

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-067 – Sudinisa Abdulitip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uHK5DN3ZsM>

1. My name is Sudinisa Abdulitip and I am from the Jalalbagh region of Tusalla Village, Hotan City. My house number is 309. My husband's name is Osman Ahmad Tohti. He came from a farming family. He would farm while partaking in religious studies but later became a businessman. In 2014, he was arrested by the Chinese government for three months. After his release, he was harassed constantly and was not left alone in his own village. As a result, he was forced to flee to Saudi Arabia. He lived alone in Saudi Arabia for one year. When the issuance of passports was permitted in Hoten, I applied and obtained one.
2. In March 2016, I traveled to Saudi Arabia as a tourist and visited my husband. My husband had fled to Saudi Arabia a year prior (March 2015). At the time, we left behind our 5 children in Hoten City. After spending one year in Saudi Arabia, we made several attempts to return home but we were unable to do so. As the risk of returning and seeing our ailing parents and innocent children was too great, we had to leave them behind. In October 2016, after obtaining their passports, two of my children (the second and third) went to Turkey for their studies. On the 30th of December 2016, we too went to Turkey.
3. One month later, I returned to Saudi Arabia but my husband stayed in Turkey. He thought about starting a business there. So, we stayed between the two places - Turkey and Saudi Arabia. The last time I left Saudi Arabia to go to Turkey was January 2018. We stayed in Kirklareli City while looking for herding jobs. My husband suffered some hardships in doing so. He also traveled to Saudi Arabia for matters such as the seeking of permanent residency. He left for Saudi Arabia on the 20th of May 2018 and had planned to return on the 30th of July 2018. However, on the 26th of July 2018, he was suddenly detained by the Saudi Arabian authorities. We pleaded for his release but this was to no avail. Later, we

found out he was sent back to China. We lost all contact with him after that. We don't know if he is fine or if he is alive. We have no information about his wellbeing or whereabouts.

4. My husband was once our neighborhood's religious leader and scholar. He has taught and mentored many students and has helped those who were in need or who were disabled. He was someone who would give everything to help others. In February 2016, 25 of his students (between the ages of 15 to 25), including my sister-in-law's children, were detained by the Chinese government and were all given 20-year sentences three days later. I wanted to return home to take care of my innocent children, regardless of the consequences I would have faced. But, after hearing about the detention of the 25 children, I decided not to return. I have cried so much over my two innocent children. I have become almost crazy from the pain.

5. Since the 3rd of January 2017, I have had no contact with my children - Marhaba Osman, Abdullah Osman, Sheyide Osman. I cannot see or hear them. I cannot give them my motherly love. I cannot sleep at night. Many holidays have passed with me wondering where my children were, whether they had eaten, whether they were fine – the pain was unbearable. Then, whilst I was already suffering, my husband was taken away from me. I have endured endless amounts of grief. Ever since we heard my husband was sent back to China, I have had no contact with him. As for my other family members, I have no news about my daughter, Marhaba Osman (age 24). I don't know what her current situation is. Her husband was detained along with the other children. My daughter is alone, she does not have me nor her in-laws beside her. I worry about her a lot. We were not there for Abdullah Osman (age 12) when he needed his father's and mother's love the most. We tried to bring them to Turkey. On the 8th of March 2018, 10 of us mothers reached out to Turkey's Internal and Foreign Affairs Ministers and Parliament, asking them to help us be reunited with our relatives. As of yet, we have not received any response.

6. I worry a lot about my children. I cannot sleep at night. I, at least, want to see my kids in my dreams. That has not happened yet. My parents are getting old. I cannot even serve them a cup of hot tea. My mother-in-law passed away whilst we were in Turkey. My husband nor I could go to her funeral.

7. We are suffering considerable hardships. We have done nothing wrong. We are innocent. We have never committed any crimes against the Chinese government. We have obeyed their laws but still, the Chinese government has brought us insufferable grief by separating my family members apart. My family members include: my father, Abdulitip Tursun Niyaz (65 years old), a farmer and a good-hearted religious man. My mother, Nurnisa Weley (60 years old), a housewife, farmer and herder. My sister, Zuptumnisa Abdulitip (45 years old), a farmer and herder. My brother, Abdulaziz Abdulitip, a farmer. My younger siblings, Hawanisa Abdulitip (37 years old), Gohernisa Abdulitip, Heyrinsa Abdulitip and Zorigul Abdulitip. All of them are farmers and do farming. The last time I saw them was in March 2016 but I have lost contact with them since then. We have no information whatsoever about my husband's relatives, my relatives or my innocent children - whether they are fine, whether they are alive. We have suffered considerable hardship as a result.

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: