

## A Message from Istanbul

# In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful Muslims in East Turkistan

Once again I would like to draw your attention to a most urgent and vital matter, a deliberate attempt to assimilate the Turkic Muslims in Eastern Turkistan. Eastern Turkistan, which makes up the eastern part of Turkestan, was renamed by the Manchu rulers of China as Xinjiang (Sinkiang), and it was annexed into the territory of the Manchu Empire on November 18, 1884.

The latest Chinese census gives the present population of Eastern Turkistan as slightly over 13 million. But independent sources estimate the Turkic Muslim population of Eastern Turkistan to be about 25 million. The various Turkic peoples, such as the Uygurs, the Kazakhs, the Kirghiz, the Uzbeks, the Tatars, and ethnically Indo-Iranian Tajiks, are all Muslims.

The Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkistan began embracing Islam in 934 C.E. Abdulkarim Satuk Bughra Khan of the Karakhanid state was the first Turkic ruler who embraced Islam of his own will in Central Asia. After embracing Islam, the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkistan founded an extensive Islamic civilization in Central Asia.

This Turkic Muslim power, prestige and culture dominated central Asia for more than one thousand years before going into a steep decline after the Chinese Communist occupation of this country in 1949. The economic, cultural and religious freedoms introduced by the Communist leaders in Eastern Turkistan after 1979 are nothing but acts of showmanship for the Islamic world.

Just for an example, Ali Jing Jiang, a Muslim delegate from the Peoples



Republic of China who attended the fifth convention of the Islamic Society of North America held in Indianapolis in September 1986, gave the following statement to the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty:

"The government, responding to requests from the Muslim community, has established 5 or 6 Islamic colleges. But Marxist teachings dominate the religious classes. Religion is taught only as a negative example with Marxist explanations of 'correct' attitude. Chinese Communist law prohibits any kind of religious instruction at home or at schools for children

under 18. Our faith is weakened very much. Our Islamic beliefs can be passed down to children only in daily life. In school, the children are taught to regard religions as something to be ashamed of, as a primitive belief practised by the lower forms of Chinese society. Social pressure has eroded the importance of religion among young people, and my two children have moved away from Islam. A lot of children from Muslim families say they do not believe. Everything we do is controlled by the government. The Muslims have only one society, the old China Muslim Organization, and one quarterly publication, called *China*



*Muslim.* It has 30 pages and half of them contain reprints of government speeches. Communist hold all the senior positions in the organization and the editorial office."

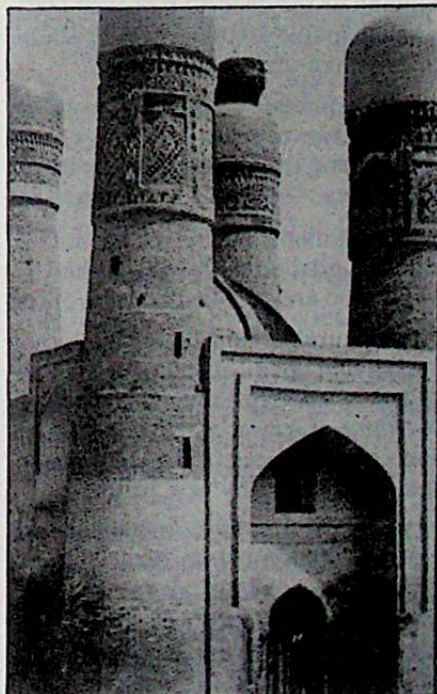
These courageous words of an official Muslim delegate might give us a clear idea of the real status of "religious" and other "freedoms" in Communist China.

At present, the introduction of Chinese education in Turkic Muslim schools, the mixed marriages encouraged by the Chinese Communist leaders, and the steady flow of Chinese settlers in Eastern Turkestan pose the biggest threats for the survival of the Turkic Muslims in Eastern Turkestan. Before 1949 there were only 300,000 Chinese settlers in Eastern Turkestan. According to the Chinese census, now there are 6 million Chinese settlers in the Muslim territory. But the Turkic Muslims claim that the Chinese inhabitants are far more than the official figures given. They estimate 25-30 million Chinese settlers in the region. Every year almost 200,000 Chinese settlers are pouring into Eastern Turkestan, causing hunger, disaster and unemployment.

A recent visitor to Eastern Turkestan was told that the number of Chinese settlers is to be tripled. The Chinese Communists are planning to settle almost 100 million Chinese in Eastern Turkestan by the turn of the century. The Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan are under great fear that they will be overwhelmed by such a large number of Chinese settlers and lose their Islamic identity. Actually by pursuing this policy, the Chinese Communists are violating the universally accepted rule of international law which prohibits the transfer of citizens to and from an occupied territory and thus it is an open violation of the fundamental human rights of the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan. Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention expressly deals with population transfers. Its last paragraph reads: "The Occupying

Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." I therefore, humbly request you to study the following demands in order to support the life and death struggle of the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan:

1. An end to the practice of sending Chinese settlers to Eastern Turkestan; those who are there should be returned to their former homes.
2. An end to the practice of encouraging mixed marriages.
3. Compulsory Chinese education in Turkic Muslim schools should be stopped. All school text books should be in Turkic languages.
4. Special attention should be given to the teaching of Turkic-Islamic history, culture and civilization.
5. All Islamic countries should provide funds for scholarships to be given to the Turkic Muslim students living at home and abroad.
6. The Chinese Communist law, which prohibits Islamic education at home or at schools for Turkic Muslim children under 18, should be abolished.



7. Political self-rule should be granted to the Turkic Muslims.

8. Democratic elections of Turkic Muslims to replace Chinese officials assigned by Peking.

9. An end to nuclear testing in Eastern Turkestan.

10. Job priority should be given to unemployed Turkic Muslims in Eastern Turkestan and their recruitment be allowed in labour force for Islamic countries.

11. The colonial name Xinjiang (Sinkiang) should be changed to the historical name of Eastern Turkestan. All the Islamic publications should be encouraged to use this historical name.

12. To apply the principle of self-determination for the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan by putting into practice the Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

13. Islamic investigators should be allowed to monitor locally the tragic conditions of the Turkic Muslims in Eastern Turkestan and to see if these demands are fulfilled.

14. An Islamic institute should be set up to study the pathetic situation of the Muslims living under Communist domination.

15. Islamic countries should broadcast to Eastern Turkestan in Turkic languages. As it is known that informed societies can make more responsible judgements about their own and world affairs, while misinformed societies may be more easily manipulated in directions threatening peace at home and in the world.

16. Cooperation of all Islamic countries with China should be contingent upon Chinese recognition of the demands of the Turkic Muslims of Eastern Turkestan living at home and abroad.

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