

Uyghur Tribunal – Fact Witness statement

UTFW2-071 – Amina Muhammadimin

1. My name is Amina Muhammadamin. My address in Hotan was 169, Area 4 No.4 Village, Hotan City, East Turkistan. I am here to testify about my husband, my mother and my younger brother who are all imprisoned in China.
2. I first left for Turkey on the 29th of January 2016. When we first went, my husband took me (I was pregnant) and our fourth child (who was 3-years-old). After we first settled in Turkey, my husband travelled back to East Turkistan. The core reason for our migration was to save our families and our unborn baby. As that would be our fifth child, and so would be counted as unlawful birth in China, we were attempting to find a safe place to settle with our children. When we were in China, we made passport applications for all of us but the authorities only approved mine, my husband's and one of our children's applications. Hence my husband travelled back to bring the rest of our children via lawful means. However, by the time I was about to deliver our fifth child (August 2016), the applications were still not approved. Thus, my husband returned to Turkey and stayed with me for another week before returning to East Turkistan. My husband had to make that trip because he was intending to organize passports for our children who had remained in China. But, in January 2017, he was reportedly arrested by the Chinese authorities. He has never committed any crimes but, simply because we are Uyghurs and we travelled to Turkey, my husband was rounded up. I also learnt later that he was charged with 15 years imprisonment because he sent me and my family money.
3. My mother, Turdinisa Mattumor (60 years old), was also reportedly imprisoned for 10 years because of her 3-month visit to Turkey despite the fact that she used her legal Chinese passport.
4. In March 2017, my younger brother came to Turkey for medical treatment as a result of a disability in his arm. He was being treated by physio-therapist and was due to have an operation. On the 5th of March 2017, we received a phone call from my father

(who was based in Hotan) demanding my brother's immediate return to China. This was the period in which we were unable to -communicate with our families. My father told my brother that he had to return by the 10th of March 2017 otherwise the authorities would arrest my father. My brother had to go back as we all worried about the safety of my father. Since then, I have received no information about my brother. In 2018, I learnt (through a friend of mine) that my brother was detained in the camp and disappeared, my husband was imprisoned for 15 years and that my mother was sentenced to 10 years.

5. I have received no information about any of my family members, including my mother, brother, husband and the rest of my children. My oldest child (daughter) is 13, middle child (son) is 11 and my youngest child (daughter) is 9. My husband (full name: Qurbanjan Turdibaqi) was born on the 21st of September 1983 and his address is No.61 Gulbagh Residential Complex, West Beijing Road, Hotan City, Xinjiang. None of my family members have ever committed any crimes, they have been mistreated by the Chinese authorities solely because of their Uyghur ethnicity. There is no such rule, even in China, that permits a citizen's 5- 10-year-long imprisonment because they went on a legal overseas trip – whether it is to Turkey or elsewhere. I demand that the international community and the United Nations defend my mother, my husband my brother and my other family members who are facing dreadful persecution in China. I demand justice. I also have no information about the safety of my older brother (Ablet Muhammadamin) and my sister - I fear that they might have been imprisoned as well. I learnt that my older sister's husband was charged. Therefore, I have multiple family members including my mother, my husband, my brother, brother in laws and all male relatives who are missing, detained or sentenced. I testify that all of them are decent human beings and lawful citizens. The only reason for their detention is because we are Uyghurs. My family has been torn apart and my innocent children are suffering immensely. My five children are unable to see their father and I am unable to even hear three of my children's voices because they are still in China. I have no information on whether they are alive or dead.

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: