

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** CHN31450  
**Country:** China  
**Date:** 14 March 2007

Keywords: China – East Turkistan Liberation Party (ETLP) – Uighurs – Demonstrations

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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**Questions**

- 1. Is there any information on when East Turkistan Liberation Party (ETLP) was formed, who its leaders have been and whether the ETLP was active in the 1980's?**
- 2. Do you have any information about Hoja Niyaz Haji, supposedly East Turkistan Liberation Army's second leader?**
- 3. Do we know what specific acts ETLP has been involved in?**
- 4. Is ETLP an arm of the East Turkistan Liberation Movement?**
- 5. Are there any reports of an incident on 3 May 1981 when an explosion occurred at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region People's Hospital?**
- 6. Is there any information on a big demonstration which took place on 18 May 1989 when a few thousand Uighur demonstrators were arrested?**
- 7. What information is there about a demonstration which took place in February 1997 in Gulja?**
- 8. Are you able to list (without too much detail) the major demonstrations/events which Uighur protestors have organised from 1989 to 2006?**
- 9. Do you have any information about the demonstration organised by Australian Uighurs on 1 Oct 2006 in Camperdown?**
- 10. Question deleted.**

**RESPONSE**

- 1. Is there any information on when ETLP was formed, who its leaders have been and whether the ETLP was active in the 1980's?**

No detailed information was found in the sources consulted in regards to the East Turkistan Liberation Party (ETLP). This includes no information regarding the formation, leaders or activity of the ETLP. Only two brief mentions of the ETLP were found in the sources consulted.

The following report was found regarding 14 reported members of the ETLP who were extradited from Kazakhstan in 2004:

Kazakh National Security Agency Deputy Chairman Vladimir Bozhko stated, “Due to facts of involvement into Uyghur separatist organizations, 14 individuals have been extradited to Kyrgyzstan and China,” according to the Radio Free Asia report. He claimed that the refugees are all members of the East Turkistan Liberation Party. (‘UHRP Condemns Kazakhstan’s Extradition of Uyghurs to China’ 2004, Transnational Radical Party website, 1 December, [http://web.radicalparty.org/pressreview/print\\_right.php?func=detail&par=11590#](http://web.radicalparty.org/pressreview/print_right.php?func=detail&par=11590#) – Accessed 6 March 2007 – Attachment 1).

Time magazine provided the below testimony from an expatriate Uighur who joined the ETLP in 1989:

Ibrahim is a veteran of the Uighurs’ brief, failed struggle against China. He joined the East Turkistan Liberation Party in 1989. “We thought if we captured and held some territory, we would receive support from outside? Pakistan or Afghanistan,” he says. This was a serious miscalculation: in 1990, the P.L.A. crushed the 200 Uighurs fighting with weapons stolen from police stations. Ibrahim escaped to Kyrgyzstan and now lives in Europe. He tells Time he stayed in touch with cell-group leaders inside Xinjiang for as long as he could but lost contact five years ago. “I suppose everyone has been arrested,” he says. (Forney, M. 2002, ‘One Nation Divided’, *Time website*, 18 March <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,218371,00.html> – Accessed 6 March 2007 – Attachment 2).

## **2. Do you have any information about Hoja Niyaz Haji, supposedly East Turkistan Liberation Army’s second leader?**

References were found to a Hoja Niyaz Haji in the sources consulted but these reports were not available in English. The websites with Uighur references to Hoja Niyaz Haji include:

- Voice of East Turkistan - <http://voiceofeastturkistan.com/index.html>
- East Turkistan Information Center - [http://www.uygur.org/uygurche/uchur/2006/08\\_19a.htm](http://www.uygur.org/uygurche/uchur/2006/08_19a.htm)
- Uyghur American Association website - <http://www.uyghuramerican.org/forum/archive/index.php/t-70.html>

No reference was found to the East Turkistan Liberation Army in the sources consulted.

## **3. Do we know what specific acts ETLP has been involved in?**

Please refer to question one.

## **4. Is ETLP an arm of the East Turkistan Liberation Movement?**

No information was found in the sources consulted as to whether the ETLP is an arm of the East Turkistan Liberation Movement. No detailed information was found in regards to the East Turkistan Liberation Movement as an independent organisation in the sources consulted. One reference was found to a East Turkistan Liberation Movement legally registered in Kazakhstan:

Dozens of Islamic organizations comprised of Chinese exiles were legally registered in Central Asia during the mid-1990s, such as the East Turkistan Liberation Movement in Kazakhstan. Although most of them were later outlawed, they continued to engage in covert operations that pose a security threat to Beijing. (Ji, Y. 2004, ‘China’s post 9/11 Terrorism Strategy’, Association for Asian Research website, 5 November,

**5. Are there any reports of an incident on 3 May 1981 when an explosion occurred at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region People's Hospital?**

No reference was found to an incident on 3 May 1981 when an explosion occurred at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region People's Hospital in the sources consulted.

**6. Is there any information on a big demonstration which took place on 18 May 1989 when a few thousand Uighur demonstrators were arrested?**

No reference was found in the sources consulted regarding a protest held specifically on 18 May 1989 which involved the arrests of a few thousand Uighur demonstrators. However sources suggest that a large scale demonstration did take place on 19 May 1989 in Urumqi, Xinjiang, by Muslim protestors who called for the removal of a religiously offensive book titled '*Sexual Customs*'. While the demonstration in Urumqi was organised by Hui Chinese and the protests throughout China were attended by Chinese Muslims of diverse ethnicities, sources suggest that Uighur protestors were treated with particular severity. Sources state, that the Urumqi demonstration encountered a clash with police and that Uighurs were arrested. The number of arrests from this protest were not found in the sources consulted.

Demonstrations occurred throughout China in May 1989 in regards a book titled "*Sexual Customs*" or "*Xing Fengsu*" which was perceived to be religiously offensive within China's Muslim population. Sources state that in Urumqi a demonstration took place:

Demonstrations and protests continued in 1989. In May more than 100, 000 persons demonstrated in Urumqi, Beijing and other cities asking the government to confiscate the book called *Sexual Customs*, published in Shanghai, in which the chapter on Islam was found to be offensive (Ticozzi, S. 1993 'Islam In China: A Historical Survey', *China Studies Journal*, Vol.9, No.1 April 1994, October, p.14 – Attachment 14).

According to the following report the demonstration in Urumqi was subject to a clash with police leaving 200 protestors injured. The report also states that the demonstration was organised by Hui Chinese students not Uighur activists:

And during the heady days of May 1989, Muslim students marched in Urumqi in a demonstration organized by Hui students to express rage at the publication in Shanghai of *Sexual Customs* (*Xing Fengsu*), a book containing insulting misrepresentations of Islam. This demonstration turned ugly in People's Square, where cars, motorbikes, and windows were smashed and rioters clashed with police, leaving almost 200 injured. (Millward, J. 2004 'Policy Studies 6. Violent Separatism in Xinjiang: A Critical Assessment', *East-West Center*, Washington, p8, Attachment 5)

While Hui Chinese Muslims organised the Urumqi protest and the nation wide demonstrations involved Chinese Muslims of diverse nationalities, sources state that Uighurs were subject to particular discriminatory treatment including detention. The following 1992 report states that at the time of publication several Uighurs were still detained over the protest:

In order to demonstrate Muslim solidarity, the protest was led by representatives of four of the ten Muslim nationalities in China, including Uighur, Hui, Kirghiz and Khazak...

This event is still unresolved for the Uighur in that there are several Uighur in Urumqi who continue to sit in jail for taking part in the protest. While the state forgave, the violent protests of

the Hui...it has not yet released several Uighur who were arrested for taking part in the 19 May 1989 Urumqi protest, a protest the Uighur claim was instigated by the Hui from Gansu... While several reasons may be given for this seeming inconsistency, here I might only suggest that it underlines the continued uneasiness that the Chinese government feels about unrest and political involvement in...Xinjiang. (Gladney, D. 1992, 'Constructing a Contemporary Uighur National Identity: Transnationalism, Islamicization, and State Representation', Center for International Studies and Research website <http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com/publica/cemoti/textes13/gladney.pdf> – Accessed 7 March 2007 – Attachment 6)

Sources also suggest that the 19 May demonstrations in Urumqi have led to increasingly restrictive policies within Xinjiang:

Following protests against the publication of a Chinese book titled Xing Fengsu (Sexual customs) that allegedly denigrated Islam, Rudelson notes, the government increasingly “reverted to restrictive policies, amidst fears that Islam might provide a rallying point for ethnic nationalism and that Islamist movements abroad might inspire young Uighurs who had gone to study in foreign Islamic schools.” And so the 1990s were transformed into an exceptionally vicious decade in Xinjiang’s history marked by a cycle of violence... (Haider, Z. 2005, 'Sino-Pakistan Relations and Xinjiang’s Uighurs', Asian Survey, Vol XLV, No.4, July/August, <http://www.stimson.org/southasia/pdf/xinjiang.pdf> – Accessed 7 March – Attachment 7)

## **7. What information is there about a demonstration which took place in February 1997 in Gulja?**

Amnesty International have released detailed reports regarding the February demonstrations in Gulja. According to Amnesty International the first demonstration occurred on the 5th of February as a reaction against increased state repression of Uighur groups, particularly during the 1996 “strike hard” anti-crime campaign. This escalated into several protests which lasted two days. Clashes were encountered with antiriot squads and troops in which it is reported that many people were killed or injured. Amnesty also reports that thousands of Uighurs were arrested and detained in the weeks and months following the demonstrations. According to Amnesty the demonstrations were officially categorised by the Chinese government as acts of terrorism.

### **Causes:**

#### ***The 5 February 1997 incident in Gulja (Yining) and its context***

In 1994, a movement was started by Uighurs in the city of Gulja (*Yining*) in Ili Prefecture to revive a traditional form of social gathering, the “meshrep”, in order to tackle social problems. The meshreps are traditional parties which may involve women, men, young people or a mixed group, and are held like a play, with one person leading the group and giving turns to those assembled to speak, play music, sing songs or recite poems. According to unofficial sources, the Ili Youth Meshrep was organised by some young Uighurs in Gulja at the end of 1994, with the agreement of the city authorities. It was set up as an attempt to tackle drug abuse which had become widespread among young Uighurs – mostly the uneducated and unemployed – and related problems affecting the local Uighur community. The initiative is said to have been initially supported by several cultural institutions in the city, who donated materials for a library set up by the Youth Meshrep in Kepekyuzi, one of the villages surrounding Gulja. The meshreps were organised regularly in villages for a period of months. They tried to revive cultural and Islamic traditions and a sense of moral values, enforcing rules which prohibited drinking, smoking and drug taking. They reportedly achieved some success in reducing the drug problem among the young. The movement was

popular and spread to other areas in the XUAR. According to some sources, there were soon some 400 meshreps in the region.

In April 1995, a meeting of the youth meshreps of the Ili region was held, during which one of the initial founders of the movement, Abdulhelil, was elected as their main leader. Immediately after, the police reportedly summoned Abdulhelil and other participants for questioning but took no further action at that time. However, the authorities apparently became increasingly worried about the strength of the meshreps. On 13 August 1995, for no apparent reason, Abdulhelil was detained again together with two other Uighurs. This provoked a protest demonstration by young Uighurs in Gulja the next day. Soon after, the authorities banned the meshreps. According to unofficial sources, other initiatives launched by members of the Uighur community in Gulja to give a sense of purpose to local youths, such as the formation of a local Uighur football team, were also stopped by the authorities.

The meshreps reportedly continued secretly and arbitrary arrests increased over the following eighteen months, particularly during the 1996 “strike hard” anti-crime campaign, which led to large-scale arrests and numerous executions. Discontent apparently grew in Gulja in proportion with repression.

On 5 February 1997, a demonstration was held in the city, followed by sporadic protests and rioting for two days. According to unofficial sources, the 5 February demonstration was provoked by a series of incidents during the Holy month of Ramadan, marked that year by a heavy police presence in the city. Shortly before 5 February, an incident reportedly occurred at a mosque when police came to arrest two Uighur “talibs” (religious students). According to reports, people at the mosque tried to intervene, a violent fight ensued and both civilians and police were killed or injured in the clash. Dozens of civilians were then reportedly arrested. (Amnesty International 1999, *‘People’s Republic of China – Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region’*, 21 April, p.17-19 – Attachment 8).

### **Demonstrations:**

On 5 February 1997, at 9 o’clock in the morning, several hundred young Uighurs started demonstrating through the streets of Gulja, holding banners, shouting religious slogans and calling for equal treatment for Uighurs. Unofficial sources say that the demonstration lasted for about two hours and was peaceful. At around 11.00 am the demonstrators were stopped by armed police units escorted by trained dogs. Arrests started soon after. According to some sources, between 300 and 500 demonstrators and bystanders were arrested on 5 February. The protests continued sporadically for two days, spreading to the suburbs, and rioting broke out in some areas. It is not clear when or how violence started. Some unofficial sources claim that there was no violence until 6 February, though too little is known about what happened across the city to confirm this claim. By 6 February, a large number of antiriot squads and troops had been brought into the city. They reportedly went through the streets arresting and beating people, including children. In some areas, protesters reportedly attacked police or Chinese residents and shops and set fire to some vehicles, while the security forces reportedly opened fire on protesters and bystanders. Many people were killed or injured. Soon after, more troops were brought into the city, a curfew was imposed, the airport and the railway station were closed and the city was sealed off for two weeks.

Amnesty International has received many reports alleging that the security forces carried out arrests and treated people detained in Gulja during and after the protests with extreme brutality. One incident reported by various sources concerned a group of 300 or 400 of the demonstrators and residents arrested on 5 February. According to some sources, they were hosed with icy cold water by some soldiers or riot police in an open place, identified by some sources as a stadium, where they were temporarily held. The group, including some children, were reportedly kept there, wet, for two hours in the freezing cold February temperature.

According to other sources, some young men and women among the detainees were forced to run barefoot in the snow. It is also alleged that one of the detainees, a young man identified as Abdu Gani, was taken away by soldiers when he tried to question their actions, and had a dog set upon him. Eventually, after two hours, those among the detainees who were suffering from severe frostbite were taken to hospital – some allegedly had to have their feet, fingers or hands amputated. The rest of the group was taken to prison during the two weeks which followed the protests, house to house searches and large-scale arbitrary arrests were reportedly carried out by the security forces. Unofficial estimates of the number of arrests during these two weeks vary from 3000 to over 5,000. Many sources have reported that all the places of detention in Gulja city were full and some of those arrested were held in improvised places of detention or taken to jails outside the city. A large number of the Uighur traders in the city were reportedly detained during the week after 5 February and many of them allegedly robbed by police or soldiers of their money and other valuables. Those held included relatives and friends of people arrested during the protests and anyone suspected of being a nationalist sympathiser. Most of those detained were held for several weeks or months, without charge and incommunicado, and many were reportedly tortured. Their relatives reportedly had to give money to police officers in order to secure their release. Several hundred people are believed to have remained in detention. Some of them have been sentenced during “public sentencing rallies” held in Ili since then.

Arbitrary arrests continued throughout Ili Prefecture during the following months and people who had formed or taken part in religious classes were particularly targeted (Amnesty International 1999, *‘People’s Republic of China – Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region’*, 21 April, p.17-19 – Attachment 8).

In a 2005 Amnesty International report on the February 1997 demonstrations it is stated that an ‘unknown number of people remain in prison in connection with these events.’ and that ‘to date, there has been no investigation into the actions of the security forces and no one has been brought to justice for these abuses’. Amnesty International states that the Chinese authorities have ‘...officially described the unrest as an act of “terrorism”:

In a report published in the *People’s Daily* in January 2002, the authorities attributed the incident to the “East Turkestan Islamic Party of Allah” (ETIPA) which was later named as the “East Turkestan Islamic Movement” (ETIM). At China’s behest, ETIM was listed as a “terrorist organization” by the United Nations in 2002, although the evidence that forms the basis for this conclusion remains unclear. In February 2003, Amnesty International wrote to the Chair of the XUAR government, Ismail Tiliwaldi, asking him for further information to substantiate official claims of the involvement ETIPA/ETIM in the incident. The letter also requested that the authorities make public information about those who remain in detention in connection with the incident and to conduct an independent inquiry into all reports of killings, torture and other serious human rights violations which reportedly took place during the demonstration and the unrest that followed. To date, Amnesty International has received no response to this letter. (Amnesty International, 2005, ‘China: Remembering the victims of police brutality in Gulja, Xinjiang on 5-6 February 1997’, 4 February 2005, <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa170052005> – Accessed 12 March 2007 – Attachment 9).

## **8. Are you able to list (without too much detail) the major demonstrations/events which Uighur protestors have organised from 1989 to 2006?**

Sources state that there has long been strong Uighur objection to Chinese rule in Xinjiang. This has led to demonstrations and protests within the Uighur community for the ‘achievement of “real autonomy” or “independence” for the country they still call East Turkestan.’ While no unified movement exists, due in part to Chinese restrictions, a small

number of groups are known to secretly exist. (Human Rights Watch 2005, “*Devastating Blows. Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang*” April Vol. 17, No. 2(C) pp.11-12 – Attachment 10) I have outlined below some major demonstrations and events which Uighurs protestors have organised from 1989 to 2006.

### **May 1989**

Demonstrations occurred throughout China in May 1989 in regards a book titled “*Sexual Customs*” or “*Xing Fengsu*” which was perceived to be religiously offensive within China’s Muslim population. Sources state that in Urumqi, Xinjiang a large demonstration took place:

And during the heady days of May 1989, Muslim students marched in Urumqi in a demonstration organized by Hui students to express rage at the publication in Shanghai of *Sexual Customs (Xing Fengsu)*, a book containing insulting misrepresentations of Islam. This demonstration turned ugly in People’s Square, where cars, motorbikes, and windows were smashed and rioters clashed with police, leaving almost 200 injured. (Millward, J. 2004 ‘Policy Studies 6. Violent Separatism in Xinjiang: A Critical Assessment’, *East-West Center*, Washington, p8, Attachment 5)

For more information please see question 6.

### **April 1990**

1990 has been described by Human Rights Watch as ‘the turning point’ in regards to stricter controls of Uighur society by Chinese authorities. This is largely attributed to a major, Islamic-inspired insurrection in Baren county. (Human Rights Watch 2005, “*Devastating Blows. Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang*” April Vol. 17, No. 2(C) p.12 – Attachment 10). The protest occurred in reaction to the closure of a mosque preceding a religious festival. It has been outlined in the following document:

This most recent government crackdown came in response to riots in Baren, a small town on the western edge of the province, where mass protests broke out in April of 1990. The closing of a mosque just days in advance of a religious festival led to clashes with security forces, and an unknown number were killed in the crackdown (tallies vary widely, from an official toll of 22 deaths to claims as high as 3,000 killed) (Tyler 165; Rudelson and Jankowiak 316). As Tyler relates it, the internal Party report on the incident described it as “‘the most serious [riot] carried out by ethnic separatists since the Liberation of Xinjiang’. It had been planned well in advance ... by a ‘small number of reactionaries and ethnic separatists hidden in Baren’ ... The plan had been to set up, under the ‘cloak of religion’, an Eastern Turkistan Republic by armed revolt, and to eliminate non-believers (that is, the Han)”. Accounts from the incident spread throughout Xinjiang, and it was alleged that in the aftermath local security forces initially arrested every male between the ages of 13 and 60 in the town. Similar uprisings in Ili, Gulja, and Kashgar, most of which originated out of disputes over the treatment of mosque-goers and religious scholars, were soon coupled with bombing campaigns in Xinjiang and within China proper. (Cookman, C. 2004, ‘Uyghur Separatism and the Politics of Islam in China’s Western Frontier’, 7 December, <http://cheznadezhda.blogharbor.com/blog/archives/2004/12/6/197546.html> – Accessed 13 March 2007 – Attachment 11).

### **July 1995**

Several hundred people are reported to have protested in Khotan (Hetian), located in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, in regards to the arrest of an Imam in July 1995:

On 7 July 1995, a protest started in Khotan (Hetian) when local Muslims arrived at the Baytulla mosque for Friday prayer and found that the Imam (Islamic preacher), Abdul Kayum, had disappeared. He was reported to have been arrested the previous day. According to unofficial sources, Abdul Keyum, a young man, had been appointed Imam after two other Imams were dismissed by the authorities for interpreting the Koran by making reference to current events, which drew a growing number of worshippers to the mosque... His reported arrest on 7 July 1995 provoked anger. Several hundred people among those gathered at the mosque went to the nearby local government offices, located in a compound which also housed the local police and Communist Party headquarters.

A violent confrontation soon developed between the protesters and the approximately 50 armed police present there. Some cadres, police officers and civilians in the crowd were injured, and equipment was destroyed. As the fighting got worse, more than 20 lorries full of riot police arrived on the scene. They closed the doors of the compound trapping inside some of the protesters, fired tear gas, and arrested the protesters there, reportedly beating them up badly in the process.

According to unofficial sources, several hundred people were detained on the spot on 7 July 1995 and many more during the following weeks, both in and around Khotan.

Many of those detained in Khotan since 1995 were arrested for taking part in “illegal” religious activities. Some have received sentences of three years of “re-education through labour”, an administrative punishment imposed without charge or trial, and were sent to carry out the sentences in a labour camp at Mush, near Kashgar. The camp, a “re-education through labour farm”, reportedly held some 380 political prisoners in 1998.(Amnesty International 1999, *People’s Republic of China – Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region*, 21 April, p.14-16 – Attachment 8).

## **February 1997**

In February 1997 a large staged demonstration took place in Gulja as a reaction to the increased state repression of Uighur groups. Sources states that thousands of Uighurs were arrested and detained in the weeks and months following the demonstration. For more detailed information see question 7.

In March 1997 sources state the Uighur separatists detonated bombs on three public buses in Urumqi, killing nine and seriously wounding sixty-eight. ‘This is the only known occasion in recent decades when Uighur activists are known to have attacked civilians indiscriminately. Subsequently, attacks were also carried out on police stations, military installations, and individual political leaders.’ (*“Devastating Blows. Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang”* April Vol. 17, No. 2(C) p.14 – Attachment 10)

## **August 1998**

In August 1998 Uighur separatist forces were attributed with :

‘wounding of a prison official in Kashgar by a booby trap package placed on his doorstep. Also in August 1998 two prisons in Yining prefecture were attacked by an armed group. Nine prison guards were killed; eighty prisoners managed to escape. Eighteen prisoners allegedly managed to flee to Kazakhstan according to the Hong Kong daily newspaper *Ming Pao*.’

(Human Right Watch, 2005, *Devastating Blows. Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang* April Vol. 17, No. 2(C) p.14 – Attachment 10)

## **February 1999**

There were violent clashes between about 300 Uighur nationalists and the local police when the latter tried to prevent a procession by the Uighurs at Urumqi on February, 16, 1999. (Raman, B. 1999 'Continuing Unrest in Xinjiang', Uyghur Canadian Association, 14 March, <http://www.uyghurcanadian.org/continuing%20unrest%20in%20xinjiang.html> – Accessed 13 March 2007 – Attachment 12).

## **2002**

In 2002 China released a document titled “East Turkestan Terrorist Forces Cannot Get Away with Impunity.” The document claims that “East Turkestan terrorist forces” had conducted “a campaign of bombing and assassinations” consisting of more than 200 incidents resulting in 162 deaths and 440 people injured over the preceding decade. It also claimed that Uighur organisations had extensive links with Pakistan and Afghanistan, including Osama bin Laden. However Human Rights watch strongly contests the accuracy of this document:

The document has a highly charged ideological tone and contains numerous inconsistencies. It also lacks any independent intelligence to support its conclusions. In particular, the central claim that all instances of anti-state violence, and all “separatist groups,” originated from a single “East Turkestan terrorist organization” runs counter to known intelligence about the situation in Xinjiang. Even more problematic are the inconsistencies in the account of specific acts of violence within the document itself. Human Rights Watch has no way of corroborating or disproving the incidents alleged in the January 2002 report. (Human Right Watch, 2005, *Devastating Blows. Religious Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang* April Vol. 17, No. 2(C) p.15-16, Attachment 10)

## **2005**

A similar claim was made by Chinese authorities in 2005 which blamed Uighur independence groups for 260 attacks and, 160 deaths and injuring 440. However Uighur sources claim this contrasted sharply with reports from other government officials in Xinjiang, ‘who typically claim the region has been largely free of separatist violence since the 1990-2001 period’. Sources also state that ‘foreign experts say separatist violence appears to be scattered attacks by individuals, with no sign of a major organized campaign.’ ‘China blames Uighur independence groups for 260 attacks, 160 deaths’ 2005, (Uyghur American Association website, 7 September, <http://uyghuramerican.org/articles/88/1/china-blames-uyghur-independence-groups-for-260-attacks-160-deaths/china-blames-uyghur-independence-groups-for-260-attacks-160-deaths.html> – Accessed 13 March 2007 – Attachment 13).

## **October 2006**

A major Uighur demonstration occurred in front of the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad in relation to the refusal of visas for the annual Haj pilgrimage:

Shouting Koranic verses, hundreds of Chinese Muslims protested in front of the Saudi embassy in Pakistan on Monday, seeking visas so that they can join the annual Haj pilgrimage to Islam’s holy city of Mecca.

The protesters said that Saudi embassy had refused to grant visas on the advice of the Chinese government.

A Chinese embassy spokesman said Saudi and Chinese governments had agreed in May that Chinese Muslims would not be given visas in any third country.

“We have asked them to go back to Beijing and get visa. Half of them have already gone back,” the spokesman said.

Most of the protesters were ethnic Uighurs who came from the Xinjiang province in western China. (‘Saudi embassy in Islamabad agrees to issue Haj visas to Chinese pilgrims’ 2006, Kuwait News Agency website, 2 October, <http://www.kuna.net.kw/home/story.aspx?language=en&dsno=910369> – Accessed 14 March 2007 – Attachment 14)

### **9. Do you have any information about the demonstration organised by Australian Uighurs on 1 Oct 2006 in Camperdown?**

A blog was found on a Uighur site which provided photos of a Uighur demonstration undertaken on the 1 October 2006 in Camperdown. The blog is only available in Uighur and no English translation is available. (‘1- Octebir’ Munasiwiti Bilen Namayish’ 2006, Uyghur1 website, 1 October,

<http://www.uyghur1.com/uyghur/viewtopic.php?t=6367&sid=ed186d6c7edffd2b4409a85a74e2fd85> – Accessed 14 March 2007 – Attachment 15).

### **10. Question deleted.**

### **List of Sources Consulted**

#### Internet Sources:

#### **Government Information & Reports**

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State website <http://www.state.gov>

#### **Non-Government Organisations**

Amnesty International website <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

Human Rights Internet (HRI) website <http://www.hri.ca>

Transnational Radical Party website – <http://web.radicalparty.org> –

Association for Asian Research website – <http://www.asianresearch.org>

Center for International Studies and Research website – <http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com>

The Henry L. Stimson Center – <http://www.stimson.org/home.cfm>

Chez Nadezha blog website – <http://cheznadezhda.blogharbor.com/blog>

#### **International News & Politics**

Time website – <http://www.time.com>

Kuwait News Agency – <http://www.kuna.net.kw>

#### **Search Engines**

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

#### **Uighur Sources**

Uyghur Human Rights Project – <http://www.uhrp.org/>

World Uyghur Congress – <http://www.uyghurcongress.org>

Uyghur Canadian Association – <http://www.uyghurcanadian.org>

The International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation – <http://iuhrdf.org/>  
Uyghur1 – <http://www.uyghur1.com/>  
Uyghur American Association website <http://uyghuramerican.org>  
Voice of East Turkistan - <http://voiceofeastturkistan.com>  
East Turkistan Information Center - <http://www.uygur.org>

#### Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)  
BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)  
REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)  
ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)  
RRT Library Catalogue

#### **List of Attachments**

1. 'UHRP Condemns Kazakhstan's Extradition of Uyghurs to China' 2004, Transnational Radical Party website, 1 December, [http://web.radicalparty.org/pressreview/print\\_right.php?func=detail&par=11590#](http://web.radicalparty.org/pressreview/print_right.php?func=detail&par=11590#) – Accessed 6 March 2007
2. Forney, M. 2002, 'One Nation Divided', Time website, 18 March <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,218371,00.html> – Accessed 6 March 2007
3. Ji, Y. 2004, 'China's post 9/11 Terrorism Strategy', Association for Asian Research website, 5 November, <http://www.asianresearch.org/articles/2047.html> – Accessed 7 March 2007
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