THE VOICE OF EAST TURKISTAN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EAST TURKISTAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

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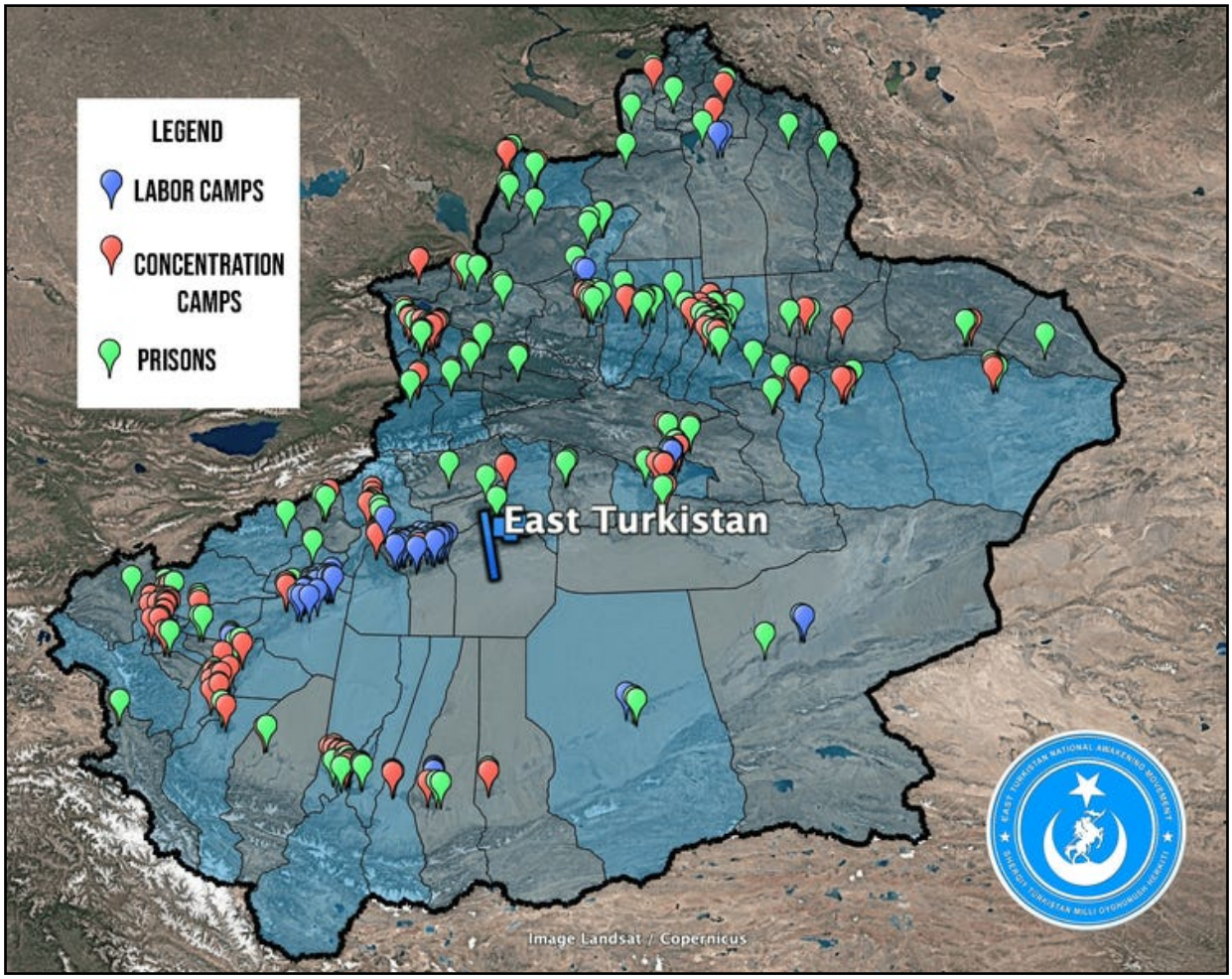

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THE VOICE OF EAST TURKISTAN

The Voice of East Turkistan is an official bi-monthly journal of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile.

Contributions are welcome and may be addressed to the editor of *the Voice of East Turkistan*. The publisher regrets that contributions that fit standards set by the editor will be selected for publication.

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Editor
Tursun Shemseddin
Email: Journal@East-Turkistan.Net

Assistant Editor
Alimjan Memet

The Voice of East Turkistan is published by:

Ministry of Communications & Media,
East Turkistan Government-in-Exile
1325 G Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC USA 20005
Tel: +1 202 599-2244 (Ext: 1)

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Introduction of *the Voice of East Turkistan*

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile (ETGE) is democratically elected body which represents the interests of East Turkistan and its people. Therefore, it is the voice of the East Turkistan and its people. Thus, after the election of a new administration at the ETGE's 8th General Assembly in Washington, DC this past November (2019), Newly elected Prime Minister Hudayar laid out his agenda to develop the ETGE into a respected, professional, and recognized Government.

Thus, under the direction of the Prime Minister and with the approval of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile's Parliament, the ETGE decided to publish the ***Voice of East Turkistan*** , as the official bi-monthly journal of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, to inform governments across the world, organizations, researchers, and the public masses about the truth regarding the situation in East Turkistan. *The Voice of East Turkistan* seeks to provide the best information regarding East Turkistan, the activities of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile and the East Turkistani diaspora.

In a bid to undermine the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile and the overall East Turkistan cause, China and its agents have been spreading a lot of misinformation regarding the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, its representatives, its overall goals, and its positions on key issues.

For the record, we would like to make it clear that the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile and its true representatives are those listed on the ETGE's Official Website www.East-Turkistan.Net.

Anyone who claims to be representatives of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile but are NOT LISTED on our Official Website and (or) are NOT VERIFIED by our Government are NOT representatives of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, NOR are they affiliated with our Government.

You can always contact the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile through the contact form on our website to verify any information regarding our Government, its representatives, positions on various issues, and its overall goals.

The overall mission of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile is to end China's occupation and colonization of our Homeland and restore the independence of East Turkistan as a secular, pluralistic, and democratic Republic that guarantees Human Rights and Freedom for all.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile intends to use all available resources to engage in diplomacy, as allowed under international law, to advance the interests of East Turkistan and its people.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile clearly opposes terrorism in all forms, including state terrorism that is being perpetrated by China and its forces against East Turkistan and its people.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile is NOT affiliated with, NOR is it in contact with any militant, jihadist, or any other groups and organizations that are involved in violent conflict in any part of the world.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile does NOT view any country, government, or people, other than the government of China and its forces, as hostile to and (or) enemies of East Turkistan and its people.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile seeks to develop friendly relations with all governments, organizations, and individuals who are sympathetic to the plight of East Turkistan and its people, especially those governments, organizations, and individuals who actively support East Turkistan and its people.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile calls on ALL governments, organizations, and leaders to recognize China's atrocities as a Genocide, along with recognizing East Turkistan as an Occupied Country.

Ministry of Communications & Media,
East Turkistan Government-in-Exile

January 1, 2020

East Turkistanis Across the Globe Urge the US Congress to Pass the UIGHUR Act and call on President Trump to Sign it into Law

CSPAN: The US House of Representatives vote on the UIGHUR Act.

On December 3rd, 2019 the United States House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed S.187, the Uighur Intervention Global Humanitarian Unified Response (UIGHUR) Act. Exactly 407 representatives including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi voted yea to pass the bill and Representative Thomas Massie from Kentucky's 4th District was the only representative who voted nay.

The UIGHUR Act would call on the United States President to officially condemn China's abuses against Uyghur and other Turkic peoples. It would also urge the President to officially call on China to close the "re-education" concentration camps. It also calls on the US Government to use the Global Magnitsky Act to sanction Chinese officials and requires the State Department in coordination with other federal agencies and departments to write a report on China's Human Rights Abuses in East Turkistan (what China calls the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region").

The passage of the bill by the US House of Representatives was seen as huge symbolic victory by many members of the East Turkistani diaspora community across the world. Many Uyghurs see this as signal from the United States that the Uyghur and other Turkic people of East Turkistan will not be forgotten. Members of the East Turkistani / Uyghur diaspora posted thousands of messages on social media mainly Facebook and Twitter thanking the United States Congress and urging President Trump to sign the bill into law.

China's Foreign Ministry responded with a strong statement condemning the bill and called on the United States to stop meddling in China's so-called "internal affairs."

Although, the bill is not as strong as many East Turkistanis had hoped for it to be, the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile's newly elected Prime Minister, Salih Hudayar, sees it as precursor to further stronger bills in the future. His organization, the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement, had been pushing for a Uyghur Policy Act since June 2018, one that would recognize China's atrocities in East Turkistan as a genocide, along with recognizing East Turkistan as an occupied country like Tibet. He has urged Uyghur and other East Turkistan organizations, activists, and members of the diaspora community to push for similar bills in their host nations. He stated that "there is great hope for our [East Turkistan's] liberation in the future."

Despite having passed the US House of Representatives, the bill still has to passed by the Senate before it is sent to the White House for signature by President Trump. Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis , and their supporters across the United States have sent emails, letters, made phone calls, and even visited numerous offices of US Senators urging them to vote yes and pass the bill as soon as possible.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile along with other Uyghur and East Turkistan organizations have also contacted the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and urged Senator McConnell to schedule the bill for voting immediately.

Location of East Turkistan

East Turkistan is a vast region covering 1, 828,418 square kilometers and lies in the heart of Asia. It is roughly 3 times the size of France and equivalent to the size of North Sudan.

The name "Turkistan" is a Persian word, meaning "land of the Turkic peoples" and dates back to the 5th century. The western part of Turkistan was gradually conquered by Tsar Russia in 1865. Following the formation of the Soviet Union in 1922, Western Turkistan was divided into five republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Turkmenistan, all of them gained their independence in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union.

East Turkistan since ancient times has the homeland of the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples of Central Asia such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Tatars, Uzbeks, and others. East Turkistan is known to be the cradle of Uyghur and Turkic culture, civilization, and history. Prior to 1877, East Turkistan has been the center of numerous Turkic states and Empires including the Xiongnu (Hun) Empire, the Kushan Empire, the TurkicEmpire, the Uyghur Empire, the Kara-Khanid

Where is East Turkistan?

State, the Chaghtai Khanate, the Yarkent Khanate, and Yaqub Beg's State of East Turkistan (Kashgaria).

East Turkistan was invaded by the Manchu Qing Dynasty in 1876 and incorporated in the Manchu Qing Empire as "Xinjiang," meaning the "New Territory" in the Chinese language. Following the fall of the Manchu Qing Empire in 1911, East Turkistan was ruled by Chinese rulers, with Qumul Khanate being an exception . In 1933, Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples declared independence as the East Turkistan Republic. The First East Turkistan Republic was overthrown on April 16, 1934 as result of Chinese Nationalist invasion led by the Hui Muslims and Soviet intervention.

On November 12, 1944, the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan would again declare independence as the East Turkistan Republic. The second East Turkistan Republic was a more modern republic and managed to maintain its independence until the People's Republic of China invaded and occupied the region with the help of the Soviet Union in late 1949.

The number of people living in East Turkistan is a matter of considerable debate. No satisfactory census of population has ever been made. Uyghur sources estimate the total population of Turkic peoples in East Turkistan to be roughly 35 million of which over 30 million are believed to be Uyghurs.

Since December 22, 1949, East Turkistan has been illegally occupied by the People's Republic of China. The PRC incorporated most East Turkistan into China as the so-called "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" and annexed the eastern parts into it's western provinces of Qinghai and Gansu.

Although China calls most of East Turkistan the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," there is no self-rule or self government for the Uyghurs and the Turkic peoples. More than 90% of all important political, administrative, and economic offices in East Turkistan are occupied by Chinese forces.

In a bid to eradicate the national unity of East Turkistan and its people, using the "Divide and Rule" strategy, China has divided East Turkistan's Turkic peoples such as the Uyghur, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, and Tatars into separate "administrative regions", "counties", and "townships."

Since 1949, China has engaged in a brutal campaign of colonization and genocide in a bid to eradicate East Turkistan and its people. Today, over 3 million Uyghurs and other Turkic people are locked up in concentration camps, prisons, and labor camps. As a result of colonization and genocide, East Turkistan's demography has changed from over 90% Turkic people in 1949 to around 50% today.

Who are the Uyghurs?

Oil painting of prominent Uyghur / Turkic scholars, artists, and leaders throughout history.

Genetic studies show that the Uyghurs are the modern hybrid descendants of the indigenous Indo-European and Turkic tribes that inhabited Central Asia. Due to no satisfactory census of population being made, most Uyghur and East Turkistan organizations estimate that the population of the Uyghurs are around 30 - 35 million globally, while other sources generally put them around 20 - 25 million.

Due to the occupation and colonization of their homeland, hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs have fled their traditional homeland often seeking refuge and settling in nearby Central Asian states, the Middle East, Turkey, and more recently in Europe and North America. Officially, there are over 500,000 Uyghurs in the independent Central Asian states. However, Uyghur activists and East Turkistan diaspora groups claim there are at least 1 million Uyghurs in Central Asia, with an estimated 25% of Uzbekistan's population having close blood ties to the Uyghurs. According to then Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Bulent Aric, there were more than 300,000 people of Uyghur origin living in Turkey as of 2010, although others estimate the number to be around 100,000. Additionally, in 2013 the Saudi Labor Ministry stated there were some 50,000 Turkistanis (most of which are believed to be Uyghurs) living in the kingdom. Although there hasn't been an official census, there is an estimated to be 50,000 or more Uyghurs living in Europe, most of them in Germany, the Netherlands, and France. Similarly, estimates put the Uyghur population in North America –mainly the United States and Canada–at around 20,000.

The majority of Uyghurs are Muslim and much like their Central Asian and Turkish brethren they follow the Hanafi school of thought, one of the oldest and most liberal of the five main school of thoughts in Sunni Islam. There are also significant adherents of Sufi Islam, along with small pockets of Uyghur Buddhists, Christians, and Shamanists across Central Asia. Overall, most Uyghurs practice a moderate liberal form of Islam far from the 'religious extremist' misconception that the Chinese government has been actively pushing forward in a bid to justify its brutal repressive policies against the Uyghurs in East Turkistan.

Although much of the aspects of Uyghur language and culture is moderately Turkic in origin, there are elements of Persian culture and language that coincide making up the unique hybrid Uyghur culture. The language of the Uyghurs is also called Uyghur, deriving from Eastern Turkic or Chaghtai Turkic. It is one of the oldest Turkic languages in use today. The Uyghurs in East Turkistan use the Arabic script for writing, whereas the majority of the Uyghurs in Central Asia use the Cyrillic alphabet system of writing, and Uyghur diaspora communities use both the Arabic script and Latin script interchangeably. It should also be noted that the traditional Uyghur script was adopted by Genghis Khan in the 13th Century and has been used by Mongols since then.

Historical Background of the Uyghurs

Tang Ambassador paying tribute to Uyghur Khagan, 756 C.E.

The Uyghurs are one of the oldest ethnic groups in Central Asia with a history going back over 6000 years. The term Uyghur, meaning "united or allied" emerged as powerful political confederation of the various Turkic and Indo-European tribes that inhabited Central Asia in the 6th century. The modern Uyghurs are a hybrid mixture of the Turkic peoples of Central Asia and the Indo-European tribes of the Tarim Basin. Genetic research conducted in 2008 revealed that the initial mixing between Hunnic-Turkic tribes and Indo-European tribes of the Tarim began between 2140-2920 years ago, repealing the dubious Chinese claims that the Uyghurs originated from Mongolia in the 8th century.

For millennia the Uyghur homeland of East Turkistan was ruled by ancient Indo-European kingdoms, discoveries of ancient Indo-European mummies and other archeological evidence led Uyghur historian Turghun Almas to conclude that the Uyghurs have a history of over 6400 years.

In around 209 BCE, the Turkic Huns (Xiongnu) would take control of the ancient Uyghur homeland intermixing with the indigenous Indo-European tribes. In around 110 BCE the Chinese Han Dynasty would launch a series of invasions into the Tarim Basin to control the Silk Road; however, it was only in 60 CE that the Han Dynasty would be able briefly seize parts of the Tarim Basin. The Turkic and Indo-European tribes would rebel the Chinese invasion and continue to govern themselves under independent kingdoms. Following the rise of Turks in the 6th century, Central Asia would be dominated by Indo-European and Turkic tribes. The Uyghurs would play a crucial role in establishing the Kokturk Khanate (552-744), the Uyghur Khanate (744-840), the Kara-Khanid Khanate (840-1212), Gansu Uyghur Kingdom (848-1036), and Idiqut State (856-1335), and the Kara-Khanid Empire (840-1212). Uyghurs would also play a crucial role in the administration of the Mongol Empire (1206-1328), Genghis Khan would adopt the Uyghur yasa law system and their script to govern his vast empire.

It was through the Kara-Khanids that Islam began to replace the religions of Buddhism, Manicheanism, Nestorian Christianity, and Tengrism (Shamanism) that was practiced by the Uyghurs, however it wasn't until the 15th century that Islam prevailed as the dominant religion.

US Treasury Map from 1899 showing East Turkistan as a "Chinese Dependency."

In the 18th century, the Uyghurs would decline politically, socially, culturally, and economically being weakened by internal power struggles and the rise of Sufi Khojas. In 1759, the Manchu Qing dynasty would invade East Turkistan and make it a new colony, with the Uyghurs rebelling against Manchu Qing rule some 42 times–and in 1863 breaking free and establishing Kashgaria (East Turkistan). However, caught in the middle of a rivalry between the British and Russians, in what became known as the 'Great Game', the Uyghurs would be invaded once again by the Qing dynasty and in 1884, East Turkistan would formally be incorporated into the Manchu empire as "Xinjiang," or what translates as the "New Territory" in the Chinese language.

With the fall of the Manchu Qing Dynasty in 1911, much of East Turkistan was controlled by former Qing officials who governed the region independently, with some parts being ruled by independent

Uyghur / Turkic rulers. By the 1920s nationalism began to take shape amongst the Uyghurs, with Uyghur political movements being established leading to an increase in the desire and push for independence.

Uyghur soldiers upon establishing the East Turkistan Republic, 1933.

In 1931 Uyghurs rebelled in Qumul and on November 12, 1933 the various Uyghur leaders and warlords from Khotan, Turpan, Kashgar, Kucha, Aksu, and Qumul united under one banner and declared independence as the East Turkistan Republic. However, within several months it was invaded by Huis (Chinese Muslims) fighting under the Republic of China (the Guomindang). Due to Chinese invasion and Soviet intervention, the first East Turkistan Republic was overthrown on April 16, 1934. Though the first East Turkistan Republic was short-lived, it did leave a legacy and exactly 11 years later Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic peoples would declare the formation of the second East Turkistan Republic (ETR) on November 12, 1944.

Although the second East Turkistan Republic was much more organized and powerful, it became the victim of secret negotiations between the China and the Soviet Union and was ultimately betrayed at the Yalta Conference of 1945. In August 1949, the senior leaders of the ETR including the President, Defense Minister, and Interior Minister were executed on the orders of Stalin for refusing to sign away the independence of the Uyghur nation, it was publicly announced in December 1949 that they died in a plane crash. By September, 1949 Stalin would be airlifting Mao's troops into East Turkistan and dismantling the ETR, leaving the Uyghurs under Chinese Communist occupation. The ETR was officially dismantled on November 22, 1949 ending Uyghur independence and officially making their homeland a Chinese colony, leading to the subjugation of the Uyghur people that continues to this day.

The Current Situation of the Uyghurs

Although Mao Zedong had initially promised the Uyghurs the right self-determination and a choice for independence or federated republic status (like that of the Soviet Union), he went back on his promises and established the so called Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in 1955. Yet the Chinese government would launch policies to settle millions of Han Chinese to "modernize and develop" East Turkistan, significantly changing the demography of the region. Furthermore, in 1958 Mao launched the large-scale collectivization program which forced the Uyghurs to abandon their indigenous customs and traditions, forcing them to learn Chinese and embrace Chinese culture.

During the Cultural Revolution, hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs were massacred by the Chinese regime for being "counter revolutionary and nationalists". It was during this period that China began to rewrite the history of the Uyghurs and East Turkistan, distorting the realities and claiming that "Xinjiang (East Turkistan), has always been a part of China since ancient times, and the Uyghurs are part of the larger Chinese family." Millions of Uyghurs would be killed by various means, including some 750,000 who died as a result of 46 nuclear tests in East Turkistan. Yet over the decades, Uyghurs continued to resist Chinese domination, with numerous uprisings and demonstrations.

Following the defeat of the Soviets in Afghanistan in 1989, Uyghur militants launched an armed uprising on April 5, 1990, which was brutally crushed. However, with the independence of their Central Asian brethren in 1991, Uyghurs once again pushed to strive for theirs. Due to an increase in trade relations with the international community, China began to assert its economic dominance into Central Asia and across the globe to crush any sign of Uyghur political activity. Taking advantage of 9/11, China launched its own 'War on Terror' to crush

any and all forms of Uyghur dissent. Ultimately, China used the pretext of "combatting terrorism, and extremism" to ban the teaching of the Uyghur language and restrict religious and cultural practices, while making way for the influx of Han Chinese settlers.

Over the years China intensified its repressive policies on the Uyghurs and in 2009 demonstrations erupted all across East Turkistan to protest China's colonial policies. The protests were brutally crushed and hundreds if not thousands of Uyghurs were killed and tens of thousands more were detained as the international community stood in silence.

Uyghurs detainees at a concentration camp in Lop , East Turkistan - April 2017

In 2014, China launched the so-called "Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism," which began the extensive securitization of the region. China claimed it was fighting a war against the "Three Evils" of separatism, extremism, and terrorism in order to justify its brutal policies of colonization and genocide in East Turkistan. Rather than targeting individuals, China began to openly target the entire Uyghur population labeling them as "terrorists" and "separatists."

By early 2016, hundreds of so-called "re-education" concentration camps where built across the East Turkistan. Uyghurs in the United States led by the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement began weekly demonstrations to call on US support and lobbied Congress to pass a Uyghur Policy Act. It wasn't until the summer of 2018 that the international community began to take notice.

At the State Department's 2018 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington, DC, US Vice President Mike Pence criticized China's interment of Uyghurs. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination stated in August 2018 that "estimates that upwards of a million people were being held in so-called counter-extremism centres and another two million had been forced into so-called "re-education camps" for political and cultural indoctrination." Though by 2019, the situation in East Turkistan was getting worse, satellite imagery analysis showed China was expanding its system of concentration camps and prions in the region. In May 2019, the US Department of Defense's Assistant Secretary for the Asia-Pacific publicly stated that China was holding possibly 3 million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in concentration camps.

In July 2019, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called China's treatment of the Uyghurs "the stain of the century." China originally denied the existence of the camps but later acknowledged the existence of "voluntary vocational training centers."

Numerous reports stated that Uyghurs and other Turkic detainees including Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, and Tatars were subjected to political and cultural indoctrination, forced medication, forced sterilization, rape, organ harvesting and death. Radio Free Asia reported in October 2019 that at least 150 detainees died in one internment camp over the course of six months. Outside the camps Uyghurs and other Turkic people are subject to 24/7 surveillance using artificial intelligence and even have Han Chinese minders living and sleeping with them in their homes as "relatives." Hundreds of thousands of children have been forcibly separated from their families and over 36 million peoples' DNA and biometric data was collected by the Chinese government.

China's 2019 National Defense Strategy made it a strategic goal to "prevent the creation of East Turkistan." Internal Chinese government documents leaked by the *New York Times* showed that China's leaders have ordered that "no mercy" be shown to the Uyghurs. All of this have led the overwhelming majority of Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis in the diaspora to call for "Independence for East Turkistan," seeing it as the only solution to ensure their survival. Despite having vowed "Never Again" following the Holocaust, the international community continues to watch silently as China engages in colonialism and genocide in the 21st century.

The History behind the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile

Emblem of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile

Following the the PRC's invasion of East Turkistan in October 1949, the deaths of the top officials of the East Turkistan Republic including its President, Secretary General, and Commander in the Chief of the Armed Forces was revealed in December 1949. The remainder of the ETR's leadership were forced to sign a treaty with the People's Republic of China (PRC), which would dissolve the ETR (1944-1949) on December 22, 1949.

It is believed that the treaty stated the People's Republic of China would help develop East Turkistan and leave within 3 to 5 years. However, this did not happen. Some former officials of the East Turkistan Republic were given new positions under the People's Republic of China and the East Turkistan National Army was incorporated into the People's Liberation Army's 5th Army Corps. Despite this, many Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis continued to fight for their independence.

Osman Batur, the former Governor of the Altay region under theETR, led his Kazakh warriors to continue to resist Chinese occupation of East Turkistan. He was captured and executed on April 29, 1951 which led to many of his followers to flee East Turkistan to Turkey. In 1956, a year after the establishment of the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," former ETR military commander Mamtimin Iminov, who had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the region, along with 50 other renowned East Turkistani leaders and intellectuals wrote a letter to Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai asking the PRC to honor its promises made in 1949. This only pushed the Chinese government to purge Uyghurs and other Turkic people with nationalist sentiments, especially those connected to the ETR.

During the 1960s the East Turkistan People's Revolutionary Party actively strived for East Turkistan's independence but was forced to go underground following a failed uprising in 1969, with many Uyghurs fleeing to the Soviet Union. The United Revolutionary Front of East Turkistan was established in the early 1970s to strive for East Turkistan's independence. It wasn't until the 1990s that attempts to create an East Turkistan Government-in-Exile began to truly take shape. In 1998 the East Turkistan National Center was formed to act as an official body of unified Uyghur / East Turkistan organizations advocating for East Turkistan's independence. However it didn't last too long and fell apart in 2004.

On September 14, 2004, members of the East Turkistan / Uyghur diaspora in the United States, Canada, Australia, Turkey, and some from even Central Asia formally established the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile (ETGE) in Washington, DC. The ETGE aims to strive for East Turkistan's independence by obtaining international support as the official representatives of East Turkistan and its people. A Parliament-in-Exile was formed and a Constitution was drafted and ratified at the first General Assembly of the ETGE on November 21, 2004.

Although no government officially recognizes the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, the People's Republic of China vehemently opposes the ETGE and had protested the United States Government for allowing it to operate in the US.

Over the years, the ETGE has been actively advocating for complete independence for East Turkistan and its people. It has sought to: establish diplomatic relations with governments of the Free World, especially the United States and Japan, achieve recognition of East Turkistan as occupied country, and obtain financial and diplomatic support along with recognition.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile holds its 8th General Assembly in Washington, DC

Opening of the ETGE's 8th General Assembly - November 10, 2019

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile successfully held its 8th General Assembly in Washington, DC from November 10 - November 12, 2019.

The General Assembly was opened on Sunday morning , November 10, 2019, with a total of 44 members of the East Turkistan Parliament-in-Exile participating. Numerous members of the East Turkistani diaspora community in the Washington, DC area attended as observers along with several distinguished American friends of East Turkistan. The General Assembly opened with a recitation of verses from the Quran and was followed by prayers from ETGE's former Prime Minister and Christian Pastor Tom Prichard. Pastor Prichard prayed for a quick end to the oppression in East Turkistan and strength to the people of East Turkistan.

Distinguished American friends of the Uyghurs who spoke at the event were retired US Air Force Brigadier General Robert Spalding, who was the former Director of Strategic Policy Planning at the US National Security Council, Mr. Joseph Bosco, former China Director at the US Department of Defense, Dr. Anders Corr, former US intelligence analyst and publisher fo the Journal of Political Risk, and Mr. Scott Gibbons, a geopolitical analyst who focuses on South Asia.

General Spalding spoke about the need for America to support those who are oppressed and calling for freedom, he stated that, "America must amplify the voices calling for Freedom not just in places like Hong Kong, but also in East Turkistan." Mr. Bosco talked about the need for global leaders, especially Muslim to speak out against China's atrocities in East Turkistan, he also stated, "I hope that our new President will have the courage and wisdom to say what Ronald Regan said, Mr Xi Jinping tear down these

New Leadership & Cabinet of the ETGE		
President	Ghulam Osman Yaghma	Canada
Vice President	Abdulehed Nur	Canada
Chairman of Parliament	Osmanjan Tursun	Germany
Deputy Speaker	Yarmemet Baratjan	USA
Prime Minister	Salih Hudayar	USA
Deputy PM & Foreign Minister	Adil Abbas	Canada
Cabinet Secretary	Mirqedir Mirzat	France
Uyghur Spokesperson	Alimjan Memet	Germany
Interior Minister	Nurehmet Kurban	Switzerland
Finance Minister	Dr. Anwar Yasin	Japan
Minister of Religion & Interfaith Harmony	Abdullah Khodja	France
Minister of Culture & Education	Dr. Memet Litip	Japan
Minister of Communications & Media	Hashimjan Turak	Canada

concentration camps." Mr. Gibbons talked about nation-states and the need for self-determination to win independence for East Turkistan. He stated that, "we should recognize that self-determination is achieved only through power and support from allies." Dr. Corr talked about democracy, independence and keeping the movement free from Chinese influence. He stated, "you are seeking to preserve you are independence from China but you are also seeking to preserver the independence of this organization from Chinese attempts to influence the organization."

Members of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile who gave speeches were President Ghulam Osman Yaghma from Canada, newly elected Prime Minister Salih Hudayar from the United States, former Prime Minister Abdulehed Nur from Canada, newly elected Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Osmanjan Tursun from Germany, Dr. Memet Litip from Japan, (he was later appointed the Culture & Education Minister as well as the Ambassador to Japan), and newly elected Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Yarmemet Baratjan from the United States.

Mr. Gani Stambekov of the Free Kazakhs Movement also gave a speech in Kazakh, English, and Russian languages calling on the world to unite and support East Turkistan. He further stated that, "only independence can give you full human rights, full freedom, and full democracy." Elections for a new Parliamentary leadership, President, and Prime Minister were held on Monday, November 11, 2019 in accordance to the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile's Constitution. Candidates were given 5 minutes to give a speech presenting their agenda. In order to ensure that it was a free and fair election, the elections were monitored and votes were counted by guest observers Dr. Anders Corr and Mr. Scott Gibbons.

Mr. Osmanjan Tursun from Germany contested with Mr. Nurehmet Kurban from Switzerland and was elected as the Speaker of Parliament. Mr. Yarmemet Baratjan contested with Mr. Turdush Haji from Canada, and was elected the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Mr. Ghulam Osman Yaghma from Canada contested with Mr. Abdulehed Nur from Canada for the presidency and was re-elected as President. President Ghulam Osman Yaghma then appointed Mr. Abdulehed Nur as his Vice President in a move to maintain unity and trust within members of the Government. Mr. Salih Hudayar from the United States contested with Mr. Haji Mahmut from Canada for the position of the Prime Minister and was elected Prime Minister.

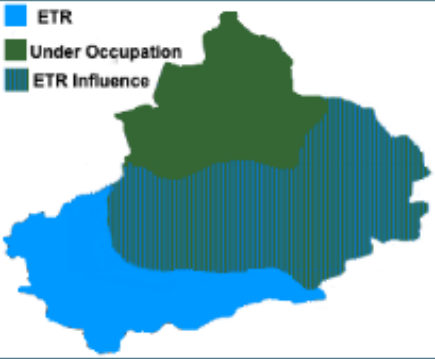
After swearing oath, newly elected Prime Minister Salih Hudayar laid out the top priorities of the new administration.

1. Work to have China's atrocities in East Turkistan recognized as a genocide by the United States and the Free World.
2. Strengthen the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, making it a more professional, respectable, and legitimate authority representing East Turkistan.
3. Work to have East Turkistan recognized as an occupied country/territory by the United States and other countries.
4. Establish diplomatic relationships with governments of the Free World and obtain diplomatic & financial support for the East Turkistan cause.
5. Bring the East Turkistan issue and not just the "Uyghur Human Rights issue" — to the forefront of Global politics.

After consulting with members of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile and its Parliament and getting confirmation from the President and Speakers of Parliament, ETGE's newly elected Prime Minister Salih Hudayar announced his cabinet a few days later.

To commemorate the 86th and 75th anniversary of the East Turkistan Republics, a demonstration was held in front of the US Capitol. The ETGE called on the US Congress and the US Government to pass the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act (amended as the UIGHUR Act) and to recognize China"s atrocities in East Turkistan as genocide as well as recognizing East Turkistan as an Occupied Country.

The First East Turkistan Republic (1933-1934)

شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئىسلام جۇمھۇرىيىتى Islamic Republic of East Turkistan	
1933 - 1934	
Flag	Emblem
	
Status	Partially recognized state
Capital	Kashgar
Official Language	Uyghur
Government	Islamic Republic
President	Khoja Niyaz
Prime Minister	Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi
Established	12 November 1933
Disestablished	16 April 1934

The first East Turkistan Republic, officially known as the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan [*Sherqiy Türkistan Islam Jumhuriyiti*] was a short-lived state that existed from 1933 to 1934. It was the first successful attempt by the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan to declare independence and establish a modern nation state in the 20th century.

The East Turkistan Republic was the primarily the product of an independence movement led by the Uyghur and other Turkic people living in East Turkistan, and was Turkic in character, including Kyrgyz and other Turkic peoples in its government and its population.

Following the sacking of its capital city of Kashgar in 1934 by Huis (Chinese Muslims) fighting under the banner of the Kuomintang Government (Republic of China) and Soviet intervention, the first ETR was overthrown on April 16, 1934. Its example, however, served as an inspiration for the founding of the second East Turkistan Republic a decade later and both East Turkistan Republics continue to influence modern Uyghur / Turkic independence movements aiming to re-establish an independent East Turkistan Republic.

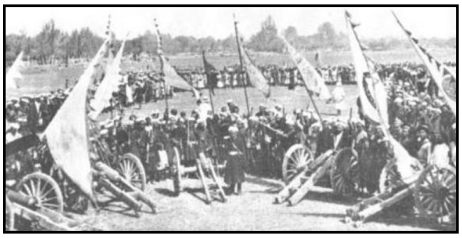
Origins of the First ETR

Uyghur / Turkic national identity began to develop in the early 20th century following the establishment of modern schools by Uyghur and Turkic jadidists (reformers) who focused on technical areas of studies such as science, mathematics, history, and language studies. Jadidism emphasized the power of education as a tool for both personal and national advancement, which led to an intellectual inspired national awakening in East Turkistan by the early 1920s.

The Han Chinese rulers who governed East Turkistan following the fall of the Manchu Qing

Dynasty became increasingly autocratic as they initiated sinicizaiton policies and removed even local Uyghur leaders from power replacing them with Han Chinese officials. Much like today, the people of East Turkistan were prohibited from participating in the hajj and practicing their religion.

In 1930, following the death of Shah Mexsut, the khan of the Qumul Khanate, the Chinese warlord Jin Shuren abolished the Khanate and began to seize the lands of Uyghur famers, giving them to Chinese colonists from Gansu. He later resettled Uyghurs into poor-quality areas near the desert and heavily taxed the Uyghurs. By 1931, resistance movements began to emerge in the area and a full scale rebellion led by Khoja Niyaz broke out in February 1931. The rebellion would soon spread across East Turkistan.



Khotan revolutionaries led by Muhammed Emin Bughra, 1932

In 1932, Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi, a Uyghur intellectual and jadidist, would return to East Turkistan from India and persuaded the wealthy Bughra family in Khotan to support a rebellion against Chinese rule. Together, they sept up the Committee for National Revolution and by February 1933, Khotan and its surrounding areas had been freed from Chinese rule. On February 20, 1933 a provisional Khotan Government was setup with Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi as the Prime Minister and Muhammed Emin Bughra as the head of the Armed Forces. In the spring of 1933, the Kashgar Affairs Office of the Khotan Government was setup in Kashgar and developed connections to like-minded pro-independence Uyghur & Kyrgyz leaders in the area.

In September 1933, the East Turkistan Independence Assembly was formally established and published a scientific, political, national, and literary bi-weekly review titled *Istiqlal* (Independence) which was printed by the Swedish Mission Press in Kashgar. By October, 1933 all preparations for declaring an independent East Turkistan Republic had been made. Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi sent a letter to the Qumul rebellion's leader Khoja Niyaz asking him to be the President of the new republic.

Formation of the First ETR

On November 12, 1933, over 20,00 people including some 7,000 troops gathered on the banks of the Tumen River in Kashgar to formally proclaim independence as the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan. The blue flag with a white star and crescent was introduced as the national flag, and the a national anthem was introduced and sung. Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi was declared the Prime Minister and he announced Khoja Niyaz as the President *in absentia* of the new independent republic. A Constitution containing 30 articles was read and a cabinet of 9 ministers was formed.

Although the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan endorsed Islam as the official state religion, it also guaranteed religious freedom. The jadidist leaders of the ETR focused on modernization and development, especially on education, health, and economic reforms.

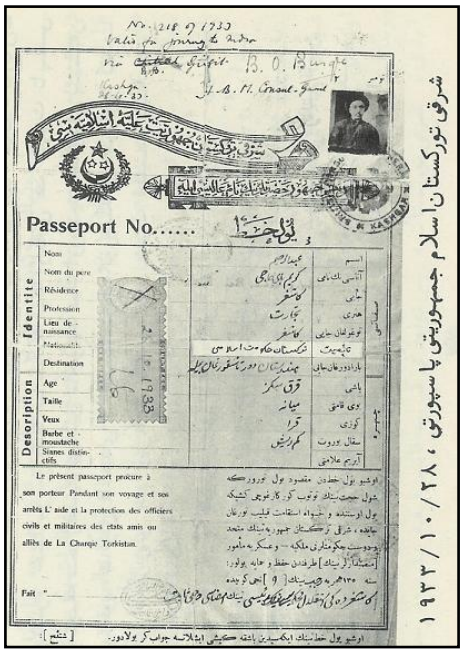
Declaration of Independence of the First East Turkistan Republic in Kashgar

Prime Minister Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi declaring the First ETR - November 12, 1933

After declaring the East Turkistan Republic, Foreign Minister Qasimjan Haji sent a telegram to Ankara via Peshawar officially greeting Turkey as the East Turkistan Republic. The ETR sought recognition and international support by writing numerous letters to heads of states and even sent emissaries to the USSR, Afghanistan, Sweden, Iran, Turkey and British India. In Afghanistan, the envoys met with King Mohammed Zahir Shah and Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Hashim Khan who stated their neutrality but nonetheless sold them arms and sent Afghan volunteers to East Turkistan. The Soviet Union rejected the ETR, fearing that rebellion might spread into western Turkistan, which was under Soviet control, or that the ETR would give safe haven to Turkic Basmachi rebels fighting against the Soviets.

The First ETR had all the aspects of a modern state including a government with various ministries and a parliament, a standing military, even issuing currency and passports to its citizens.

Leadership of the First East Turkistan Republic (1933 - 1934)	
President	Khoja Niyaz Haji
Prime Minister	Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi
Deputy Prime Minister	Janibek
General Secretary	Alem Akhun
Defense Minister	General Mehmut Muhiti
Interior Minister	Seyidzade Yunus Bek
Foreign Minister	Qasimjan Haji
Education Minister	Abdulkerimhan Mehsum
Justice Minister	Zerifkhan Haji
Finance Minister	Ali Akhunbay
Agricultural Minister	Abulhesen Haji
Endowment Minister	Shemseddin Turdi Haji
Health Minister	Ubeydullah Bey



Passport issued by the East Turkistan Republic

On January 13, 1934, Khoja Niyaz arrived in Kashgar with over 1, 500 troops to assume the presidency and with him arrived Mahmut Muhiti, a prominent Uyghur leader and Major General from Turpan. General Muhiti was subsequently appointed as the Defense Minister of the First ETR by Prime Minister Abdulbaqi.

President Khoja Niyaz wrote a letter to China's government in Nanjing reaffirming East Turkistan's Declaration of Independence made by the Parliament of the People of East Turkistan in accordance to its free

will along with the Constitution of the Chinese Republic of 1912 and Sun Yat-sen's 3 principles which gave the right to self-determination for all people.

President Khoja Niyaz Haji - 1934

President Khoja Niyaz listed five principles for the first East Turkistan Republic:

1. All of "Xinjiang" is part of the East Turkistan Republic, while all, that do not belong, should go back to where they came from;
2. The Government and its economics will be administrated by the local people;
3. All the oppressed people, living in East Turkistan, will have the freedom to pursue education, commerce, and build a new nation;
4. The President of the Republic, Khoja Niyaz, will build a Government dedicated to the happiness of the people;
5. The Republic with its various departments [ministries] will strive to catch up with other modern societies.

Fall of the First ETR

The Soviets grew concerned for various reason and intervened in the conflict between the East Turkistan Republic, the Republic of China (36th Division) and Han Chinese warlord Sheng Shicai, who was close to the Soviets. On January 24, 1934 with two brigades (some 7,000 troops), the Soviets invaded northern East Turkistan to assist Sheng Shicai in taking control of East Turkistan.

In late January 1934, the East Turkistan Republic was attacked by Hui (Chinese Muslim) military forces led by Hui General Ma Fuyang, fighting under the command of Ma Zhongying the commander of the 36th Division of the Republic of China (Nationalist China). Following heavy fighting between the army of the East Turkistan Republic and the the Republic of China, on February 6, 1934 the Government of the first East Turkistan Republic was forced to withdraw from Kashgar, with Prime Minister Abdulbaqi and most of the government relocating to Yengisar (Yengi Hissar) and Defense Minister Mehmut Muhiti withdrawing with most of the Army to Atush.

Kashgar was over run and some 8,000 Uyghurs along with several members of the British consulate in Kashgar were brutally massacred by the Hui (Chinese Muslim) forces of the Republic of China's 36th Division. The ETR immediately sent couriers to its forces in Khotan asking them to urgently send reinforcements, which arrived in Yarkent in early March, 1934.

General Mehmet Muhiti & his staff

President Khoja Niyaz fled to the Soviet Union (present day Kyrgyzstan) via Irkeshtam and was captured by the Soviets. The Soviets pressured Khoja Niyaz to sign an agreement dismissing the East Turkistan Republic and disbanding its Army in exchange for unspecified prospects in the future. On March 1, 1934 notice of President Khoja Niyaz's agreement with the Soviets was received by Minister Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi and his cabinet in Yengisar. The next day they convened a special cabinet meeting where they rejected the agreement and condemned President Khoja Niyaz as a national traitor.

Prime Minister Sabit Damolla and members of the Cabinet.

The Huis fighting under the Republic of China began their siege of Yengisar in March and on April 16, 1934 Yengisar fell to

Chinese forces. The first East Turkistan Republic officially fell on April 16, 1934, though others would continue to fight for many months later using the title of the East Turkistan Republic. Khoja Niyaz captured Sabit Damolla Abdulbaqi in Atush along with most of this cabinet and handed them over to Sheng Shicai.

By the end of 1934, most of East Turkistan was under the control of Chinese warlord Sheng Shicai and he created a "Xinjiang Government,"appointing Khoja Niyaz as the Vice Chairman and "Civil Governor for life" per the Soviets request. In a political move, Khoja Niyaz was forced to leave his army and relocate to Urumchi to take his new position, rendering him powerless. Mehmut Muhiti was appointed Military Commander of the Kashgar Region but was demoted to Deputy Military Commander by Sheng Shicai. He continued to retain command of the 6th Division, which was made up primarily of Uyghurs and was based in Kashgar and Atush.

Sheng incorporated the Hui Generals fighting under the Republic of China into his government and used them to crackdown on further Uyghur / Turkic revolts in the region. In 1935 a Uyghur uprising, known as the Charkilik Revolt, erupted in Charkilik county against Chinese rule and was brutally suppressed by Hui forces. Over 100 Uyghurs were executed along with the family of the revolt's leader.

By 1937, Sheng Shicai had implemented a totalitarian form of governance. Much like the campaigns of today under Chen Quanguo, Sheng had turned East Turkistan into a police state. Hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs, especially people having the slightest connection to the former East Turkistan Republic or holding anti-China views were arrested and executed.

General Mehmut Muhiti organized a rebellion against Sheng in Kashgar and fled to India in April 1937, and later fled to Japan, where he lobbied the Imperial Japanese government to support independence for East Turkistan. His subordinates in Atush led by Kichik Akhun and General Abdul Niyaz liberated Kashgar and set up an independent government in late May 1937.

General Abdul Niyaz & staff - 1937

Sheng Shicai's troops failed to suppress the uprising prompting the Soviets to intervene in August 1937 with 5, 000 troops backed by an armored regiment and an air unit. Abdul Niyaz was executed in September 15, 1937 and the rebellion officially ended in October 15, 1937 after the Soviets bombed Khotan killing the last of the rebels and causing over 2,000 casualties.

Khoja Niyaz was arrested by Sheng Shicai shortly after Uyghurs in Kashgar began to rebel in April 1937. Sheng executed Khoja Niyaz and some 120 of his followers in 1938 by labeling them as "counter revolutionaries", "Trotskyites," and "Japanese agents."

The first East Turkistan Republic was the first successful attempt by Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan to declare independence and establish a modern republic since the conquest of East Turkistan by the Manchu Qing Empire in 1884. Due to numerous reasons including Soviet intervention, treachery and treason among the ranks of state officials, invasion by the Republic of China (Nationalist China), and lack of international support, the first East Turkistan Republic was short-lived lasting about six months. However, it served as an inspiration and basis for the people of East Turkistan to continue to struggle for their independence. Exactly 11 years following the founding of the first East Turkistan Republic, on November 12, 1944, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars, and others would join together to declare independence once more as the East Turkistan Republic.

Both the first and second East Turkistan Republic(s) continue to inspire the people of East Turkistan in their struggle for independence today.

The Second East Turkistan Republic (1944-1949)

شەرقىي تۈركىستان جۇمھۇرىيىتى East Turkistan Republic	
Flag	Emblem
Status	Partially recognized state
Capital	Ghulja
Official Language	Uyghur
Government	Republic
President • 1944-1946 • 1946-1949	 Alihan Tore Exmetjan Qasimi
Established	12 November 1944
Disestablished	22 December 1949

The second East Turkistan Republic, officially known as the East Turkistan Republic [*Sherqiy Türkistan Jumhuriyiti*], was a short-lived state that existed from 1944-1949. It was the second successful attempt by the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan to declare independence and establish a modern state in the 20th century.

The East Turkistan Republic was the primary product of an independence movement led by Uyghur and other Turkic people living in East Turkistan, and multi-ethnic and Turkic in character including Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars, and even Mongols in its government and population.

Following the assassination of its leaders in a “plane crash” in August 1949, along with invasion by the then newly established People’s Republic of China (Communist China), the second ETR was overthrown on December 22, 1949. It however, along with the first East Turkistan Republic (1933-1934) serves as a basis and inspiration for the modern Uyghur / Turkic independence movement aiming to re-establish an independent East Turkistan Republic.

Origins of the Second ETR

East Turkistan was governed, with Soviet influence, by the Han Chinese warlord Sheng Shicai between 1934 -1943. Following Uyghur uprisings in 1937, Sheng began a great purge, imprisoning and executing Uyghur and other Turkic leaders, scholars, and anyone he deemed a threat to his power. Among those purged included Uyghur leaders like Khoja Niyaz, who was the Vice Chairman of the region at that time. Under Sheng Shicai’s rule, East Turkistan and its people were subject to brutal repression,

similar in many ways to Chen Quanguo's rule today, and some 200,000 or more Uyghurs and others were arrested and executed during this period.

Kazakhs in Altay under the leadership of Osman Islam (Osman Batur) and Delilqan Sugurbayev rebelled against Sheng's rule in the Koktokay Rebellion on 1941. By the end of 1941, Sheng's brutal totalitarian rule of East Turkistan created widespread discontent amongst Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Tatars, and even Mongols living in East Turkistan, and calls for independence were brewing once again.

Delilqan Sugurbayev - Deputy Commander of the East Turkistan National Army

Although he was initially aligned closely with the Soviet Union, taking advantage of Soviet setbacks in its war with Germany, Sheng began to shift towards the Republic of China (Nationalist China) in Nanjing and expelled all Soviet personnel from the region in 1942.

In April 1942, Isabek Munonow, the director of the Society for the Promotion of Kazakh and Kyrgyz Culture, fled to the Soviet Union; around the same period hundreds of other Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tatar, and Mongol leaders fled to the Soviet Union as well. The Soviet Union abandoned its policy of supporting Sheng's regime and shifted towards supporting the Turkic national independence movement that was brewing in East Turkistan.

By mid 1943, the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples had established the East Turkistan National Liberation Organization and began to receive covert support from the Soviets against Sheng Shicai, who by this time had been accepted the Republic of China (Nationalist China)'s authority and was named the head of the Kuomintang in "Xinjiang," by the Republic of China.

Following the Soviet's victories against Germany in 1944, Sheng sent a letter to Stalin offering to incorporate East Turkistan ("Xinjiang") into the USSR as its 18th Soviet Socialist Republic. Stalin in turn forwarded the letter to Chiang Kai-shek, who removed Sheng from his post and brought him back to Chongqing, China.

Following Sheng's departure, rebellion began to slowly break out in East Turkistan. In mid-August 1944, Uyghur and Turkic rebels locals formed the "Nilka Guerrillas" group led by Gheni Batur with the goal of securing independence for East Turkistan and succeeded in capturing Nilka County in October 8, 1944.

On November 7, 1944, members of the East Turkistan National Liberation Organization led by Abdulkerim Abbasov attacked the KMT (Republic of China) police headquarters in Ghulja while Uyghur, Kazakh, and other Turkic rebels began to attack the outskirts capturing the city of Ghulja by November 12th as Chinese government forces fled the city.

Formation of the Second ETR

On November 12, 1944, the East Turkistan National Liberation Organization held a large rally at the the Uyghur, Kazakh, & Kyrgyz Club in Ghulja to proclaim East Turkistan's independence as the East Turkistan Republic. The two main leaders of the East Turkistan National Liberation Organization, Alihan Tore, an ethnic Uzbek, was elected as the President and Abdulkerim Abbasov, an Uyghur, was appointed Minister of Internal Affairs, thus the East Turkistan Republic was officially declared.

Although the founders of the second East Turkistan Republic hadn't drafted a comprehensive constitution for the newly established Republic prior its declaration of independence, they announced the Nine Political Precepts (*Toqquz Maddliq Siyasi Programma*), as a precursor to a constitution.

Summary of the Nine Political Precepts:

1) *Rooting out the tyranny of the Han Chinese;*
2) *Establishment of a democratic government;*
3) *Creation of an armed forces belonging to the people;*
4) *Equality for all ethnic groups;*
5) *Granted the right to freedom of religion;*
6) *Popular elections of government officials at all levels;*
7) *Developing political and economic relations with friendly countries, especially the Soviet Union;*
8) *Development of education, culture, and health;*
9) *Adoption of the Uyghur script as the official written language of the East Turkistan Republic.*

President Alihan Tore fiercely condemned Chinese rule over East Turkistan (what China calls "Xinjiang") in his speech on November 12, 1944. He called on the Han [Chinese] government to stop creating pseudo history about East Turkistan and he further called on China to "abandon its ambitions for the territory of East Turkistan, and find a way to liberate its own Chinese territories" from the Japanese.

He urged all the people of East Turkistan to "fight in order to liberate the entire nation from tyranny of Chinese rule over the fatherland of East Turkistan," stating it was not only a civil duty but also a religious duty.

President Alihan Tore and other members of the ETR Government - 1945

Leadership of the Second East Turkistan Republic (1944- 1949)	
President *** 1944-1946** *** 1946-1949**	Alihan Tore Ahmatjan Qasimi
Vice President	Hakimbek Khoja
Minister of Internal Affairs *** 1944-1945** *** 1945-1949**	Abdulkerim Abbasov Rahimjan Sabir
Secretary General	Abdulkerim Abbasov
Minister of Military Affairs	- Rahimjan Sabir - Zunon Teipov
Minister of Education ***1944-1945** ***1945-1949**	Khabib Yuqi Seypidin Azizi
Chief Justice of Supreme Court	Mahmutjan Mahsum
Minister of Finance	Anwar Musabay
Commander of the National Army *** Deputy Commander** *** Deputy Commander**	Isakbek Munonow Delilqan Sugurbayev Zunon Teipov
Minster of Health ***1944-1945** ***1945- 1949**	Kasimjan Kamberi Muhettin Qanat
Minister of Religious Affairs	Ablimit Ali Halipa
Minister of Agriculture	Salman Bay
Minister of Nomadic Pasturing	Ubulhari Tore

On February 24, 1945, the Government Council announced Resolution No. 24, which declared:

"The most important objective of the revolution for the liberation of East Turkistan are to topple the brutal rule of the Han Chinese, exterminate the savage Nationalist armies, and achieve the wish that our people have cherished for centuries: driving out the Han colonizers, and establishing a strong and prosperous state that cares for the people, with true equality for all ethnicities."

The second East Turkistan Republic, like the first ETR, had all aspects of a modern state including a highly organized government with various departments and ministries, a national army, a judicial system, and it even issued currency known as the "East Turkistan Dollar." It was much more professionalized and solid in comparison to the first East Turkistan Republic.

$1000 East Turkistan Dollar Note -1945

East Turkistan National Army

On April 8, 1945, the founding of the East Turkistan Republic's National Army was proclaimed with a large military parade, and the various armed groups scattered across that part of East Turkistan were organized into seven regiments, four independent battalions, and one independent company. General recruitment of all ethnic groups, except for the Chinese, were carried out by the East Turkistan National Army.

Formal Establishment of the East Turkistan National Army - April 8, 1945

At its height in 1946, the East Turkistan National Army had a total of 40,000 active duty troops and some 20,000 reserve troops. A number of departments were established under the East Turkistan National Army Headquarters, including Political Department, War Department, Military Administration Department, Cadre Department, Reconnaissance Department, and a Supply & Logistics Department. The Soviets had also imbedded military advisors into the East Turkistan National Army to help train them and to monitor their movements.

The East Turkistan National Army was armed with mostly German weaponry, along with some Soviet weaponry, and American weaponry captured from the Republic of China. Much of its initial arms were sold to the East Turkistan Republic by the Soviet Union. The East Turkistan National Army's Artillery Division originally consisted of at least 12 cannons, two armored vehicles, and two tanks. A National Aviation Force was established with forty-two airplanes that the East Turkistan National Army had captured at a Republic of China (Nationalist China) airbase in Ghulja.

Officers of the East Turkistan National Army -1945

By July 1945, the East Turkistan National Army was conducting a three-front-war advancing against Republic of China positions in the rest of East Turkistan. On the

Northern Front, the East Turkistan National Army succeeded in liberating the Targabatay and Altay region by September of 1945. On the Central Front, the East Turkistan National Army succeeded in liberating all territories west of the Manas River. On the Southern Front, the East Turkistan National Army crossed the Tengri Tagh ("Tianshan") mountains and succeeded in liberating much of the Aksu region by September, 1945 and setup a Kashgar Regiment to liberate Kashgar.

East Turkistan National Army along the banks of the Manas River - September 1945

After hearing about the East Turkistan National Army's impending arrival to all of southern East Turkistan, Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples across Kashgar, Yarkent, and other places across East Turkistan began to rebel against Chinese occupation. The East Turkistan Republic was rapidly expanding but that came to halt in October 1945.

The Republic of China (Nationalist China) sent Chinese warlord Ma Fuyang and his Hui (Chinese Muslim) army to reinforce the Republic of China troops and assist them in protecting Urumchi from an impending attack by the East Turkistan National Army. By early September 1945, over 100,000 Han and Hui troops had been deployed to East Turkistan under the command of the KMT (Republic of China).

Soviet Pressure

In September 1945, the East Turkistan National Army captured Manas and made preparations to cross the Manas River in its push eastward towards the main Republic of China stronghold in Urumchi. However, the Soviet military advisors suddenly pressured the ETR's leadership to stop all of its military campaigns. President Alihan Tore who had been given the nominal rank of "Marshal of the East Turkistan National Army," tried to reject the Soviet pressure insisting that continuing the military campaigns was necessary to liberate all of East Turkistan and ensure its future survival.

President Alihan Tore in deep thought (presumably) -1946

Little did they, the East Turkistan Republic's leadership, know that the future of their Republic had already been secretly negotiated and decided upon by world powers at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship signed by the Soviet Union and the Republic of China on August 14, 1945 revealed that the Soviet Union had already decided to sacrifice the East Turkistan Republic for the sake of more important national interests, it not only pledged to cease all aid to the East Turkistan Republic, but also tacitly gave the green light for the Republic of China to suppress the East Turkistan Republic.

The Soviets pressured the East Turkistan Republic's leadership to enter into peace negotiations with the Republic of China. The East Turkistan Republic's leadership became divided as President Alihan Tore and his supporters in the Government Council fiercely opposed the the idea of a peace negotiation with China. He condemned the peace negotiations as, "An action betraying the interests of the Uyghur people, an action betraying the achievements of the revolution, and an action to court the favor of the Chinese." Despite opposition from half of the Government, on October 2, 1945 the East Turkistan Republic issued a resolution responding to the Chinese government's call for negotiations. The resolution stated that the East Turkistan Republic was willing to negotiate with the Republic of China on the basis that the East Turkistan Republic will continue to seek independence for all of East Turkistan's territories.

On January 5, 1946, just three days before the "Eleven Articles of Peace" was signed by the delegation led by Ahmetjan Qasimi and the Republic of China, the

establishment of the Mongolian People's Republic (Mongolia) was recognized by the Republic of China. The “Eleven Articles of Peace” called for an extended peace talks and a creation of a coalition government formed by Chinese and other Turkic peoples based on ethnic equality.During

Peace talks between the East Turkistan Republic and the Republic of China - 1946

the duration of the peace talks, the faction of the East Turkistan Republic led by President Alihan Tore continued to oppose the peace talks and persuaded the Government Council of the East Turkistan Republic to issue a series of resolutions emphasizing the nature of the East Turkistan Republic as an independent state.

Summary of Resolutions passed:

Resolution No. 110 - October 15, 1945: Declares November 7 as Memorial Day for the East Turkistan Revolution.

Resolution No. 113 - October 22, 1945: Declares November 12 as East Turkistan Independence Day.

Resolution No. 185 - January 5, 1946: Formation of civil servant wage system.

Resolution No.197 - January 12, 1946: Fixation of national taxes and tax rates.

Resolution No. 203 - January 13, 1946: Establishment of State Administrative System.

Resolution No. 235 - March 5, 1946: Standards for military promotion and banning the circulation of Chinese currency in East Turkistan markets.

Resolution No. 249 - March 28, 1946: Declares April 8 as Memorial Day for the Founding of the National Army.

On April 4, 1946 the official newspaper of the East Turkistan Republic — *Free East Turkistan (Azat Sherqiy Turkistan)* — published a fiercely worded editorial entitled “Negotiations in Process”:

“If the Chinese government fails to hand over all power to us in compliance with our terms, and continues to implement the policies of the colonialist system, then we must continue to fight. If your objectives are not achieved, we wove to fight on, through bloody sacrifice and war, to liberate the whole of East Turkistan and establish our own eternal state.”

The Decline of the ETR

At the start of the peace talks, the Republic of China (Nationalist China) Government in Chongqing sent General Zhang Zhizong, the Director of the Republic of China’s Military Council, and appointed him as Governor. Along with him came three Uyghurs from Chongqing, Isa Yusuf Aliptekin, Masud Sabri, and Muhammed Emin Bughra, who were working for the Republic of China, with Aliptekin being a member of China’s Parliament, the Legislative Yuan, as a "Representative of Xinjiang Province". The KMT (Republic of China) employed these “Three Gentleman,"as they became to be known, to attack the East Turkistan Republic and persuade the Uyghur and other Turkic people in East Turkistan to oppose East Turkistan’s independence in favor of autonomy within China. The East Turkistan Republic declared the “Three Gentleman” as “traitors to the people of East Turkistan” and as “puppets of the KMT”, which was using them "to fragment the people’s strength in order to entirely annihilate our lineage.”

Isa Yusuf Aliptekin, Mesud Sabri, Burhan Shahidi, and Muhammed Emin Bughra with KMT forces- 1947 or 1948

The “peace talks” with the Republic of China was accompanied with internal strife between the pro-Soviet faction led by Abdulkerim Abbasov and the traditional faction led by Alihan

Tore. The pro-Soviet faction began to slowly push President Alihan Tore aside as the peace talks progressed.

On May 1, 1946, the Soviets proposed a "Final Mediated Plan" that would:

1) *Reform the East Turkistan National Army and a regiment would be stationed in Urumchi, Kashgar, and Aksu;*
2) *A commander-in-chief with unified command over the reformed National Army troops would be installed, and would serve as the Deputy Commissioner for Military Affairs in the "Xinjiang Provincial Government."*
3) *The armed forces of the Chinese government would be prohibited from entering the three regions of Ili, Targabatay, and Altay*
4) *The political police force would be disbanded and police organizations for each region would formed by local residents;*
5) *The number of Chinese government forces in East Turkistan (what Beijing calls "Xinjiang") would be reduced to the levels as of January 1944.*

As the East Turkistan delegation and Chinese representatives prepared to sign the "Second Addendum to the Peace Terms," East Turkistan's Soviet Advisors started to leave to the Soviet Union. President Alihan Tore and his followers continued to show opposition to the peace talks but failed to stop it. On June 6, 1946 the day which the "Second Addendum to the Peace Terms" was formally signed, President Alihan Tore of the East Turkistan Republic, along with several of his most trusted followers and staff were detained and escorted to Almaty by representatives of the Soviet Consulate. Alihan Tore was subsequently put under house arrest in Tashkent until his death in 1976.

Alihan Tore - President of the ETR (1944-1946)

With the signing of the "Second Addendum to the Peace Terms," the East Turkistan Republic under the new President, Ahmetjan Qasimi, continued to stress East Turkistan's right to independence. The peace terms called for the downsizing of the military forces of both the East Turkistan Republic and the Republic of China in all territories of East Turkistan (what China calls "Xinjiang").

The ETR would follow through with the agreement and downsized to roughly 12,000 active troops and withdrew most of its forces from Kashgar, Aksu, and elsewhere and stationed them in the three regions of Illi, Targabatay, and Altay. They were allowed to leave a small peacekeeping contingent in Kashgar and Aksu.

In July 1946, a "Xinjiang Provincial Coalition Government" was setup with various leaders of the ETR taking a double role with Ahmatjan Qasimi taking the role of "Vice Chairman" and Abdulkerim Abbasov taking the role of "Deputy Secretary-General". As President of the East Turkistan Republic, Ahmatjan Qasimi called for unity and support for the East Turkistan Republic and officially rejected the coalition government and withdrew from it in February 1947. He had previously led a delegation to the Chinese National Assembly (the Legislative Yuan) in Nanjing to negotiate bi-lateral relations between the East Turkistan Republic and the Republic of China which didn't prove fruitful. He explained that the people of East Turkistan had risen in rebellion only to secure their rights guaranteed under the Chinese constitution.

Although the East Turkistan Republic continued to maintain its independence and called for the full liberation of all of East Turkistan from Chinese rule, it wasn't able to engage in any military campaigns due to economic pressure from the Soviet Union and the Republic of China.

The Fall of the ETR

On July 12, 1947, President Ahmetjan Qasimi and Interior Minister Rahimjan Sabir wrote a letter to the Soviet Consul in Urumchi pleading the Soviet Union and Stalin to protect the interests of East Turkistan and its people. On September 10, 1947 the Soviet Council of Ministers offered four proposals to support the East Turkistan Republic. The proposals included covertly supporting Uyghur rebels in Turpan with military aid, sending immediate military aid to the East Turkistan Republic, and to assist Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples to expand their anti-China partisan movements in Aksu, Kucha, and Kashgar. However, much of the proposal was not followed through.

Members of the ETR National Army in Turpan

On April 24, 1948, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union privately held a meeting to announce measures to support the East Turkistan Republic. Some of the measures including giving financial and military aid and sending Uyghurs and other Turkic people, who had left East Turkistan to study in the Soviet Union, back to East Turkistan to help strengthen the administration, economy, and military of the East Turkistan Republic.

Officers of the East Turkistan National Army - February 1948

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union continued to negotiate with Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party over East Turkistan's status. On February 4, 1949, a meeting between Soviet Union and the Chinese Communist Party took place. Anastas Mikoyan, the Vice Premier of the Soviet Council of Ministers, met with Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. Mao raised the issue of "reunifying" Outer Mongolia (independent) and Inner Mongolia (under Chinese control) and incorporating it into his future People's Republic of China. Mikoyan rejected this proposal, then Mao mentioned about there being a Communist Party in East Turkistan, which Mikoyan stated "there is no Communist Party, but there is a national independence movement." Mao stressed he wanted to include "Xinjiang" (East Turkistan) as a part of China. He emphasized that he would "not grant independence but autonomy" to the region.

By June 1949, the Soviet Union had agreed to letting Mao take over East Turkistan and on June 27, 1949, Stalin met with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) delegation led by Liu Shiaoqi, the Secretary of the CCP's Central Committee, and Gao Geng, a Politburo member of the CCP. In the meeting a $300 million low interest loan to China was discussed. Stalin urged the Chinese Communist Party to quickly invade and occupy East Turkistan before the English attempt to intervene. He also stated that the Chinese population in East Turkistan doesn't exceed 5% and recommended the CCP to bring up the percentage of the Chinese population to 30% after taking over East Turkistan in order to develop the region and strengthening China's border protection.

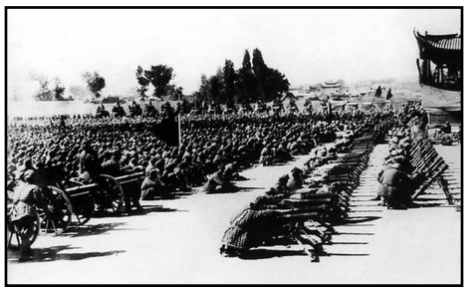
In August 1949, the Chinese Communist Party sent a small covert reconnaissance team led by Deng Liqun to the East Turkistan Republic's capital of Ghulja with the help of the Soviets. Meanwhile, the leadership of the East Turkistan Republic including President Ahmetjan Qasim, Secretary General Abdukerim Abbasov, Commander of the East Turkistan National Army Isaqbek Munonow, Deputy Commander Delilqan Sugurbayev, and their staff totaling 11 people were called to a meeting in Moscow. On August 24, 1945 they boarded a plane in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Soviet Union informed Seypidin Azizi, the Education Minister of the East Turkistan Republic, that their plane "crashed" on August 27, 1949 and there were no

survivors. Azizi was told to keep quiet and make preparations to travel to Beijing.

Official records from that period show that a Il-12P airplane of the Aeroflot company crashed on Thursday, August 25, 1949 in the area of the village of Kabansk (Buryat-Mongol Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic) on Mount Kabanya, killing 14 people.

However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, some former KGB generals and high officers (among them Pavel Sudoplatov) revealed that the five leaders were killed on Stalin's orders in Moscow on 27 August 1949, after a three-day imprisonment in the former Tsar's stables, having been arrested upon arrival in Moscow by the Head of MGB Colonel General Viktor Abakumov, who personally interrogated the ETR's leaders, then ordered their execution.

On September 12, 1949, Mao sent a telegram to Stalin asking for 40 planes to transport an entire division of the PLA into Urumchi to quickly occupy East Turkistan. Seypidin Azizi and two others traveled to Beijing and signed a secret treaty agreeing to incorporate East Turkistan into China, he was promised a high level position in the government that would be created following Chinese occupation of East Turkistan. He was also promised that the PRC would develop develop East Turkistan and withdraw its forces from East Turkistan within three to five years.



PLA Troops in Gansu preparing for the invasion of East Turkistan - October 1, 1949

On October 1, 1949, Mao announced the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Eleven days later, on October 12, 1949, the People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s 2nd Army, led by by Guo Peng and Wang Enmao, crossed the Jiuquan-Yumen-Anxi line separating East Turkistan and China, thus officially starting the People's Republic of China's invasion of East Turkistan. By October 18, 1949 the PLA had already reached Turpan, on the outskirts of Urumchi. On October 14, 1949 Stalin sent a telegram to Mao agreeing to airlift an entire division of the PLA into Urumchi, with an expected date of arrival being 1-3 November, 1949. Various military leaders of the East Turkistan Republic became anxious and called on the Government to make preparations for defending the East Turkistan Republic but was prevented by Seypidin Azizi and the Soviets.

Most of the Republic of China (Nationalist)'s puppet "Xinjiang Government" officials and its forces in Urumchi, including the puppet "Governor" Burhan Shahidi and others, suddenly switched sides and welcomed the Chinese Communist Party. On December 7, 1949 the 70,000+ troops of the Republic of China (Nationalist China) stationed around Urumchi was incorporated into the PLA as its 22nd Corps.

Shortly after the PLA had consolidated control in Urumchi and most of the eastern parts of East Turkistan, including Turpan and Qumul, Seypidin publicly announced in mid December, 1949, that the leaders of the East Turkistan Republic had "died in a plane crash on their way to Beijing."

On December 20, 1949, members of the PLA entered Ghulja, the capital of the East Turkistan Republic, and the East Turkistan Republic was officially dissolved on December 22, 1949 with the merging of the East Turkistan National Army into the PLA's 5th Army Corps. December 22, 1949 marked the end of the East Turkistan independence and the beginning of Chinese Communist occupation of East Turkistan, which continues to this day.

Parade incorporating the East Turkistan National Army into the PLA's 5th Army Corps.

Aftermath

Following the occupation of East Turkistan by the People's Republic of China, most of the pro-KMT Uyghurs in East Turkistan led by Isa Yusuf Aliptekin, who had been appointed the “Secretary General of the Xinjiang Provincial Government" by the Republic of China in 1947, and Muhammed Emin Bughra, who had also been appointed as the “Governor of the Xinjiang Provincial Government," fled to India. They arrived in Kashmir in early 1950 with more than 11, 000 Uyghurs from Khotan, Kashgar, Urumchi, and other parts of East Turkistan. Upon arriving there, Aliptekin began to contact the US, Indian, and Turkish governments claiming to be the “Secretary General of East Turkistan,” and asking them for assistance in resettling the Uyghurs in Turkey.

Yulbars Khan, a Uyghur from Qumul who was also working for the KMT (Republic of China), led Hui forces to fight against the PLA from 1949-1950. After much of his Hui forces deserted and switched sides to the CCP, Yulbars Khan fled to Taiwan. In Taiwan he was appointed as “Governor of Xinjiang" by Chiang Kai-shek and held the title until his death in 1971.

Meanwhile, Uyghurs and Kazakhs continued to resist Chinese occupation. One of the prominent leaders of resistance was Osman Islam (Batur), who had once been the Governor of Altay, under the East Turkistan Republic. His forces continued to engage in guerrilla attacks against the PLA until his capture and execution on April 29, 1951. After Osman Batur's death many of his followers fled to India and later resettled in Turkey.

Execution of Osman Batur - April 29, 1951

As the PLA marched down into southern East Turkistan, they were met with resistance in Khotan and Kashgar but was quickly able to suppress the resistance. However, small scale resistance against Chinese occupation continued across East Turkistan.

By 1954, the PRC had managed to fully control all of East Turkistan and began to initiate its colonial policies. Mao setup the Bingtuan ("Xinjiang Paramilitary Production Corps”) by transferring an additional 300,000 Han Chinese soldiers and their families to settle in East Turkistan. The primary goal of the Bingtuan was to colonize East Turkistan's lands most rich in natural and mineral resources, it also had the duty of assisting the PLA in suppressing rebellion. The Bingtuan has 2.6 million personnel as of 2010.

Many Uyghur and other Turkic leaders in the government became upset and wrote numerous letters to Beijing urging them to keep their promises. Mao responded by officially designating East Turkistan as the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,” and the PRC gave a few Uyghurs including former East Turkistan Republic officials some high positions in the “Autonomous Region.”

An underground East Turkistan Revolutionary Party had been created by former ETR officials calling for independence. Growing frustrated with the PRC's oppressive rule, in 1956, 51 prominent Uyghur and other Turkic leaders led by former East Turkistan National Army General Memtimin Iminov (who was appointed “Vice-Chairman of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region” by the PRC) wrote a letter to Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai urging the PRC to respect its initial promises and withdraw its forces from East Turkistan.

Iminov would be detained and killed (the Chinese government stated he died from an illness). The rest of those who signed the letter were also purged and the PRC began to take an even more brutal approach by arresting tens of thousands of Uyghurs, executing many of them and labeling them as “counter revolutionaries,” "foreign agents,” and "ethnic nationalists.”

To this day, the Chinese governments attempts to eradicateEast Turkistan and its people have not stopped, and neither has the resistance.

The Struggle for East Turkistan's Independence 70 Years On

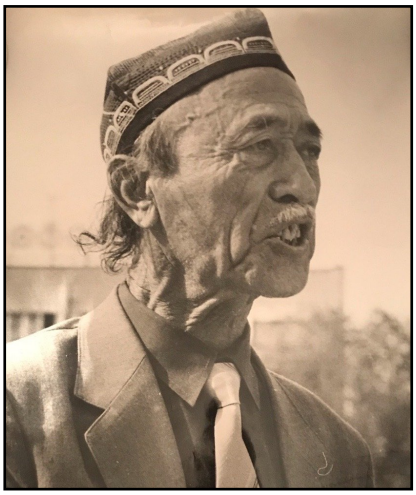
Since the invasion and occupation of East Turkistan by the People's Republic of China and the overthrowing of the independent East Turkistan Republic on December 22, 1949, the people of East Turkistan have continued to resist Chinese occupation and strive for East Turkistan's independence.

In December 1954, Ablimit and Bahirdin Mashum led a rebellion in Khotan to create an independent East Turkistan state and began to attack Chinese PLA forces in the region. Between December 1954 and 1956 the group led by Ablimit carried out eight major attacks in the Khotan region. In May 1956 Uyghurs rebelled against Chinese rule in the Lop region but it was quickly suppressed. Another rebellion broke out in Khotan in early 1957 and was suppressed in April 1957. Khotan has been one of the major sites of resistance to Chinese rule to this day.

Although the uprisings in Khotan failed, it became a major source of inspiration, especially for the people of Ili, who rebelled in April 1962, leading to a massacre and the mass exodus of over 60,000 Uyghurs and Kazakhs to the former Soviet Union (Kazakhstan). Among those who fled were former East Turkistan Republic officials, military officers (including some of those who were officials in the Chinese Communist Party.) In the Soviet Union, they set up the East Turkistan Liberation Committee in Exile, advocating for the end of Chinese rule and the restoration of independence as the East Turkistan Republic.

In 1946, the East Turkistan Revolutionary Party had been formed secretly by Abdulkerim Abbasov, Anwar Hanbaba, Mamtimin Iminov, Abdullah Zakirov, and others. Following the occupation of East Turkistan it went underground and continued to secretly advocate for East Turkistan's independence. By the mid 1960s it rebranded as the East Turkistan People's Revolutionary Party (ETPRP) and had expanded to some 178 branches across the East Turkistan and occasionally carried out guerrilla attacks against PLA forces. It was the largest, most influential and organized anti-China group operating in East Turkistan post 1949, having a Central Committee and Political Bureau of its own. It advocated for armed struggle to drive out the Chinese. It sent over 12 delegations to the Soviet Union and Mongolia to procure arms, establish radio stations, and seek the help of military advisers.

On August 20, 1969, Ahunov the Secretary of the ETPRP in southern East Turkistan led a group of ETPRP members to take two vehicles and weapons to setup a camp near the Soviet border (present day Kyrgyzstan), they were discovered due to informants and were all killed in a gun battle with PLA forces on August 21, 1969. The Chinese government then launched a brutal campaign arresting and executing anyone harboring anti-China and pro-independence sentiments, effectively disintegrating the ETPRP.



Yusupbek Mukhlisi

In the early 1970s, Yusupbek Mukhlisi established the United National Revolutionary Front of East Turkistan (UNRFET, also known as the United Revolutionary Front of East Turkistan) in the former Soviet Union (present day Almaty, Kazakhstan). In 1979, he began to publish a monthly newspaper called t*he Voice of East Turkistan*, which became very widely read and was supported by the former East Turkistan Republic's Generals Zunon Teipov and Marghup Ishakov, and People's Hero Gani Batur, along with various journalists and professors in Central Asia. The group became very active in the 1990s with Mukhlisi receiving a lot of press coverage and traveling to the United States to meet with US State Department officials in 1996.

However, following the September 11 Terrorist Attacks in New York, China labeled groups calling for East Turkistan's independence as "terrorists organizations" and pressured Central Asian governments to crackdown on such groups. Despite this, the UNREFT continued to advocate for East Turkistan's independence until it was disbanded following the assassination of Mukhlisi (via poisoning) in August, 2004. The Chinese government had been able to curb East Turkistan independence activism during the 1970s and there wasn't any major resistance. However, the 1980s started with a series of large demonstrations against Chinese rule in Aksu and Karghalik. It was followed by an armed rebellion in Peyzawat and a large demonstration in Kashgar in 1981. By 1985, student demonstrations across major cities in East Turkistan including Urumchi and Kasghgar had erupted, followed by more demonstrations in 1988.

Uyghur freedom fighters on horseback charging Chinese forces - Baren Uprising, April 1990

On April 5, 1990 a large scale armed uprising occurred in Baren, calling for East Turkistan's independence, following a crackdown on Uyghurs protesting the mass abortion of 200 Uyghur babies in the town. The uprising was brutally suppressed with thousands killed and tens of thousands arrested through East Turkistan.

Thousands of people peaceful demonstrated against Chinese rule in Ghulja - February 5, 1997

Meanwhile, with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, numerous new organizations advocating for East Turkistan's independence began to appear across East Turkistan and the diaspora. Large scale demonstrations broke out in Khotan, Kashgar, Aksu, and other places across East Turkistan and were brutally suppressed. In February 5, 1997, thousands of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and others took the streets of Ghulja calling for an end to Chinese rule and independence for East Turkistan following the execution of 30 independence activists and a crackdown on traditional Uyghur gatherings called *Meshrep*.

In 1998, the East Turkistan Liberation Organization which advocated for armed resistance against China, along with the East Turkistan National Center (ETNC) was established in Turkey, with the ETNC being headed by retired Turkish Brigadier General Mehmet Riza Bekin. Yet at the same time, other groups advocating for Uyghur human rights, and "greater autonomy" also began to emerge among the diaspora.

Following the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks in New York, China claimed to be a "victim of terrorism" and fabricated a group called the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)" to justify its brutal campaign of repression and colonization in East Turkistan. The first mention of the "ETIM" was in a Chinese document submitted to the UN in November 2001. China lobbied the international community to recognize the nonexistent "ETIM" as a terrorist organization and succeeded in getting the UN Security Council and Central Asian countries to recognize it as such, with the US partially recognizing it as a terrorist group back in 2003. Following this, China claimed that the "ETIM" was the broad East Turkistan Independence Movement.

Dru C. Gladney, an expert authority on Uyghurs, said that there was "a credibility gap" about the group since the majority of information on ETIM "was traced back to Chinese sources", and that some believe ETIM to be part of a US-China quid pro quo, where China supported the US-led War on Terror, and "support of the US for the condemnation of ETIM was connected to that support."

The labeling of the non-existent “ETIM” as a terrorist organization by some countries in Central Asia had a negative impact on East Turkistan independence activism. Even peaceful East Turkistan organizations were disbanded, some leaders were assassinated, while others were imprisoned or extradited to China. As a result, many Uyghur groups began to call for “human rights" and “autonomy” instead of independence and some even dropped the usage of the term East Turkistan, instead referring to the region as "the Uyghur region”, “the XUAR”, and “Xinjiang."

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) were formed in 2004 to advocate for "human rights" and “autonomy” for the Uyghurs. As soon as the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile (ETGE) was officially formed in September 2004, it was immediately attacked by China. Many Uyghur proponents of "human rights and autonomy,” including the WUC distanced themselves from the ETGE because the ETGE explicitly advocated for restoring East Turkistan's independence like many of the East Turkistan organizations that existed prior to the ETGE's formation.

Within a few years, as the WUC and its affiliates like the UAA, UHRP began to receive support from US government funded entities like the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), calls for East Turkistan independence were largely silenced among the global Uyghur diaspora. Instead under the influence the WUC and its affiliates urged Uyghurs to refrain from calling for East Turkistan's independence and instead advocate for "human rights and autonomy” with some calling for the vague “right to self-determination.”

Post 2001, China began to ramp up its oppression of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, arresting hundreds of thousands of people for “separatism”, “extremism”, and “counter-terrorism.” Restrictions on the teaching of Uyghur language, culture, history were expanded and even restricted basic religious freedoms. Thousands of Han Chinese settlers were being brought into East Turkistan while thousands of Uyghur youth were being relocated to Chinese provinces to work in factories.

Uyghur neighborhoods were raided and thousands of Uyghurs were extrajudicially destined. - Urumchi , July 2009

On June 25, 2009, several hundred Uyghurs working in a Chinese factory in Shaoguan were brutally attacked, with dozens killed, by Chinese workers as Chinese security forces stood by. This prompted outrage among Uyghurs across East Turkistan who protested in Kashgar and Urumchi. Thousands of Uyghurs took to the streets of Urumchi on July 5, 2009 to peacefully protest the killing of Uyghurs, they demanded equality and protection of Uyghur culture, identity, and language as promised under the Chinese constitution. However, the Chinese government responded brutally killing hundreds of Uyghurs, which in turn prompted clashes between the Uyghurs and the Chinese. Tens of thousands of Uyghurs were detained and disappeared by Chinese security forces and East Turkistan was put under martial law.

Due to no strong international push back against China’s brutal repression of the Uyghurs in 2009, the Chinese government expanded its repression and built an extensive police state across the region. Uyghurs continued to protest Chinese rule and repression in East Turkistan but were suppressed brutally, this prompted some Uyghurs to turn towards violence as a recourse. In 2014, the Chinese government rolled out its “Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism” and began to target the entire Uyghur population as “separatists, terrorists, and extremists.”

In 2016, the Chinese government sent Chen Quanguo, the former Communist Party Secretary in Tibet, to East Turkistan. Under Chen a massive securitization campaign was launched and along

with it the “Transformation through Re-education” program that would incarcerate over a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic people by 2017.

Growing frustrated by the lack of international condemnation and action, some radical voices began to appear among the Uyghur diaspora calling for “attacks against China.” This of course would only help legitimize China's so called “counter-terrorism" claims. Meanwhile, much of the Uyghur / East Turkistani diaspora stood silent against the brutal oppression against their families, relatives, and people in their Homeland. In response, Salih Hudayar, founded the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement (ETNAM) to peacefully advocate for East Turkistan's independence, declaring it as the only way to truly end the oppression which stems from China’s colonization and occupation of East Turkistan. He declared that , “without political rights, independence, there was no way to truly safeguard and protect the basic human rights of the Uyghur and other Turkic people in East Turkistan.”

ETNAM called on Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis to work together and unite around the mission of Restoring East Turkistan's Independence. He urged the diaspora across the globe to lobby their host governments and ask them to protect the Uyghurs and other people of East Turkistan and help them restore East Turkistan's independence. He also urged all East Turkistanis to engage in peaceful advocacy through social media, through demonstrations, and utilize all means to inform the world the truth about China’s oppression in East Turkistan. He stated, “China's actions are not counter terrorism or anti-separatism, but rather an attempt to eradicate East Turkistan and its people.”

On June 4, 2009 , ETNAM launched a daily demonstration in front of the US Capitol urging the US Congress to pass a Uyghur Policy Act similar to the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, that would:

1) Recognize East Turkistan as an occupied territory;

2) Condemn China’s genocide against the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples;

3)Recognize China's atrocities in East Turkistan as a genocide;

4) and punish Chinese officials responsible for the crimes against humanity.

Salih Hudayar called on all Uyghur and East Turkistani people across the world including organizations, leaders, and activists to:

“Wake up and take action! We must use the correct term, East Turkistan and not “Xinjiang” when referring to our Homeland. We must inform governments, the media, and organizations sympathetic to our struggle that Uyghurs are not “ethnic minorities," and East Turkistan is not "China's internal affairs" but it rather “a country that is being colonized and occupied by China. We must convey to them that our true desire is the restoration of East Turkistan's independence!”

Uyghurs and other East Turkistan, led by ETNAM, demonstrate in front of the US Capitol urging Congress to pass legislation to help protect the Uyghurs - June 4, 2018

Petition to the White House signed by the East Turkistan /Uyghur diaspora - October 2019

In September 2018, Salih Hudayar launches a petition to the White House calling on the US Government to condemn China's concentration camps and prevent a 21st century Holocaust in East Turkistan. Although numerous established Uyghur organizations and leaders fiercely resisted the petition and attacked ETNAM and its calls for independence, ETNAM was successful in reverting the ideology of the Uyghurs and East Turkistanis back to the original calls demanding independence for East Turkistan that had led to the creation of the Fist and Second East Turkistan Republics. By October 9, 2019, the petition got over 108,000 signatures from the global East Turkistan / Uyghur diaspora.

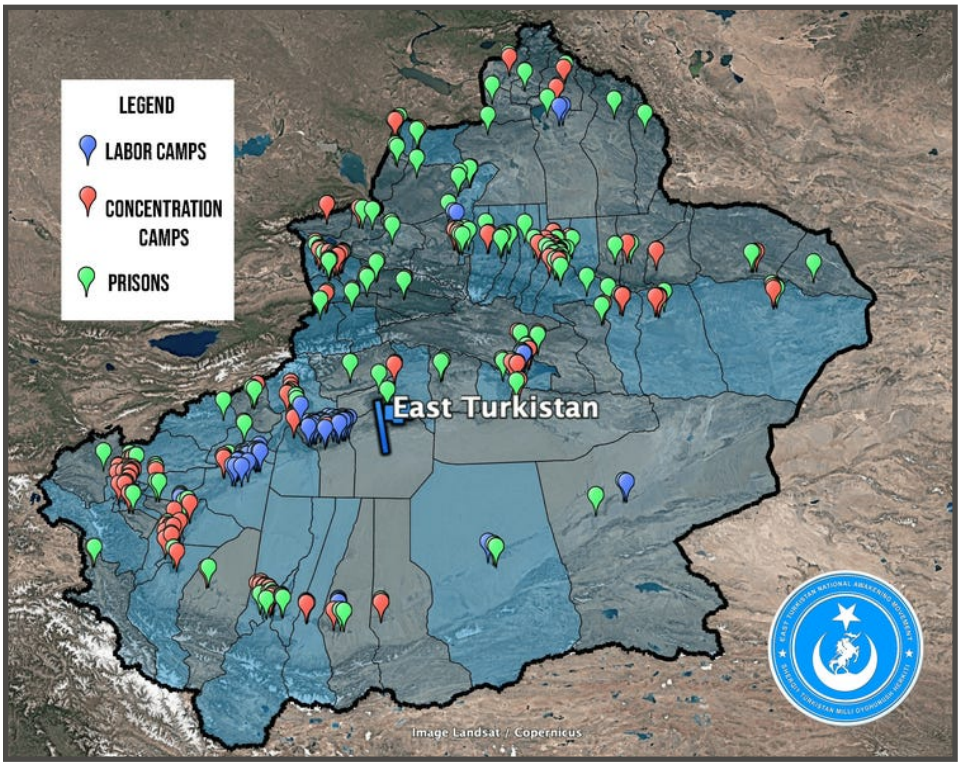
By the end of 2018, numerous Uyghur / East Turkistan organizations and their leaders along with the majority of the diaspora reverted back to the goal of East Turkistan Independence. The diaspora was awakening and a people's movement had been launched with more Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other East Turkistanis publicly speaking out against China's atrocities in East Turkistan. Calls for independence became even more present in demonstrations held by organizations in the diaspora community. Even new organizations were formed and new activists and young leaders began to emerge among the diaspora. The media began to accurately write about the history of China's oppression in East Turkistan, mentioning the fact that Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples had declared independence twice as the East Turkistan Republic in 1933 and 1944. It slowly began to accurately describe the Uyghurs as an occupied people.

In 2019, the US State Department began to actively condemn China's brutal repression in East Turkistan. In May 2019, the US Department of Defense officially described the so called "re-education / vocational training camps" as 'Concentration Camps,' stating that some 3 million Uyghurs and other Turkic were being detained by China. On July 19, 2019, US Secretary Pompeo called China's treatment of Uyghurs as the "stain of the century." Less than a week later, China released its 2019 National Defense Strategy stating that one of its top national defense goals is to "prevent the creation of East Turkistan."

On September 11, 2019 the US Senate, in a symbolic move, passed the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act through the Senate which was then sent to the House of Representatives and passed as the UIGHUR Act on December 3, 2019 and sent it back to the Senate for approval. Weeks later, Arsenal footballer Mesut Ozil came out in support of East Turkistan, which prompted others to follow suit. Thousands of Hong Kong protestors demonstrated on December 22, the day China officially occupied East Turkistan, in solidarity with the Uyghurs and called for"Independence for East Turkistan." The very next day, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe publicly raised the issue of Hong Kong and East Turkistan with Chinese leaders.

The Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis across the globe are very hopeful that governments, organizations, and the public masses around the world will support them in their struggle to regain their independence and end Chinese occupation and oppression in East Turkistan in the near future.

ETNAM releases the coordinates of nearly 500 concentration camps, prisons, and labor camps in East Turkistan



ETNAM: Map of East Turkistan showing the locations of concentration camps, labor camps, and prisons.

WASHINGTON, DC

On November 12, 2019, the AFP reported that the East Turkistan Turkistan National Awakening Movement (ETNAM) held a press conference in Washington, DC following the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile's 8th General Assembly to reveal the geographic coordinates of 182 suspected concentration camps, and 209 suspected prisons across East Turkistan.

The research was a year long open source satellite imagery project carried out by ETNAM with the help of a group of Uyghur volunteer researchers in the East Turkistani / Uyghur diaspora. They produced a map showing coordinates of 182 concentration camps, 209 prisons, and 74 labor camps, the most detailed map to date pinpointing the location of the detention facilities. ETNAM stated that most of the camps and prisons had been previously unidentified and that there are many more camps and prison that they have yet to identify. Although it didn't provide many coordinates, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute had previously estimated that there were some 1,200 detention facilities across East Turkistan.

ETNAM estimates that the number of people being held in these facilities could be greater than the US Department of Defense's estimate of 3 million from May 2019.

ETNAM's Director of Operations, Kyle Olbert, stated that China was attempting to kill Uyghurs via "death by long term incarceration." ETNAM's Founder, Salih Hudayar, told reporters that what China is doing in East Turkistan "is a genocide and governments need to recognize it as such and act to stop it."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's response initially falsely accused ETNAM of being "ETIM," but later corrected it. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang criticized ETNAM stating the "East Turkistan forces" "accusations are unfounded" and that "all lies will crumble before the facts."

To view the coordinates, please visit ETNAM's website: www.NationalAwakening.org

Once on the website, you must click the COORDINATES tab. There you can download the KML/ KMZ files which will open up in Google Earth.

New York Times Leaks Chinese Internal Documents on Concentration Camps

New York Times leaks Chinese internal Documents via NYT

HONGKONG

On November 16 ,2019, the *New York Times* leaked over 400 pages of Chinese governmental internal documents on China's brutal system of mass internment in East Turkistan. It was the first clear evidence that what China was doing in East Turkistan was a systematic campaign sanctioned by Beijing. Government officials were told to ignore complaints and criticism and continue the repression.

The Chinese government has claimed that concentration camps are "vocational training centers", where people voluntarily go to obtain job training skills. However, the internal documents included clear instructions to "let no one escape", proving that detainees weren't be held voluntarily but by force.

The documents highlighted the true nature of the campaign of mass internment, highlighting that it wasn't something carried out by the local "Autonomous Region" government , but a top down approach to eradicate Uyghur / Turkic identity, culture, and the future of their existence.

The documents revealed that Chinese government views Islam as a "virus" that needs to be eradicated, and even required local government units in East Turkistan to lock up anyone that espoused religious, ethnic, or anti-government views. The leaked documents contained speeches and orders by Chinese Communist Party Chairman Xi Jinping, instructing the Chinese government and security apparatus in East Turkistan (what Beijing calls "Xinjiang") to crackdown on the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan and to show "absolutely no mercy."

RFA reports Uyghurs in Concentration Camps being assigned to work in factories

Uyghur detainees forced to work in textile factory in Hotan via CCTV

WASHINGTON

On November 14, 2019, *Radio Free Asia* reported that the Chinese government was assigning Uyghur detainees in the Concentration Camps to work in text-tile factories across East Turkistan. The report also stated that most Uyghurs who were assigned to work from the concentration camps were not paid anything for their work until they "complete their training."

A week earlier, on December 8, 2019, Shohrat Zakir, the Governor of the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," the name Beijing uses for East Turkistan, had condemned the US Houses' passage of the UIGHUR Act of 2019 stating that "all people have graduated" the camps. However, many Uyghurs in the diaspora stated its not and many believe that their relatives are now being used as "slave labor."

Mesut Özil shows his support for East Turkistan

Mesut Özil tweets in support of East Turkistan

LONDON

On Friday, December 13, 2019, Arsenal midfielder Mesut Özil used his Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts to share a post in Turkish with an East Turkistan Flag in the background to condemn China's atrocities against Muslims in East Turkistan.

The translation of his post:

"East Turkistan,
The bleeding wound of the Ummah,

Resisting against the persecutors trying to separate them from their religion.

They burn their Quran's,
They shut down their mosques,
They ban their schools,
They kill their holy men,
The men are forced into camps and their families are forced to live with Chinese men,
The women are forced to marry Chinese men…

But Muslims are silent,
They won't talk about it,
They have abandoned them
Don't they know that giving consent for persecution is persecution itself?
The honorable Ali, (son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad), says, 'If you cannot prevent persecution, expose it,"

The Western media and states have been raising awareness of their flight for months,
Why haven't the Muslim world?
Don't they know that turning a blind eye to persecution is despicable?
Don't they know that it is not the suffering of our brothers being tortured that is going to be remembered, it is our silence…

Oh God please help our brothers in East Turkistan."

Ozil's social media posts angered China, and Chinese media attacked him for supporting East Turkistan. However, Ozil's social media posts caught the attention of other Muslim celebrities like Rugby player Sonny Williams, UFC fighter Khabib Nurmagomedov, and numerous others who made similar posts calling for support for the Uyghurs and East Turkistan.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile thanked Mesut Ozil, Sonny Williams, Khabib Nurmagomedov, and urged other celebrities across the world to follow their lead and show solidarity with East Turkistan.

Hong Kong Protestors Show Solidarity with East Turkistan

Hong Kong Protestors Rally in Solidarity with East Turkistan the Uyghurs - Dec 22, 2019, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

On December 22, 2019, the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China's official occupation of East Turkistan, over a thousand Hong Kong protestors held a rally in Edinburgh Place to show solidarity with East Turkistan the Uyghurs.

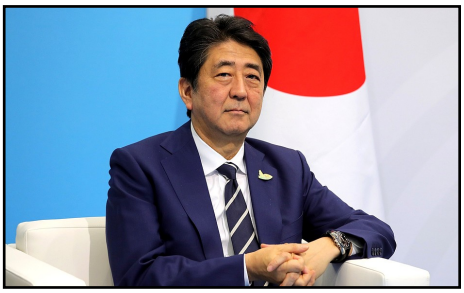
Many Hong Kong protestors held printed paper flags of East Turkistan in their hands while others held signs and flags that read "Independence For East Turkistan", "East Turkistan is NOT "Xinjiang," mirroring the signs used by ETNAM and the ETGE.

One Hong Kong protester interviewed by *New Europe* News stated, *"I think basic freedom and independence should exist for all people, not just for Hong Kong."*

Around 5 pm Hong Kong police clashed with protesters, arresting two protesters, and broke up the rally.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile released a two minute video message on social media with Prime Minister Salih Hudayar thanking the people of Hong Kong for supporting independence for East Turkistan. Prime Minister Hudayar urged the Hong Kong protestors to remain strong and called on them to continue to resisting China. He also called on the world governments to support East Turkistan as well.

Japanese PM Abe Raises Hong Kong and East Turkistan issue with China's Leaders



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

BEIJING

On Monday, December 23, 2019, the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, met with top Chinese leaders including Chairman Xi Jinping. Prime Minister Abe raised the issue of Hong Kong and East Turkistan (what Beijing calls

"Xinjiang"), calling on China to "maintain a free and open Hong Kong" and to find solutions to the human rights crisis in East Turkistan "through dialogue." Asides from Japanese Prime Minister Abe, US Vice President Mike Pence, US Secretary Mike Pompeo, and Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammed Mahathir are among top world leaders that have also spoken out against China's oppression of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile's Prime Minister, Salih Hudayar, thanked Japanese Prime Minister Abe for speaking our against China's human rights violations in Hong Kong and East Turkistan. He called on Japan's Government to "do more by recognizing China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples as a genocide."

East Turkistanis Protest World Bank's $50 Million loan for China's Concentration Camps

East Turkistanis protest World Bank - Dec 20, 2019

WASHINGTON

On Friday, December 20, 2019, about 2 dozen East Turkistanis and supporters rallied in front of the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, DC to protest the World Bank's $50 Million loan to China's concentration concentration camps, what Beijing claims to be "vocational training schools."

They chanted slogans and called held signs that read "Stop supporting China's genocide of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and others," "stop funding China's genocide of Uyghurs," along with "Stop Funding Chinese Colonialism", and "Stop China's 21st Century Holocaust in East Turkistan."

After the demonstration, Prime Minister Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile met with World Bank officials and hand delivered a letter signed by a dozen Uyghur / East Turkistan organizations across the globe. He urged the World Bank to retract its loans to China, stating that, "China is not a developing country but rather a colonial empire that is engaging in colonialism and genocide in East Turkistan, Tibet and elsewhere."

Indonesians & Malaysians Protest in Support of East Turkistan

Indonesians Protest China in Jakarta - Dec 27, 2019

JAKARTA

On Friday December 27, 2019, thousands of Indonesians took to and Malaysians took to the streets to protest China's mass internment of over 3 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic peoples.

The demonstrations took place after Malaysias Prime Minister Mohammed Mahathir declared that his government wouldn't deport any Uyghurs to China.

Protestors in Indonesia gathered in front of the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta holding banners that read:"China, stop genocide of ethnic Uyghurs," "Shame on you China for depriving Uyghurs of their freedom." Protest leaders called on the government of Indonesia to speak out and called on the Indonesian people to "boycott China," stating that Indonesians need to "stop all forms of cooperation with China."

The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile has thanked the people of Indonesian and Malaysia for their support and calls on the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia to do more by recognizing China's atrocities in East Turkistan as a genocide and to call on other Muslim countries to follow suit. The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile urges the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to break its silence and condemn China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims as a genocide.

THE VOICE OF EAST TURKISTAN

AN APPEAL

The Voice of East Turkistan promotes awareness and provides facts about the situation in East Turkistan and East Turkistanis in exile. Published bi-monthly and distributed free around the world, we are looking to improve our readership and improve the Voice of East Turkistan with your kind help and suggestions.

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