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## **Western development strategy: Disaster in East Turkistan**

### **Introduction**

This reports aim is to emphasize the main purpose of the “Western Development Plan” which China is implementing in East Turkistan since 1999, and its disastrous effects that began to systematically eradicate the Uyghur people from their own land.

Since the Chinese government strictly controls any kind of information flow, we have difficulties to get always first hand information, and this report relies mostly on the statistics published at Chinese government websites. We focus on the following questions to expose the evil strategy of the “Western Development Plan”: What is the intensity of deprivation of land, natural resources, basic rights and other economic and social opportunity of Uyghurs in East Turkistan under the “Western Development Plan”? How do Chinese construction corporations and the Chinese central government intensify the persecution of Uyghurs under the Western Development Plan, and how poverty is created for Uyghurs and to what end, and who benefits from the “Western Development Plan”?

## **A Short Background of East Turkistan**

The territory of East Turkestan (also known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region by the Chinese Government) is located on the Ancient Silk Road, and spreads over a 1,600,000 square Km (according to Chinese official statistics) and constitutes 1/6 of the entire Chinese territory. It has a geographic and strategic importance bordering Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the West, Pakistan and India in the Southwest, Tibet in the South, and Russia and Mongolia in the North.

The Uyghurs are the indigenous majority population of East Turkistan, with a more than thousand years of unique history, culture, language and religion. The Uyghurs were geographically located in current South Siberia, the Altay Mountains, the Plains of Mongol and Jungar, also the Tarim Basin and the Yette Su Basin as well.

East Turkistan has vast lands and rich natural resources. Oil, natural gas, uranium, coal, gold and silver mines have constantly attracted the interest of foreigners to this land since long history. In 1881, the Manchu Qing Dynasty entered East Turkestan and changed its name to Xinjiang, which means “New Territory” in Chinese. In the 19th century, East Turkestan became a pawn in the “Great Game” when Great Britain supported the Qing Dynasty control of the region in order to prevent Russian influence in India.

However, the Uyghurs never have been stopped to fight for independence and freedom and twice established an independent East Turkestan Republic, first in 1933, and again in 1944.

In 1949, People’s Republic of China was established under Mao’s leadership, and only five years after its establishment, the East Turkistan Republic, was perceived as a new threat. Mao Zedong’s Chinese Communist Party, with the support of the Soviet Union, destroyed the second East Turkestan Republic. The president and several ministers of the Republic were killed in a mysterious plane crash on their way to Beijing, where they were to negotiate the final status of East Turkestan with Chinese leaders. Just two months later, the People’s Liberation Army of China entered East Turkestan and, under the leadership of the Chinese General Wang Zhen, massacred thousands upon thousands of Uyghurs.

In 1955, when East Turkestan became a part of the People’s Republic of China as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Uyghurs lost their independence and any control over the region’s rich natural resources. Uyghurs believe that they have a legitimate reason to fight

for independence and freedom, to determine their own political future and this remained the main reinforcement of their constant struggle.

### **The Main purpose of the Chinese Government's "Western Development Plan" in East Turkistan**

The Chinese Communist Party planned the "shibu da kaifa" the "Western Development Plan" first in March 1999 and began to implement it from January 2001 on. If we translate the word 'kaifa' directly, it more accurately has to be as "exploitation" and not "development" and it clearly indicates the main purpose of the plan, the satisfaction of China's growing energy demand through intensified exploitation of the natural resources of the region.

Evidence of the general situation in East Turkistan since the implementation of the "Great Western Development Plan" shows that the second purpose of the plan was to export Chinese population to the West to solve the various economic and social problems caused by population problems of the Han Chinese.

The third purpose of the plan was to ensure China's national security, through gaining greater control of the gate of West China.

Although the "Great Western Development Plan" includes 12 provinces and autonomous regions in China, it concentrated primarily on East Turkistan through transferring great numbers of Han Chinese from Inland China and noticeably increased investment in East Turkistan. For instance, Nurbekri, Chairman of the "Xinjiang Autonomous Region" explained in an interview that the total investment last year in fixed assets reached 180 billion. From 1949 to 2007, total investment was more than 900 billion and the last five years' investment surpassed the total investment of entire 50 years.<sup>[1]</sup> The Party Secretary of the "Xinjiang Autonomous Region", Wang, has mentioned the same investment statistics in his speech as well and this investment was used for government infrastructure to improve the life standard of the people in East Turkistan. But in reality, infrastructure such as big buildings, rail roads and express ways built through government investment were aimed to

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<sup>1</sup> "新疆维吾尔自治区主席努尔·白克力：通过新疆的稳定确保奥运会顺利进行" 9 March 2008. Xinjiang Telegraph Gazette, [http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2008-03/09/content\\_2479511.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2008-03/09/content_2479511.htm)

facilitate transportation, relocation and housing problems of millions of Han Chinese immigrants in East Turkistan. According to Xinhua News Net Report, more than half of the 30 thousand newly built residential houses were sold to new Chinese immigrants who do not have residential papers in Urumchi, Han Chinese immigrants who came from China's poorest provinces such as Gensu, or Hunan. Since the government launched a policy that encouraged Han immigrants to buy houses by offering them special prices, the "Reside in Xinjiang"-fever was increased from 2005 on and the number of new Han Chinese immigrant residents reached 1.800.000, and Chinese government again declared a new policy that offers special discount prices for Han Chinese immigrant house buyers in East Turkistan since 2007 [2]

According to our sources, most of the new houses in Urumchi were build through confiscating Uyghur homes and lands or forcing them to sell their houses to the government for cheap prices. For instance, based on the ETIC's interview with 29-year-old Merdane, who lives in Urumchi, Merdane herself was fired from her job and detained for a few weeks in 2004, just because she argued with her Chinese boss when her boss refused to renew Uyghur's home ownership paper<sup>3</sup>. At that time she used to work at the desk of the "Land Management Office" in the Tiashan district region of Urumchi. According to her statement and ETIC's editorial writer Rukiye Turdush's travel journal "35 Days in East Turkistan" which was published at the RFA in 2002, the Chinese government required the renewal of home ownership papers from Uyghurs who demand compensation for their confiscated or demolished houses by the government during the land confiscation. But many Uyghurs were never able to get that paper because Chinese officials always refuse to renew the paper for no reason.

The propaganda and the so called policies to "Develop Xinjiang", "Exploitation of Xinjiang" did not only bring no benefit to the local people, but also destroyed local people's economical, cultural and social life, and as a consequence, political unrest increased and dissatisfied local Uyghurs organized themselves. However, the Chinese government labeled

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<sup>2</sup> "新疆掀起新一轮移居热潮" Tianshan News Net,

[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/28/content\\_2417786.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/28/content_2417786.htm)

28 January 2008

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Merdane (not a real name)

all the dissatisfaction of the Uyghur people as “terrorist”, “separatist”, ‘religious extremist’ activities and cracked them down.

### **For who were the Special Developed Cities Established?**

In the beginning, when the “Western Development Plan” was introduced, local Uyghurs were filled with the hope of development. Expectations were that the exploitation of natural resources and the building of developed cities would create job opportunities for the largely unemployed Uyghurs and bring an end to their poverty. However, these hopes were blown away as a result of the destructive consequences of the plan.

The “Western Development Plan” was designed to concentrate development of Urumchi, Gulja, Chochek, Boritala, Kuytun and Xihenze to establish “Special Development Cities”. Except Gulja, all of these cities were heavily populated with Han Chinese. According to population statistics based on the “Xinjiang Year Book”, the total population of Urumchi was 1.548.779, the Chinese part of the total population of Urumchi was more than 1.126.000 and the Uyghur part only 196.000. The population of Chochek is 147.546. The Chinese population there is 93.298 and the Uyghur population is only about 5000. Bortala’s total population is 204.704, the Chinese population is 135.381 of the total population and the Uyghur population is only 33.000, and the rest of the population belongs to minorities. Kuytungs total population is 263.942. the Chinese population there accounts to more than 250.000 and the Uyghur population accounts to less than thousand.

Shihezi total population is 581.952, the Chinese population accounts to 552.994 and the Uyghur population is only 6.537. Only the population of Gulja city is little different than the above listed cities; there, the Uyghur population accounts to 160.000 of the total population of 332.022 and the Han Chinese populations is 119.000.

However, if we were to count the members of the Liberation Army corps in Gulja, the Chinese population would constitute the majority in this city as well. However, the Chinese government was not satisfied, and suddenly announced a resolution in 26 February 2007 and canceled the name of the Ili Prefecture.

Population statistics of the specially developed cities above shows that establishing specially designed cities project of the plan concentrates on cities densely populated with Han migrants

in order to put all of the domestic and foreign investment on these cities. On the contrary, development of the economy of the cities mainly populated with Uyghurs is largely ignored and there is still struggling against starvation and for winter clothing. The huge income gap between Uyghurs and Han Chinese is very obvious in everywhere. The Chinese government always tries to hide the reason behind this and tries to cheat the Uyghurs to avoid social unrest. For example, in February 2008, the Chinese government launched “Compassion Delivery” activities and government officials started to visit Uyghur families in rural areas who suffer under extreme poverty. For example, ETIC learned that Hoten government officials visited 25 families this month in Karakash County and send to each family one bottle of oil, one jacket, one pants and one package of flour to gain their loyalty for the Communist Party. However, those families were chosen based on some conditions like that they are already members of the Communist Party or that they are elderly people who have no relatives, and all the other Uyghur families did not benefit from these “Compassion Delivery“ campaigns



## Why are the Uyghurs against the Exploitation of Natural Resources of East Turkistan?

The Chinese government intensified the exploitation of natural resources and largely invested in natural gas resources and oilfields in Karamay, Maytagh, Turpan, Qumul and the Tarim Basin. However, exploiting natural resources did not only not bring any benefit to the local people but also devastated their normal life in the following manner:

- Unemployment increased
- Relocation of Uyghur women to Inland China on a large scale and intensive huge Chinese migration to East Turkistan.
- Income discrimination and land deprivation.
- Shortage of natural gas supply despite the exploitation of rich natural gas resources.
- Environmental damages and ecological imbalances caused by the exploitation of natural resources.

First of all: the Chinese government employed only Han Chinese workers and most of these workers have directly migrated from Inland China to be employed here. Uyghurs and workers from other ethnicities were refused employment. Serious unemployment problems among the local people were put aside, despite the local people's strong antagonism over the deprivation of natural resources. The Chinese government also set up the conditions to remove unemployed Uyghurs from their own land to provide more space for Han Chinese migrants. Using the slogan "Reducing Unemployment and Poverty" s and corresponding propaganda, the Chinese government implemented a relocated labor force policy, transferred thousands of young Uyghur labourers, especially young Uyghur women to Inland China to be used as cheap labour force. According to direct interviews by the ETIC, these young Uyghur women were forced to over-work without payment, forced into indoor factories, forced to live in inadequate accommodations and forced to work extremely over time<sup>[4]</sup>. According to Xinjiang Radio Station news, more than 280,000 young Uyghur farmers were relocated to inland China in 2007 alone<sup>5</sup>. Based on the news released from the so-called Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Hoten Government in 3 March 2008, 465 Uyghur farmers had been send to Inland Chinese cities, Guangdong and Shandong as labour force again only from

<sup>4</sup> See attached report: "China's Labor Transferring policy: Trafficking Uyghur Women"

<sup>5</sup> "自治区团委牵线搭桥转移劳动力34万人" Xinjiang Radio, July 8, 2008. original news found in <http://www.xjbs.com.cn>

Hoten region. Half of the year in 2008, Hoten government transferred 10689 young women to inland China.<sup>6</sup> ETIC learned that all of these farmers were young Uyghur women between age 14 and 25 and that they had been forcibly removed from their homeland with various tactics such as menacing with heavy fines or with beautiful promises including several insurance plans and a high salary. The forcible transfer of children of one group to another group is a serious crime that is included in the definition of “Genocide Intent” by the International Criminal Court of Rome’s statutes in article seven.

Although the Chinese media describes this relocation as a way for Uyghurs to “become wealthy” by “organizing extra labour for Chinese cities”; the government policy can be viewed as a way to create living space for the in-migration of large numbers of Han Chinese migrants to East Turkistan. The Chinese government’s “Go West” campaign has attracted thousands of Han Chinese migrant workers to East Turkistan since it was occupied in 1949. According to the Chinese official website Tianshan News Net, railway stations in East Turkistan were being prepared to bring 800.000 Han Chinese migrant workers from Inland China to East Turkistan between March 3 and April 12 in 2008 while transferring young Uyghur women to Inland China. The ETIC learned that these young women workers barely get paid in their working places, and that they were not allowed to refuse the work and return to their homeland, since these operations were not only a favour to the government agenda, but also became a way of “getting rich” for government officials in charge, appointed by the central government. These government authorities and government appointed staff are responsible for the relocation policy and they are protected by the government. As a result, they exploit or manipulate the regulation of any law that could protect workers rights in China, in order to fulfil their relocation quota and get their praise from the government while at the same time they fill their pockets with recruitment fees paid directly to them by the factories that cut off these fees from the salaries of the relocated young women workers . As a result, the relocation of young Uyghur women to Inland Chinese cities is intensified despite the strong opposition of Uyghurs. It was seen as a terrible gendericide policy applied on the Uyghurs in East Turkistan, since it was implemented through coercive means and mainly focused on the relocation of young women from East Turkistan to Inland China. The Central Government supported the relocation policy since 2002. At the beginning 2002, the Chinese Communist Party, the Central Government and the State Department requested “Comments for Doing Well in 2002 in Agricultural Farm Work”, and in 2003, Resolution No. 1 titled “Announcement of Doing Well the Work to Help and Manage the Transfer of Farmers into Cities for Employment” was distributed by the Chinese State Department, in order to accelerate the relocation of labour surplus from Chinese villages to Chinese cities. The Xinjiang government implemented this policy very quickly and became a champion in helping to achieve the Central Government’s hidden agenda of reducing the Uyghur population and depriving them of their land. Chinese Consulate Spokesperson Wang Baodong in the United States tried to avoid Chinese Government responsibility when he responded to the issue of relocating Uyghur women and laid the responsibility on factory owners as if it was simply an issue between employee and employer. He did not explain why the Chinese Government has to find jobs for these young Uyghur women in Inland China,

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<sup>6</sup> “first half year Hoten region found employment for 12501 people” reported by labourdepartment of Hoten region in july 4, 2008. <http://www.xjht.gov.cn/read.asp?intId24204>



wile there is a lot of employment opportunities in East Turkistan, and where lie the need to bring millions of Han Chinese workers to East Turkistan every year.



(Image source: Xinjiang Radio Television)

As a consequence of opening new oilfields and migration of large scale of Han Chinese workers to these oilfields, prices increased rapidly in those areas. Local Uyghurs have no way to compete with Han Chinese workers on the market in these region. A local Uyghurs annual income equals to the monthly income of Han Chinese workers in these regions.[<sup>7</sup>]

The local government of Xinjiang brought a supporting oil project and oilfield workers program. Under this program, local Uyghur's fertile lands, water resources, gardens and big houses were forcibly taken away from them and given to Han Chinese workers. For example,

<sup>7</sup> “今年一季度兵团经济实现良好开局” Tianshan news net, april 30, 2008.

[http://www.tianshannet.com/content/2008-04/30/content\\_2562203.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com/content/2008-04/30/content_2562203.htm)

ETIC learned that annual average income of Uyghur farmers in most of the oil fields is around 1100 Yuan only.

the ETIC learned that since 2007 the Chinese Government forced around 200.000 farmers to relocate to cities and rural areas from mountains that have upstream water resources.

Intensifying the exploitation of oilfields not only did not reduce the natural gas and oil prices but also caused an intensive gas shortage problem in East Turkistan. According to the speech of the representative Shuan Guo Jun at the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region first meeting of the Tenth CPPCC, the amount of daily use of natural gas of the residents and vehicles in Urumchi are 860.000 to 870.000 cubic meters. Expected daily public natural gas refueling capacities will reach between 1.300.000 cubic meter and 1.500.000 cubic meters in the years 2008 and 2009, the difference being between 500.000 and 700.000 cubic meters. The prices for natural gas in Shanghai, a city with a high capacity of using public natural gas, are lower than East Turkistan, not only because of residential Shanghai gas price subsidies, but also because large amounts of natural gas from East Turkistan are channeled to Shanghai for a very low price.[<sup>8</sup>]

According other news in Tianshan News Net, although the price of a gas bottle containing 15 kg of bottled liquefied petroleum dropped from 75 Yuan to 70 Yuan in East Turkistan, still many East Turkistan residents were not able to buy gas because of their poverty [<sup>9</sup>].

The exploitation of natural resources destroyed the ecological balance and caused the following impacts:

### **Desertification**

The Chinese Governments policies of deforestation and overgrazing have led to desertification in East Turkistan. Since rural areas are populated mostly by Uyghurs, and upstream water resources are controlled by the Han-dominated Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) and Chinese migrants, Uyghurs suffer greatly from

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<sup>8</sup> “代表建议：解决我区民用天然气供应长期紧缺问题” Tianshan News Net, 10 January 2008.

[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/20/content\\_2404186.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/20/content_2404186.htm)

<sup>9</sup> “新疆乌鲁木齐民用液化气由原每瓶 75 元降至 70 元” Tianshan News Net. 12 January 2008

[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/12/content\\_2391724.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/12/content_2391724.htm)

desertification. Statistics from the regional government show that 75 million hectares of the region's land, 45 percent of its total, is desert, affecting 12 million people, who suffer consequences ranging from drinking water shortages to cropland infertility [10]. 5 million 740 thousand farmers are still have no access for safety water<sup>11</sup>. Most of the these farmers were Uyghur since Chinese government investment focus on only Han Chinese immigrants safety drinking problems not the Uyghurs. According to the Xinjiang Autonomous Region Environmental Care Office statistics published on the government website in 6 June 2008, 80% of the cropland in East Turkistan are under the serious risk of desertification. As a result, water shortage became one of the sources of sickness and child mortality, already a serious issue in East Turkistan because of the poor health care and the poverty. According to Chinese sources, the Uyghur infant mortality rate is 45,27 %, far above the national average infant mortality rate of China [12]. Many Uyghur children have died at their homes because they could not afford to see a doctor or to buy medicine. Most hospitals and doctors will not accept patients without deposit. [13 ]

## Environmental Pollution

The exploitation of East Turkistan and the huge scale of Han migration caused serious environmental pollution. Specially, air pollution and water pollution became serious problems in East Turkistan. ETIC sources learned that the Xinjiang Climate Center for the first time released to the public the “Communiqués and Climate Impact Assessment in 2007” on 17 January 2008 within the framework of Urumchi, Karamay and acid rain. According to the assessment, unspoiled rain and snow is neutral, their pH-value close to 7; whereas in the atmosphere polluted by acidic gases, the pH-value of the acid rain is less than 5,6. The 2007 monitoring showed that the proportion of acid rain in Urumchi, accounting for 20 % of the amount of rainfall which occurs mainly in January and July. The impact of the acid rain on

<sup>10</sup> Wang Mei, “Xinjiang Statistics Bureau : Income gap between rural areas and urban areas is 5,508 Yuan” Xinjiang Economy Newspaper, 11 May2007. 王梅, 新疆统计局:新疆城乡居民收入相差 5508 元, 新疆经济报, 2007-05-11, Ilham, “Uyghur , Kirgiz, Kazak Population Research” 1 December 2006. P 1.

[www.uyghurbiz.cn](http://www.uyghurbiz.cn) G:\Uchurlar\维吾尔族, 哈萨克族, 柯尔克孜族人口浅析.htm  
Accessed 22 August 2007

<sup>11</sup> “新疆仍有 574 万农牧民饮水不安全” Xinjiang Daily, October 27, 2006

<sup>12</sup> Hao H, Arriaga E, Banister J., “Analysis of China's Province-specific Mortality” Population Research, Dec;5(4):1-16, 1988.

<sup>13</sup> ETIC Interview with Uyghur physician in the Second Hospital of Urumchi, who immigrated to Canada in 2002

the city is long lasting. It can cause corrosion of buildings, the eyes and the stimulation of the respiratory mucosa which can lead to diseases and bronchitis, pulmonary disease induced. In addition, the acid rain is damaging the ecosystem. According to RFA Uyghur Service Report, Uyghur residents near the northwestern city of Turpan are suffering from unbearable headaches as the effect of smoke from the copper mine setup nearby the village. Although Uyghur residents complain to the government about the copper mine pollution, no one cares since the place was opened by a Han Chinese immigrant investor under the government's "Go West" policy [14]. Water pollution caused serious health problems as well according to a ETIC correspondent's recent interviews with many people in the villages of East Turkistan. For example, "*we could drink the water from the river, before Chinese people came. Now the water does not look like water, it smells and it is impossible to drink it*", said Murat from the Kepakyuz village near Gulja [15]. "*My 6 year old daughter suddenly got stomach ache and was dead before we could send her to hospital. She was poisoned by dirty water because we have no clean water in our village. Many people got sick because of the dirty water*", said

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<sup>14</sup> "Uyghurs Suffer from Copper Mine Pollution" RFA report, April 30, 2004

<sup>15</sup> ETIC Interview with Murat (pseudonym) July 26, 2007

Nurdun from Kaghilik County in Kashgar [<sup>16</sup>].



### **The ruinous Effect of Han Chinese Migrants on the Local Population**

In 1949, before the Chinese Government colonized East Turkistan, the Chinese population there was only around 300,000 constituting a 4% percent of the total population of East Turkistan and the Uyghur population constituted more than 80% of the total population. As a result of the Han migration policy of China, the current Han population reached more than 39% percent, the Uyghurs constitute only 45.94% according to official Chinese government statistics.

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<sup>16</sup> ETIC interview with Nurdun (pseudonym) October 20, 2002

Ethnics	Uyghur	Han Chinese	Kazak	Kirgiz	Tungan	Total population
Population	9.235.000	7.956.60 0	1.413.900	171.500	893.500	20.103,000
Accounted Percentage	45.94%	39.58%	7.03%	0.85%	4.44%	100%

The population statistics above do not include the members of the Xinjiang Construction Corps amounting to more than 2.563.800 [17]. If members of the Chinese Corps were included in the statistics, the percentage of the Chinese population would exceed the percentage of Uyghur population in East Turkistan.

To assure a better life for Han migrants in East Turkistan and attract more Han migrants, the Chinese government proceeds with the “Policy of Special Taking Care” such as discount houses for immigrants and distributing government subsidies. The ETIC learned through credible sources that the Chinese government is offering 30,000 Yuan to the each Han Chinese immigrant family if they agree to settle down in East Turkistan. Chinese official media also confirmed that the cause of the high income in the urban areas in East Turkistan which is heavily populated with Han Chinese, was the policy of government subsidies and the policy of increasing the salary of government workers[18]. Although the media explained that government subsidies given to the urban population because of inflation, it couldn’t explain why subsidies were not given to the rural population consisting mainly of Uyghurs.

The Chinese governments discrimination policy against the local people (mainly Uyghurs) encouraged Han Chinese immigrants to discriminate the local people. Violation of Uyghur

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<sup>17</sup> “新疆生产建设兵团的成立与发展” Tianshan news net, June 27,2005.  
<http://www.tianshannet.com>

The Xinjiang Construction Corps was introduced on 7 October 1954 by the Chinese government. Beginning in 1954, the army corps had been established, the total population then only 175,000 persons. After more than 50 years until 2004 the army corps total population reached 2,563,800 persons.

<sup>18</sup> “新疆城镇居民人均年收入首超万元” , February 4, 2008. Originally posted in Urban Consumer Morning Gazette, [http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/finance/content/2008-02/04/content\\_2432315.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/finance/content/2008-02/04/content_2432315.htm)

dignity and identity, and the abuse of Uyghur culture increased among Han Chinese. Uyghurs are treated as a second class people in their own homeland.

The Han population considers itself as colonizers and actively supports the police forces every time an Uyghur uprising incident occurs. For instance, the Han Chinese population played an active role in the crackdown of the Gulja incidents on 5 February 1997, and the Barin incident in 1990. On 5 April 1990, oppressed Uyghur farmers in the Barin Village stood up against the Chinese government's brutal dictatorship to claim their rights to survive. That day, the people of Barin fought for the sacred goals of the Uyghurs, the independence and the freedom of the Uyghur people from their Chinese occupants. They were faced by heavily armed government forces and were crushed ruthlessly by the PLA. We learned that more than thousand people lost their lives in this crackdown, mostly women and children. According to a Chinese eye witness, a soldier who was one of the soldiers employed in the crackdown, the Chinese soldiers did not leave anyone alive when they left the village. The Chinese army continued to patrol in Barin for more than three years after the massacre, and it was forbidden to enter the village for many years. The CCP started a nationwide campaign of purging Uyghurs under the pretext of "Barin Separatists" and arrested 5000 innocent people in a year after this event with the active support and help of the Han population. Most of them are still in prison today without any judicial trial. The ETIC learned that the following people were arrested with the support of Chinese immigrants, just because they became witnesses of the "Barin Massacre" from the neighboring village:

**Jamal Memet, sentenced with life imprisonment. Serving in the First Prison in Urumchi**

**Ibrahim Emet, sentenced with life imprisonment. Serving in the First Prison in Urumchi**

**Memet Hesem, sentenced with life imprisonment. Serving in the First Prison in Urumchi**

**Turghunjan, sentenced with life imprisonment. Serving in the First Prison in Urumchi**

As mentioned above, according to Chinese government statistics, the territory of East Turkistan is one million 600 square km. In the list of territory range of the worlds countries, East Turkistan is on place 19. According to the book, "Natural Resources of Xinjiang"

published by the Chinese government, the agricultural land of East Turkistan is more than 30 million mu.

According to the current Chinese population census, the Uyghur population including other minorities, except Chinese consists of ten million. If the per capita of the land of East Turkistan is calculated according to this statistics, it would be 0.16 square km, and per capita agricultural land would be 30 mu (0.198 hectares).

However, based on the calculation of the per laborer land in Uyghurs heavily populated Southern region of East Turkistan, we learned that per laborer land is less than one mu (0.0066 hectares). It is because the Chinese corps possessed more than 953,900 hectares of the agricultural land of East Turkistan<sup>[19]</sup>.



Han Chinese migration

Photo source: Tianshan news net

### **Who is threatening the Stability of East Turkistan?**

Following the “Great Western Development Plan” Chinese state media brought out the myth of the “Threat from Three Evil Forces” and propagandized that “three evil forces are

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<sup>19</sup> “新疆生产建设兵团的成立与发展” June 25, 2005. Tianshan News Net, <http://www.tianshannet.com>



threatening Xinjiang's stability and the unity between different ethnic groups", while at the same time police forces highly focused on cracking down the so-called "Three Evil Forces" through various "Strike Hard" campaigns such as the "Hundred Days of Hunting Campaign", "Strike Hard Ideological Campaign". Who are these so-called "Three Evil Forces"?

According to Chinese media they are the so-called 'terrorists', 'separatists' and 'religious extremists'. In reality, they are the real owners of East Turkistan, that is, the Uyghur people who fight against the violation of human rights and fight for their political and economical freedom. Many Uyghur human rights activists and political activists have been imprisoned and many of them simply disappeared, or have been executed. The Chinese government police forces regularly start a "Hundred Days of Hunting Campaign" every year, arrest young people and take them away from their homes with no reason or under ridiculous pretexts. The Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Wang Le Chuan praised their crack down campaigns and stressed the importance of the hard strike on the "Three Evil Forces" at his speech at the Seventh Congressional Meeting of the Xinjinag Uyghur Autonomous Region, and said: "We must insist to attack as first, hit as it appears"<sup>[20]</sup>. According to an Amnesty International report from 1999, the ratio of death sentences among the population in East Turkistan is several times higher than elsewhere in China.<sup>[21]</sup> The Chinese government sentenced five freedom fighters from East Turkistan lead by Abduweli Memtimin to death, and two of them had their sentences suspended for two years on 8 November 2007. According to Chinese media, they were convicted of charges ranging from illegally making explosives to leading terrorist organizations. Chinese state media also stated that these five people were arrested when Chinese army forces raided and arrested 17 people in village of Koshrap in EastTurkistan under suspicion of being – so-called- "terrorists" on 5 January 2007. According to some articles of the the Chinese journalist Chengang published in the Chinese official gazette "Global" at that time, Chinese forces suspected that at least 50 people had a link with the ETIM, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement in Koshrap at that time and send more than 1000 heavy armed soldiers and three helicopters there. Chinese army forces were very proud about their job and told Chengang that they just hunted one independence fighter in the cold mountains, and found some dried fruits in his pockets <sup>[22]</sup>. On 29 January 2008, Chinese authorities again claimed that Uyghur

<sup>20</sup> "新疆已形成打击"三股势力"的立体屏障" 20 October 2006, Chinese News Net, [http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2006-10/20/content\\_1283944.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2006-10/20/content_1283944.htm)

<sup>21</sup> Amnesty International report, "Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region", 1999

<sup>22</sup>

“terrorists” tried to sabotage the 2008 Olympics and announced that Chinese police attacked a “terrorist gang” in Urumchi in East Turkistan and that two people were killed and fifteen others arrested, and also claimed that the police found books, knives and home made bombs, however, no specific evidence was provided that could prove the group was plotting an attack on the 2008 Olympics. The spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, Wu He Ping, said, from January 4, 2008 to 11th, under the direct lead of Ministry of Public Security's , the Xinjiang public security uncover the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), The ETIM was one of the Uyghur resistance groups against China (we will present more information about the ETIM in the next chapter). After the terror attacks on 11 September 2001, the ETIM was listed as a terrorist group by the United Nations and United States to gain Chinas help in the so-called “War on Terror”. Wu said that they successfully captured 10 “terrorist gang chieftains” lead by Hajii Memet. There is a lot of skepticism whether China is exaggerating the “terror threat” to justify its crack-down on the Uyghurs in East Turkistan. The Chinese government claims again and again that the Uyghurs constitute a terror threat but could not present any evidence. They also refused the Uyghur political leader Rabiye Kadeer’s request to allow an independent outside commission, such as a delegation from the United Nations, to investigate the alleged terrorist activities in East Turkistan and independent scrutiny of any evidence they have for the claims they are making. The East Turkistan Information Center learned that China recently started nation wide crack-down campaign in East Turkistan and arrested an unknown number of Uyghurs since the recent Tibetan issues. For instance, according to ETIC sources, on 9 April 2008, 25 young Uyghur men and women were arrested in Gulja in the Yengi Yer County with the charge of gathering together and playing “Meshrep”.(this news was also confirmed by RFA). The “Meshrep” was Uyghur cultural event designed to perform Uyghur culture and ethics which has been forbidden to play since the February 1997 Gulja incident, and an unknown number of young women from Kucha were arrested as well. Arbitrary arrest with endless slanders is common in East Turkistan. On 23 March 2008, around 1000 Uyghur protesters peacefully demanded the stop of arbitrary arrests and the release of political prisoners from the Chinese government, and also demanded the return of unmarried woman who were forcibly taken away to Inland China as cheap labor force. The ETIC learned that more than 80% of these protesters were women. These protesters were cracked down very quickly and more than 400

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“深入帕米尔高原见证新疆军民协作打击恐怖势力” 程刚, 环球时报, ( global times) 2007年01月16日 10:18:27

women were arrested and all information on the incident was strictly blocked. The current situation of the arrested women is unknown. With the excuse of the security of the Olympics, China massively detained young Uyghur people in Uyghur populated areas even though they did not participate in any activities. For instance, from Aksu in Kelpin County, 200 hundred young men were detained on 14 and 15 April 2008, and the reason for most of the mass arrests is simply the security of the Olympics. According credible researches, some police station answered the reason of detentions and said that they have to be detained until the Olympics are over even though they have committed no crime. Some of the arrests were labeled with terrorism to show to the public as evidence before these kind of arrests in large amounts started. For example, Chinese authorities claimed that a 19 year old Uyghur girl was a terrorist, and said that she was planning to sabotage a Chinese passenger plane, and called this incident an attempt to a terrorist attack on the upcoming Beijing Olympics. There is no evidence that the incidence was caused by Uyghur passengers. Some sources said that explosive liquid was found in the planes toilet. It is a fact known by everyone that Chinese security is extremely tight, especially for Uyghur passengers, and it is not possible to bring even a bottle drinking water to any plane. However, there are some violence in East Turkistan carried by East Turkistan freedom fighters since Chinese oppressive regime forced them to do so. For example, Monday, August 04, 2008, The Xinhua News Agency reported that two Uyghurs attacked a police station in Kashgar and killed 16 policemen and injured other 16. ETIC learned that the attack was not organized by any group. Uyghur Freedom fighters also attack the government buildings, tax offices, police stations in Kucha county in August 9, during the Olympics in order to get attention of international community and express Uyghurs dissatisfaction on China's oppressive policy. Heavy Chinese armed forces harshly crack down the incidents. Exact numbers of the casualties are not clear yet.



During the last ten years the Chinese government concentrated to crack down Uyghur political activities and neglected criminals among Han Chinese immigrants. As a consequence, social crimes such as arsons, drug dealing, fraud and bribes became the real threat in East Turkistan. For instance, the paramilitary government organization known as the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), established in 1954 by the Chinese government, has organized a mass inward migration to East Turkistan to provide labor to cultivate the vast farms under its control. Many of those who work in the XPCC are convicts released from “reform” camps who are offered employment in East Turkistan under the “Construct Xinjiang with Reformed Criminals” plan. In November 1955 and in September 1956, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps launched a “Meeting to Solve the Problem of Criminals” and planned regulations for Han Chinese criminals that transferred to East Turkistan. These regulations and restrictions were designed to encourage Han Chinese migrant criminals residing in East Turkistan permanently and assure their social security and income through bringing their family members to East Turkistan, treating them in a nice manner, and not sending them to the heavy labor. Also the gazette “New Life” was established especially for these criminal immigrants in November 1955 to provide them with information about East Turkistan. Although it was not clear that these policies were stopped or not, however, criminal rates among Han Chinese immigrants and the life quality of Han

Chinese immigrants clearly indicates that East Turkistan is the pool of Han Chinese crime compared to the other Chinese provinces. For instance, the ETIC recently learned that most of the criminals were Han Chinese migrants on the ten biggest criminal cases in 2006 in Urumchi, as disclosed by the Urumchi police station. In other places of East Turkistan Han Chinese immigrants were also the main criminals. Based on the information learned by the ETIC and the news reports published by the RFA, around 20 November 2006, in the village Dongkowruk of the town of Aksu in Shayar County, a Chinese land owner temporarily hired 14 Uyghur young men to work on his farm, and when they completed their job, the Chinese farm owner killed all of them by poisoning their meals in order not to pay their small wages.

According to news based on the Xinhua News agency Report from 23 February 2006, railways from Inland Chinese cities such as Chongqing, Chengdu and Xankou became the drug dealers traveling route to East Turkistan, and most of the heroine enters East Turkistan through these railway transports. ETIC learned that In 2007, during the Chinese New Year, the Urumchi police station arrested the long-time drug dealer Wu Da Ming and his 13 Chinese companions with 3600g of heroin

Based on the official Chinese government statistics, the stable population of Urumchi was 2.350.000, and the unstable population was 800.000, together a total of more than three million. Currently, in Urumchi there are only 72 police stations and they are not sufficient to support the security of the residents of Urumchi. However, problems of insufficiency of police forces only exist in cities that are heavily populated with Han Chinese.

For instance, the Xinjiang Construction Corps has a population of more than two million and most of the crimes were produced by them. The ETIC learned that the Xinjiang Construction Corps police stations called a media conference on 16 January 2006 and praised the corps police stations good work in the cracking down of the “Three Evil Forces” which mainly targeted Uyghurs with so called labels such as separatist, religious extremist, and terrorist. Various reports published in Urumchi after the press conference state that crime cases in the corps area in 2006 were 10.278 and only 55.47 % of the cases were disclosed and murder cases were 91 that year.

## **The “Great Western Development Plan” and the Atheist Policy in East Turkistan**

The atheist policy is one of the main policies in East Turkistan designed to support the “Great Western Development” plan. Cases of religious persecution of believers is common in East Turkistan and the number of executions, tortures and arrests are clearly higher than with political cases. This is because most of the Uyghur opposition action was to fight for religious freedom since the Chinese government restricted the Uyghurs religious freedom in order to succeed in its atheist policy. Although article 36 of the Chinese constitution guarantees the religious freedom of the citizens of the PRC, it has never been implemented in practice. On the contrary, a bundle of restrictions and regulations are designed in East Turkistan which are totally inconsistent with article 36.<sup>[23]</sup>

For example, since the Chinese government colonized East Turkistan, religious freedom of Uyghurs is grossly violated. During the Cultural Revolution, the Chinese government forcibly collected the Qur’an and Islamic religious books, which then were publicly burned. Mosques were converted to stables for pigs and cattle to discriminate and humiliate the Muslims. Any resistance against this barbaric behavior was harshly persecuted. As a result, an uncountable number of religious intellectuals, professors and common believers were killed or died in prisons.

In the 1970s, the Chinese government relaxed the repression a little in East Turkistan following the end of the Cultural Revolution, and the Uyghurs got some chance to rebuild their culture as well as their endangered Islamic faith.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the Chinese government rushed to rethink the policies and regulations in East Turkistan to end a power struggle in the Central Government. The changes focused on tightening the control and the implementation of various restrictions and policies which are totally inconsistent with the notion of the Chinese constitution. In 1996, the great slogan that “Illegal Religious Activists and Separatists are the Source of the Main Threat to the Stability of Xinjiang” was produced. Religion became again the main target of the Communist Party. For instance, on 12 April 2007, the Chinese government began a nationwide crackdown on pornography. However, while other places in China focused on anti-pornography campaigns, Chinese authorities focused in East Turkistan mainly on removing religious and political publications. The Minister of the Propaganda Department,

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<sup>23</sup> Chinese Constitution Law, Article 36

and the leader of the "Anti-Pornography Group", Li Yi, urged all departments to combat illegal publishing of political and religious writings.<sup>[24]</sup> As the Chinese government puts politics on top of the agenda, many social issues, including combating pornography, have been neglected. Every Uyghur family's home was searched by government workers and all religious and historical books were confiscated. Any kind of religious gathering was banned and resistant individuals were arrested and some of them were executed.

Many young Uyghurs flee to neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Kirgizistan in order to escape from the repressive Chinese regime.

All of the Uyghurs recently detained in Guatemala were forced to flee to Afghanistan as refugees, because Afghanistan was the only country that did not require a visa for them.

The religious repression of the Chinese government in East Turkistan could be characterized as follows:

- Prohibiting the flow of religious publications into East Turkistan from other Muslim countries, and confiscation and destruction of religious publications.
- Closing religious schools opened by Uyghurs and arrest of teachers and students.
- Since the Chinese communists colonized East Turkistan, they arrested and executed every famous Muslim scholar with various slanders, and their students were arrested and executed as well. For instance, the famous Muslim scholar Abul Aziz Mehsum was murdered. He taught more than thousand students. Most of his students were arrested, sentenced to lifetime prison or executed. Only few of them were able to escape and asked refugee status in European countries.
- The Chinese government totally controls religious affairs in East Turkistan. For example all imams trained by the Chinese Communist Party were appointed by the Chinese government to distort Islam in order to propagandize communist ideology. Currently there are more than 10,000 mosques in East Turkistan and all imams in these mosques work for the Chinese government. None of them know the real meaning of religion and Islam. The chairman of the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region", Nurbekri clearly revealed China's special policy of controlling Islam in East Turkistan, when he was interviewed by Chinese state media: "We have adopted some extremely special policy with respect to the religious personnel, to show that our country's policy of freedom of religious belief is correct". According to his speech at the interview, there are more than

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<sup>24</sup> "Anti-pornography Campaign," Xinjiang Economy, 23 May 2007

22,000 religious personnel, for whom the Chinese government covers the living expenses with subsidies each month to guarantee a certain living standard. The highest subsidy given to religious personnel each month is around 1,500 Yuan, the lowest 200 Yuan. [25]

These government sponsored imams urge people to tolerate government pressure utilising the saying that, “those who suffer quietly in this world, will be praised by God in the next.”[26] In a series of peaceful protests against the government, Uyghurs were urged not to pray at government mosques and not to follow government trained imams. These peaceful protests were used by the Chinese government to openly crackdown on Uyghurs and to attack their religion. In October 1999, the PRC government reemphasized religious restrictions in East Turkistan and called for a tightening of regulations on the management of religious personnel and places of worship, the content of religious teachings, and a renewal of the fight against all non-governmental religious activities[27] For example, according to the decision document of the Intermediate Court of the Ili Prefecture in 1999, that the ETIC obtained, four young men were arrested as they propagated their belief in the existence of the One God, denied the authority of other powers, and encouraged people not to pray at government-run mosques, and not to follow imams trained by the Chinese government. These four men identified as Memet Abdulla, Haji Mollahun, Nurmemet Heytahun, Abdulla Qutluq were sentenced from ten years to 15 years imprisonment (ETIC sources).

- The Chinese government deceived Islamic organizations from Muslim countries through improper use of donated funds from them. For example, in East Turkistan, there is only one Islamic institution founded by Islamic associations, the Islamic University in Urumchi. The goal of the institution was to train imams to satisfy the religious needs of Muslims in East Turkistan. However, those imams were trained with communist ideology and Marxism, Leninism and Mao’s philosophy. For example, they had to learn unnecessary courses such as “History of the Chinese Communist Party”, “The History of Xinjiang”, “The Marxist View on Religion” and “Selections from Ding Shao Ping’s

<sup>25</sup> “新疆维吾尔自治区主席努尔·白克力：通过新疆的稳定确保奥运会顺利进行” march 9, 2008. Xinjiang telegraph gazette,

[http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2008-03/09/content\\_2479511.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com/news/content/2008-03/09/content_2479511.htm)

<sup>26</sup> ETIC interview with Kasim haji, (currently resided in Canada) September 21, 2007

<sup>27</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Devastating Blows: Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang”, VOL.17, NO.2, April 2005



Writings”. Some of the significant courses in religious studies were eliminated. In October 2000, Muhemmet Abdulla Hajim and Yusup Hajim, professors at the institution, opposed the school’s teaching policy and were arrested and the president of the school, Muhammet Salih Damolla, was forced to resign. As a result, the number of students who wanted to study religious sciences dropped dramatically and the Xinjiang Islamic Institution currently faces to be closed.

- All mosques in East Turkistan were built through donations and funds raised from the local people. However, the Chinese government is every year occupying the land of the mosques or is destroying mosques with various political excuses, and as a consequence, mosques are gradually reduced in East Turkistan. For example, the ETIC learned that the Chinese government destroyed the “Dong Mosque” in the Hoten Prefecture of the Karakash County despite strong resistance from Uyghurs with the excuse that it could not be so close to a primary school. The ETIC learned of several mosque related persecution cases as well, for instance, in the Aksu Prefecture in Toksun County, the Reste Mosque was seized by Chinese government officials at the cultural revolution, and after the cultural revolution, the Chinese government sold the mosque to a Chinese businessman to establish a Chinese store. In 1989, local Uyghurs were annoyed and demonstrated for 15 days to get back the land of the mosque and because of that, the following people were arrested and are still in prison until today:

**Yasin Turdi was arrested and convicted for participating in the Reste Mosque incident in Toksun. He is currently in the Toksun County Prison, under extremely heavy medical condition.**

**Ilham Mijit, 38, arrested in 1992, sentenced to life imprisonment. Currently in Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

**Otkur Emir, arrested in 1994, from Toksun County, currently in Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

**Memet Ehet, sentenced to life imprisonment, currently in Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

**Turdi Ehmet, from Toksun, sentenced to life imprisonment, currently in Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

**Tohti Quti, from Toksun, sentenced to 18 years inprison, currently in the Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

**Eysa Husan, from Toksun, sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, currently still in 1th prison in Uurmchi.**

**Rehim Rahman, from Toksun, sentenced 20 years in prison , currently in Urumchi City 1st Prison.**

- The Chinese government also prohibits the Uyghurs to study their religion abroad, and all Uyghurs who studied in Islamic countries were questioned and given political punishments after they returned. In recent years, more than hundred students who participated in religious studies in Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey were detained and got political punishments after they were returned. More than 20 young Uyghurs who participated in religious studies in Egypt and Turkey asked for political asylum in Germany.

Religious repressions on Uyghurs are clearly aimed to establish the Chinese Communist Party's atheist ideology in East Turkistan, since their religion is one of the most significant ethnic identities of the Uyghurs that differentiates them from the Han Chinese.



The Chinese government also effectively used the “Global War on Terror” after 11 September 2001 and labeled Uyghur freedom fighters as terrorists to justify their ethnic cleansing policy in East Turkistan, which is carried out just because the Uyghurs are Muslims.

In the long history since the Uyghurs accepted Islam, there had been no religious wars against other religions or had there been any radicalized religious power. Instead, Sufism had been the main Islamic teaching in East Turkistan and had the strongest influence on the Uyghur culture. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, East Turkistan became the flash point of political unrest, and all these struggles were carried out by resistant fighters against the

colonization by China.

Even if there is some kind of “terrorist” activity that could be cited by the Chinese government which examples some bomb explosions in East Turkistan as evidence for terrorism to convince world community, in fact, all these incidents were caused by scattered Uyghur individuals whose heart was filled with hatred caused by the Chinese government’s oppressive regime. It cannot be representative for the Uyghur people, and it is unlikely the position of any Uyghur organization. Also, the Chinese government has no evidence to proof that these bomb explosions have any links with any international terrorist organizations. If so, what was the story of the Uyghurs who had been arrested in Afganstan and detained in Guantanamo? Do they have any links with international terrorist organizations? The answer

is “no”, because everything happened right after the establishment of the Shanghai Corporation and right after the distribution of the 7th Secret Resolution of the Chinese government which was directed to crackdown any kind of Uyghur opposition. It was 1996, and Chinese government aggressively violated Uyghurs basic rights and intensified its systematic ethnic cleansing policy, as a result on 5 February 1997 Uyghurs rose up in Gulja against the Chinese governments oppressive regime. The February 1997 Incident was harshly cracked down and lead to thousand deaths and more than 5.000 refugees seeking shelter in neighboring countries.

Although organizations in East Turkistan asked the democratic countries and the UNHR to protect these Uyghurs in exile and to grant them refugee status, international organizations did not pay enough attention to the Uyghur refugee problem. In addition all neighboring countries were close allies of China and the Uyghurs plea for asylum was not granted in those countries. In 1998, Hamid Muhammet lead three Uyghurs who were expelled from Kazakstan to China and they were immediately executed by the Chinese government. Under these circumstances Uyghurs in exile in these countries are forced to search safe places in order to escape China’s bloody trap. They chose Afghanistan as a safe country at that time, since it was the only available country for them that did not require visa. Although they went there to get political asylum and military training against China, they had been considered as a “terrorists” without having caused any acts of terrorism in East Turkistan, and were discriminated just because they showed up at the wrong place at the wrong time. All of this was caused by Chinas repressive colonial regime and the responsibility has to be searched for in Chinas own conduct.

### **Exploitation and Economic Deprivation**



The Chinese government declared East Turkistan to be the life vein of China, not only because it is rich of petroleum and natural gas that feed China's growing energy demand, but it also has other rich natural resources such as coal, gold, minerals and grain products etc. For example, in 2006, grain production in East Turkistan was 950.000 tons and more than half of it was transferred to Inland China. The cotton production exceeded 2.180.000 tons, and made up 35% of the total cotton production of China, however, 90% of this cotton is transferred to Inland China.[<sup>28</sup>]

The coal production of East Turkistan is 2190 billion tons, and amounts to 40% of the total Chinese coal production. In 2006, East Turkistans coal production reached 38 million tons and 80% of East Turkistans coal production is transferred to Inland China.[<sup>29</sup>]

According to official Chinese government statistics, more than 300 million tons of oil was transferred to Inland China in 55 years, that is, since China Communist government colonized East Turkistan. Not even a small percentage of the oil production was left for East Turkistan to use. The latest statistics from the Tarim Oilfield of the China Petroleum Pipeline Corporation show that since December 2004 29 billion cubic meters of natural gas had been transferred from the Tarim Basin of East Turkistan to Eastern China to feed China's energy

<sup>28</sup> " Cotton production exceeded more than two million and eighty thousand tons" Xinjiang economy gazette, January 22, 2007

<sup>29</sup> " Natural resources of Xinjiang" Xinjiang daily gazette, Chinese version, June 5, 2008

demand. China is expecting to increase the transfer of natural gas capacity to 17 billion cubic meters in 2010.<sup>[30]</sup>

However, the Uyghurs, the real owners of East Turkistan have not received any benefit from this wealth. According to the “Xinjiang Daily” farmers’ annual, income in East Turkistan was 2742 Yuan in 2006 and it increased by 200 Yuan every year. As a result, farmers’ average annual income reached the middle income level in seven cities within the special administrative areas, that is, in 40 counties. All of these special administrative areas and counties were located in the eastern and northern regions of East Turkistan which are heavily populated with Han Chinese. The secretary of the “Xinjiang Autonomous Region” Communist Party, Wang Le Chuan in his speech in 2006 when he met with a delegation sent by the central government indicated that a slow economy and poverty were endemic in the regions heavily populated with ethnic minority people, such as Hoten, Kashgar, and Qizilsu.

Hoten City Party Committee Secretary Zhu Hai Lun said at a media conference in Urumchi in 2006 that farmers' annual income in Hoten was 1337 Yuan. Kashgar City Party Committee Secretary Shi Da Gang in his speech at the 6<sup>th</sup> Party Congress also revealed that Kashgar farmers' annual income was 1800 Yuan and added that there had been no change in farmers’ income.

These three regions above which have been specifically mentioned by upper echelon Chinese officials are mainly populated with Uyghurs, who make up more than 90% of the population. The number of private industries in these regions makes up 0.1% percent of the total number of private industries in Urumchi and the population of these regions accounts for 50% of the total population of East Turkistan<sup>[31]</sup>. The economy of these regions has been totally monopolized by the Chinese government and the Han Chinese immigrants. For example, Hoten is the one of the region’s most famous cities with its many traditional resources such as sweet-dried fruits, silk, beautiful carpets and jade artefacts. The ETIC learned from several different Chinese media statistics that a Chinese businessman invested 109 million Yuan in Hoten jade in 2004, 530 million Yuan in 2005 and 429 million Yuan in the first quarter of 2006<sup>[32]</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> “新疆乌鲁木齐民用液化气由原每瓶 75 元降至 70 元” Tianshan news net. January 12, 2008  
[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/12/content\\_2391724.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/12/content_2391724.htm)

<sup>31</sup> ETIC research

<sup>32</sup> ETIC research

Hoten's handcrafted carpets are famous on the world market especially in neighbouring Asian countries such as Hongkong . 80% of the families in Hoten made carpet and silk at home. In the light of such activity, people in Hoten should have a good income. But on the contrary, Hoten is today the poorest region of East Turkistan and this is because Chinese immigrants monopolize all the valuable products of Hoten and heavy government taxation is imposed on the people. The "Hoten Daily News" reported that the government collected a land tax in Hoten in the Karakash County, amounting to 4million Yuan this year, which is, compared to the last year's two million 690 Yuan, an increase by 205.34%<sup>[33]</sup>. Based on information supplied by a Hoten government office, the annual average income of the relocated women workers from Keriye County to Hoten was 1172 Yuan. And recently, the Tianshan News Net reported that the urban population which consists mainly of Han Chinese enjoyed an annual income of over the ten thousand Yuan mark reaching 10.313,40 Yuan<sup>[34]</sup>

The income gap between Uyghurs and Han Chinese is a result of the Chinese government's double standard policy in East Turkistan. While Uyghur farmers are suffering from poverty and unemployment, huge numbers of Han Chinese immigrants are transferred from Inland China every year. The "Xinjiang Radio Station" reported that the total number of Han Chinese workers that entered East Turkistan to work in the cotton fields was one million and fifty thousand in 2006 and their income was around 2 billion Yuan. Although it was not clear how many of these workers resided in East Turkistan, the phenomenon known as the "Xinjiang Residence Fever" intensified from 2005 onwards the number of new Han Chinese immigrant residents reaching 1.800.000 since the government launched a policy that encouraged Han immigrants to buy houses and offered them special subsidies, as we mentioned in an earlier chapter of this report<sup>[35]</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> 墨玉地税实现税收首月“开门红” Hoten daily, january 25, 2008 <http://www.xjht.gov.cn/read.asp?intId=19992> accessed march 23,2008

<sup>34</sup> “新疆城镇居民人均年收入首超万元” Xinjiang telegraph gazette, February 4, 2008, [http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/finance/content/2008-02/04/content\\_2432315.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/finance/content/2008-02/04/content_2432315.htm) accessed march23, 2008

<sup>35</sup> “新疆掀起新一轮移居热潮” Tianshan news net, [http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/28/content\\_2417786.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/28/content_2417786.htm) january 28, 2008

Since East Turkistan was colonized by the Chinese government two governments have been established, one the “Chinese Military Construction Corps” and the other the “Government of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region” . Beijing’s policy regarding these two governments is quite different: the “Corps” get a greater number of special privileges than the local government. For instance, in 2006 Beijing invested 910 thousand Yuan for housing renovation and 51 million 910 thousand Yuan for drinking water, 200 million Yuan for schools and 22 million 780 thousand Yuan for TV and radio stations in the “Corps Region” [ <sup>36</sup>]

Despite the fact that the “Chinese Corps” population is only just over two million of the total population of East Turkistan, the “Corps” enjoys special benefits in East Turkistan.

Although the Chinese government is constantly promoting the propaganda of equal treatment for every people in East Turkistan, the advantages enjoyed by Chinese immigrants and the disadvantages under which the local Uyghurs suffer have widened the gap and increased the tension between Han Chinese immigrants and other local people. East Turkistan acquired the legend of being the place where “easy and big money” could be made by the Han Chinese population. In fact, they have reason to believe this. The true life story of Guo Ying that was published in the Corps Gazette can be taken to be a typical example of life amongst Han Chinese migrants who came to search wealth in East Turkistan<sup>[37]</sup>.

11 years ago Guo Ying arrived in East Turkistan empty-handed and resided in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, 9<sup>th</sup> Branch of the Chinese Corps . Within eleven years she had a hundred thousand Yuan in the bank, 100 mu of land, an electronic well for drawing water and several expensive motorcycles. She also came to own big houses, electronic tools and agricultural machines According to her story in the gazette, the government offered her 40 mu of land in the first year of her arrival.

In the densely populated regions of the Uyghurs, one mu of land for each labourer is not sufficient. For example, in Atush, each labourer’s half a mu of land not enough . In addition to the lack of land, heavy land taxation of the Uyghurs has become another serious issue and has forced Uyghur farmers to abandon their houses and villages and to flee to urban areas looking for menial jobs. In the Kashgar Region, more than 340 thousand Uyghur farmers have been forced to go and look for menial jobs in the cities in 2006 because they lost their

<sup>36</sup> ETIC research in East Turkistan.

<sup>37</sup> “ Guo Ying earned a Lot in 11 Years” - Corps Gazette, 1st March 2006



agricultural lands<sup>[38]</sup>. In Gulja, 168,947 Uyghur farmers were forced to abandon their land and look for menial jobs in other cities in the first quarter of 2007<sup>[39]</sup>

Although the Chinese government and media's propaganda claims that the credit cooperative system in rural areas in East Turkistan has helped the Uyghurs out of their poverty, in reality it was designed to deprive the Uyghurs of their land by rendering the Uyghurs ever poorer. According to our reliable sources and the evidence of some foreign journalists' video interviews, Uyghur farmers were forced to seek loans. However either they were not able to take them out or they found, because of the stipulation of various conditions, that they had no right to spend their loan themselves.

*“They force us to take out a loan which we then have to pay to them... We never in fact see that loan. Government officials take all the money from our loan and give us an empty bank book filled with debt. In my village someone borrowed 10,000 Yuan from the bank. But government took all of it and left him only 1,800 Yuan. Isn't this true?”* said one Uyghur farmer on a video interview conducted by a foreign journalist and asked other farmers to confirm their statement. Other farmers said: *“True, there are some people who had borrowed 3,000 Yuan from the bank and after paying the government various taxes only 60 Yuan was left in his hand.”* <sup>[40]</sup>



Every year Uyghur farmers are forced to pay various heavy taxes and to buy agricultural products. Uyghur farmers have no right to the free use of their land. Every year the

<sup>38</sup> “Labor transfer” Xinjiang Daily gazette, Chinese version January 22, 2007

<sup>39</sup> ETIC research

<sup>40</sup> Video interview, published by farmer, you tube

government decides for them what they have to plant on their land and forces them to buy seeds at a higher price than that of the market . Uyghur farmers are also forced to pay taxes for next year's crop. To get those payments, the government forces Uyghur farmers to take out a loan from the bank and the loan given to the farmers is then directly taken by the government as a debt payment before the farmers ever see it. As a result, many Uyghurs farmers are forced to sell their lands and houses in order to pay back the government credit cooperatives and so became homeless in their own land.

Therefore, although the Chinese government has not forcibly removed all of the Uyghurs from their land using army forces, they have used various other tactics such heavy taxes, bank loans and transferring Uyghurs to work in Inland China to force Uyghurs to abandon their lands - in addition to their coercive policy of depriving the Uyghurs of their land without compensation or little compensation.

On the other hand, the Corps has plenty of land for the Chinese agricultural workers who come from China every year to look for job opportunities and wealth - as Guo Ying has stated, as we mentioned above.

### **The Reason for the Serious Unemployment among the Young Uyghurs**

While millions of Han Chinese flow into East Turkistan seeking new job opportunities and finding employment with the help of government assistance, most of the young Uyghurs suffer from unemployment. As a rule, young Uyghurs are segregated from the job market by means of various ridiculous excuses such as “you are not fluent in the Chinese language”, “there is no position available” or even “we do not hire Uyghurs”, and so on.

Since the 1990s, the Chinese government has imposed several requirements and restrictions for employment. For example, according to ETIC based information, in March 2004 the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Ministry of People's Affairs” distributed a list of “requirements and restrictions for employing graduates in towns and villages in the fourth Southern Region” to the labour departments. This list emphasises that the employment of 700 graduates must lead to the further empowerment of the grassroots line of the Chinese Communist Party and People's Government. 200 seats were given to the minority graduates among these 700, and they had to meet the following criteria:

- They must insist on the unity of China, i.e. the “One China” policy, and they must promise to protect the stability of China against all kinds of separatism and illegal religious activities.
- They must hold a strong political view and demonstrate that there have been no ethnic separatists in their family. Furthermore they must have no religious belief themselves.
- They must be members of the Communist Party and be top students at the school.
- They must be under age of 25

As we can see from the above requirements, there can be no real employment opportunities for Uyghurs – unless they are willing to choose the only harsh option open to them.

Although articles 22 and 23 of the Chinese government’s law regarding the “Autonomous Region” indicate clearly that all possible efforts be made to educate and train minority cadres, officials, scientist and managers and that they are to be given precedence in matters of employment, these laws pay only a lip service to the problem and never have been duely implemented. This has thus created serious unemployment problems among the Uyghurs in East Turkistan. The introduction of the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomy Law” by the Chinese government also emphasises the importance of the autonomous territory and its self governance. However, these laws never have been implemented either, and the “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region” has simply come to mean the “place where Uyghurs exist”.

### **Intensified Assimilation, Population Reduction Policy and the Western Development Plan**

Beijing understands very well that East Turkistan does not belong to them. They are deeply disturbed by the dream of Uyghur independence. The Uyghurs are profoundly worried by the Western Development Plan. The aggressive Chinese government has opted for ethnic cleansing measures by intensifying their various assimilation policies against the Uyghurs - such as the so called “Bilingual Education”, the “Transfer of Young Uyghur Women to Inland China”, the “Strict Birth Control Policy”, the “Eradication of the Uyghur History Campaign” and so on in order to create a favourable environment for the successful implementation of the Western Development Plan.

## The Truth behind the so-called “Bilingual Education” Policy



According to the Xinjiang Ministry of Education Statistics, there are 4 million 415 students in East Turkistan. The so-called minority students make up 58 percent. The total number of teachers in East Turkistan is 273 thousand. The so-called minority teachers make up 56% of the total number of teachers. There are 891 minority language schools such as Uyghur, Kazak, Kirgiz and Mongol language, and they make up 47% of the total number of high schools in East Turkistan. The Bilingual Education Policy of the Chinese government has proceeded gradually and systematically. Between 1950 and 1976, the Chinese government implemented truly bilingual education and the Chinese language was the second language at minority primary schools and high schools. They also established Chinese language colleges for minority students and it was mandatory before entering universities. From 1992 onwards the Chinese government tried to teach mathematics, physics and chemistry courses in Chinese in some of the minority high schools. They also focused on training Chinese language teachers for minority schools and opened Chinese language courses for minority teachers. In 2004, the Xinjiang Autonomous Region announced the policy of “Instituting a wide-ranging Bilingual Policy” and in 2005 announced the “Teaching of Chinese at Early Education Schools for Minority Children”. Since then, the so-called Bilingual Education Policy became the primary work of Chinese officials. Usually “Bilingual Education” refers to

acquiring a second language in an educational setting. However, bilingual education in East Turkistan is actually a “monolingual education” which is implemented by banning Uyghur language schools and setting in place a plan to replace Uyghur language instruction with Chinese language instruction in all areas of East Turkistan. Skilled Uyghur teachers are replaced with Han teachers and the cultural and historical significance of the Uyghur language is totally neglected. The right of the young Uyghur generation to learn in their mother language is being eradicated. In 1999, the total number of bilingual classes in East Turkistan was little more than 20 and the number of students was around 2.000. At present bilingual (actually monolingual) classes have increased to 5.000 and the number of students has reached 150 thousand<sup>[41]</sup>.

. The Chinese government has set requirements for Uyghur toddlers to speak fluent Chinese before starting school and follow the so called “catch the children” policy Planned to educate 150 thousand 400 Uyghur toddlers in every year with early Chinese language education<sup>42</sup>.

Six years ago “Xinjiang Classes” were instituted in Inland Chinese provinces to educate Uyghur children in Chinese and remove them from any Uyghur cultural environment. Today, “Xinjiang Classes” are held in 25 Inland cities and have an enrolment of more than 9.700.<sup>[43]</sup> In 2008, these classes will increase their enrolment by 5.000 students. Preferential policies are given to students from families of farmers and herdsmen. The students of ethnic minorities will make up 90 percent of the enrolment plan and Han students will make up 10 percent.<sup>[44]</sup> In 2007, the Chinese government sent 5.000 Uyghur students to study at high schools in Inland China and succeeded in implementing last year’s plan. The total number of Uyghur high school students in Chinese provinces reached 18.685 persons<sup>[45]</sup>. The Chinese government policy provides employment, subsidies, and university placement to children

<sup>41</sup> “新疆多项措施加快少数民族“民汉兼通”人才培养” January 28, 2008. Tianshan news net, [http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/27/content\\_2417024.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/27/content_2417024.htm), accessed in march 24, 2008

<sup>42</sup> “新疆5年投入4.3亿发展农村学前“双语”教育” Xinjiang economy gazette, october10, 2006

<sup>43</sup> “Enlarged enrolment for Xinjiang senior class in inner-land provinces and Xinjiang junior high school class”, March 30, 2006, <http://www.sinkiang.gov.cn/10018/10008/00013/index.jsp?curPage=130&blockId=11491&curBlock=11491>

Accessed July 29, 2007

<sup>44</sup> [ ] “Fixed time for exam of Xinjiang senior and junior classes in inland provinces” March 30, 2006, <http://www.sinkiang.gov.cn/10018/10008/00013/index.jsp?curPage=130&blockId=11491&curBlock=11491>

accessed in Aug 6, 2007

who participate in the “Xinjiang Classes” and threatens those who refuse to participate. The students in these classes are often the children of farmers and herdsmen from impoverished rural areas that need the subsidies the government provides. Although Chinese government has not used harsh tactics such as the use of police forces to implement this policy, it was inherently coercive since they had induced the Uyghur’s poverty and afforded them no alternative but to accept what was on offer. Parents have no other choice but to send their children 5.000 km away from their homes. The Chinese government’s forcible removal of Uyghur children from their cultural environment is clear proof of its intention to culturally assimilate the Uyghurs.

Besides this ,there are around 130 thousand (!!?)minority teachers in primary schools and high schools in East Turkistan and most of them are not capable of teaching the Chinese language - training them by means of a six month Chinese language course cannot assure their teaching quality. In addition, the sudden imposition of the Chinese language has created a very difficult transition for minority students: they spend most of the time learning Chinese to understand the class materials. As a result, they are only good at the Chinese language but have no professional skill in anything else that they have learned – and this creates a whole group of disqualified minority students. For example, according to ETIC sources, in 2004 Chinese teacher Feng Li was send to teach Chinese literature for the 66<sup>th</sup> high school grade one. In her class were 50 Uyghur students and none of them could speak Chinese very well and no one really understood what she taught. Feng Li finally had to give up teaching Chinese literature and started teaching Chinese Language. After two years her students started to be able to write simple letters in Chinese and one of her student whose name was Guli wrote a letter to her. This letter was published in the Chinese media as propaganda material to extol Feng Li’s great achievement. In fact, those Uyghur students spent their two years learning Chinese rather than learning Uyghur literature. The Chinese government fired many of the well educated Uyghur teachers just because they were not proficient in the Chinese language. This naturally resulted in the destruction of significant sections of education in Uyghur history and literature as well as Uyghur culture.

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<sup>45</sup> “今年新疆内高班内初班各招生五千” Xinjiang daily, january27,2008,  
[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/27/content\\_2416647.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/news/content/2008-01/27/content_2416647.htm)  
 Accessed at April 2, 2008

The intensified Chinese language teaching and Chinese education imposed on the Uyghur Children has increased frustration among Uyghurs. Uyghurs feel a dangerous loss of identity and cultural destruction.

### **Distortion of History is another effective Assimilation Policy**

The Chinese government has been quick to distort Uyghur history and create a new version of history for Uyghurs as they believe it could be a very effective policy to destroy the Uyghur culture and to discourage the Uyghur's dream of independence. The Chinese government has focussed on destroying Uyghur historical books and has attacked Uyghur historians, intellectuals, archaeologists and writers. Thousands of Uyghur, Turkish and Hungarian historical books have been burned since they started this nation-wide ideological campaign - for instance, the infamous book bonfire in Kashgar in May 2002. Burned books included "A short History of Hungary", "Uyghur Classic Literature" and many religious and scientific books that have a significant cultural value for the Uyghurs. The book "Uyghur History" written by the Uyghur historian Turghun Almas has been forbidden in East Turkistan and Turghun Almas was death under house arrest. Uyghur historian Tohti Tuniyas is still in prison just because he tried to conduct some research about Uyghur history. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has funded historians lead by Fenjiping from "The Xinjiang Science Academy" and arrange for them to write a number of book of distorted Uyghur history in order to prove that East Turkistan is part of China. Uyghur publishing houses gradually became unable to publish Uyghur articles, books and they were limited to translated articles since all articles and books written by Uyghurs were strictly inspected and politicized by the Chinese government to justify its crack down on Uyghur intellectuals and writers. All classic writings, Uyghur literary writings and poems were deleted from school books and replaced with distorted historical articles, biased political articles and Chinese literary writings. In addition to this, traditional Uyghur place names are being replaced by Chinese names and the PRC has imposed a Chinese system for the recording of Uyghur names with ridiculous results<sup>[46]</sup>.

<sup>46</sup> [] "Chinese overnment's linguistic violence against the uighurs name," ETIC article February 6, 2002.

The PRC government puts the Uyghur family name in front of the first name on all documents like Han Chinese names, causing a great deal of trouble for Uyghurs. For example, a woman named Kamile with the family name Dawud would become Dawud Kamile, or Daiwuti Kaimilai under the PRC Romanization system causing Uyghurs to think that Dawud is her first name. This creates a lot of confusion and inconvenience for Kamile and others because Dawud is actually a man's name.

### **Birth Control Policy in East Turkistan**

Since 1987, the Chinese government has supported the killing of Uyghurs through its family planning policy. According to the 2005 *Xinjiang Tongji Nianjian (Xinjiang Statistical Yearbook)*, the Uyghur population made up 8,98 million of the 19,6 million population of Xinjiang. The percentage of Han Chinese has increased from 6% in 1949 to 40% at present, indicating a dramatic population increase since 1949. According to the 2000 PRC population census, the average yearly population rate for Uyghurs was 1,48 percent, almost half of China's 2.7 percent increase<sup>[47]</sup>.

The Chinese government states that its birth control policy towards ethnic minorities is more relaxed than towards the Han Chinese and that its regulations are set by provincial governments according to local circumstances.<sup>[48]</sup> The PRC also officially states that the one-child-policy only applies to ethnic nationalities of over 10 million people in China. However, in reality the Chinese government uses tactics designed to persuade, encourage, and force Uyghurs to have one child. For example, the government offers subsidies and awards to encourage Uyghurs to have only one child. PRC officials confirmed that the number of births was reduced by 370,000 in 30 years in East Turkistan.<sup>[49]</sup>

However on 31 March 2007, the so-called Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Birth Control Committee Meeting announced it was setting up an "honour Certificate" policy. The secretary of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region Party, Wang, gave a speech at the meeting and said: "In 2005, the Xinjiang Autonomous Region's birth rate was 16.4%, but in the southern Xinjiang, Qizilsu Prefecture, the birth rate reached 20.98% , and in Hoten, Aksu and the Kashgar District, the birth rate was above the average birth rate of Xinjiang. For example, Hoten's population was 1,400,000 in 1990, but it reached 1,807,400 in 2005. In 16 years

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[http://www.xn--grn-hoab.de/wunn02/2002\\_06\\_16.htm](http://www.xn--grn-hoab.de/wunn02/2002_06_16.htm)

<sup>47</sup> Ilham, "Population analysis of Uyghur, Kazak, and Kirghiz Nationalities," December, 1, 2006. [www.uyghurbiz.com.cn](http://www.uyghurbiz.com.cn) accessed August 17, 2007

<sup>48</sup> Di Dio, D., "China's Unborn Children", Oriental University of Naples, Italy, [http://www.irmgard-coninx-http://www.irmgard-coninx-stiftung.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/pdf/roundtable07/DiDio.pdf](http://www.irmgard-coninx-http://www.irmgard-coninx-stiftung.de/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/roundtable07/DiDio.pdf), downloaded 7 June 2007.

<sup>49</sup> "Xinjiang family planning policy reduced 370 thousand births by 370 thousand in 30 years", Tianshan News Net, July 12, 2007. <http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/special/content/2007-07/12>



there had been an increase of 970,000 people.” He also distorted the reason for the poverty of the main Uyghur population and said that: “The increasing population of farmers in the southern region is the main reason for the poverty and this population in poverty consists of 85% of the total population of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region”. PRC officials also stressed the successful result of the financial reward-and-punish tactics of the birth control policy at a meeting reviewing birth control reports. Wang also stressed that there should be strict implementation of the Chinese government’s policy of financially rewarding families that practised birth control and punishing families who did not. They believed that this could play an effective role in forcing Uyghurs to abort their unborn children as the Uyghur population lives mainly under the poverty line.

In the so-called Honour Certificate Policy, poor farmers were attracted to the idea and then tricked. According to the policy, if farmers agreed to sign up to have no child or only one child, they would get a birth control honour certificate along with 3,000 or 5,000 Yuan financial award. In addition to this, one child was entitled to receive 10 points at the university entrance examination; they were also entitled to get emergency social assistance between 500 Yuan to 600 Yuan. Any woman holding an honour certificate is obliged to have no more than one child - if she becomes pregnant again the baby has to be aborted [<sup>50</sup>]

In fact, the birth control policy is implemented with not only using soft tactics as we mentioned above, but also with coercive policies such as forcing and punishing those who were not attracted by the soft tactics. Every year the Chinese government has more than one million Han Chinese immigrate into East Turkistan and less births among the Uyghurs are filled with these Chinese immigrants. The Chinese governments propaganda that “less birth and one child is to save one person’s food” is in fact nothing else but to save one Uyghur’s food for one Chinese immigrant.

Uyghurs are Muslims and forced abortion is prohibites in Islam. It is not possible for the Chinese government to implement a birth control policy on Uyghurs through exclusively employing government propaganda. For this reason, the Chinese government always implements birth control policy on Uyghurs with the use of coercive means, such as police enforcement, financial punishment or denial of employment and subjection to poverty which

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<sup>50</sup> “新疆三地州实施农村计划生育家庭特殊奖励政策” Tianshan news net, January 14, 2008.

[http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/dizhou/content/2008-01/14/content\\_2393426.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com.cn/dizhou/content/2008-01/14/content_2393426.htm)  
accessed, in April 20, 2008

can put Uyghurs under the condition of no choice rather than accepting the policy. For instance during the campaign to investigate the implementation of the policy and strictly punish illegal births between July 2007 and October 2008, an reward was offered to people who reported illegal births to the government and published contact phone numbers and email addresses to ease the reporting of pregnant women and the “illegal births”.[<sup>51</sup>]

The ETIC learned that the Chinese government built 13,786 various birth control organizations in 95% of East Turkistans villages to control the birth of Uyghur babies and innocent mothers who would protect their babies became the targets of violent attacks. *“Although we have allowed to get two children, I was not allowed to deliver my only baby girl safely, They did botched operation procedure both on me and my daughter. They did that because my husband is in prison charged of separatism”*, said Meryem from Turpan who did not want to disclose her real name at a phone interview with the ETIC. *“I am 26, but my health is getting worse since I received the birth control operation, since the Chinese doctors are very aggressive and they are not skilled”*, said Rashide from Gulja in the phone interview as well.<sup>52</sup> In fact, Meryem and Rashide’s cases are very common in East Turkistan, including excessive bleedings, chronic pelvic inflammatory diseases, infertility and mental trauma since the Chinese government focuses only on mass abortions in every village without any follow-up procedures. The unbelievable inhuman treatment that is practised during the birth control operative procedure on baby girls probably only exist in East Turkistan.

## Conclusion

With the so-called “Western Development Plan” the Chinese government does not only pursue its goal of full exploitation of East Turkistan but also the demographic expansion to Central Asia and the Middle East to fulfil its growing energy demand. However, no matter how the Chinese government is trying to distort history, information and intensifies the ethnic cleansing of Uyghurs, and no matter how powerful and aggressive they are with their oppressive policies, the Uyghurs never have been convinced to accept them as rulers or as foreigners in East Turkistan, and distance between these two people increased and tension is

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<sup>51</sup> “自治区全面开展城镇违法生育专项治理行动” Tianshan news net, july13, 2007, [http://www.tianshannet.com/special/content/2007-07/13/content\\_2062291.htm](http://www.tianshannet.com/special/content/2007-07/13/content_2062291.htm)

<sup>52</sup> ETIC phone interview, January 12, 2008

higher than ever before. Uyghur resistance fighters continue to try to organize and Uyghur people are ready to rise up any minute in East Turkistan despite great imbalance of power between the Han Chinese and Uyghurs, and despite being forgotten by the world and left helpless as governments in this world focus more on realpolitik and business, rather than human rights. However, hope has never been given up in East Turkistan even though China continues to intensify its inhuman repression.