

Forced re-education in concentration camps

<https://github.com/Stop-Uyghur-Genocide/MeansAndEvidences> a proposed joint community project

By applying its inhuman regulations, the Chinese government holds an estimated 1-3 million Uyghurs, other ethnic and Muslim minorities in concentration camps.

The Chinese government designed these concentration camps to **break your spirit**, forcibly indoctrinate you in order to transform you and Uyghurs in general into a homogeneous, mindless, and therefore manageable mass.

In a concentration camp the Chinese government will **forcibly re-educate you** to follow the party line by constantly psychologically and physically torture you. You

- will day by day praise Xi Jinping, sing party songs and learn Mandarin,
- will be constantly humiliated and brutally beaten because of your religious beliefs or ethnicity,
- if you are a woman, you might be gang-raped and forcibly sterilized

In the extreme case you will not survive, only your body will be released, released to your relatives to be buried.

The Chinese government can **put anyone anytime into a concentration camp**. Based on their inhuman regulations they can label you extremist (or maybe terrorist) for no reason (such as for not watching television or not listening to radio). Once you are labeled extremist (or terrorist), the Chinese government will send you to a concentration camp for re-education. With no court order. Without notifying your family about your whereabouts.

The random, illegal detainment of Uyghurs. The lack of notification. The constant uncertainty. All these create a system of constant terror in Xinjiang which then effects not just detainees but their relatives, friends and even the Uyghur diaspora by closing them into the prison of anxiety.

Testimonies

Illegal detainment for no reason

The 5-year-old Hediche Ablimit is one of the over 10,000 victims registered in the Xinjiang Victims Database. She is 4774 in the database. 4473 is her brother Yunus. 4472 is her brother Imran. 4771 is her sister Rehime. 4702 is her mother, Horiyet.



Hediche Ablimit's page in the Xinjian Victim Database:
<https://mail.shahit.biz/eng/viewentry.php?entryno=4774>

Here is her story:

Hediche's father, Ablimit Tursun, after his brother's detention in 2017, fled China and now lives in Belgium. Her father tried to get a family reunification visa for the family. As the Belgian embassy asked them for a medical certificate, they had to travel to Beijing. Although her mother was afraid to leave Xinjiang because it was only possible with permission, there was no choice, otherwise the application would have expired.

They arrived in Beijing on the night of May 26, 2019. Shortly after they took their seats in the hotel, police officers arrived to interrogate them, inquiring, among other things, about the purpose of their stay. His mother reported on the purpose of the visit, a request from the Belgian embassy.

The next day, May 27, all the necessary medical and other certificates required for the application were obtained.

On the third day, May 28, they went to the embassy in possession of the certificates. There, embassy officials informed her mother that the application could take up to three months to process, so she was advised to return to Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. This made her mother extremely nervous, fearing that if they returned to Xinjiang, they would

have serious problems. She therefore asked to remain at the embassy for the duration of the proceedings, while also asking for their protection. The embassy threatened them to call the police if they did not leave. The former also happened, with the embassy calling on Beijing police to remove the family. Police arrived at 4 a.m. and forcibly removed them from the embassy, forcing them to return to their hotel, where the Urumqi police were already waiting for them.

On the fourth and fifth days, May 29 and 30, nothing extraordinary happened. They were able to talk to her father without hindrance.

On the sixth day, May 31, while video chatting with her father, 4 police officers broke into their room and took her mother's phone.

They were not heard from for 18 days thereafter.

When Belgium would have sent two diplomats to find them, the relationship was suddenly re-established. Their father asked what happened, but her mother refused to give details. All she told him was that the district committee visits them daily, taking pictures to prove they were home. She also said police had asked her to sign a document admitting she had committed a crime against national security, but his mother refused.

Several months later, Ablimit Tursun, Hediche Ablimit's father, now working in Belgium, still cannot contact his family after they were sent back to Xinjiang. Someone deleted his wife's WeChat.

Uighur Family Spends More Than A Year Imprisoned In Own Home In China:
<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/13/890558029/uighur-family-spends-more-than-a-year-imprisoned-in-own-home-in-china>

Inhuman conditions

Qelbinur Sidik worked as a teacher in two camps, where she claims she saw starvation rations and unsanitary and humiliating conditions, including limited access to bathrooms and water. She also heard the screams of tortured prisoners and witnessed at least one inmate being carried out dead.

„There were almost 20 people in a room of 16 square meters. There were cameras in their rooms, too, and also in the corridor. Each room had a plastic bucket for a toilet. Every prisoner was given two minutes a day to use the toilet, and the bucket was emptied only once a day.”

The Guardian: Uighur Muslim teacher tells of forced sterilisation in Xinjiang:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/04/muslim-minority-teacher-50-tells-of-forced-sterilisation-in-xinjiang-china>

Continuous humiliation

I'd thought the theory classes would bring us a bit of relief from the physical training, but they were even worse. The teacher was always watching us, and slapped us every chance she got. One day, one of my classmates, a woman in her 60s, shut her eyes, surely from exhaustion or fear. The teacher gave her a brutal slap. "Think I don't see you praying? You'll be punished!" The guards dragged her violently from the room. An hour later, she came back with something she had written: her self-criticism. The teacher made her read it out loud to us. She obeyed, ashen-faced, then sat down again. All she'd done was shut her eyes.

The Guardian: 'Our souls are dead': how I survived a Chinese 're-education' camp for Uighurs

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/12/uighur-xinjiang-re-education-camp-china-gulbahar-haitiwaji>

Gang rapes

Ms Sautybay said women were systematically raped and that she was forced to watch a woman be repeatedly assaulted.

"The policemen ordered her to disrobe and simply raped her one after the other, in front of everyone," she told.

"While they were raping her they checked to see how we were reacting. People who turned their head or closed their eyes, and those who looked angry or shocked, were taken away and we never saw them again.

"It was awful. I will never forget the feeling of helplessness, of not being able to help her."

INDEPENDENT: Prisoners in China's Xinjiang concentration camps subjected to gang rape and medical experiments, former detainee says:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-xinjiang-uighur-muslim-detention-camps-xi-jinping-persecution-a9165896.html>

Forced sterilization

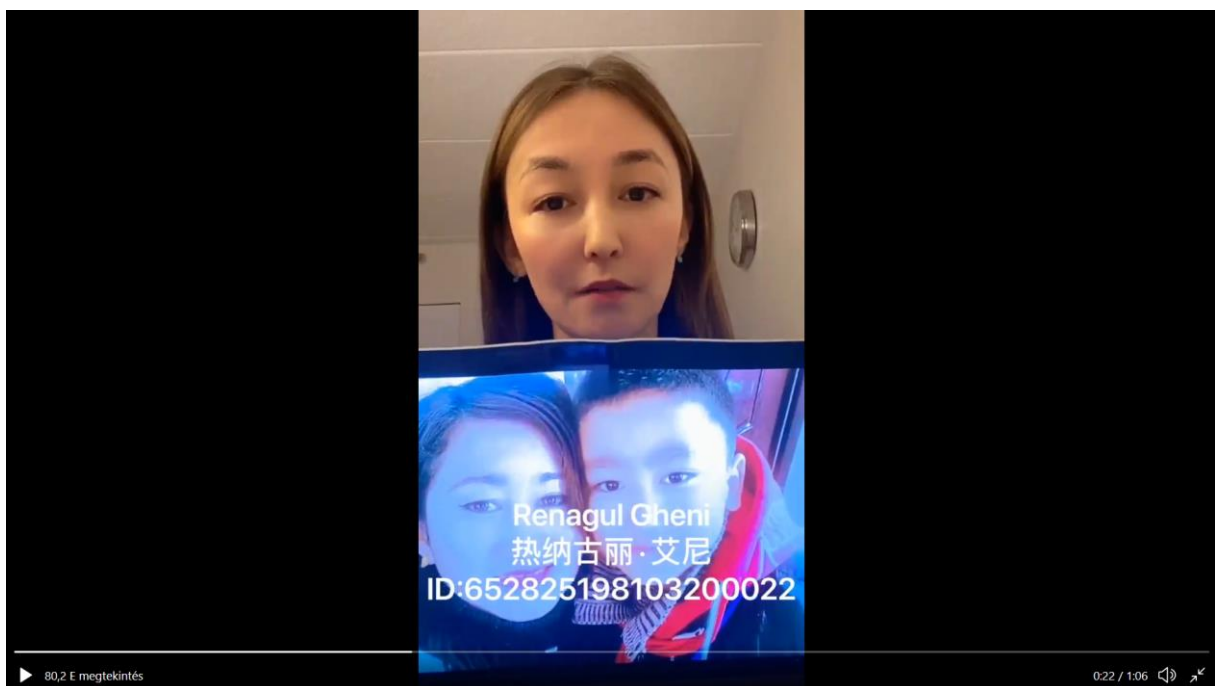
In the “transformation-through-education” camps, life and death do not mean the same thing as they do elsewhere. A hundred times over I thought, when the footfalls of guards woke us in the night, that our time had come to be executed. When a hand viciously pushed clippers across my skull, and other hands snatched away the tufts of hair that fell on my shoulders, I shut my eyes, blurred with tears, thinking my end was near, that I was being readied for the scaffold, the electric chair, drowning. Death lurked in every corner. When the nurses grabbed my arm to “vaccinate” me, I thought they were poisoning me. In reality, they were sterilising us. That was when I understood the method of the camps, the strategy being implemented: not to kill us in cold blood, but to make us slowly disappear. So slowly that no one would notice.

The Guardian: 'Our souls are dead': how I survived a Chinese 're-education' camp for Uighurs

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/12/uighur-xinjiang-re-education-camp-china-gulbahar-haitiwaji>

No information about the where, why and what

Kalbinur Gheni wants her sister, Renagul Gheni to be released. She was detained in 2018 into a Chinese concentration camp then sentenced to 17 years for praying and having a Quran. Since then she never heard about her. Renagul's 2 sons are waiting her back, too.



<https://twitter.com/Qelbinur10/status/1214058448310210560>

Mirehmet Ablet's brother, his wife and two kids were happy till aug 2017, the day when he was taken away from home at night by the Chinese police in Kashgar. His crime is being a well educated young Uyghur man. They still do not know if he is in prison or concentration camp. They hope he is still alive.



<https://twitter.com/mirehmet/status/1284126365168672771>

"Sorry the user you dialed is turned off." Since the last three years Abdurahman Öztürk has no information about his father, mother, brother, sister and relatives.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh6W4-Jet74>

Mamutjan Abdurehim's wife, Muherrem Ablet was taken to a camp in 2017, released two years later, but then re-detained and allegedly sentenced. He cannot talk to his two young children since 2017.



<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/uighur-china-father-mamutjan-abdurehim-wife-detained-ordeal-2020-7>

Shayida Ali's father, Elijan Mamut, an educated Uyghur business dissappeared in 2017. She has not heard from him for three years.



<https://twitter.com/sydaaaAli/status/1261313250890846209>

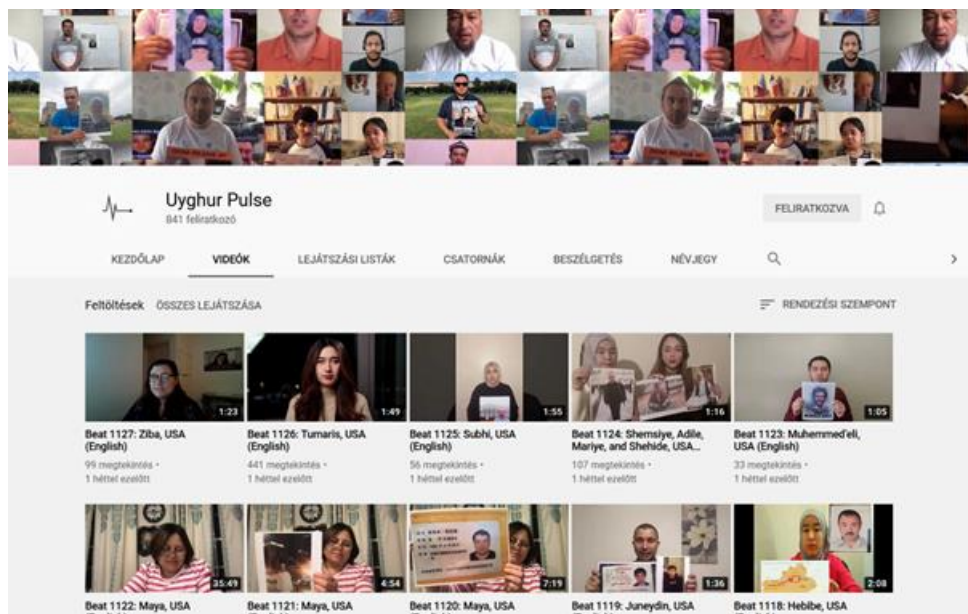
Since 3 years Arfat Erkin has no information about where his father is, or even if he is still alive.



https://twitter.com/Alfred_Uyghur/status/1346946379705413632

Uyghur Pulse

The **Uyghur Pulse** Youtube channel has over 1,000 video testimonies:

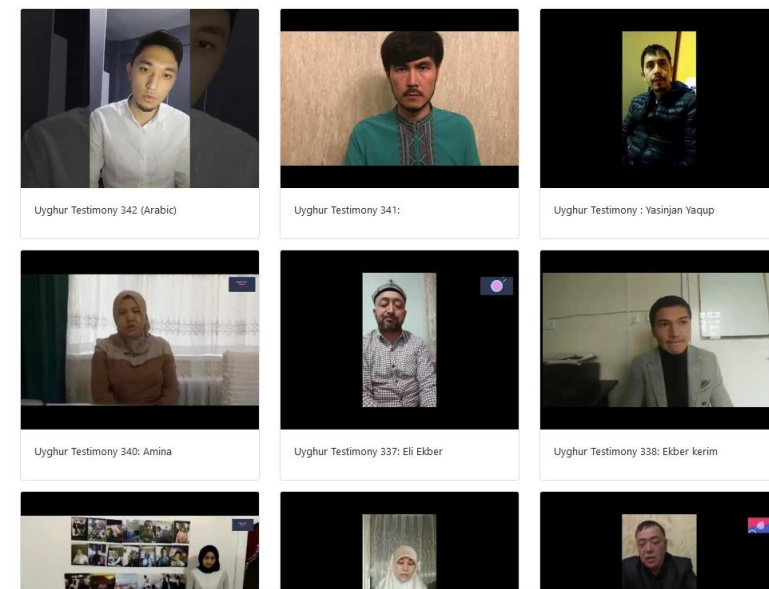


<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxtHBfWaWYQPNgfvdvSDn4A>

UyghurAid

UyghurAid has over 300 video testimonies:

Testimonies



<https://uyghuraid.org/testimonies>

Xinjiang Victims Database

The **Xinjiang Victims Database** has over 10,000 records of victims testified by family members, friends and other means:

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Xinjiang Victims Database
> 5745 ethnic-minority individuals interned since January 2017

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Entry of 13414

Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Profession
54	F	Uyghur	scholar
Likely place of origin		Likely current location	
Urumqi		Urumqi	
Status		When problems started	
unclear (hard)		Oct. 2017 - Dec. 2017	
Detention reason (suspected official)			
other ---			
Health status		---	

Rahile Dawut
 热依拉·达吾提
 650103196605202821

Locality (residence)
 Xinjiang University Neighborhood, Victory Road Subdistrict, Tianshan District, Urumqi
 (乌鲁木齐市天山区胜利路街道新疆大学社区)

2021-03-10

A prominent scholar of Uyghur folklore and Uyghur Sufi shrines, Rahile Dawut was a professor at Xinjiang University prior to her disappearance in late 2017. She disappeared while planning to go to Beijing, and hasn't been heard from

<https://shahit.biz/eng/#view>

Satellite image based proofs

The existence of re-education camps was first discovered around 2017-2018 by US, EU and Australian analysts through US and EU satellite images. Recent analysis from 2020 shows that the camps still exist and in fact are expanding.

ABC News (Australia): China's frontier of fear (2018)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-01/satellite-images-expose-chinas-network-of-re-education-camps/10432924>

In 2018, the analysis of satellite images and official government documents reveals 28 detention camps which were built and expanded in a rapid rate. For instance the Atushi City Vocational Skills Education Training Service Center or the Kashgar City Transformation Through Education School. Both are now barricaded by razor wire fences and are surrounded by watchtowers.

source: satellite images (Digital Globe, Planet Labs), Chinese governmental documents

database: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vR48u6lKYD21gv6mqM-2dV2IL8axuJ3yG5QJr2KNfG6bZNhy2dXDib_ZyFI9QKwvTRP0EBKZPYczwp9/pubhtml

methodology: <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/mapping-xinjiangs-re-education-camps>

Reuters (UK): Tracking China's Muslim Gulag (2018)

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/muslims-camps-china/>

In 2018, the analysis of satellite images of 39 facilities showed that detention camps in Xinjiang are expanding at a rapid rate. Detention camps means facilities which are walled off and guarded by watchtowers. Some of them are surrounded by a barbed wire fence and high perimeter wall like at the Dabancheng camp where a sign at the main entrance reads: "Urumqi Vocational Education Training Center."

Prior to 2017 the analyzed 39 facilities covered 79,000 square meters, in August 2018 the area they covered had almost tripled to more than 1 million square meters.

source: satellite images (Planet Labs, Airbus)

BBC (UK): China's hidden camps (2018)

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China_hidden_camps

GMV „a multinational aerospace company with experience of monitoring infrastructure from space on behalf of organisations like the European Space Agency and the European Commission” found 101 suspicious facilities in Xinjiang of which 44 is very likely security facilities. So they plotted them, eg.:

The satellite image of Han'airike in 2015 already shows walls and watchtowers. Then the Google Earth images in 2018 shows an increased perimeter and thicker walls. „Using the measurements from the satellite images they calculated that, at an absolute minimum, the facility [Dabancheng] could provide space for about 11,000 detainees.” However: „If dormitories were used instead then the total capacity at Dabancheng would increase dramatically, GBA suggests, with an outer limit of about 130,000.”

source: satellite images (Sentinel, Google earth)

Shawn Zhang (Chinese citizen)

What Satellite Images Can Show Us about 'Re-education' Camps in Xinjiang, an interview with him

<https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/features/what-satellite-images-can-show-us-about-re-education-camps-xinjiang>

List of Re-education Camps in Xinjiang 新疆再教育集中营列表 (2018-2019)

<https://medium.com/@shawnwzhang/list-of-re-education-camps-in-xinjiang-%E6%96%B0%E7%96%86%E5%86%8D%E6%95%99%E8%82%B2%E9%9B%86%E4%B8%AD%E8%90%A5%E5%88%97%E8%A1%A8-99720372419c>

Mapped 90 re-education camps

source: satellite images (Google earth)

methodology: <https://medium.com/@shawnwzhang/whats-the-difference-between-prison-detention-center-and-reeducation-camp-10ca63e98c34>

Xinjiang re-education camps list by cities (2019)

<https://medium.com/@shawnwzhang/xinjiang-re-education-camps-list-by-cities-f4ed0a6e095a>

Mapping of the re-education camps into cities, including 4 prefecture-level cities (Urumqi, Karamay, Turpan, Hami) and cities of 10 prefectures (Changji, Bortala, Bayingolin, Aksu, Kizilsu, Kashgar, Hotan, Ili, Tacheng, Altay)

ABC News (Australia): China's still building detention camps in Xinjiang — and they're getting even bigger (2020)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-24/china-building-bigger-uyghur-detention-camps-in-xinjiang/12693338>

The recent ASPI reanalysis found that:

China appears to be expanding its network of secret detention facilities for Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, despite official claims that all detainees have been released from the camps.

The results are detailed out in The Xinjiang Data Project: <https://xjdp.aspi.org.au/>

Two years ago, a reporter asked Shawn Zhang "Do you think Chinese gov will try to blank out re-education camps in the satellite maps." He replied: "That'll leak all locations, Chinese gov won't be so stupid to do this." Two years later:

BuzzFeed (USA): Blanked-Out Spots On China's Maps Helped Us Uncover Xinjiang's Camps (2020)

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/alison_killing/satellite-images-investigation-xinjiang-detention-camps

China's Baidu blanked out parts of its mapping platform. We used those locations to find a network of buildings bearing the hallmarks of prisons and internment camps in Xinjiang.

see also the twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/alisonkilling/status/1298933918620672000>

Chinese official sources

Chinese government officially admits the following:

- admits the existence of re-education camps
- admits that the purpose of these camps is de-radicalization according to law
- admits that they have the capacity to re-educate over 1 million people in Xinjiang

Chinese government however denies

- denies that these are forced re-education camps, instead they claim that these are vocational education and training centers
- denies that over 1 million people are re-educated

XINHUANET: Interview with Xinjiang government chief on counterterrorism, vocational education and training in Xinjiang (2018)

Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region admits the existence of re-education camps, their purpose, however denies that they would be forced re-education camps:

Xinjiang has launched a vocational education and training program according to the law. Its purpose is to get rid of the environment and soil that breeds terrorism and religious extremism and stop violent terrorist activities from happening.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/16/c_137535821.htm

The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China: Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang (2019)

In consistent with the above statement of local XUAR authority, The State Council Information Office also admits the existence and goal of the re-education camps, however they claim that these are vocational education and training centers:

Addressing both the symptoms and root causes and integrating preventative measures and a forceful response Xinjiang has established vocational education and training centers in

accordance with the law to prevent the breeding and spread of terrorism and religious extremism.

<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceqv/eng/zywjyjh/t1692588.htm>

Hu Xijin 胡锡进 (editor in chief of Global Times)

Based on undisclosed sources the editor-in-chief of the Global Times claims that the number of re-educated people is much fewer than 1 million:

I have learned the number of people who are receiving de-extremism education at vocational training centers in Xinjiang. I am not authorized to disclose this figure. All I can say is that it is much fewer than “1 million or so” speculated by the outside world.

https://twitter.com/HuXijin_GT/status/1051837551063916544

The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China: Employment and Labor Rights in Xinjiang (2020)

Even though Chinese officials deny the number of re-educated people they officially admit that Xinjiang is able to educate a huge number of people:

Every year from 2014 to 2019 Xinjiang provided training sessions to an average of 1.29 million urban and rural workers...

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/32832/Document/1687593/1687593.htm>