called Tipchi. I have 3 siblings, 2 sisters and 1 brother. I have lived and grown up in Ghulja. We moved to Urumqi City with my husband to start a business. We settled in the Sanshihangza neighborhood near a school called 40th Elementary. We lived in a family-oriented courtyard. We had a retail store in the Grand Bazaar in the #1 Building. My husband and I opened the retail store. We had a wholesale retail store selling headscarves, shawls etc. We also had a wholesale retail store in Ghulja city. We lived in Shanshihangza with my brother. I have 2 sisters. Their names are Marhaba Anwar and Mawlida Anwar. They are both married. One has 2 children and another one has 4 children. They are my brother's children. After my mom had passed away my brother and I raised them. I made myself ready to take my kids to Turkey to educate them.
2. In 2016, I took my 2 daughters and my son to Guangzhou City and then we flew through Malaysia to Turkey. I moved to Turkey because, when I was in Ghulja, the police came to my home and said that I had sent my kids to Egypt to study but when I asked what happened/what was wrong with that, they grabbed me and put me into a white car. There was 1 Han Chinese police officer and 1 Uyghur police officer. They told me: “You let your kids study in Egypt.” I said: “Yes, what's wrong with that? I sent my kids with their legal passports to Egypt. My kids did not use any illegal method to get there. They were issued their legal passports and my kids used those legal passports to go there for their studies.” They said: “Your daughter is living in Turkey. You better bring your daughter back otherwise you will end up in jail.” I asked: “Why would you put me in jail?” They said: “Your daughter has to stay with you.” I said to them: “It is my right to send my kids to study wherever I want them to. Don't I have a right to send my kids anywhere I want? They are my kids.” They said: “No. You have to bring your kids back” and that they would be back a week later to follow up.

3. At the time, I had opened a retail store in Cholpan, Ghulja. I discussed the situation with my husband. My husband asked me to leave the country immediately otherwise they would come back to arrest me. Those days were very tough for all Uyghurs. We heard that many Uyghurs were arrested and put in jail. My husband asked me to leave immediately and he bought us airplane tickets to Urumqi, then to Guangzhu and then to Malaysia.
4. We went to my home in Urumqi and I quickly grabbed a small luggage bag for myself and clothes for my kids. We then flew to Guangzhou. We landed in Guangzhou airport very early. The Malaysian airplane was to fly out the early the next morning to Malaysia. Every Han Chinese who walked past us looked at us very strangely. I grabbed my kids and we stayed in the airport all night long, without sleep, until early the next morning. I ruminated on our situation - my having to leaving my hometown, my husband and my sisters for no reason. That made me very upset and I started crying. I was feeling very bad, emotionally. I just wanted my kids to study but I also wanted to go back because my husband was left behind.
5. We flew to Malaysia the next day and we stayed there for a week. During this time, we were issued a Turkish visa so we went to Turkey. I had to go to Turkey because I was scared that the Chinese police wanted my daughter to come back or else they would put me in jail. As such, I ended up in Turkey to let my kids study. That was the only reason why I moved to Turkey. They separated my kids from their dad. They separated me from my siblings. Between 2014 and 2017, I did not hear any news about my husband or my sisters.
6. I missed my sisters a lot. I kept crying. It is very difficult to handle such a situation without seeing your family members. My brother had a friend in Kyrgyzstan. Through his friend, we got the news about my sisters. The older one got 20 years jail time. She was placed in

jail in Monghulkure. Monghulkure is a place that is unknown to me. She serves in a jail which is not close to my hometown nor to Urumqi. Her name is Marhaba Anwar and she is 32 years old. My other sister, Mawlida Anwar, was also placed in a jail however I don't know exactly how long she was jailed for. My older sister has 4 kids. My other sister also has kids. Their husbands were also taken to those jails. Their kids were taken care of by their grandma (almost 90-years-old) from their dad's side. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has separated us from our loved ones. The kids from their parents, me from my sisters and my husband. We are not the only ones who were separated from our family. There are more than 5 million Uyghurs who have been forcibly separated from their families and placed in jails. We haven't heard anything about my family since then. Many Uyghurs have been trying to hear news about their family back home. Some of them have been trying to know what happened to their kids, mums and dads. They, like us, were also separated from their loved ones.

7. I kindly demand, from all organizations, that they please follow up on this tragic issue to let us all reunite with our loved ones immediately. Many innocent Uyghurs have been staying in concentration camps and jails.

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: