



## **16 Uyghur Political Prisoners of Special Concern**

### **1. Alim Abdureyim**



Son of Rebiya Kadeer. Originally detained on May 30, 2006. Severely beaten by police on June 1, 2006. Arraigned on Monday, July 10, 2006 on charges of tax evasion and “attempting to split the state”. Charged on June 13, 2006 with tax evasion as a result of an investigation into the family business. Reportedly tortured and subjected to physical abuse while in detention. Reported to have ‘confessed’ on or around July 1 to criminal and political charges against him as a direct consequence of being tortured. In November 2006, Alim was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined 62,500 USD on charges of tax evasion.

### **2. Ablikim Abdureyim**



Son of Rebiya Kadeer. Originally detained on May 30, 2006. Severely beaten by police on June 1, 2006. Ablikim was hospitalized in early June following the police beating, and has reportedly been tortured and subjected to severe medical neglect during his detention and subsequent imprisonment. Ablikim was sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of “secessionism” in April 2007.

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### **3. and 4. Miradil Yasin and Mutellip Téyip**

“Security staff detained Miradil (Mir’adil) Yasin and Mutellip Téyip on December 20, 2008, for distributing leaflets on Xinjiang University (XU) campus calling on students to hold a demonstration. XU staff notified public security offices, which took the two young men into detention.” The current whereabouts of Miradil and Mutellip are unknown.

From: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=116179>

### **5. Mehbube Ablesh**



“An employee in the advertising department at the Xinjiang People’s Radio Station, Mehbube Ablesh was fired from her job in August 2008 and detained in apparent connection to her writings for the Internet that were critical of government policies, including ‘bilingual’ education.” Her current whereabouts is unknown.

From: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=116179>

### **6. Abdulla Jamal**

“Authorities arrested teacher Abdulla Jamal in April 2005, after he submitted for publication a manuscript that authorities claimed incited separatism. The arrest followed his detention a month earlier, along with the detention of 3 other teachers and 17 or 18 students, ostensibly for involvement in a fight between ethnic Uyghur and Han Chinese students.”

From: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=116179>

### **7. Abdulghani Memetemin**



“A Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) court sentenced journalist Abdulghani Memetemin to nine years’ imprisonment in 2003 for providing information on government repression against Uyghurs to an overseas organization that reports on human rights abuses in the XUAR. Authorities characterized this act as ‘supplying state secrets to an organization outside the country.’”

From: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/virtualAcad/index.phpd?showsingle=116179>

## 8. Huseyin Celil



Canadian citizen extradited from Uzbekistan to China in June 2006. Celil was detained in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, in March 2006, while visiting his wife's relatives. He was traveling on a Canadian passport when he was detained.

China maintains that Celil is “a Chinese citizen suspected of being involved in East Turkestan terrorist activities,” and says his case is being tried and a verdict has not yet been reached. Celil was wanted in China for his involvement in a campaign for the rights of the country's minority Muslim Uyghurs. He was arrested in China and tortured,

but escaped from prison in 2000 and fled to Uzbekistan and Turkey before reaching Canada, where he was given citizenship.

## 9. Nurmemet Yasin



Chinese Public Security agents arrested Nurmemet Yasin for publishing an article in a local literary journal in Kashgar, East Turkestan. On January 15th, 2005, the Radio Free Asia (RFA) Uyghur Service reported that a local police officer in Kashgar confirmed Yasin's arrest during a telephone interview. The officer said that Nurmemet Yasin had been arrested three and a half months earlier “for spreading separatist ideas.”

## 10. Yasin Turdi

Mr. Turdi was 70 years of age at the time of his arrest on January 29, 2007 in Shinxa County, Aksu Prefecture. A religious figure, Mr. Turdi was accused of engaging in activities to “split the motherland”.

Mr. Turdi is now being held in Toqsu Public Security Prison in Aksu. Local residents assert that Mr. Turdi is innocent and that his only “crime” is that he prays five times a day and that he preferred to pray at home instead of in mosques.

Mr. Turdi was secretly tried on August 1, 2007, but the outcome of the trial remains unknown. According to our sources, he has been brutally tortured in prison and is very ill. Mr. Turdi suffers from diabetes, further increasing concerns about his health.

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## **11. Aminan Momixi**

On August 1, 2005, authorities in Xinjiang arrested Aminan Momixi, a Uyghur Muslim religious instructor, along with 37 of her students. Aminan Momixi was teaching the Koran to students between the ages of 7 and 20 in her home when police rushed in. They accused Momixi of “illegally possessing religious materials and subversive historical information” and reportedly denied her access to a lawyer.

## **12. Yusuf Kadir Tohti (also known as Erdagan)**

*(Presumed to have been sent back to China.)* Yusuf Kadir Tohti reportedly fled China for Kazakstan in 1996, and became a religious teacher. He was reportedly arrested on March 8, 2006 by the Kazakstani authorities. The Chinese authorities have reportedly accused him of “separatism” and asked for his extradition.

## **13. Abdukadir Sidik**

*(Presumed to have been sent back to China.)* Abdukadir Sidik fled the XUAR in 1999 after he publicly protested against the Chinese authorities’ policy on minorities. He was reportedly detained for two months in connection with his political activities and views. After his release, Abdukadir Sidik reportedly filed a complaint against a local official. After he submitted his complaint, the official reportedly came to his house, beat him and threatened him with further punishment. It was after this that Abdukadir Sidik, reportedly fearing for his safety, fled China and was detained by Kazakstani border officials when crossing the border. He was charged by the Kazakstani authorities with illegally crossing the border and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.

## **14. Mehmet Tohti Abduqadir**

Mehmet Tohti Abduqadir, 39 years old, from Qatqa village, Tavakkul district of Hotan Prefecture. Suspected in contacts with Abla Ebey. Sentenced to 17 years’ imprisonment for “instigation of anti-government activities”. Arrested in February 2001.

## **15. Alimjan Yimit/Alimujiang Yimiti**



Alimjan is a Uyghur Christian who has been detained in Kashgar since January 12, 2008, when he was arrested and accused of “endangering national security”. On May 27, 2008, Alimjan’s case was tried in court, but the case was returned to local prosecutors because of “insufficient evidence” against him. However, the prosecution of Alimjan’s case appears to be delayed indefinitely.

Alimjan is married and has two young sons. Prior to his detention, he was employed with two foreign-owned companies.

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During this time, security officials regularly interrogated him, physically abused him, and searched his home. He converted to Christianity more than 10 years ago and became active in the growing Uyghur church. Alimjan's friends believe this was the real reason for his arrest, and assert that he has never been involved in separatist activities or any activities endangering national security. Officials closed Alimjan's business in September 2007 and accused him of using it as a cover for "preaching Christianity among people of Uyghur ethnicity."

#### **16. Osman Imin/ Wusiman Yiming**



Osman is a Uyghur Christian who was sentenced to two years of re-education through labor in September 2007 for "revealing state secrets" and "illegal proselytizing." Sources say that the real reason he was sentenced was because of his boldness as a Christian and his role as a leader in the Uyghur church. Initially, officials planned to sentence him for 10 to 15 years, but after international media attention was directed toward Osman's case, they sentenced him to two years in the labor camp. Sources report that he has aged dramatically in the labor camp and his health is deteriorating due to harsh conditions. When Osman's lawyer appealed his sentence in June 2008, court

authorities insisted on a closed hearing, and then turned down the appeal and refused to explain the reason for this. They also denied Osman proper access to his lawyer, which violated normal court procedures.

#### **Further Information**

More information on Uyghur political prisoners can be found at:

<http://www.uhrp.org/categories/Issues/Political-Prisoners/>

<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/victims/index.php>

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The Uyghur American Association (UAA) works to promote the preservation and flourishing of a rich, humanistic and diverse Uyghur culture, and to support the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, democratic means to determine their own political future in East Turkestan.



The UAA launched the UHRP in 2004 to promote improved human rights conditions for Uyghurs and other indigenous groups in East Turkestan, on the premise that the assurance of basic human rights will facilitate the realization of the community's democratic aspirations.

UHRP also works to raise the profile of the Uyghur people and the plight of all “minority” peoples in East Turkestan by:

Researching, writing and publishing news stories and longer reports covering a broad range human rights issues involving civil and political rights, through to social cultural and economic rights;

Preparing briefings – either written or in person – for journalists, academics, diplomats and politicians on the human rights situation faced by the Uyghur people and others in East Turkestan.

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