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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND**

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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honor to refer to the latter's Note Verbale dated 26 July 2022 and to state the position of China as follows:

China firmly opposes the release of the so-called "assessment of the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China" by the OHCHR. This so-called "assessment" runs counter to the mandate of the OHCHR, and ignores the human rights achievements made together by people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and the devastating damage caused by terrorism and extremism to the human rights of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Based on the disinformation and lies fabricated by anti-China forces and out of presumption of guilt, the so-called "assessment" distorts China's laws and policies, wantonly smears and slanders China, and interferes in China's internal affairs, which violates principles including dialogue and cooperation, and non-politicization in the field of human rights, and also undermines the credibility of the OHCHR.

The Chinese government, pursuing a people-centered approach, upholds that living a happy life is the primary human right and has embarked on a human rights development path which conforms to the trend of the times and suits

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**GENEVA**

China's national conditions. China implements an ethnic policy featuring equality, unity, regional ethnic autonomy, and common prosperity for all ethnic groups. All ethnic groups, including the Uygur, are equal members of the Chinese nation. Xinjiang has taken actions to fight terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law, effectively curbing the frequent occurrences of terrorist activities. At present, Xinjiang enjoys social stability, economic development, cultural prosperity and religious harmony. People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are living a happy life in peace and contentment. It is the greatest human rights protection and the best human rights practice.

China is committed to promoting international human rights cause and has cooperated with the OHCHR with utmost sincerity. In particular, China overcame difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and received the visit of Madam High Commissioner to China including Xinjiang. During her visit, Madam High Commissioner had thorough exchanges with people from all walks of life in Xinjiang, and visited all places she wanted to visit. After fully understanding the situation in Xinjiang and other places at first hand, Madam High Commissioner met with journalists in Guangzhou at the end of her visit and issued a formal statement of the visit. Regrettably, the content and conclusion of this so-called "assessment" is entirely contradictory to the formal statement issued by Madam High Commissioner.

Human rights exchanges and cooperation must be conducted on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and must respect objective facts and the human rights development path independently chosen by each State in light of its own reality and people's needs. Double standards must be avoided, politicization of human rights issues must be abandoned, still less should human rights be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of Member States.

With regard to the human rights situation in Xinjiang, no one has a better say than the Chinese people including the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. China urges the OHCHR to respect the will of the Chinese people, and view the counter-terrorism efforts and human rights situation in Xinjiang in a fair and objective manner.

Out of purposes of refuting lies and clarifying truths, China provides the OHCHR with a report entitled "Fight against Terrorism and Extremism in Xinjiang: Truth and Fact" (see attached). This can by no means be interpreted as

a shift of China's position of opposing the so-called "assessment." Should the OHCHR release the "assessment of the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," it is requested that the OHCHR release together and in full-text this Note Verbale and the report attached to it.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Fight against Terrorism and Extremism in  
Xinjiang: Truth and Facts**

Information Office of the People's Government of  
Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

August 2022



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## **Introduction**

China is a unified multi-ethnic state, and Xinjiang has been an important and inalienable part of China since ancient times. In the long course of history, all the ethnic groups in Xinjiang embraced each other like pomegranate seeds and worked hand in hand for a bright future. Since the start of reform and opening in 1978, particularly since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, Xinjiang has fully and faithfully implemented the CPC's policies for the governance of Xinjiang in the new era, and aimed to meet the general goal of lasting stability and security. Xinjiang has stayed committed to law-based governance, maintaining stability through ethnic unity, nourishing local culture, promoting prosperity among the local people, and ensuring long-term development. Xinjiang has earnestly upheld the socialist rule of law and fought against terrorism and extremism based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination among ethnic groups. Through painstaking efforts, past trend of frequent terrorist activities, rampant spread of extremism, and grave abuse of human rights have been reversed. Xinjiang now enjoys social stability, economic development, rising living standards, cultural prosperity, ethnic unity and religious harmony. The rights to subsistence and development and other basic human rights are faithfully guaranteed. In recent years however, anti-China forces in the US and the West have turned a blind eye to the historic progress Xinjiang has made in the cause of

human rights and made up and spread numerous rumors and lies about Xinjiang, which have seriously tainted Xinjiang's image and misled many around the world. This report sets out to explain the legal basis, key measures and notable results of the fight against terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang in accordance with law, and aims to set the record straight with facts and debunk the rumors and lies about Xinjiang.

## **I. Xinjiang's fight against terrorism and extremism is both necessary and just.**

Terrorism and extremism are a common enemy of humanity, a target of the entire international community. Terrorist forces, by means of violence, sabotage and intimidation, wantonly trample upon human rights, slaughter innocent people, endanger public security and create fear and panic in society, posing a serious threat to world peace and security. The infiltration and spread of extremism is a hotbed for violence and terror, which constitutes a direct threat to human rights. All responsible governments should stand against all forms of terrorism and extremism, and crack down on, in accordance with law, any conduct that propagates, orchestrates, plots or executes terrorist activities and infringes upon human rights.

### **1. Terrorist and extremist activities were rampant in Xinjiang.**

In an attempt to split Xinjiang from China, terrorist and extremist forces have long ganged up to stir up trouble: They distort, fabricate and falsify Xinjiang's history, exaggerate the cultural differences between ethnic groups, instigate ethnic division and hatred, incite religious fanaticism, and relentlessly spread religious extremism. The numerous violent terrorist activities they conducted severely undermined social stability and trampled on the basic human rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Their crimes



Left: violent and terrorist attack on 15 June 2014 in Hotan. Right: violent and terrorist attack on 1 March 2014 in Kunming, Yunnan Province



Left: violent and terrorist attack on 30 April 2014 in Urumqi. Right: violent and terrorist attack on 14 February 2014 in Wushi County

are too heinous to forgive.

For some time in the past, taking advantage of the realities in southern Xinjiang such as a vast religious population, limited communication, industrial underdevelopment, lack of information and inadequate literacy in modern science, religious extremist forces had been rampantly propagating religious extremism, resulting in some people becoming radicalized and even committing violent terrorist activities. The extremist forces distorted religious doctrines and teachings, and deliberately tied extremism to religion, to religious believers, and to society as a whole. They incited violence to overthrow secular political power and attempted to build a state under religious law. They negated all secular concepts and progress of modern civilization, claimed that people should “die for their belief in order to enter heaven”, and persecuted who they saw as

heretics and traitors.

[REDACTED] a knowledgeable and well-respected former principal of the middle school of Yengi Erik township of Shule County in the Kashgar Prefecture, was brutally killed together with his wife by a terrorist group just because he taught students the theory of evolution, which, according to the group, violated the “religious doctrines” they

Another case is about [REDACTED] (native of Wushi County in Aksu Prefecture, currently serving her sentence at Kashgar Women’s Prison) who used to be an outstanding college student. Some extremist propagators approached her and preached to her that people should “die for their belief in order to enter heaven”.



[REDACTED] in an interview with China Radio International when serving her sentence at the Kashgar Women’s Prison

Influenced by such extremist ideology, she developed a hope to join the “holy war” overseas and stated that she was “willing to sacrifice her youth for the ‘holy war’”. For that, she gave up college, propagated extremist ideology online, and moved onto the path to crimes.

Here is a case about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] committing crimes of organizing and leading a terrorist group and intentional homicide, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] committing the crime of participating in a terrorist organization. Starting from January 2014, [REDACTED] copied videos of extremist contents involving gun training, explosives manufacturing, opposition against heretics, and the “holy war”, and played and duplicated the videos for [REDACTED]

reyim Aykerem and Fursun Turak. Later, the four watched together and discussed the aforementioned videos multiple times, and gradually developed extremist ideas about opposing heretics and conducting the “holy war”.

In early May of 2014, when Tursun Tohtiniyaz and others were watching extremist videos at home, Fursun Turak suggested setting up a terrorist group, and recommended Tursun Tohtiniyaz to lead the group. The proposal was echoed by Abdureyim Aykerem and Samat Nalimati. They then confirmed the purpose of conducting the “holy war”, and set up the terrorist group.

In mid-May of 2014, Tursun Tohtiniyaz and Fursun Turak and others jointly planned a “holy war” against “heretics”, and conducted multiple training sessions in an orchard and other places. In a pedestrian street of Aksu in the early morning of 27 June 2014, Fursun Turak stabbed several people, creating severe consequences of the death of one, heavy injury of two and light injury of one.

The spread of extremism over the years sowed the seed of rampant terrorist activities in Xinjiang. Since the 1990s, influenced by the volatile international situation and rampant terrorism and extremism around the globe, Xinjiang has seen frequent terrorist activities. From 1990 to the end of 2016, terrorists and religious extremists carried out several thousand terrorist attacks in Xinjiang. A large number of innocent people were killed and several hundred police officers died in the line of duty. The property loss incurred was enormous.

Ferocious killing of ordinary people. On 28 February 2012, nine knife-wielding terrorists attacked pedestrians on Xingfu Road, Yecheng County, Kashgar Prefecture, resulting in 15 deaths and 20 injuries.

Barbaric assassination of religious leaders. On 30 July 2014, the 74-year-old Mullah Jama Tayier, then Vice President of Xinjiang Islamic Association and imam of

the Id Kah Mosque, was brutally killed by three terrorists on his way home after morning Fajr prayer.

Endangering public security. On 28 October 2013, three terrorists from Xinjiang drove a jeep carrying 31 barrels of gasoline, 20 igniters, 5 knives, and several iron bars onto the pedestrian pavement to the east of Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. They drove the car into a crowd of tourists and policemen on duty, until it



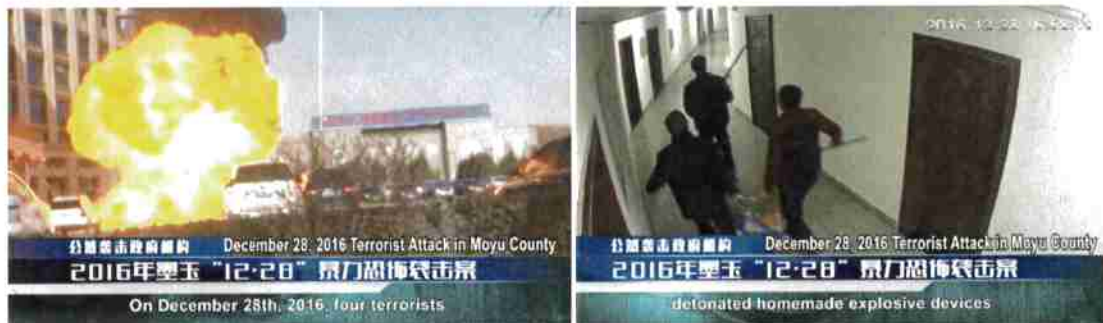
Terrorist attack on 28 February 2012 in Yecheng



Terrorist attack on 28 October 2013 in Beijing

crashed into the barrier of the Golden Water Bridge. They then ignited the gasoline to set the jeep on fire, resulting in two deaths including one foreigner and over 40 injuries.

Attacking government agencies. On 28 December 2016, four terrorists drove into the compound of Moyu County government, Hotan Prefecture, and detonated a home-



Terrorist attack on 28 December 2016 in Moyu County

made explosive device before engaging in a stabbing spree of government staff, leaving two dead and three injured.



Scene of the terrorist attack on 5 July 2009 in Urumqi

Plotting riots. On 5 July 2009, ETIM forces inside and outside China engineered a riot in Urumqi which shocked the whole world. Thousands of terrorists acted simultaneously in multiple locations across the city, attacking civilians, government organs, security and police officers, residential complexes, stores and public transportation facilities, causing 197 deaths and over 1,700 injuries, smashing and setting ablaze 331



Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and diplomatic envoys in China visiting the Exhibition on Counter-Terrorism and De-radicalization



stores and 1,325 vehicles, and damaging numerous public facilities.

The terrorist and extremist forces have committed egregious crimes in their violent rampage. Starting from the end of 2018, the Exhibition on Xinjiang's Counter-Terrorism and De-radicalization has been on show in Urumqi, which recorded the unpardonable crimes. The exhibition has been viewed by visitors from home and abroad, where they learned the tremendous tragedies caused by the terrorist and extremist forces, generally commended the measures Xinjiang has taken in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, and deplored the brutality of terrorist and extremist forces.

## **2. People of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang suffered greatly from the scourge of terrorism and extremism.**

Rampant terrorism and extremism have claimed countless innocent lives and plunged many families into terror and pain. For instance, [REDACTED] wife of a victim of the 5 July incident, said that her husband was attacked by a thug on his way to work; he lost all his front teeth with a broken nose



and a heavy blow to the head. His own injuries, coupled with seeing the horrific massacre of fellow civilians of various ethnic groups, caused him traumatic irritability and severe depression. He could not return to normal work and life ever since.

[REDACTED] father was killed at the violent terrorist attack happened on June 26, 2013 in Lukeqin Town, Shanshan County. His father [REDACTED] showed no

[REDACTED] wife of a victim in the 5 July terrorist attack, condemning the brutality of the rioters at a press conference on Xinjiang-related issues



Terrorist attack on 26 June 2013 in Shanshan County

fear in the face of thugs slashing innocent people, and shouted at them. The thugs killed his father with long knives. The loss of his father was a lingering pain for the whole family. **[REDACTED]** the victim of “September 21” violent terrorist attack in Luntai said that when she and her families were buying things at the bazaar, terrorists made an explosion nearby. Her right leg was severely injured and she had to be amputated. She said with great anger that the terrorists deprived her right to healthy life and interrupted her beloved dancing career. She wished the terrorists could vanish forever.



Left: **[REDACTED]** victim of the 21 September terrorist attack in Luntai County in 2014, in a CCTV interview while in hospital for treatment; Right: father of **[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]** daughter of a victim of the 18 September 2015 violent terrorist attack in Baicheng County said that, her father Turhun Eshan was ambushed by terrorists when he was leading the way for police officers. Terrorists threatened her father to kill him if he would not go along with them to wage jihad. Her father was undaunted; he



Left: scene of the violent and terrorist attack on 18 September 2015 in Baicheng County. Right: “We may become martyrs and enter heaven if we can kill someone”, said [REDACTED] a gang member of the 18 September violent and terrorist attack during an interview

[REDACTED] chose to fight the terrorists to the end and was brutally killed. [REDACTED] wife of a victim of the 28 July 2014 violent terrorist attack in Shache County recounted that, she and her husband came across terrorists when they drove their truck to Shache County. Both her husband and the goods owner were dragged out of the truck and killed by the terrorists, while she narrowly escaped by hiding in the truck’s upper sleeper. She said her husband was the only son of her parents-in-law, and his death was a catastrophe and forever a heart-aching loss for the family.



Scene of the July 28 terrorist attack in Shache County in 2014: [REDACTED] survived, but her husband was brutally killed by the terrorists

### 3. Fighting terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang is a pressing need.

Violent terrorism disregards basic human rights, tramples on justice, and challeng-

es the bottom line of human civilization. It is a common enemy of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. It is imperative to maintain high pressure and take decisive measures to tackle the menace of violent terrorists.

Faced with the severe and complex counter-terrorism situation and the urgent demand by people of all ethnic groups in combating violent terrorist crimes and ensuring safety of the people and their properties, Xinjiang has followed a law-based and targeted approach and advanced counter-terrorism and public order maintenance under the rule of law and on a day-to-day basis. It has worked to both counter and prevent terrorism and organized collective efforts to prevent and deter violent terrorist incidents to the greatest extent. It has mobilized efforts of both professionals and the general public and built stringent lines of defence across society to fight a “people’s war against terror”. It has sought to address both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism in a holistic manner, preventing the breeding of extremism from the source and cracking down in accordance with law on all violent terrorist activities that violate human rights, endanger public security, undermine ethnic unity, or aim to split the country. What has happened shows that the law-based fight against terrorism and extremism has upheld justice in counter-terrorism efforts, met the people’s expectations for safety and security, and maintained social harmony and stability in the region.

Xinjiang’s fight against terrorism and extremism is an important part of the international counter-terrorism efforts. Over the years, some countries and regions have explored concrete pathways and methods based on their own realities to counter and prevent terrorism and extremism effectively. Such methods and measures may vary due to differences in the history, cultures, traditions, levels of economic and social development, education levels, and quality of labor between those countries and regions. In recent years, the Xinjiang region has established counter-terrorism cooperation mech-

anisms with the border regions and enforcement authorities of neighboring countries, and carried out practical exchanges and cooperation in such areas as intelligence and information sharing, joint border control, investigation and arrest of terrorist suspects, severing terrorist financing, countering terrorist use of the Internet, combating transnational crimes, judicial assistance, and cross-border oil and gas pipeline security. Meanwhile, Xinjiang has drawn on the experience in other parts of the world and adapted it to the realities of the region, as part of its effective counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts. Xinjiang has made important achievements in this area, and contributed its part to the international fight against terrorism.

**4. Fighting terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang is endorsed and supported by people of all ethnic groups.**

People living in Xinjiang feel keenly about the region's fight against terrorism and extremism, and have expressed their understanding and support in various ways. Since January 2020, more than 675 people have shared their personal experiences to the Chinese and foreign media at the press conferences held by the Xinjiang Uyghur



A press conference held by the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Autonomous Region. Among them are experts and scholars, graduates from vocational education and training centers, former offenders who have completed their sentences, representatives of migrant workers, women, social organizations and business people, journalists, and religious figures.

As we have learned, since September 2021, more than 170 people of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang have sent e-mails to Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Victims of the violent terrorist incidents wrote to denounce the brutality of the terrorist and extremist forces. Graduates from the vocational education and training centers wrote about their experiences at the centers and after graduation. Religious figures wrote about Xinjiang's efforts to safeguard the freedom of religious belief in accordance with law. Experts, scholars and the general public wrote about the discovery, inheritance and protection of fine traditional cultures of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Migrant workers wrote to share stories about their self-employment and start-ups. The letters illustrated their hard-won happiness and expressed their indignation at the assaults and slanders from anti-China forces in the US and some other Western countries.

Meanwhile, there are some people who hold grudges about the punishments they received due to violation of Chinese laws. They have fabricated a large amount of rumors and lies with so-called "personal experiences" and spread them in the international community. They never talked about their own criminal acts, but dressed themselves up as "victims" and "human rights defenders", gave false accounts of their experiences on many occasions, and deceived many an audience. The likes of **Du Jikun Isha, Goh-  
blat Mahmudjan, Shaylagul Shawatibayi, Nirgul Tursun, Zaniya Dayut and Tursunay  
Zinaydin** who chose to be the pawns of anti-China forces in the US and some other Western countries in exchange of a higher profile, will eventually face international rid-

icule. Their malicious acts have been repeatedly exposed at the press conferences held by the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. More details are available on the Internet.



International guests visiting the ancient city of Kashgar

In order for the international community to know more about the real situation in Xinjiang, from the end of 2018 to late July 2022, the region has invited people across sectors from the international community to see Xinjiang for themselves. So far, 2,332 people from 138 countries, regions, and international organizations have visited Xinjiang in 172 groups. They include UN agencies and officials, foreign diplomatic envoys



International guests visiting an exhibition on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization in Xinjiang

in China, permanent representatives of the relevant countries to the UN Office at Geneva, officials of the OIC Secretariat, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a 21-country delegation of ambassadors and diplomats in China, an ASEAN media and think tank corps, delegations of ambassadors and diplomats of African, Lat-



A delegation visiting religious venues in Xinjiang

in American and Caribbean countries in China, journalists, heads of foreign religious groups, religious figures of the relevant countries, scholars and international students studying in China. Their programs include visits to an exhibition on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization in Xinjiang, vocational education and training centers, prisons, religious venues, companies, factories, schools and hospitals, etc. During their visits, they are able to exchange ideas with people from all walks of life, and see for themselves the peaceful and orderly society in Xinjiang, and the happiness and prosperity enjoyed by the people there. They speak positively of Xinjiang's achievements in securing stability and development and its measures on protecting human rights and tackling terrorism and extremism.

**To sum up, terrorism and extremism are a malignant tumor for the interna-**





A delegation visiting a company in Xinjiang



A delegation visiting Aksu Huafu Color Textile Co., Ltd.

**tional community. Terrorism directly endangers public security and social stability whereas extremism is the ideological source of terrorism. Countering terrorism and extremism is unquestionably and undeniably a just cause. The anti-China forces in the US and some other Western countries frame Xinjiang’s fight against terrorism as “suppression of ethnic minorities”, paint its de-radicalization efforts as “elimination of religion” and “persecution of Muslims”, and mischaracterize the law-based punishment of terrorists and extremists as “human rights violations”. This is absurd logic driven by ulterior motives that confounds black and white and confuses right and wrong. Such rhetoric emboldens terrorism and extremism, and dismisses the basic human rights of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. It must be pointed out that Xinjiang’s counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts do not target any specific ethnic group or religion. They are about cracking down on the terrorists and extremists, not “suppressing the ethnic minorities”. They are about rooting out the ideology of religious extremism and protecting the freedom of religious belief, not “eliminating religion” or “persecuting Muslims”. They are about protecting the lawful rights and interests of all ethnic groups , not**

**“violating the human rights of Uyghurs”. By preventing and countering terrorism and extremism in accordance with law, Xinjiang has maintained social stability, promoted the progress of civilization, and met people’s aspiration for a safe and stable environment for work and life, thus protecting the fundamental rights of people of all ethnic groups to the greatest extent. Such iron-clad facts prove that the fight against terrorism and extremism is legitimate, justified and necessary. It is important that the international community sees the nature of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization in Xinjiang, and listens to the voice of the more than 25 million people living there. It is also important to guard against the lies spread by a handful of “perjurers” and avoid being deceived and used by anti-China forces in the US and some other Western countries.**

## **II. Xinjiang’s fight against terrorism and extremism was all along conducted on the track of the rule of law.**

In the fight against terrorism and extremism, China has upheld the socialist rule of law and enhanced the legal system to provide the legal underpinning for law-based counter-terrorism and de-radicalization. The legislative, enforcement and judicial authorities in Xinjiang conduct their work in strict compliance with their statutory duties, scopes and procedures and pursue the full and effective implementation of the relevant laws and regulations.

### **5. China has a clear-defined legal and policy framework on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.**

*The Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, the Criminal Law of the Peo-*

*ple's Republic of China, the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, the National Security Law of the People's Republic of China, the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, Regulations on Religious Affairs of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and the Opinions on Certain Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases Involving Terrorism and Extremism* jointly issued by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice as well as related laws and regulations jointly constitute the national legal framework for counter-terrorism. Xinjiang has acted in strict accordance with the Constitution and other laws and regulations, in light of the realities of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and in accordance with the provisions of such laws as the *Legislation Law of the People's Republic of China and the Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law of the People's Republic of China*, to roll out local regulations such as the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Religious Affairs*, the *Measures on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* and the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization*. These laws and regulations have provided effective legal safeguard to curb and combat terrorism and extremism.

China's legal and policy framework on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization is in line with the spirit of UN counter-terrorism conventions and documents, and reflect fully China's due obligations as prescribed by the international human rights law. The United Nations all along attaches great importance to combating terrorism and extremism. It has adopted a series of conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism, and pointed out that terrorism is "aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States and desta-

bilizing legitimately constituted Governments”, “terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security”, and that “any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable”.

The 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) clearly stresses the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and prevent and combat terrorism. The UN Secretary General Report on the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), released in January 2016, further identifies the context and drivers of terrorism, including poverty, unemployment, absence of employment opportunities, poor education, and cynical distortion and exploitation of religious belief, ethnic differences and political ideologies by violent extremist groups.

The UN has long appealed for concerted action by the international community to combat terrorism, and called on Member States to consider developing national and regional plans of action based on their respective priorities. The important guidance has ensured the independence and flexibility of Member States in their combat against terrorism and extremism, and made clear the UN’s fundamental position and approach in terms of fighting terrorism and extremism. China has also ratified a series of UN conventions on human rights, such as the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, etc. In practice, China adheres to the fundamental principle of the international law, that is, “agreements must be kept”, and earnestly implements the international conventions that China has concluded or participated in. China learns, follows and adapts to the current international law. It also observes, practices and benefits from the current in-

ternational law. Moreover, China also defends, develops and contributes to the current international law. These facts are universally recognized by the world.

The legal and policy framework for China's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization work is in line with the internationally recognized principle of legal certainty. China has a statutory law system, and strictly follows the principle of "no penalty without a law". For example, the definitions and scopes of application of terrorism and extremism are clearly specified based on the differences in circumstance, degree of harm, nature, and manifestation of illegal acts or crimes, so that the counter-terrorism and de-radicalization work is better regulated, more precise. This has ruled out arbitrary enforcement due to vague, over-stretching and general legal provisions, and prevented violations of human rights.

**First, definition of terrorism.** According to Article 3 of the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China released in December 2015, terrorism refers to any proposition or act that, by such means as violence, destruction and intimidation, creates social panic, endangers public security, infringes upon personal and property rights, or coerces State organs and international organizations, so as to achieve political, ideological or other purposes. Such definition of terrorism identifies the nature of terrorism in terms of means, purpose and manifestation, and distinguishes terrorism from general criminal offenses, so as to avoid overstretching the concept.

Article 3 of the Counter-Terrorism Law also has clear stipulations about terrorist activities, terrorist organizations, terrorists, and terrorist incidents, among which:

Terrorist activities refer to the following conduct of terrorist nature:

(1) Organizing, planning, preparing for, or conducting activities which cause or intend to cause casualties, grave property loss, damage to public facilities, disruption of social order and other serious harm to society;

(2) Advocating terrorism, instigating terrorist activities, or illegally holding articles advocating terrorism, or forcing others to wear costumes or symbols advocating terrorism in public places;

(3) Organizing, leading or participating in terrorist organizations;

(4) Providing information, funds, materials, labor services, technologies, venues, and other support, assistance and convenience to terrorist organizations, terrorists, the execution of terrorist activities or training on terrorist activities; and

(5) Other terrorist activities;

Terrorist organizations refer to criminal organizations formed by three or more persons for the purpose of conducting terrorist activities; Terrorists refer to individuals who conduct terrorist activities and members of terrorist organizations; and Terrorist incidents refer to terrorist activities that are occurring or have occurred, which cause or may cause serious harm to society.

To prevent and punish terrorist activities, enhance counter-terrorism work, safeguard national security, public security and life and property of the people, and maintain lasting social stability and security in Xinjiang, the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has adopted the *Measures of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China* on 29 July 2016 in accordance with the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China* and other relevant laws and regulations and in light of the realities in Xinjiang. According to Article 3 of the Measures, terrorism refers to any proposition or act that, by such means as violence, destruction and intimidation, creates social panic, endangers public security, infringes upon personal and property rights, or coerces State organs and international organizations, so as to achieve political, ideological or other purposes. The Measures also identify in Article 6, based on local conditions in Xinjiang, seven major

manifestations of terrorism:

(1) Colluding with terrorist organizations or terrorists from home and abroad, or accepting instigation, dispatch or funding from overseas terrorist organizations or terrorists, to carry out or prepare for terrorist activities;

(2) Organizing or bringing together others to advocate or disseminate terrorism or extremism, so as to form a terrorist organization, develop membership, or organize, plan or carry out terrorist activities;

(3) Establishing training sites, or organizing or bringing together others for physical and skills training, so as to carry out terrorist activities;

(4) Recruiting or transporting personnel for terrorist organizations, execution of terrorist activities, or terrorist activity training;

(5) Organizing or inciting others to illegally cross national borders, so as to join terrorist organizations, receive terrorist activity training, or carry out terrorist activities;

(6) Advocating or disseminating terrorism, extremism, or teaching methods for terrorist crimes using mobile phones, the Internet, mobile storage media, or audio/video materials, electronic documents, audiovisual products or printed materials; and

(7) Other terrorist activities.

In accordance with the above legal stipulations, Xinjiang has strictly determined and cracked down on terrorist activities.

For instance, the trial of the serious violent and terrorist attack on 22 May in Urumqi. On



Serious violent and terrorist attack on 22 May 2014 in Urumqi

22 May 2014, [redacted] (all dead), drove two SUVs carrying 54 explosive devices and flying “Jihad” flags, into the crowd through the fence of the morning market at Gongyuan Beijie Street, Saybag District, Urumqi, and detonated the explosives, leaving 39 dead and 94 wounded.

The Urumqi Intermediate People’s Court found out after trial that 11 defendants, including [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] together with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]



Abliz Dawut, principal culprit in the serious violent and terrorist attack on 22 May in Urumqi

[redacted] had repeatedly listened to and watched terrorist audios and videos, attempted to carry out “Jihad” and formed a terrorist organization.

From February to May 2014, defendants [redacted] [redacted] formed and led a terrorist organization in collusion with others. Together, they premeditated and planned terrorist activities, and prepared explosive materials and made explosive devices.

Defendants [redacted] [redacted] participated in terrorist organizations, respectively in charge of preparing explosive materials and making explosive devices, and checking out locations for terrorist incidents.

Defendant [redacted] participated in terrorist organizations, provided vehicles for the bombings, hid explosive materials, made and sent “Jihad” flags to



Urumqi.

Defendant **Abduqadhir Rozitohil** in collusion with defendant **Muhammad Ibrahim** bought and hid large amounts of explosive materials, made explosive devices, and conducted test bombings.

Defendants **Mamatali Ghojimat and Mantunin Ghojimat** provided venues for making explosive devices, and made explosive devices in collusion with other defendants.

On 22 May, **Kesimjan Mamatan** and other defendants conducted bombings in Urumqi using the explosive devices mentioned above.

The Urumqi Intermediate People's Court sentenced the 11 defendants respectively to death, life imprisonment and fixed-term imprisonment with relevant supplementary punishments for the crime of forming, leading or participating in terrorist organizations, the crime of conducting bombing, and the crime of endangering public security by dangerous means.

For instance, the trial of the case concerning the 30 July assassination of Senior Mullah **Jama Fayiz** in Kashgar. On 30 July 2014, **Jama Fayiz** then 74 years old and Vice President of the Xinjiang Islamic Association and Senior Mullah of the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, was brutally killed by three terrorists after presiding over the morning Fajr prayer.

The Kashgar Prefecture Intermediate People's Court found out after trial that defendant **Ghenni Hasan** for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activity, organized and assembled defendants **Nurmanat Abdullin, Atawulla Tursun** and others to conduct illegal religious activities and listen to and watch terrorist audios and videos, and instilled violent terrorist and extremist thoughts into them. They formed a terrorist organization headed by **Ghenni Hasan** formulated organizational disciplines, distributed

work to each person, assembled and organized members to conduct physical training for terrorist purposes, and planned for the murder of patriotic religious figures.

Based on their distribution of work, defendant **Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti** together with other members, prepared the tools for committing the crime, and checked out locations for terrorist incidents several times.

On 30 July 2014, **Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti** and two other members, following the instructions from **Abdijahit Tayir** struck **Juma Tayir** several times in the head, neck and back with an axe after exercising the morning Fajr prayer in the Id Kah Mosque, killing **Juma Tayir** on the spot.

They also wounded the face of **Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti** driver of **Abdijahit Tayir** before fleeing the scene.

The Kashgar Prefecture Intermediate People's Court sentenced **Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti**

it to death as well as deprivation of political rights for life for the crime of forming and leading terrorist organizations and the crime of homicide, and sentenced **Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti** to life imprisonment as well as deprivation



On 30 July 2014, Juma Tayir, Senior Mullah of the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, was brutally killed



Nurmatamat Abdilmaiti, the principle culprit of the terrorist attack in Kashgar on July 30

vation of political rights for life for the crime of participating in a terrorist organization and the crime of homicide.

**Second, definition of extremism.** According to Paragraph 2, Article 4 of the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, the State shall combat all forms of extremism, including the incitement to hatred and discrimination and agitation for violence by distorting religious doctrines and other means, so as to eliminate the ideological basis of terrorism. This defining stipulation determines the essence of extremism in terms of means and substance.

To give a clearer characterization of extremism, the Counter-Terrorism Law listed 10 forms of extremist acts which shall be subject to legal liability in Article 81:

(1) Forcing others to participate in religious activities, or forcing others to supply property or labor services to religious activity venues or religious or clerical personnel;

(2) Driving persons of other ethnicities or faiths away from their places of residence by intimidation, harassment or other means;

(3) Interfering with others' communication or living together with persons of other ethnicities or faiths by intimidation, harassment or other means;

(4) Interfering with the custom, lifestyle and production and business operation of others by intimidation, harassment or other means;

(5) Obstructing the lawful performance of duties by State organ personnel;

(6) Distorting or defaming State policies, laws or administrative regulations, or inciting or instigating the resistance against lawful administration by the people's government;

(7) Instigating or coercing people to damage or vandalize citizen identity cards, household registers and other legal documents of the State as well as RMB banknotes;

(8) Instigating or coercing others to hold religious ceremonies in place of marriage

or divorce registration;

(9) Instigating or coercing minors to not receive compulsory education; and

(10) Other acts of using extremism to obstruct the implementation of the legal system of the State.

In order to contain and eradicate extremism, prevent its scourge and achieve social stability and lasting security, the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has adopted the Regulations of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization on 29 March 2017 in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, including the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China and the Regulations on Religious Affairs of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and in line with the realities of the autonomous region. According to Article 3 of the Regulations on De-radicalization, extremism refers to propositions and conduct to incite hatred and discrimination and to advocate violence by distorting religious doctrines and other means. In light of the realities in Xinjiang, the Regulations on De-radicalization also identified 15 major manifestations of radicalization in Article 9:

(1) Advocating or spreading extremist thoughts;

(2) Interfering in the freedom of religious belief of another person, and forcing another person to participate in any religious activity or to provide property or labor services for any religious venue or worker;

(3) Interfering in the marriage, funeral, inheritance or other activities of another person;

(4) Interfering in another person's communication, exchange, integration or living together with a person of a different ethnic group or religion, or driving a person of a different ethnic group or religion away from domicile;

(5) Intervening in normal cultural and recreational activities, or rejecting and refusing public goods and services such as radio and television;

(6) Overgeneralizing the concept of Halal by applying it to other areas beyond food, or rejecting and interfering in the secular life of another person in the name of not being Halal;

(7) Wearing or forcing another person to wear burqa or extremist symbols;

(8) Instigating religious fanaticism through irregular beards or name selection;

(9) Conducting marriage or divorce through religious means without performing legal procedures;

(10) Not allowing children to receive public education, or obstructing the implementation of the education system of the State;

(11) Intimidating or inducing another person to reject State policy entitlement, or vandalizing identity cards, household certificates and other legal documents of the State as well as RMB banknotes;

(12) Vandalizing public or private property on purpose;

(13) Publishing, printing, distributing, selling, producing, downloading, storing, reproducing, consulting, extracting or possessing articles, publications, audios or videos containing extremist content;

(14) Deliberately interfering in or undermining the implementation of the family planning policy; and

(15) Other extremist remarks and conduct.

It should be pointed out that the above 15 manifestations of extremism have been identified on the basis of observation, analysis and conclusion for a certain period of time, and through statutory procedures of the legislatures. In the process of social governance in the past few years, some abnormal phenomena with extremist tendencies

have been found in certain areas of Xinjiang, with a total of 75 manifestations being listed after comprehensive review. But this has never been enforced as legal provisions. In formulating the Regulations on De-radicalization, the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region put forth 15 manifestations of extremism in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China and other laws to be the statutory standards to define how much a person has been affected by extremism. In this context, the claim that Xinjiang only uses "vague methods to identify those affected by extremism" is completely baseless.

In accordance with the legal stipulations mentioned above, Xinjiang has strictly identified and lawfully punished extremist activities. For example, the law-based trial of the case of **Rabiya Musa** for the crime of illegally possessing objects advocating extremism. In February 2017, defendants **Rabiya Musa** and **Ali Mahiyaz** (handled in another separate case) hid objects in a cemetery in Wensu Town of Aksu Prefecture of Xinjiang, including 18 illicit books with extremist content such as "we must engage in Jihad against anyone except those who believe in Allah at the cost of money or even our own lives" and "when the Doomsday comes, all pagans shall go to hell, and all who bow to or follow pagans will go to hell", and an 8GB memory card (storing 61 episodes of extremist audio, each 50 minutes and above, totaling 3,485 minutes). The Wensu County People's Court concluded after trial that the conduct of **Rabiya Musa** of hiding the books and memory card while explicitly knowing that they contain religious extremist thoughts constitutes the crime of illegally possessing objects advocating extremism, and sentenced **Rabiya Musa** to fixed-term imprisonment of two years and eight months with supplementary punishment in accordance with law.

**6. Xinjiang is always committed to respecting and protecting human rights in fighting terrorism and extremism.**

Xinjiang always takes a people-centered approach to human rights, combines efforts to fight terrorism and extremism in accordance with the law and to protect human rights, and resolutely prevents any infringement upon human rights in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.

**First, the lawful rights of the citizens and organizations are specified explicitly in the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* in the process of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.** The *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that the state respects and protects human rights. The *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that one of the tasks of the criminal law is to protect its citizens' physical and democratic rights and other rights. According to Article 6 of the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, counter-terrorism shall be conducted in accordance with law, with human rights being respected and protected, and the lawful rights and interests of citizens and organizations being upheld. Article 15 stipulates that an organization or individual objecting to being identified as a terrorist organization or terrorist may file an application for review with the working body of the national counter-terrorism leading agency. Article 48 stipulates that counter-terrorism leading bodies, the relevant departments and entities, and individuals shall keep confidential the state secrets, trade secrets and personal privacy obtained in the course of performing counter-terrorism duties and obligations. Whoever divulges any state secret, trade secret or personal privacy in violation of the relevant provisions shall be subject to legal liability in accordance with law. It is stipulated in Article 60 that in handling terrorism cases, the personal safety of those directly under the harm or threat of terrorist activities shall be protected on a priority basis. According to the *Measures for*

*the Implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region*, counter-terrorism and de-radicalization shall be carried out by addressing both the symptoms and root causes and taking multi-pronged measures in accordance with law, and under the principle of balancing compassion and severity while respecting customs and protecting human rights. These stipulations are consistent with counter-terrorism legislations and judicial practices of the vast majority of countries in the world, and also in full compliance with the requirements of international human rights law.

**Second, not linking counter-terrorism and de-radicalization with any specific region, ethnicity or religion.** The *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that in counter-terrorism work, citizens' freedom of religious belief and ethnic customs shall be respected, and any discrimination on grounds such as region, ethnicity or religion shall be prohibited. Terrorism and extremism are evil forces that are anti-humanity, anti-society and anti-civilization. They are not related to any specific ethnic group or religion. Some people put the tag of ethnicity and religion on terrorism and extremism for the purpose of inciting ethnic conflicts, disturbing the order of religion, giving rise to turbulence, and drawing people over to expand their influence. We strongly oppose such practice. As far as Xinjiang is concerned, all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including the Uyghurs, are members of the big family of the Chinese nation and have all contributed significantly to safeguarding national unification, security and development. All religions, including Islam, actively promote thoughts of patriotism, peace, solidarity, moderation, tolerance and benevolence. All these have nothing to do with terrorism or extremism. Therefore, counter-terrorism and de-radicalization should never target any ethnic group or religion. In practice, Xinjiang prohibits any discrimination on grounds such as region, ethnicity or religion, actively promotes the extensive



interaction and communication and in-depth blending of all ethnic groups, and respects and protects the customs of all ethnic groups. It respects and protects the freedom of religious beliefs of all ethnic groups and actively advocates for carrying forward religions in a sound and orderly manner. That said, whoever violates the law will be treated equally and punished in accordance with the law regardless of his or her ethnicity and religious belief.

**Third, the legitimate rights and interests of criminals committing terrorist activities or extremism are protected in accordance with the law.** It is stipulated in the *Prison Law of the People's Republic of China* that human dignity of a prisoner shall not be humiliated, and his personal safety, lawful properties, and rights to defence, petition, complaint and accusation as well as other rights which have not been deprived of or restricted according to law shall not be violated. Specific stipulations are as follows: If a prisoner is not satisfied with the effective judgement, he may file a petition. A prison shall without delay handle the complaints or accusations made by prisoners, or transfer the above materials to a public security organ or a people's procuratorate for handling. The public security organ or the people's procuratorate shall inform the prison of the result of its handling. A prison shall transfer without delay the petitions, complaints and accusations made by prisoners and shall not withhold them. A prisoner may meet with his relatives and guardians and correspond with others during the service of his sentence. Wards of a prison shall be firm, ventilated, possible for light to come in, clean and warm. A prison shall set up medical organs and living and sanitary facilities, and institute regulations on the life and sanitation of prisoners. Prisoners shall have the right to rest on statutory festivals and holidays. Considerations shall be given to the special

habits and customs of prisoners of minority ethnic groups.

Recently, the UN Human Rights Council and diplomats of relevant countries in China paid a visit to a prison in Kashgar, Xinjiang at the invitation of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They visited ward, classroom, library, hospital, catering center, vocational training center, workshop, and meeting center, etc., during which the head of the prison elaborated on the education and rehabilitation, life and treatment, and protection of rights in the prison. Many guests said after the visit that “it’s an open and transparent prison that we’re seeing, and our questions were answered”, and that “the prison did a good job since it runs in a standardized, orderly and civilized manner and in full conformity with international standards”.

**7.Xinjiang handles criminal cases involving terrorism or extremism in a just manner in strict accordance with law.**

**First, handling cases in strict accordance with law.** As a country with statutory law, China has systematic and clear legal provisions on preventing and fighting illegal and criminal acts. Chinese laws, including the *Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China*, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People’s Republic of China*, and the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People’s Republic of China*, make legal distinction between illegal and criminal acts, and provide for different law enforcement and judicial bodies and different processes for handling them. For those who have committed illegal or criminal acts, there are education and rehabilitation measures, as well as administrative punishment or even severe criminal sanction measures. The nature of an illegal or criminal act may be identified differently in accordance with law based on a comprehensive review of multiple factors, including the degree of subjective culpability, the role of the offender’s act in the illegal or criminal activity, as well as the degree of social harm and the scope of social impact caused by the act. Different measures will be taken accord-

ingly to combat such act.

In handling terrorism and extremism-related cases, law enforcement and judicial bodies need to apply the law in the right way, and truly protect the human rights of suspects and defendants. Article 14 of the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that the People's Courts, the People's Procuratorates and the public security organs shall safeguard the right to defense and other procedural rights to which criminal suspects, defendants and other participants in proceedings are entitled in accordance with the law. To this end, the supreme judicial bodies have promulgated a series of judicial interpretations and normative documents, such as:

- *Provisions on Several Issues Concerning the Strict Exclusion of Illegally-obtained Evidence in Handling Criminal Cases, released by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Justice,*

- *Procedures on Exclusion of Illegally-obtained Evidence in Handling Criminal Cases by the People's Courts (trial implementation),*

- *Guidelines on the System of Extending Leniency to Suspects Admitting Guilt and Accepting Punishment released by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Justice,*

- *Opinions on Implementation of the Policy of Combining Punishment with Leniency in Handling Criminal Cases released by the Supreme People's Court, and*

- *Opinions on Implementation of the Policy of Combining Punishment with Leniency in Handling Criminal or Judicial Cases by Prosecution Bodies released by the Supreme People's Procuratorate.*

In specific cases involving terrorism and extremism, if an act constitutes a crime,

it will be investigated by public security bodies, prosecuted by prosecution bodies, and convicted and sentenced by trial bodies; if the act does not amount to a crime, it will be handled by administrative authorities such as public security bodies in accordance with law. Whether or not an act amounts to a crime mainly depends on whether it meets the standards set by relevant provisions of the Criminal Law. As for the crime of illegally holding terrorism or extremism-related articles, judicial interpretations have defined the standard of the crime, i.e. the exact number of articles illegally held. If an act neither reaches the numeric standard nor has other statutory circumstances that constitute a crime, it will be subjected to administrative punishment by public security bodies in accordance with law. The law enforcement and judicial bodies at all levels in Xinjiang shall fully protect the procedural rights of criminal suspects and defendants in strict accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law and relevant judicial interpretations. The procedural rights enjoyed by criminal suspects and defendants include defensive rights and remedial rights. Defensive rights mainly include using his or her native language in court proceedings, applying for withdrawal, making defense in accordance with law, refusing to answer irrelevant questions, participating in court investigation and court debate, and making final statements. Remedial rights mainly include applying for reconsideration of rejected withdrawal application, filing charges against infringement, applying for altering or terminating the applied coercive measures, and filing an appeal against the judgement of the first instance. Moreover, the suspect or defendant is entitled to a series of rights related to proceedings, which mainly include obtaining an impartial trial, not being subject to illegal evidence collection, illegal compulsory measure, or illegal investigation, and no additional sentences for filing an appeal. When a criminal suspect or defendant's procedural rights are infringed upon, he or she shall have the right to protect his or her procedural rights through legal

means. Meanwhile, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* has specific stipulations on the procedure for trial supervision, that is the procedures be followed if the people's court or the people's procuratorate finds some definite error in a legally effective judgment or order when it examines a party's petition or finds the error itself in determination of facts or the application of the law, it shall bring the case up for a retrial by the people's court. Chinese laws provide all-around, systematic and multi-channel guarantee of the lawful rights and interests and remedial approaches for criminal suspects and defendants, to fully protect their lawful procedural rights.

**Second, implementing the criminal policy of “tempering justice with mercy” in its fullest sense.** In handling criminal cases involving terrorism or extremism, law enforcement and judicial departments in Xinjiang strictly comply with national laws and regulations, including the *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*, and the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, and the relevant regulations set forth by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice, and make decisions on the basis of holistic consideration of multiple crime-related factors such as purposes and motives, means, consequences, patterns, voluntary surrender and confession, and meritorious service, among others. Ringleaders, key members, and major offenders who organize, plan and carry out violent terrorist and religious extremist crimes, and repeat offenders who have previously received administrative or criminal punishment due to violent terrorist and religious extremist crimes and are found committing such crimes again are subject to heavier punishment in accordance with law; minor offenders who caused no great harm and have pled guilty and expressed repentance as well as juvenile offenders and offenders getting involved under deceit or coercion may be given a lesser punishment in ac-

cordance with law. Offenders voluntarily surrendering themselves or having performed meritorious service may be given a lesser or mitigated punishment in accordance with law. Criminal punishment is thus effectively utilized to both deter and prevent crimes and educate and rehabilitate offenders.

For example, the case of Idris Mollayev who assembled crowds to disrupt public order. From June to December 2019, the defendant Idris Mollayev engaged in illegal religious activities following others' lead, and joined assemblies propagating extremist ideology, ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination in the bathhouse and dormitory of his company. After being apprehended, he gave a true account of his crime, pled guilty and accepted punishment. The Yining Municipal People's Court, taking into account the defendant's subjective culpability, the consequence of the crime and the plea of guilty, gave him a lesser punishment in accordance with law. He was eventually sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment for assembling crowds to disrupt public order.

**Third, law enforcement and judicial departments strictly perform their statutory functions, and work as both partners and checks of each other.** In handling criminal cases involving terrorism or extremism, law enforcement and judicial departments strictly abide by the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* and provisions of judicial interpretations. Public security departments shall promptly examine the available criminal clues. Upon examination, cases that do not constitute a crime but are subject to administrative proceedings shall be handled accordingly or transferred to the relevant authorities in accordance with law; cases with established facts suggesting a crime, where criminal responsibility needs to be investigated and which fall under the jurisdiction of the examining public security department, shall be filed for investigation with approval by the chief of a relevant public security department at or above the county level. Public security departments shall investigate crimi-

nal cases that have been filed, and collect and obtain evidence that can prove the guilt or innocence of the criminal suspect, and the severity of the crime. For a case whose investigation has been concluded, it shall be transferred to a people's procuratorate for examination and prosecution. If, during the course of the investigation, it is found that criminal responsibility should not be pursued against the criminal suspect, the case shall be revoked. Procuratorates shall, upon receiving a case transferred by a public security department for examination, earnestly find out whether the facts and circumstances are clear, whether the evidence is indeed sufficient, whether the nature and name of the crime are correctly determined, whether criminal responsibility should be investigated, and whether the investigation activities are lawful. Where supplementary investigation is needed, the case in question shall be promptly returned to the relevant public security department for supplementary investigation (for two times at most). Where a second supplementary investigation still finds that the evidence is insufficient to meet the conditions for prosecution, a decision of no prosecution shall be made. Where an act is not deemed a crime for its circumstances are obviously minor and its harm is not serious, or where the deadline for prosecution has passed, etc., a decision of no prosecution shall be made. Where the circumstances of an act are minor and do not require sentencing for punishment or an exemption from criminal punishment is granted according to the provisions of the Criminal Law, a decision of no prosecution may be made. Where the circumstances require sentencing for punishment, a public prosecution shall be initiated in the people's court according to statutory procedures. People's courts shall, upon accepting a case, and in strict compliance with the laws and regulations such as the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law as well as the provisions of judicial interpretations, examine the criminal facts of the defendant, the nature and circumstances of the crime, and the degree of harm to society. All the following factors, among others,

shall be reviewed: the identity of the criminal subject (age and mental health conditions), circumstances related to voluntary surrender, meritorious service, recidivism, and re-offense, the principal or secondary role of the defendant in a joint crime, and the preparation, discontinuation or attempt of a crime as in criminal patterns. Where the facts of a case are clear, the evidence is indeed sufficient, and the defendant is found guilty according to law, a conviction shall be made in accordance with law; where the defendant is found innocent according to law, a judgement of acquittal shall be made; where the evidence is insufficient to establish the guilt of the accused, a judgement of acquittal shall be rendered for insufficient evidence to substantiate the accusations.

It should be emphasized that, in handling criminal cases concerning terrorism or extremism, the people's courts always uphold the following principles: 1) evidentiary adjudication, i.e., the facts of a case must be determined based on evidence; 2) exclusion of illegal evidence, i.e., no individual shall be forced to substantiate his guilt; 3) presumption of innocence, i.e., the criterion of clear criminal facts and adequate evidence shall be met to determine the defendant's guilt; and 4) procedural justice, i.e., to ensure the substantive justice of a case adjudication through the procedural justice of a court trial.

**Fourth, law enforcement and judicial departments adhere to the standardized exercise of discretion.** Due to the complexity of social life, the exercise of discretion by judicial and law enforcement personnel is not only necessitated by reality, but also required for safeguarding justice. As a modern country under the rule of law, we authorize law enforcement and judicial personnel to exercise discretion in accordance with the law and at the same time impose regulations and reasonable restrictions on them to ensure that the exercise of law enforcement and judicial powers conforms to legal stipulations.



Public security departments, in handling cases, strictly implement the relevant provisions of the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Law on Public Security Administration Punishments of the People's Republic of China*, the *Law on Administrative Penalties of the People's Republic of China* and the *Administrative Coercion Law of the People's Republic of China*. Public security departments elaborate the standards of administrative penalties according to local realities and make them known to the public, so that discretion is made according to law and administrative penalties are commensurate with the severity of an illegal act, on the basis of comprehensive investigation of the facts, nature, circumstances, harm to society, the responsibilities of all parties, and whether there are statutory circumstances for a lesser, heavier or mitigated punishment, so that penalties are commensurate with the offense.

The judicial authorities actively promote the reform of the standardization of penalty measurement, and standardize and restrict the exercise of discretion. In 2012, the Supreme People's Court issued the *Guidelines on Earnestly Standardizing Exercise of Discretion in Trial Execution Work and Guaranteeing Uniform Application of Laws*, comprehensively and systematically standardizing the exercise of discretion from the aspects of exercising conditions, principles, and the correct use of the methods of law application and legal interpretation.

In judicial practice, the judicial authorities standardize the measurement of penalties for various categories of common charges by formulating the *Guidelines on Penalty Measurement*. The Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate issued the *Guidelines on Penalty Measurement of Common Crimes* respectively in 2017 and 2021, clearly stipulating the penalty measurement, basic methods and common measurement circumstances of 23 common crimes.

Based on the Guidelines and in light of local judicial practices, the People's High

Court and People's Procuratorate of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region formulated the *Implementation Measures for the Guidelines on Penalty Measurement of Common Crimes*. In the process of penalty measurement, people's courts at all levels in Xinjiang adhere to the basic requirement of giving qualitative factors predominant importance while quantitative ones secondary consideration, determine the benchmark and pronounced penalties according to law, and ensure that light and heavy penalties are well combined in light of circumstances, and that penalties are proportionate to the crimes, so as to realize the dual targets of punishing and preventing crimes.

**8. The law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities in Xinjiang have established a strict access system and systematic training mechanism to ensure the professional competency of law enforcement and judicial personnel.**

**First, strict access qualifications.** The *Law on Judges of the People's Republic of China*, the *Law on Procurators of the People's Republic of China*, and the *People's Police Law of the People's Republic of China* have established an access system for the legal profession. The newly appointed judges and prosecutors must pass the unified national qualification exam for the legal profession. The public security authorities implement the system of qualification exams for law enforcement police officers, and those that fail to obtain the basic law enforcement qualification shall not enforce the law.

**Second, rigorous recruitment procedures.** The personnel to be recruited are subject to strict requirements such as academic qualifications and education background. They are enrolled only after rounds of selection and upon meeting the recruitment criteria, to ensure law enforcement officers' qualifications and competency from the very beginning.

**Third, systematic and regular training.** Training programs are provided to new recruits. Law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities at all levels carry out var-

ious training programs covering legal knowledge, professional capabilities, rank promotion, newly promulgated (revised) laws and annual on-the-job training. Targeted training is also carried out according to various post functions of law enforcement and judicial personnel. For counter-terrorism and de-radicalization personnel, training is focused on laws and regulations such as the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*. For those engaged in criminal investigation, the training focus is on the *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China and the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*. In addition, relevant supervisory authorities will also inspect law enforcement personnel on an irregular basis to ensure that they accurately understand and apply the law.

**Fourth, a management system that suits the features of the professions has been established.** A category-based management system for law enforcement and judicial personnel has been put in place, a quota system for judges and procurators established, and a professional title sequence instituted. The selection system of judges and procurators has been improved. The punishment system for violations of laws and regulations by law enforcement officers is strictly implemented, to ensure the professionalism and expertise of judicial personnel.

**9. Public security institutions in Xinjiang exercise investigative power in strict accordance with law.**

As one of the important powers of the State, the power of investigation must be exercised in strict accordance with law. Besides the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* and the *People's Police Law of the People's Republic of China*, there are also laws and regulations including the Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court on the Application of the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal*

*Procedure Rules of the People's Procuratorates and the Provisions on the Procedures for Handling Criminal Cases by Public Security Organs*, which regulate the power of investigation exercised by the public security institutions.

When investigating cases related to terrorism and extremism, public security institutions in Xinjiang exercise their power and apply technical investigation measures and compulsory measures in strict accordance with Chinese laws and relevant judicial interpretations. For example, when public security institutions request technical support and assistance such as technical interface and decryption from telecom operators and internet service providers, the purpose is limited to preventing and investigating terrorist activities, and the material obtained can only be used for handling counter-terrorism and investigating, detecting, prosecuting and trialing terrorist activities. No other purpose shall be allowed. Meanwhile, there are strict approval procedures and relevant legal procedures regarding the scope of access and application to follow as prescribed by Chapters IV and V of the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*. Another example, when public security institutions need to take criminal detention measures against the suspects, investigators shall submit a report, which shall be reviewed by the case handling department (unit) and the legal department before going to the approval stage by the public security institutions. Detention measures can only be taken when the report is approved. As for arresting criminal suspects, public security institutions shall investigate and collect evidence and submit it to the procuratorial entities to decide on an arrest after judging whether the arrest is necessary in accordance with the conditions for arrest under the law. Public security institutions have no right to decide on an arrest.

**10. The exercise of the power of investigation by Xinjiang's public security authorities is subject to the supervision of the whole society.**

Procuratorate authorities, in accordance with the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* and other laws and regulations, conduct legal supervision.

Press institutions conduct public opinion supervision through interviews and news reporting.

Internally, public security authorities conduct supervision over the exercise of the power of investigation by the authorities through law enforcement supervision mechanisms, and demand that the exercise of the power of investigation must go through rigorous reviews and approvals at different levels.

Individual citizens who disagree with measures taken by public security authorities may uphold their lawful rights and interests through procuratorate supervision in the process of case-handling. Moreover, it is stipulated in the *Regulation on Handling Public Complaints and Proposals* issued by the State Council that citizens, legal persons or other organizations may give information, make comments or suggestions, or lodge complaints to authorities and entities at all levels through the information network, correspondence, phone calls, faxes, visit and so on. Relevant authorities and entities shall handle the matters in accordance with laws and regulations.

The general public conducts supervision over public security authorities' exercise of the power of investigation by exposing and reporting misconduct and putting charges through the letters and calls department.

Organizations and individuals violating laws and regulations in exercising the power of investigation are held accountable in accordance with laws and regulations, including the *Regulations on the Internal Law Enforcement Supervision Work of Public Security Organs* and the *Regulations on Accountability for Law Enforcement Misconduct of People's Police of Public Security Organs* issued by the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, and violations of human rights are resolutely

prevented.

It must be stressed that Xinjiang's public security authorities conduct investigative activities in strict accordance with Chinese laws and regulations, and there is no such thing as "excessive prevention, investigation and coercive power" or "lack of supervision".

For example, the case of procuratorate authorities rejecting the arrest of **Abduqeyum Mamatali** in accordance with law. As found out by the public security authorities of Hotan Prefecture, in November 2014, **Abduqeyum Mamatali** colluded with others in the manufacturing and test explosion of 10 explosive devices, in preparation for terrorist activities. Instruments of the case showed three dates of birth of the suspect: 1 February 1999, 4 December 1997 and 16 May 2003. While according to statements of himself and testimonies of his mother, his real date of birth was 21 September 1998. The public security authorities therefore recognized his date of birth as 21 September 1998, and applied for his arrest to the procuratorate authorities of Hotan in accordance with law.

During the review of the case, the procuratorate authorities of Hotan found that instruments such as the suspect's permanent residence registration form, household registration cancellation record and permanent residence information (canceled) all could not prove his real age.

After lengthy verification, based on information in the divorce decision paper of his parents, Abduqeyum Mamatali's date of birth was recognized as 1 February 1999, which meant he was under 16 when committing the aforementioned criminal activities, and did not reach the legally stipulated age to be held accountable criminally. Hence, the procuratorate authorities of Hotan rejected his arrest in accordance with law.

**To sum up, Xinjiang's fight against terrorism and extremism is operated by adhering to the principles of rule of law and a law-based approach in accordance**

with the law. China's counter-terrorism and deradicalization has explicit and clear legal and policy framework and it's scientific, standardized, procedural and operative. When cracking down on law-breaking terrorist and extremist crimes, Xinjiang adheres to facts as the basis and the law as the criterion. It strictly observes the principles of a legally prescribed punishment for a specified crime, presumption of innocence until proven guilty, and presumption of evidentiary adjudication. Determination is made based on the nature of the crime. There are absolutely no such situations as so-called "being ambiguous about or lenient with concepts of terrorism and extremism", "being without strict standards", "leaving much room for related institutions to abuse law" or "punishing terrorists and extremists at will." During the fight against extremism, adhering to the people-centered concept of development, Xinjiang puts respecting and protecting human rights throughout the process of lawmaking, law enforcement and administration of justice. As it is under the supervision of various circles of the society, there will never be so-called "large-scale infringing on human rights."

**III. Vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang are schools intended for de-radicalization established in accordance with the law.**

To address the serious situation of frequent violent terrorist activities in Xinjiang for a certain period of time in the past, Xinjiang carried out work for a period of time to bring together, educate and rehabilitate those who had committed minor offenses or crimes under the influence of extremist thoughts. One of the important measures is to set up vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law.

**11. Xinjiang carries out vocational education and training in strict compliance with laws.**

**First, there are clear legal provisions regarding vocational education and training in Xinjiang.** Article 29 of the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that public security institutions shall organize relevant departments,



villagers' committees, residents' committees, employers, schools, families and guardians to educate and help persons who are instigated, coerced or enticed to participate in terrorist or extremist activities, or persons whose participation in terrorist or extremist activities is of minor circumstances that are not serious enough to constitute criminal offenses.

The *Opinions on Certain Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases Involving Terrorism and Extremism* jointly issued by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice provides that the people's courts, the people's procuratorates and public security agencies shall, when handling criminal cases involving terrorist activities or extremism, differentiate case-related persons and educate and transform them. Public security institutions shall organize relevant departments, villagers' committees, residents' committees, employers, schools, families and guardians to educate and help persons who are instigated, coerced or enticed to participate in terrorist or extremist activities, or persons whose participation in terrorist or extremist activities is of minor circumstances that are not serious enough to constitute criminal offenses.

The *Regulations on Religious Affairs* issued by the State Council stipulates that whoever advocates, supports or sponsors religious extremism or makes use of religion to engage in such illegal activities as endangering State or public security, undermining ethnic solidarity, committing secession or carrying out terrorist activities, infringing upon citizens' personal and democratic rights, obstructing the administration of public order, or encroaching upon public or private property shall, if a crime is thus constituted, be held criminally liable according to law. If no crime is constituted, the competent authorities shall impose an administrative penalty on the person according to law. If any loss is caused to a citizen, legal person or any other organization, the person shall

assume civil liability according to law.

The above-mentioned laws and regulations provide guidance for the de-radicalization work in Xinjiang.

Xinjiang has acted in strict accordance with the spirit of the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China* and in light of local realities to roll out regulations such as the *Measures on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* and the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization*. These laws and regulations have provided effective legal weapons to curb and combat terrorism and extremism.

Among others, the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization* stipulates that the people's governments at the county level or above may establish education and rehabilitation institutions such as vocational education and training centers and management departments, to educate and transform persons influenced by extremism for the purpose of de-radicalization. Article 38 of the *Measures on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* provides that for persons who are instigated, coerced or enticed to participate in terrorist or extremist activities, or persons whose participation in terrorist or extremist activities is of minor circumstances that are not serious enough to constitute criminal offenses, county-level public security institutions shall provide help and legal education, together with departments covering judiciary, administration, education and rehabilitation management, civil affairs, education, religious affairs, culture, human resources and social security, organizations and groups including labor unions, Communist Youth Leagues, women's federations and associations for science and technology, education and rehabilitation institutions such as voca-

tional education and training centers, and villagers' committees, residents' committees, employers, schools, families and guardians. Such education and help can be carried out separately in the person's place of residence or household registration, or conducted at education and rehabilitation institutions such as county-level vocational education and training centers.

**Second, vocational education and training in Xinjiang is carried out in full accordance with legal procedures.** The competent authorities determine the nature and circumstances of relevant acts, and deal with persons involved under the laws and regulations including the *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China* and the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*.

For persons who are instigated, coerced or enticed to participate in terrorist or extremist activities, or persons whose participation in terrorist or extremist activities is of minor circumstances and doesn't constitute criminal offenses, they are handled by public security institutions in accordance with law, and educated and helped by vocational education and training centers;

For persons who are instigated, coerced or enticed to participate in terrorist or extremist activities, or persons whose participation in terrorist or extremist activities poses a real danger but does not cause actual harm, whose subjective culpability is not strong, who plead guilty and repent their offenses, whose offenses do not require or can be exempted from criminal punishment in accordance with law, and who voluntarily accept training, they are investigated by public security institutions in accordance with law, and educated and helped by vocational education and training centers after the procuratorial agencies make a decision of not to initiate prosecution based on review of the cases.

**Third, vocational education and training in Xinjiang is carried out under rigorous, legal oversight.** According to the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*, and the *Administrative Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China*, the people's procuratorates are the legal oversight institutions of the State. They exercise legal supervision over criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. In vocational education and training, decisions made by public security institutions and the people's courts are under the supervision of the people's procuratorates. Decisions made by the people's procuratorates are supervised by both themselves and the people's congresses that created them. If any person who is required to attend vocational education and training in accordance with law is not satisfied with the decision of the relevant authorities, they can apply to the authorities for revoking it. Such application should be reviewed in a timely manner and according to law. If the decision indeed fails to meet statutory conditions, it should be revoked correspondingly in accordance with law. If the application is found groundless, the original decision should be upheld. If the applicant is still dissatisfied, they can apply to the authorities of the next higher level for reconsideration. Meanwhile, the people's procuratorates and other legal oversight bodies should take supervisory measures to resolutely correct any wrongful decision based on identified problems or clues and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of persons involved in accordance with law.

During the process of enforcement, Xinjiang adopts a "two informs, one communicate" approach to those who need to study in a vocational education and training center, i.e., informing the person involved of the specific violations and due legal consequences, as well as the fact that the government, for the sake of education and rehabilitation, has shown leniency and hopes the person will cherish the opportunity to repent and

start anew; informing the person's family of the specific violations as well as the fact that the government has shown leniency toward the person in accordance with law and hopes the family will urge the person to rectify his or her wrongdoings and start anew; and communicating to the person involved and the person's family about the provisions of the relevant laws and regulations to enhance their awareness about the rule of law and improve their ability to consciously abide by law. For example, **Manis Bibina**, a former trainee of the vocational education and training center in Kashgar, used to be influenced by religious extremist thoughts and despise all "pagans" she encountered. She once beat a non-Muslim and was informed by local police handling the case that her act constituted the crime. The police suggested that she attend a vocational education and training center to both free herself from extremist thoughts and be exempted from criminal punishment. In the end, under the persuasion of her family and encouragement by local police, she chose to attend the vocational education and training center. After six months of study, she realized that her act was a violation of law and understood the danger of religious extremist ideology. She passed the training assessment and received her graduation certificate. Afterwards, she passed the National Nursing Licensure Examination and became a nurse.

**12. Vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang provide courses in accordance with the law on standard spoken and written Chinese language, law and vocational skills, with a focus on de-radicalization.**

According to Article 45 of the *Measures on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* and Article 33 of the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization*, rehabilitation institutions including vocational education and training centers shall carry out education and training on standard spoken and written Chinese lan-



Teaching building of a vocational education and training center in Kashgar City of Xinjiang

guage, law and vocational skills, organize de-radicalization education, psychological correction and behavioral intervention to help trainees change their mindset, reenter society and rejoin their family. Fundamentally, the education and training centers are schools in nature.



Trainees of a vocational education and training center learning standard spoken and written Chinese language and laws and regulations

First, in view of the trainees' generally low proficiency in the standard spoken and written Chinese language, the centers conducted the language course to help the trainees acquire and use the language, so that they can obtain the linguistic tool to learn scientific and cultural knowledge and vocational skills, do business or find a job outside

their hometown, communicate with people of other ethnic groups, and adapt to a modern lifestyle. For example, **Muradil Muhtar** a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Kashgar City, Kashgar Prefecture, opened a garment shop with the help of the knowledge and skills he learned in the center. His business has flourished because he now speaks fluently with customers in standard Chinese, and earns over 6,000 yuan every month.



Muradil Muhtar, a former trainee of the vocational education and training center, selling clothes to his customers

Second, in view of the trainees' lack of legal awareness, the centers conducted the legal knowledge course, giving systematic lessons on laws and regulations to help the trainees improve their understanding of the rights and obligations as citizens and establish the awareness of enjoying equal rights and fulfilling the obligations as citizens, so that they will conscientiously abide by the Constitution and other laws of the country and act in line with the rights and obligations stipulated therein. For example, due to her lack of legal awareness, **Shimeng Abdu** a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Wensu County, Aksu Prefecture, used to frequently participate in illegal religious activities and dream all day of “going to heaven by killing pagans and seeking martyrdom”. By learning about the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, the *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Regulations on Religious Affairs* issued by the State Council and other laws and regulations in the center, she got to know what is legal and what is not, what she can do and what she must not do. She said emotionally,

“I would have turned into a criminal had I not learned the legal knowledge.” After graduation, she found a job in a garment shop with a monthly pay of over 3,000 yuan. Now she is married with a lovely kid and lives a happy life.

Third, in view of the trainees’ lack of vocational skills and employment difficulties, the centers conducted vocational skills courses, providing training on a variety of skills for eligible trainees who were willing to learn, so that they can be proficient in one or two vocational skills upon graduation. For example, **[REDACTED]** a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Bachu County, Kashgar Prefecture, had no skill whatsoever in any field. At the center, he took courses in computer and business management.

After graduation, he got a job at a real estate company in Bachu County thanks to the knowledge and skills learned at the center. His monthly income has reached nearly 10,000 yuan. He also plans to open his own car repair shop in near future to make more money and live a better life.



Trainees of a vocational education and training center learning the knowledge of circuits

Fourth, in view of the trainees’ being influenced or manipulated to various degrees by religious extremism, the centers integrated de-radicalization into the whole process of education and training. Through step-by-step teaching of laws and regulations, policies on ethnic and religious affairs, and religious knowledge, and by exposing the danger of terrorism and religious extremism, the centers helped the trainees become



soberly aware of the evil nature and grave harm of terrorism and religious extremism and get rid of their influence and manipulation.

For example, **[REDACTED]** a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Yopurga County, Kashgar Prefecture, was influenced by religious extremism after participating in illegal religious activities. He was obsessed with the fantasy that “he could enter heaven by killing pagans” and that “Han people were all pagans and killing one Han person is worth 10 years of worshipping”. He admired the “Jihad

Martyrs” and dreamed of becoming one of them. Once he even wanted to attack Han people with a blade and was stopped by his friend. After learning at the center, he came to understand which religious activities are legal and which are not, and what is religious extremism. He realized that religious extremism completely contravenes the teachings of his faith and got clear-eyed about the ugly face of extremists. He was very grateful to the center because “it saved me and my family. I feel lucky that I had this learning experience.”

### 13. Vocational education and training in Xinjiang is in line with international-



Trainees of a vocational education and training center learning laws



Nijat Muhtar, a former trainee of the vocational education and training center, shopping with his family

**ly accepted principles, concepts and practices.**

A report of the UN Secretary-General on the *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism* (A/70/674) in January 2016 suggested the importance to broaden response, engage earlier, address the drivers of violent extremism, and complement the countering of violent extremism with preventive measures. The plan of action proposes aligning national development policies with the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically, ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, ensuring quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; providing individuals of extremist groups with educational and economic opportunities, and encouraging them to leave violent extremist groups; providing young people with access to continued learning and vocational training resources, and incubating their entrepreneurial talent. Xinjiang's education and training work is a concrete example of China's efforts to implement UN action plans as well as international initiatives and concepts on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.

China actively supports the UN in playing a leading and coordinating role in global counter-terrorism cooperation, abides by the *UN Charter* and other norms and principles of international law, supports the series of resolutions regarding counter-terrorism adopted by the UN Security Council, and vigorously promotes the full implementation of the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*. To date, China has joined international counter-terrorism conventions such as the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings*, the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism*, the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* and the *International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages*.

In addition, under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China has concluded with relevant countries the *Shanghai Convention on Combating Ter-*

*rorism, Separatism and Extremism, the Concept of Cooperation Between SCO Member States in Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, the SCO Convention Against Terrorism, the SCO Convention Against Extremism, the Cooperation Guideline Between SCO Member States on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism (2019-2021) and the Plan of Action of SCO Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime.* These international conventions, cooperation guidelines and action plans have provided reference for Xinjiang's de-radicalization work.

Meanwhile, Xinjiang has drawn on the experience in other parts of the world. Since the 1990s, many countries and regions have been hit by violent terrorist attacks driven by extremism. Countries including the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Germany have set up and launched de-radicalization programs.

- Some countries have established de-radicalization centers to educate victims of extremist teachings and reverse their thinking. These centers rehabilitate the trainees through individual or group sports activities, psychological counseling as well as discussions on religion, reality and secularism, and help them reintegrate into society through skills and vocational training.

- Some countries have set up education and transformation centers. Extremists, classified into confessors, potential perpetrators and criminals, receive de-radicalization transformation with the support of their families and communities and through measures such as psychological intervention and economic aid.

- Some countries educate and transform terrorists and potential terrorists in both prisons and communities, and de-radicalize those involved in terrorism-related offenses through the process of identification, rehabilitation, re-education, reintegration into society and follow-up assessment.

- Some countries have condemned extremists' perverse interpretation of Islamic doctrine, encouraged religious tolerance, advocated a return to "moderate Islam" , and set up counseling and care centers to educate and transform those influenced by extremist ideologies both during centralized control and after their return to society.

- Some countries have launched desistance and disengagement programs for convicted terrorists and suspected terrorist returnees to receive mandatory training. Disengagement centers have been established nationwide to detain extremists and prevent them from spreading extremist ideologies to other detainees at prison.

- Some countries have taken community-level measures to provide early intervention to those influenced by extremism, and mobilized society to identify and prohibit at an early stage young people with an inclination to join extremist organizations, so as to prevent terrorist and extremist activities.

**To sum up, vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang were set up against the backdrop of daunting challenges over a period of time in the past, including frequent violent terrorist activities and rampant spread of extremism, which were undermining the human rights of people of all ethnic groups. The centers are aimed at bringing together, educating and rehabilitating those who have committed minor offenses and crimes under the influence of extremist thoughts so as to eradicate the soil and conditions for the breeding and spread of terrorism and extremism. Education and training in Xinjiang is carried out with a clear legal basis. There are clear provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China promulgated in December 2015 regarding measures designed to help and educate those who have committed minor offenses and crimes under the influence of extremist thoughts. In accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China and other laws and regulations, the Regu-**

lations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization revised in October 2018 further stipulates the bodies, procedures, content and monitoring mechanisms for the provision of such help and education. There is no such thing as the so-called “violation of prior legislation” or “arbitrary detention”. Moreover, the education and training is carried out in strict accordance with relevant legal procedures. It must be pointed out that these centers are in nature education and training institutions intended for de-radicalization established in accordance with the law. They are not “detention camps”. The “two informs, one communicate” approach (i.e., informing the person involved of the specific violations and due legal consequences, as well as the fact that the government, for the sake of education and rehabilitation, has shown leniency and hopes the person will cherish the opportunity to repent and start anew; informing the person’s family of the specific violations as well as the fact that the government has shown leniency toward the person in accordance with law and hopes the family will urge the person to rectify his or her wrongdoings and start anew; and communicating to the person involved and the person’s family about the provisions of the relevant laws and regulations to enhance their awareness about the rule of law and improve their ability to consciously abide by law) is another evidence of the fact that education and training in Xinjiang is conducted in accordance with the law, in line with procedures and in the open. Reports on some allegedly “missing” or “forced missing” trainees are pure fabrications.

#### **IV. Vocational education and training in Xinjiang fully respects and safeguards human rights.**

Respecting and protecting human rights is a basic principle enshrined in the Con-

stitution of China, and has been fully demonstrated in China's laws and regulations and in the work of the Chinese government. Vocational education and training in Xinjiang is a social governance measure taken by the government in accordance with law, with the aim of protecting the lives and basic rights of its citizens. In conducting the training programs, the centers strictly follow provisions in the Constitution and laws, and see to it that the basic rights of trainees are not infringed upon.

**14. The principle of respecting and protecting human rights is fully embodied in the management measures of Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers.**

The personal freedom of trainees at the vocational education and training centers is protected in accordance with law. The centers fully guarantee that trainees' personal dignity is inviolable, and prohibit any insult or abuse of them in any manner. The



A group wedding in a vocational education and training center for newly-wedded trainees

centers apply a residential education model, which allows trainees to go back home on a regular basis and ask for leave to attend to personal matters. Trainees also enjoy the freedom of correspondence.

The traditions and customs of various ethnic groups and the right of trainees to use their own spoken and written languages are fully protected at the centers. The regulations, curriculum, and menus at the centers all use standard Chinese and local ethnic languages. The centers fully respect and protect the traditions and customs of trainees of different ethnic groups, and provide a rich variety of nutritious Muslim food for free.

The centers respect trainees' freedom of religious belief. The *Regulations on Religious Affairs* issued by the State Council prohibits proselytizing, holding religious activities, establishing religious organizations, or setting up religious activity sites in schools or educational bodies other than religious schools. The centers practice separation of education and religion in management, which means that trainees shall not organize or take part in religious activities at the centers, but those with religious belief can decide on their own whether to take part in legal religious activities when returning home.

There are bilingual teachers, instructors, doctors and logistics and mana-



A trainee back home with family during his study



Trainees dining in the canteen for free

gerial staff at the centers to ensure the normal life and study of trainees. The centers are well-equipped, with heating in winter and air conditioners or electric fans in summer, televisions in dormitories, and bathrooms open for free. They also have 24-hour free



Trainees reading in the library



Doctors at the center providing medical services

medical facilities available to trainees, capable of treating minor ailments. In the case of major and acute illnesses, trainees will be swiftly sent to hospital.

The centers fully respect the cultural needs of trainees. A wide diversity of recreational activities are regularly held at the indoor and outdoor sports and cultural venues. There are also reading rooms for trainees to read and study, legal counseling rooms to help address their questions and legal problems in a timely manner, and psychological counseling rooms to provide relevant services and care for their mental health. All trainees



are covered by pension and medical insurance schemes, and enjoy free health checkups.

To put the mind of trainees at ease, governments at various levels in Xinjiang make sure that their



Trainees learning electric welding techniques

families have equal access to preferential policies in terms of social security, education, medical care, and poverty reduction, and help their family members and relatives address problems in production, daily lives, employment, education and medical services, thus motivating the trainees' engagement in the education and training programs.

In recent years, many graduated trainees have shared their stories of study and life at the vocational education and training centers at press conferences on Xinjiang, in self-filmed short videos or during media interviews.



Diverse cultural and sports events at the center

[redacted] and other former trainees of the vocational education and training centers expressed satisfaction with the management and environment of the centers, and made it clear there is no violation of human rights.

For example, [redacted] a former trainee of the vocational education

and training center of Hotan County, Hotan Prefecture, said when she first entered the center, she saw rows of buildings, flowery and green lawns, and bright and spacious classrooms equipped with multimedia teaching facilities, which provided a lot of convenience for learning. TVs, air conditioners and bathrooms are available in each well-equipped dormitory.



Nuramgul Obulqasim, a former trainee of a vocational education and training center in Hotan County, Hotan Prefecture

Another example is [redacted]

[redacted] a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Atush

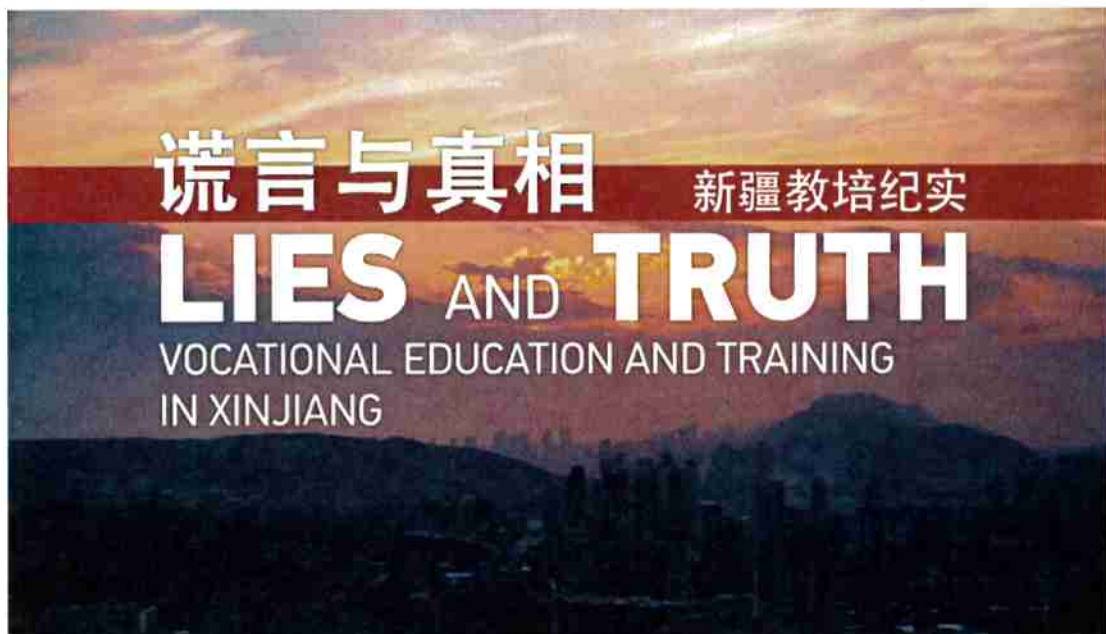


Cultural gala held by trainees at the center

City, Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture, who said he had six classes each day in the center from Monday to Friday and would rest like others on weekends and public holi-

days. He often took part in activities like basketball matches, tug of war, and art performances. His class even won the first place once in a tug of war competition. He felt that his class was full of positive energy. A third example is [REDACTED] a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Kashgar City, Kashgar Prefecture, who said teachers of the center cared for them like caring for their own families. She still remembers that they took great care of her when she was ill, and on her birthday, she received a birthday cake, birthday gifts and best wishes from her teachers. A fourth example is [REDACTED] a former trainee of the vocational education and training center in Shache County, Kashgar. He said he used to go back home every weekend for some family time and to help his parents do some housework. He celebrated the Corban and other traditional festivals with his family, and stayed in touch with them via phone or video. He talked with his family on the phone a lot about the center, the new knowledge he had learned and his future plans.

On 24 August 2020, channel 4 of China Central Television (CCTV-4) broadcast



Lies and Truth: Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang broadcasted by channel 4 of China Central Television

*Lies and Truth: Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang* to the world. This documentary showed the audience what trainees' life was really like with real people, real stories and real sites.

For quite some time, however, anti-China forces in the US and the West, in an attempt to attack and slander the counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Xinjiang, have fabricated absurd stories and sensational, eye-catching rumors by hiring some "actors" related to Xinjiang to "give testimony in court, receive interviews or publish articles". But their lies have been debunked by facts time after time. For example, **Soyrigul Saulybay** who was awarded the so-called "International Women of Courage Award" by the US State Department, first claimed that she used to be a teacher at a vocational education and training center, but changed the narrative later and claimed to be "a victim of the vocational education and training center", saying that she was detained at "a concentration camp", "tortured and subject to medical experiments" and "forced to eat pork". The truth is, she was once the principal of the Central Kindergarten of Chahanwusu Township, Zhaosu County, Yili Prefecture, and later worked at the primary school of Chahanwusu Township. But she never worked nor studied at any vocational education and training center and was never subject to compulsory measures. Her depiction of vocational education and training centers is nothing but a slanderous lie.

Another example is **Mihrigul Tursun** who lied that she was forced to take unknown medicines when she was in a vocational education and training center, which led to irregular bleeding and decreased menstrual flow, and she was later confirmed sterilized by an American doctor. The truth is, on 21 April 2017, she was detained by the Public Security Bureau of Qiemo County due to suspected act of inciting ethnic hatred and discrimination. Since **Mihrigul Tursun** had communicable diseases at the

time, the county's public security bureau lifted the compulsory measures on her on 10 May 2017 out of humanitarian consideration. Except for that 20-day detention, she enjoyed full personal liberty when she was in China. She was never sentenced to imprisonment or enrolled in any vocational education and training center, still less forced to take medicines. In addition, it is verified that there were no records of [redacted] accepting surgical sterilization and her parents also said she has reproductive ability.



Family members of Mihrigul Tursun debunking her lies at an interview

This was not the only lie [redacted] made. She also lied that her brother Akbar Tursun was tortured to death at a vocational education and training center. After hearing this himself, [redacted] said that [redacted] is full of lies. She not only said I was dead, but also lied about seeing others die.”

A third example is [redacted] who appeared in a BBC report. Her authentic name is [redacted]. She repeatedly made up things she “saw” and “suffered” in a vocational education and training center in order to get refugee status after leaving China. She claimed that “women detained at vocational education and training centers were either sterilized through surgery or forced to take medications to stop menstruation” and that she “was forced to receive an irreversible tubal ligation surgery”. The truth is that she never had a sterilization surgery. She said in her interview with the BBC, “The police knocked me on the floor and kicked me in the abdomen. I almost passed out.”

However, in a prior interview with the US website BuzzFeed, she said “I wasn’t beaten or abused”. Other US media reports show that before arriving in the US, [redacted]

[redacted] had multiple interviews with foreign media outlets and institutions. Not for once did she mention in those interviews the so-called “sexual abuse” in vocational education and training centers or that she was a victim of such



“abuses”. Strangely, sev-

eral months after her arrival in the US, she changed her narrative after receiving some “training” by certain elements. However, the BBC deliberately ignored these questionable points and reported her lies without fact-checking. It even made the claim that “women in detention camps have been systematically raped, sexually abused and tortured” based on these lies. These moves by [redacted] and the BBC fully expose their despicable collusion and malicious intention to spread disinformation and slanders against Xinjiang.

The above-mentioned rumors and disinformation have been rebutted by many former trainees. [redacted] a former trainee from Kashgar, said at a press conference of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on 10 February 2021, “What these people from the outside said are all lies. I had a girl after graduation from the center; she is about to be one year old now. Look at her picture, isn’t she adorable? If we were ‘ster-

alized’, how could I give birth to my little girl?”

At the same press conference, ██████████ another former trainee from Shufu county in Kashgar, said indignantly, “The rights of the women trainees were fully protected at the training center. The teachers were nice to us. As a former trainee, let me state this solemnly: No female trainee at the vocational education and training center has ever been sexually assaulted. The BBC is talking nonsense and cooking up lies! All of us — all the female trainees feel very indignant. We want to warn the BBC and those rumormongers: If you insult us again, we will hold you accountable by legal means to redeem our honor.”



██████████ a former trainee from Kashgar, exposing and refuting rumors at a press conference of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region



Former Trainee ██████████ refuting rumors at a press conference of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

**15. Vocational education and training in Xinjiang has achieved remarkable results.**

Education and training in Xinjiang has, to the greatest extent, rehabilitated law-offenders who become radicalized under the influence of terrorism and extremism, eliminated the breeding ground for terrorism and religious extremism, and protected the basic rights of citizens from the harm of terrorism and religious extremism, playing an

important role in maintaining social stability.

**First, the comprehensive quality of trainees has improved and their legal awareness is notably stronger.** The trainees have got the basic ability to speak and write standard Chinese and learned practical skills that make it easier for them to find jobs. Most of the trainees have found jobs and earned stable income after graduating from the centers, and their living standards have improved significantly. For example, ██████████



Former trainee of the vocational education and training center opened a Naan-making cooperative

██████████ a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Shache County, Kashgar Prefecture, founded a Naan-making cooperative after graduation with the skills he learned at the center. The business enabled him to improve his own life with over 100,000 yuan of annual income, and helped 25 local villagers increase their income as well.

**Second, religious extremism has been effectively eliminated.** The vast majority of the trainees realized the nature and harm of terrorism and extremism and got rid of the spiritual control. For example, ██████████ a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Aksu City, Aksu Prefecture, had run a restaurant with a decent income and led a good life. But later he was influenced by religious extremism and thought “the Han people are all infidels and should be expelled through ‘Jihad’”. So he refused to communicate with Han people or receive Han customers, and his restaurant eventually closed down. After going to the vocational education and training center, he realized the danger of religious extremism and resented the fact that it



wrecked his life. After graduation, he opened a restaurant again with the help of the local government. His business flourished, earning him more than 450,000 yuan of net income each year.

**Third, the social environment has notably changed for the better.** Citizens now



██████████ a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Aksu City, and the restaurant he is running

resist religious extremism, and the social trend to acquire knowledge in modern science and technology and civility is gaining increasing momentum.

For example, [Amina Mattursun](#) ██████████ a former trainee of the vocational education and training center of Yutian County, Hotan Prefecture, freed herself from the control of extremist thoughts after taking courses at the center. She has opened up her heart and regained self-confidence, with the family taking on a new look. Now she works in a textile company as a group leader, earning more than 3,300 yuan a month. She and her husband are raising a daughter and a son and their life is getting better and better.



Amina Mattursun, a former trainee in Yutian County, Hotan Prefecture, working in a clothing factory

**Fourth, social stability has been sustained.** The infiltration of religious extrem-



People of all ethnic groups dancing to the Uyghur music at the front of the gate of Kashgar old town.

ism is effectively curbed, and public order and security have improved significantly. Harmony among ethnic groups and religions have returned and people are enjoying peace and stability. Many people have learned through their personal experience that the positive developments in Xinjiang are hard won.

**16. Trainees have found stable employment and are living a normal life after graduation.**

In order to follow up on the life and work of the graduated trainees, Xinjiang University, Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences, and other institutions have carried out surveys and interviews, and found out that trainees could freely choose their jobs, and the ways and places of employment.

Some chose to work in factories, some started their own businesses, some joined public service, and some decided to pursue further education at secondary or higher vocational colleges. Like all other workers, those who work in factories and enterprises have signed labor contracts with their employers on an equal and voluntary basis, in accordance with the *Labor Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Labor Contract Law of the People's Republic of China* and other laws and regulations. They are earning wages and living a prosperous life. For example, [REDACTED] a former trainee of a training center in Akto County, Kizilsu Kirghiz Autonomous Prefecture, was elected a member of his village commission after graduation. Using the knowledge and skills learned in the center, he worked hard to serve his fellow villagers. He led them in developing distinctive local animal husbandry and farming, and helped them lead a well-off life.



Another example, [REDACTED] a former trainee of a training center in Hotan County, Hotan Prefecture, found a job at an electric appliances company with the skills learned in the center. He has become an important staff of the company, earning

[REDACTED] a former trainee in Hotan Prefecture, found a job at a county-level agroproducts cooperative and now deputy head of the cooperative

a monthly income of more than 5,000 yuan. He renovated his home, bought new furniture, home appliances and a new car, and often took his family out for holiday trips. A third example, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] a former trainee of a training center in Turpan, opened an e-commerce company with the knowledge learned from the center. He marketed his prod-

Abaydulla Omur, a former trainee of a training center in Turpan, opened an e-commerce company with the knowledge learned from the center

ucts through live-streaming and sold local raisins, jujube fruits and other specialties of Xinjiang to other parts of the country, realizing an annual sale of 32 million yuan in 2021 and helping local farmers and herdsmen increase their income.

Also, [REDACTED] a former trainee of a training center in Zepu County, Kashgar Prefecture, chose to become a museum guide at the Yarkand River Folk Culture Museum in Zepu County. He introduces the culture of Yarkand River to tourists from all over the world, and lives a happy and fulfilling life. Another example, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a former trainee of a training center in Kashgar City, Kashgar Prefecture. As a lady who always readily lends a helping hand to others, she was elected chairwoman of the Women's Federation of her village. Her daily job is to talk to villagers to introduce farmer-friendly policies and mediate their disputes. She is very popular in the local community.

### **17. The de-radicalization efforts of Xinjiang provide useful experience for the international community to combat and prevent terrorism and extremism.**

Counter-terrorism and deradicalization represents one of the most thorny global challenges. Over the years, in response to the threats posed by terrorism and extremism,

and in order to prevent them from breeding and expanding, and to guarantee individual safety and social stability, Xinjiang has explored measures based on its own conditions, gained experience in effectively combating terrorism and extremism, and blazed a trail of deradicalization that suits China's conditions.

**First, uphold the spirit of the rule of law.** In advancing vocational education and training, Xinjiang has always held high the banner of the rule of law, upheld the authority of Constitution and law, and thought and acted under the rule of law in handling specific issues based on facts and laws, without targeting any specific region, ethnic group or religion. Laws and regulations such as the *Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China*, and *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization* were introduced to standardize the whole process of the fight against terrorism and extremism, and ensure that all work is kept on the track of the rule of law.

**Second, promote de-radicalization in light of local conditions.** In advancing vocational education and training, Xinjiang has actively drawn experience from the international community in fighting terrorism and extremism, and carried out targeted work in light of local conditions and situation on the ground regarding counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, in order to achieve tangible results. Following closely the realities and drawing on the experience of the international community in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, Xinjiang has provided targeted training for people influenced by terrorism and religious extremism on national standard spoken and written language, legal knowledge, and vocational skills. These efforts have helped eradicate extremist ideology and delivered widely recognized results. They have not only safeguarded social stability in Xinjiang, but also protected the environment for the healthy development

of religion.

**Third, combine combating and preventive efforts with emphasis on the latter.**

To address both the symptoms and root causes, Xinjiang strikes hard at terrorism and extremism and, at the same time, makes preventive efforts with focus on education and rehabilitation. For most of those who have committed minor offenses under the influence of terrorism and religious extremism, education and training programs can provide education, rehabilitation and protection. Such assistance and education, which are carried out with care and compassion, have helped those trainees get free from religious extremism, master vocational skills and find a stable employment, thus giving them the chance to return to a normal and happy life.

**Fourth, respect and protect human rights.** In providing education and training, Xinjiang has not only protected the basic human rights of people of all ethnic groups, but also tried to save, to the greatest extent, those who have violated the law and committed crimes under the influence of religious extremism. The vocational education and training centers put people first, exercise standardized management in accordance with law, and provide people-centered services. All forms of humiliation or mistreatment against trainees are strictly prohibited, and personal freedom is guaranteed. With access to high-quality education and diverse forms of skills training at the centers, trainees' right to education is fully safeguarded.

**Fifth, protect and improve people's livelihood.** Xinjiang attaches great importance to the improvement of people's lives. Over 70% of its general public budget expenditure is used on this endeavor. A number of key livelihood projects in areas of employment, education, medical care, social security and housing have been delivered to meet people's needs for childcare, education, jobs, medical services, elderly care, housing and social assistance. These efforts have ensured that no ethnic group, region

and individual will fall behind in China's journey toward realizing moderate prosperity in all respects. At present, all regions, prefectures and cities in Xinjiang are linked by expressways. All administrative villages have access to paved roads, bus services, electricity and optical fiber broadband. Even farmers and herdsmen in the most remote villages and pastures are able to get connected with people around the world via video link. All ethnic groups are enjoying the fruits of modern civilization. In particular, all



Kunlunjiayuan neighborhood, a relocation point in Aketao County



Local herdsmen in Kizilsu Kirghiz Autonomous Prefecture moved into a new house



About 2 million people of different ethnic groups along the pipeline in Payzawat County now have access to clean drinking water, bidding farewell to the tens of hundreds of years when only bitter and salty water was available



Some villagers no longer relied on sheep farming for a living and learned planting skills; some started their own businesses in their neighborhoods, earning a stable income.

the 3.0649 million people in rural areas who used to live under poverty line have been lifted out of poverty, and all the 3,666 poverty-stricken villages and 35 counties have graduated. Absolute poverty has become a problem of the past in Xinjiang.

**18. The allegations that “the education and training centers are concentration camps, detaining millions of ethnic people” and that “larger complexes have been built by Xinjiang authorities to detain more people” are all lies.**

Throughout the operation of vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang, the numbers of the centers and trainees were not fixed. In accordance with the *Measures on Implementing the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People’s Republic of China in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* and the *Regulations of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization*, vocational education and training centers were established by the people’s governments at the county level or above in light of local realities. Centers in places where there was a larger number of people influenced by religious extremism could be set up earlier or operate longer, while those in places with a smaller number of people influenced or with trainees less influenced could run shorter. Centers in different places could be established and closed at the same time.

Therefore, the total numbers of vocational education and training centers and their trainees across Xinjiang were dynamic and constantly changing. By October 2019, all the trainees who participated in the program of studying the national language, laws and regulations and vocational skills



A group photo of trainees graduating from a former vocational education and training center



to achieve the goal of de-radicalization had graduated.

The claim of “a million ethnic minority people detained” at the centers is purely a lie. An article on an independent US news website Grayzone disclosed that the lie was fabricated and circulated by US government-backed NGOs and anti-China elements. First, the “Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders” drew a ridiculous conclusion that one-tenth of the 20 million Xinjiang population were being detained in the so-called “re-education camps”, based on interviews with only eight Uyghur individuals overseas and some rough estimates. Second, self-proclaimed “scholar” Adrian Zenz concocted a similar lie based on a single media report, and even Zenz himself acknowledged the flimsiness of his claim. Max Blumenthal, an award-winning American journalist, bestselling author and editor of Grayzone, pointed out that many media reports alleging an astonishing number of a million Uyghurs being detained are based on shaky sources of information and don’t stand up to examination.

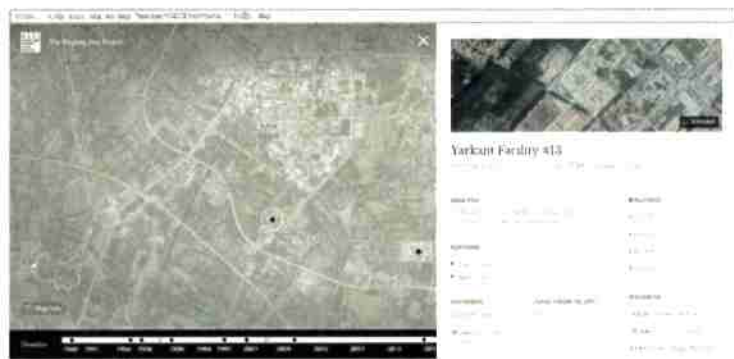
Likewise, the claim that “larger complexes have been built by Xinjiang authorities to detain more people” based on “satellite images” is a deliberate distortion of facts. For example, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) claimed that it had identified and mapped about 380 “suspected detention facilities” in Xinjiang using satellite images and night-time lighting technology, and that Xinjiang has “built a large number of detention centers” in Urumqi, Kashgar, Aksu and other places. However, it has



An article published by Grayzone, an independent news website of the US

been verified that of the so-called 380 “detention facilities”, most are schools, government departments and institutions, hospitals, living quarters and shops. An article on the Australian Alert Service, Australian Citizens Party’s official publication, pointed out that the ASPI report based on satellite imagery was absolutely ridiculous, and that two alleged “detention centers” in Turpan City were in fact office buildings of the Industrial and Information Technology Bureau and Veterans’ Affairs Bureau of the Gaochang District.

As another example, some people overseas claimed that the service center for people with disabilities in Shache County and the No.2 People’s Hospital of Shaya County were used



A satellite image of an alleged “vocational education and training center of Shache County” cited by foreign media reports is actually the Disabled Persons Services Center of Shache County

as vocational education and training centers. But the fact is that the former has been used for rehabilitation and care for the disabled since its founding in 2015 and never used for vocational education and training, while the latter has never been used for oth-



A satellite image (left) of an alleged “vocational education and training center of Shaya County” cited by foreign media reports is actually the No.2 People’s Hospital of Shaya County (right)

er purposes since its establishment in 1988.

**19. The so-called “Xinjiang Police Files” is a farce orchestrated and performed by anti-China forces in the US and other Western countries.**

In May 2022, the anti-China German scholar Adrian Zenz released the so-called “Xinjiang Police Files” on the US website of Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, and on that basis fabricated the report *Re-education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region*. Defying facts, common sense and legal principles, this despicable report is another vivid example of the attempt of anti-China forces in the US and some other Western countries to “contain China by destabilizing Xinjiang”.

Based on the so-called “Xinjiang Police Files”, Adrian Zenz falsely claimed that the Chinese government has promoted exaggerated threat perceptions of terrorism, and concocted such fallacies as “the terrorist threat is completely incompatible with the extreme countermeasures taken”. He slandered the vocational education and training centers as prisons where trainees have no personal freedom. These all run counter to the basic fact that Xinjiang’s fight against terrorism and extremism is all along conducted in accordance with the law.

The so-called internal materials in the “Xinjiang Police Files” are equally flawed and untenable. For example, among the mugshots of 2,884 people alleged to have been “arbitrarily detained”, the vast majority are actually living a normal life. **Nargul Abdukerim** whose picture is among the mugshots, has been working in the People’s Hospital in her hometown Shufu County since graduating from the Xinjiang Vocational Technical College in June 2022. She is living a normal life with her family, without ever being detained. **Auratjan Rozi** who is also in the mugshot list, has been farming at home and earning stable income together with his wife. His two children are both

high school students. He is also living a normal life with his family, without ever being detained. For instance, the report distorts routine training and security drills of the police in Xinjiang as “systematic persecution” specifically targeting Uyghurs. But the fact is, photos released by Adrian Zenz are pictures taken during routine security drills conducted by local communities and police in Xinjiang. A few armed police photos, described as “the emergency plan of the re-education camp to stop escape attempts”, are actually emergency drills conducted by local public security authorities in a detention center. Adrian Zenz pieced together and doctored photos from routine police training and security drills, and linked them with the so-called “persecution of Uyghurs”. This is utterly misleading and ill-motivated.

In pursuit of their selfish interests, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and Adrian Zenz have attempted to mislead public opinion with “cyber technology”, which is another example of their habitual tactics of fabricating and stealing. They even openly advocated cyber theft and other serious crimes. Guided by a serious political prejudice, they pieced together and fabricated information, created misleading association, took things out of context, and hyped up the so-called “Xinjiang Police Files”. By doing so, they aimed to attack and slander counter-terrorism measures and achievements in Xinjiang. Such gimmicks have nothing new in them and such sinister intentions are clearly exposed.

Under the disguise of academic study and human rights promotion, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and Adrian Zenz concocted the absurd and eye-catching “report” and spread sensational lies and fallacies to slander and attack Xinjiang, in a bid to sow discord between different ethnic groups, undermine the overall stability of Xinjiang, embolden violent terrorists, and attempt to turn the clock back to a time of frequent violence and terrorism. All these were aimed to realize their conspiracy

of “containing China by destabilizing Xinjiang and promoting terrorism”. Apart from “Xinjiang Police Files”, there is also the “Moyu List”. The overwhelming majority of people listed there are local residents living in Bositan Community of Moyu County. They have been living a normal life and working as usual. Only very few of them received vocational education and training in accordance with law due to the influence of religious extremism or minor legal offence or crime. People in the list were infuriated over Adrian Zenz’s despicable smearing and slandering by using their identities, and have stepped out to expose such lies.

In addition, Adrian Zenz has published reports to smear Xinjiang’s population and family planning policies. But as Nachrichten, a media outlet in Germany, reported on 4 October 2021 citing internal information from a former member of Adrian Zenz’s team, Adrian Zenz has never done any effective research on Xinjiang’s culture and development, and the reports on Xinjiang-related issues are nothing but academic fraud based on the files publicly released by the Chinese government, only to acquire the copious funding from US officials.

**20. Education and training in Xinjiang has won extensive understanding, recognition and support of the international community.**

Education and training centers are educational institutions publicly established in accordance with the law, whose procedures of operation, curriculum and management measures are open and transparent. In recent years, a number of fair-minded people from many countries, who have visited or learned about education and training centers, have spoken up to commend Xinjiang’s achievements in vocational education and training and refute the lies and disinformation spread by anti-China forces in the US and other Western countries.

Since late 2018, most of the 2,332 foreign guests invited to Xinjiang have visited

vocational education and training centers or the original sites of such centers. They expressed an overwhelming understanding of the urgency, necessity, legitimacy and reason of setting up such centers in Xinjiang. It was widely acknowledged that Xinjiang's education and training work was in line with Xinjiang's realities and its people's interests, delivering real results and providing useful experience to the international community. For example, a journalist from Türkiye, after a tour of the vocational education and training center, said that "some in the West say Xinjiang has 'concentration camps' where people are suffering persecution. I came with this idea. But such biased perception has gone thanks to the visit. What I see is just an education center." On 15 May 2019, Egypt's *Al-Ahram Al-Masa'y* newspaper published an article entitled *China Uses Training and Re-education to Deal*

*with Extremism* and read "countries around the world adopt a variety of preventive measures against terrorism and extremism in accordance with their actual conditions. The measures taken against extremist ideas by the Chinese government in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region can provide useful experience. Xinjiang has set up education and training centers to train young people influenced by the extremist ideas of terror-



officials and representatives of international organizations,  
一些国家常驻日内瓦代表团



many people have seen the truth.  
很多人认清了真相

Foreign guests visiting the former vocational education and training center

ist organizations, to provide them with the opportunity to reintegrate into society, get back on track, and steer clear of the claws of terrorism.” US magazine International Focus published an article titled *A Journey to the Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, China* in its May 2019 issue, which talked about the orderly operation of the Kashgar education and training center where young victims of extremist teachings were learning skills and being taught a better way of life. According to the article, these people were well fed and living in good conditions, and seemed very happy. Some might claim that those young people were coerced, but the author of the article noted that happiness cannot be faked.

Many people have learned the real situation of the centers through various channels. Some published authored articles in the media based on facts, introducing the



On 9 June 2021, Lianhe Zaobao of Singapore published an opinion piece on “genocide” by Goh Choon Kang, a former Singaporean MP. He argued that despite the overwhelming firepower of Western propaganda against China, the “evidence” the West has provided is limited, only a few so-called “leaked documents” and one-sided stories of some exiled Uyghur dissidents, and hardly convincing.

truth of the education and training in Xinjiang. Some refuted falsehoods about Xinjiang and spoke up for Xinjiang's education and training programs on international and multilateral occasions. Graham Perry, a British human rights lawyer and arbitration expert, posted a report on his website titled *China and the Uyghurs*, arguing that the allegations of so-called "sterilization against Uyghur women" and the "detention of one million Uyghurs" fabricated by the BBC and Adrian Zenz lacked evidence. On 18 December 2019, the website of the Workers World Party of the US carried an article titled *Behind the US anti-China Campaign: The Facts about Xinjiang* by anti-war activist Sara Flounders, which said the establishment of a large number of vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang has solved the problem of religious extremism, and most countries in the world support Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures. The website Project Syndicate from the US, the Australian Citizens Party's weekly publication *The Australian Alert Service* and other media outlets ran reports and articles arguing that counter-terrorism is a major component of China's Xinjiang policy, that efforts were made in recent years to eliminate religious extremism, including carrying out vocational education and training and creating job opportunities, and that unlike the US, China didn't wage war on terror that brought casualties to innocent people. The West should reflect on its shortcomings in dealing with terrorist threats by drawing on China's counter-terrorism practice. The West selectively silenced over terrorism that nearly went out of control in Xinjiang, deliberately smearing and negating China's achievements in fighting terrorism. The US pushed for the removal of ETIM from the list of terrorist organizations, attempting to deprive China of the legitimacy in international systems for its counter-terrorist endeavors.

**To sum up, the education and training centers strictly followed the basic principles of respecting and protecting human rights enshrined in China's Con-**



stitution and laws, effectively guaranteed trainees' personal dignity, and strictly prohibited any form of humiliation or mistreatment. The centers fully respected trainees' customs and habits and their right to use their own ethnic languages, and fully protected trainees' freedom of religious belief and such rights as personal freedom and the freedom of correspondence. The centers offered trainee-friendly management and services, and provided good living and learning environment to fully meet the cultural and other daily needs of trainees. The education and training work has produced fruitful results, and the trainees have been able to improve their overall capabilities. Most of them graduated to find stable jobs and lead a happy life. The education and training centers were by no means "concentration camps", and there was no such thing as violation of human rights at the centers. Trainees were happy with the management, services, curriculum, teaching facilities, and learning and living conditions. They believed that not only there was no violation of human rights at the centers at all, but their extremist tendencies have been effectively eliminated. After receiving quality education, they were able to embrace a modern way of life. Many people of vision across other countries have also expressed their recognition and praise for the education and training programs in Xinjiang.

## **V. Law-based human rights protection in various areas has leveled up in Xinjiang.**

Xinjiang sticks to the commitment that development is for the people and by the people, and that its fruits are shared among the people. With a view to solving the most pressing and most immediate issue that concerns the people the most, Xinjiang has

comprehensively improved law-based human rights protection and made sure that people can enjoy broad-based, genuine and effective human rights in accordance with law.

**21. Xinjiang fully implements the policy of freedom of religious belief and protects normal religious needs of believers in accordance with law.**

Respecting and protecting the freedom of religious belief is a fundamental national policy that the Chinese government has long practiced. Following the principles of protecting what is lawful, prohibiting what is unlawful, combating extremism, resisting infiltration and fighting crimes, Xinjiang has fully implemented the policy of freedom of religious belief, protected normal religious activities in accordance with law and effectively guaranteed the citizens' freedom of religious belief.

**First, the right to freedom of religious belief is protected by law.** The *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* stipulates as follows: Citizens of the People's



Students of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute praying in a mosque

Republic of China shall enjoy freedom of religious belief; No state organ, social organization or individual shall coerce citizens to believe in or not to believe in any religion, nor shall they discriminate against citizens who believe in or do not believe in any religion; The state shall protect normal religious activities. The *Regulations on Religious Affairs* issued by the State Council stipulates that citizens have the freedom of religious belief and no organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in or not to believe in any religion, nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in any religion or citizens who do not believe in any religion. Religious and non-religious citizens shall respect each other and live in harmony and so shall citizens who believe in different religions.

In Xinjiang, the Uyghurs and people of all other ethnic groups fully enjoy the right to freedom of religious belief. Citizens enjoy the freedom to choose whether to believe in a religion, to change from a non-believer to a believer and vice versa and to believe in a certain religion or a denomination of the same religion. All normal religious activities held either in religious venues or at their homes in line with religious customs are protected by law. No organization or individual shall use religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair citizens' health or undermine the national education system, or other activities that compromise national interests, public interests or citizens' legitimate rights and interests. No organization or individual shall use religion to interfere in the implementation of the administrative and judicial functions of the State. There are over 1,800 religious practitioners from Xinjiang taking positions in the people's congresses and people's political consultative conferences at various levels. On behalf of religious believers, they have actively participated in the deliberation and administration of state affairs and in the supervision over the government's implementation of the policies advocating the freedom of religious belief.

**Second, channels for acquiring religious knowledge have been expanded.**

China has translated and published the religious classics of Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, and Christianity in multiple languages. Xinjiang has translated and published *The Quran* and *The Essence of Buhari's Sermon* in Uyghur, Mandarin, Kazakh and Kirgiz languages, and released the *New Collection of Al-Wa'z Speeches Series* to provide classic religious literature to religious believers.

The China Islamic Association published China's Muslims and other magazines and launched standard written Chinese and Uyghur websites.



*China's Muslims* magazine

The Xinjiang Islamic Association published a magazine called *Xin-*

*jiang Muslims*. Free copies were placed in mosques and given to religious teachers. At religious venues, religious teachers share religious knowledge including doctrines and rules with believers through sermon and preaching. Religious organizations also hold workshops on religious knowledge and etiquette.

**Third, facilities and conditions of religious venues have been improved.** Religious venues are protected in accordance with law. Special government funds have been allocated to maintain and renovate venues listed as cultural heritage sites under the protection of the state and the autonomous region, including the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, Shengyou Lamasery in Zhaosu, Baytulla Mosque in Yining, Baluntai Monastery in Hejing, Jiamai Mosque in Hotan, and Yanghang Mosque in Urumqi. For the venues in disrepair, based on the Law on Urban and Rural Planning and the respect for the wills of the believers, relevant government departments have addressed the potential

safety hazards through renovation, enlargement or building new ones to ensure the smooth operation of normal religious activities. The conditions of religious venues have been improved. All mosques have water, electricity, road access, natural gas, telecom equipment, radio and television,



Xuanrendun Mosque in Urumqi, completed in September

2020

medical service, LED screen, computer, electric fans or air conditioners, fire fighting equipment and water dispensers. Shower and flush toilet are available in congregational mosques for Juma prayers, providing great convenience for religious believers.

**Fourth, the training system for Islamic clerics has been upgraded.** Religious clerics in Xinjiang are trained at the China Islamic Institute, the Xinjiang Islamic Institute and the Xinjiang Islamic School. The government has channeled over 200 million yuan to build a new campus of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, which opened in 2017. The Institute also opened eight new branches in Ili, Changji, Urumqi, Turpan, Aksu, Kizilsu, Kashgar and Hotan, forming an education and training system with the Xinjiang Islamic Institute at the center supported by institute branches. Xinjiang has identified training plans and objectives in a targeted manner and nurtured a large



Dean of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute preaching in the hall

for worship



Teaching building of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute

number of high-caliber Islamic clerics to pass on the good Islamic traditions in a sound and orderly manner.

**Fifth, the infiltration and spread of religious extremism has been stemmed.** Religious extremists advocate extremist ideologies, incite hatred against other religions and “heretics”, and undermine Xinjiang’s religious harmony and ethnic unity. They deny the traditional Islam in Xinjiang, sabotage the Islam internal harmony and jeopardize the fundamental interests of religious believers. Distorting and violating Islamism, the religious extremists brainwash Muslims, especially young Muslims with such heretical ideas as “the shahid (martyr) engaged in jihad (holy war) can live in Paradise,” and turn innocent people into extremists and terrorists whose thoughts are manipulated to frequently perform acts of violence and terrorism and kill Islamic religious leaders, Muslims and other innocent people of all ethnic groups. There is overwhelming evidence that religious extremism has developed into a real risk endangering national and ethnic unity, disrupting religious and social harmony, undermining Xinjiang’s lasting



Residents of Kashgar City doing the Sama dance at Id Kah Square on Roza Festival (Eid al-Fitr) in 2022

social stability and sabotaging the life and property of people of all ethnic groups. Fighting religious extremism in accordance with law is an act of justice to safeguard the fundamental interests of the country and the people including the Muslims, and also an important part of the international efforts tackling religious extremism. Xinjiang has adhered to the policy of freedom of religious belief, protected the citizens' normal religious activities, advanced de-radicalization and effectively curbed the infiltration and spread of religious extremism.

**22. The livelihood programs named “learning people’s conditions, benefiting people’s lives and rallying people’s support” and the “different ethnicities, one family” activities in Xinjiang have facilitated inter-ethnic exchange, interaction and integration.**

For a period of time, Xinjiang, particularly some areas in southern Xinjiang, faces such difficulties as inconvenient traffic, insufficient infrastructure and slow industrial development. To win the battle against poverty, from 2014 onward, Xinjiang has tasked 12,000 work teams of over 60,000 working staff per year to carry out the livelihood programs named “learning people’s conditions, benefiting people’s lives and rallying people’s support”. Designed to learn the needs of people of all ethnic groups, help them

overcome practical difficulties and boost rural economic development, the programs have produced significant outcomes and won active support from people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

First, the programs have led to greater economic progress. Industries with distinctive rural features have been developed and strengthened. In 2021 alone, the work teams helped to bring about over 362,000 *mu* (or 24,133 hectares) of farmland with special planting, over 233,000 *mu* (or 15,533 hectares) of courtyard economy, over 677,000 *mu* (or 45,133 hectares) of forest fruit park, over 5,000 new business entities and over 56,000 entrepreneurs. People's income has increased. Second, the programs



An agricultural expert, invited by the work team, teaching fruit tree trimming and grafting



Young agricultural professional demonstrating walnut tree management in summer

have helped with people's difficulties. Efforts have been made to learn and address people's needs. In 2021 alone, over 1 billion yuan was invested to help with 850,000 cases concerning people's needs on housing, employment and health. Third, the programs have promoted the implementation of policies benefiting the public. Projects benefiting the public have been actively advanced. In 2021 alone, 4.06 billion yuan of subsidies or compensations were distributed to benefit the people, extending the Party's solicitude and warmth to more households. Fourth, the programs have increased employment and



people's income.

A wide range of training on construction, cooking, embroidery, planting, breeding and other practical skills have been provided to offer people more pathways to increase income and employment either locally or in places close to home. In 2021 alone, the work teams carried out over 140,000 training sessions on practical skills, benefiting over 3.2 million people. Fifth, the programs have consolidated and expanded the outcomes of poverty reduction. Efforts have been made to keep advancing the transition from



A work team member introducing policies benefiting the people

all-round poverty reduction to rural vitalization, with a focus on enhancing the internal dynamism and vitality of development, so as to maintain sustainable development after shaking off poverty.

Since 2016, Xinjiang has launched the “different ethnicities, one family” and other activities to enhance ethnic unity. More than 1.1 million government officials and workers have paired up, made friends and built close bond with more than 1.6 million people of vari-



People participating in a job fair in Kuche City looking for opportunities close to home

ous ethnic groups. There are officials and workers of Han ethnicity pairing up with Uyghur and people of other ethnic minorities. There are also officials and workers of Uyghur and other ethnic minorities pairing up with Han people. The officials and workers have fully leveraged their strengths to help solve practical difficulties in people's work and life such as medical care, employment and education. Many good and practical accomplishments have been made that won the hearts and minds of the people. Since 2016, the participating government officials and workers have donated over 1.17 billion yuan and over 60.4 million items and solved over 26.7 million real difficulties. Their efforts have been warmly welcomed by people of all ethnic groups.

The livelihood programs named "learning people's conditions, benefiting people's lives and rallying people's support" and the "different ethnicities, one family" activities in Xinjiang are a far cry from the description of "furthering ideology in minority-populated areas" or "monitoring ethnic minorities". Rather, the efforts have enhanced the technological and cultural awareness of the local residents, improved local infrastructure, advanced local industrial development and promoted the unity and prosperity of various ethnic groups.

### **23. Xinjiang attaches great importance to protecting and developing the fine traditional cultures of various ethnic groups.**

The Chinese civilization is extensive and profound and enjoys a long history. It is an integration of the splendid cultures of all ethnic groups. Since ancient times, Xinjiang has been home to various ethnic groups where different ethnic cultures coexist. Through years of communication and integration, the cultures of various ethnic groups have thrived in the fertile soil of the Chinese civilization and become parts of the Chinese culture. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of the CPC, the cultures of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang have entered a new era of

development. Following the principle of respect for differences, inclusiveness, diversity and mutual appreciation, Xinjiang fully respects and protects folk cultures of all kinds and has achieved the harmonious coexistence of different cultures and effectively preserved and carried forward the fine traditional cultures of various ethnic groups.

Xinjiang is known as a land of song and dance. The people in Xinjiang are especially known for the talent for singing and dancing. Their love of the motherland, the people and the hometown could be easily felt. Folk songs such as *Our Motherland Is a Garden* and *Xinjiang Is a Good Place* are widely sung. Xinjiang-related movies such as *Visitors From the Icy Mountain* and *Uncle Kurban Visits Beijing* are household names in China. All are precious cultural assets created and shared by all ethnic groups.

The introduction of the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Protection of Cultural Relics*, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Intangible Cultural Heritage* and the *Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Law of the People's Republic of China on Protection of Cultural Relics* have provided a solid legal basis for protecting the cultures of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

While carrying forward and promoting the Chinese culture, Xinjiang also attaches great importance to protecting and developing the fine traditional cultures of all ethnic groups.

**First, the cultural heritage of all ethnic groups have been well preserved.** Many historically and culturally significant architectures, representing the fine cultural heritage of Uyghur, Mongol, Hui, Xibe and other ethnic minorities, have been properly maintained and protected, including the Afaq Khoja Mazar in Kashgar, the Tuheilü Temurhan Mazar in Huocheng, the Lamasery of Zhaosu, the Mongolian Prince Residence in Hejing and the Tohurak Manor in Qiemo. The Xinjiang Uyghur Muqam and the Kyrgyz epic of *Manas* have been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Four national-level intangible cultural heritage protection demonstration bases on ethnic musical instrument making, mulberry-bark paper making, carpet making and Kazakh embroidery have been established. Xinjiang has 96 pieces of intangible cultural heritage added to the national list and 315 to the list of autonomous region level.



Uyghur Muqam



The Kyrgyz epic of Manas

**Second, the fine traditional cultures of all ethnic groups have been well sustained.** The traditional cultural and art activities of various ethnic groups such as the Uyghur Meshrep, the Kazakh Aken Aytes, the Kyrgyz Komuz Concert, the Mongolian Naadam Festival, the Xibe Festival of Westward Movement and the Han Lantern Festival are widely celebrated. A host of classic performances with strong ethnic features that reflect the transformative changes over the years, such as the Uyghur Elif and Senem, the Kazakh Aitys and the Kyrgyz epic Manas played and sung by Manasiqi have been staged. To date, Xinjiang has collected and registered 12,400 volumes of ethnic minority ancient works in nine languages including Chagatay, Mongolian and Xibe. Xinjiang has also translated and published the almost lost *Kutadgu Bilig* (Wisdom of

Fortune and Joy) and sorted out and published various oral folk literature works such as the Mongolian epic of *Jangar*.

**Third, the traditional sports of all ethnic groups have advanced significantly.** 280 ethnic traditional sports have been found in Xinjiang. During the farmers' slack season, various forms of ethnic sports events are held across Xinjiang. Wrestling,



Uyghur Meshrep performance, Xibe Festival of Westward Movement, Kazakh Aken Aytes, Mongolian Naadam Festival

Swinging, Buzkashi (horseback riding for goat pulling), horse racing, Darwaz (tight-rope walking) and other sports and performances with distinctive ethnic features are held during traditional holidays, and participated and celebrated by people of all ethnic groups. So far, Xinjiang has hosted nine Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities consecutively.

**Fourth, the spoken and written language of all ethnic groups have been widely used.** Xinjiang has strictly implemented the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language*, the *Regulations of the Xin-*

*jiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Spoken and Written Language Work* and other laws and regulations to protect the right of all ethnicities to use and develop their own spoken and written language in accordance with law. In education, while advancing the education on standard spoken and written Chinese language, curriculum on the spoken and written languages of different ethnicities have also been set up in line with the national requirements on primary and secondary school curriculum, teaching Uyghur, Kazakh, Mongolian, Kyrgyz and Xibe, etc. In the meantime, colleges and universities have set up majors like Uyghur literature, Kazakh literature, Mongolian literature and Kyrgyz literature. The efforts have fully guaranteed the right of ethnic minority students to learn their own spoken and written language and have effectively carried forward and developed the ethnic languages and cultures. In press and publication, newspapers, books, audio and video products and electronic readings are published and communicated in six languages, namely the Standard Chinese, Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mongolian and Xibe.

Xinjiang Radio and Television Station broadcasts TV programs in four languages and radio programs in five languages. *Xinjiang Daily* is published in four languages and local portal website Tianshannet have various versions of different languages. In



Primary students in Urumqi learning Uyghur



Uyghur language textbook

Uyghur language website interface showing news articles, images, and navigation menus.

<p>103.9 MY FM</p>	<p>ئۇيغۇرچە ئۇنۋېرسال رادىيو 维吾尔语综合广播</p>
<p>107.4 شىنجاڭ ئاتلش مەدەنىيەت رادىيوسى 新疆文艺文艺广播</p>	<p>قازاق رادىيوسى 哈萨克语广播</p>
<p>蒙古语广播</p>	<p>قىرغىز رادىيوسى 柯尔克孜语广播</p>

Kazakh language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Kyrgyz language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Mongolian language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Uyghur language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Uyghur language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Uyghur language newspaper page with text, images, and a table of contents.

Publications in Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Mongolian languages

social areas, multilingual texts and services can be easily found in places for post and telecommunications, medical care and health, stores and traffic signs. In administrative

and judicial areas, when performing official duties, governments at all levels in Xinjiang use the standard spoken and written Chinese language, as well as the spoken and written language of the ethnic group exercising regional autonomy. When the NPC and the CPPCC convene important meetings, multilingual meeting documents and simultaneous interpretation services are provided in Uyghur, Kazakh, Mongolian and other ethnic minority languages. People of all ethnic groups enjoy the right to use their own ethnic language in election and litigation. All have greatly facilitated the life and work of people of various ethnic groups.

**24. Xinjiang's labor and employment policies and endeavors have been consistent with the international labor and human rights standards and fulfilled the Xinjiang people's strong aspiration for a better life.**

**First, the employment and labor of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are protected by law.** The Chinese laws and regulations are consistent with the *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)* concerning the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.

Chinese laws such as the Constitution, Labor Law, Labor Contract Law, Employment Promotion Law, Social Insurance Law, Education Law, and Vocational Education Law clearly stipulate that the labor rights of all citizens shall be respected and protected to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of workers and achieve decent work. Xinjiang has been following the spirit of the *Constitution of the International Labour Organization* and other relevant Conventions and strictly implemented the *Labor Law of the People's Republic of China* and other laws and regulations. It formulated the *Opinions of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Labor Law of the People's Republic of China*, the *Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Employment Promotion Law of the People's Republic of*



*China and the Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Regulation on Labor Security Supervision*, with a view to legally ensuring that workers are not discriminated based on ethnicity, region, gender or religious belief and not restricted based on urban-rural difference, occupation or identity. Concrete steps have been taken to bring the establishment, management, supervision and arbitration of labor relations under the rule of law, and forced labor through any means is strictly prohibited.

**Second, people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang enjoy full freedom in employment.** Xinjiang adopts an employment policy according to which individuals choose jobs on their own initiative, the market regulates employment and the government promotes employment and encourages entrepreneurship. This has effectively leveraged the role of the market in allocating labor resources and enabled laborers of all ethnic groups and companies to build labor relations based on independent, voluntary and two-way choice. In recent years, to win the battle against poverty and take into account the challenges that some parts of Xinjiang face including oversized rural labor, limited employment capacity and difficulty in lifting people out of poverty, Xinjiang gives priority to employment, and has continuously expanded the scale of employment to



A textile worker at work in factory

help the poverty-stricken population escape poverty and increase income. Xinjiang's employment policy for urban and rural migrant workers has followed the principle of voluntariness. Never has the policy forced any labor migration. What the Xinjiang government has done is helping people make money and get rich.

**Third, the labor rights and interests of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are protected by law.** Laborers of all ethnic groups sign labor contracts with companies in accordance with law and on an equal, voluntary and consent basis. Their rights to remuneration, to rest and vacations, to protection of occupational safety and health, and to social insurance and welfare are all protected by law. Same as other workers, migrant workers from Xinjiang have established legally protected labor relations which specify the work assignment, working conditions, working hours, remuneration, so-



Staff learning from the line manager



A Uyghur textile worker at work in factory

cial insurance, rest and vacations, and other rights and interests. Employers outside Xinjiang fully respect the habits and customs of the employees from Xinjiang and provide them with great support and care. On respecting customs and habits, Halal restaurants serving Halal food are opened to workers in need. When traditional ethnic festivals arrive, there are usually celebrations where ethnic minority workers put on costumes and celebrate together with local workers, playing drums, singing and dancing “Meshrep” in a happy and harmonious atmosphere. Many ethnic minority workers



A Uyghur chef working in a halal canteen preparing food

religious believers decide on their own whether they participate in religious activities or not. No organization or individual are allowed to interfere. On work and life, in light of the actual situation of individual workers, companies provide systematic training based on working post, so that the workers can master the skills needed and fit into their positions as quickly as possible. The employers also provide good accommodation with various types of living facilities. The Federation of Trade Unions of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and its counterparts in other provinces have established a two-way working mechanism to protect the rights of Xinjiang migrant workers in other provinces and to address their difficulties in a timely manner. Seeing others from the same town getting richer by working in provinces other than Xinjiang, more and more ethnic minority people go to the local job market to apply for better-paying positions outside Xinjiang.

#### **Fourth, Xinjiang's labor and**

in Beijing, Shanghai, Fujian and other areas said that, "though far from home, we feel at home". On respecting religious belief, the religious freedom of workers of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang is legally protected, and the protection is not influenced by the change of location. There are mosques in many provinces other than Xinjiang. Re-



The Federation of Trade Unions of Xinjiang helping Xinjiang migrant workers address difficulties



Xinjiang migrant workers employed in Wuhan is taking a sightseeing tour.

**employment policies have produced significant outcomes.** The policies have contributed to substantial improvement in the living standards of people in Xinjiang, particularly those living in the poverty-stricken areas in southern Xinjiang. By the end of 2020, 1.058 million workers who used to live under the poverty line had shaken off poverty through employment. Preliminary statistics show that the per capita annual income of Xinjiang migrant workers working in provinces other than Xinjiang is about 40,000 yuan, roughly the same level as the disposable income of the urban permanent residents of those provinces they work in. The per capita annual income of people working in Xinjiang is about 30,000 yuan, far higher than farming earnings. The lives of people of all ethnic groups have gone better, leaping from having enough to eat to eating well and healthy, from dressing warmly to beautifully and from travelling by donkey cart to by car. Shopping has become more affordable and accessible. For example, smart phone, car, travel, and property purchase in cities have become new consumption focuses for many people living in southern Xinjiang. People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are

getting richer and living a more prosperous life. Xinjiang has fostered an encouraging situation of full employment paid with steady income.

To encourage free mobility of labor force in accordance with market demand is a universal practice across the world. To meet market needs, workers in the US and UK are free to travel from the Pacific to the Atlantic, from New York to London to find a suitable job. Likewise, workers of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang also have



Machines harvesting cotton in Shaya County, Xinjiang in 2021

the freedom to choose what to do for a living and where to work. All these choices are made out of their own will and there have been no restrictions on their personal freedom. What the government strives to do is to create a favorable environment for work and employment, where people of all ethnic groups can find satisfactory jobs and earn stable income, and do its best to protect the right to work and right to employment of the people and the lawful rights and interests of all workers in Xinjiang, so that people of all ethnicities can have decent work under the sun. There is no such thing as “forced labor” or “employment discrimination”. The US government turns a blind eye to the fact that people in Xinjiang find jobs or start their own business on a voluntary basis. With “forced labor” as an excuse, the US government has spared no effort to restrict and suppress Xinjiang enterprises, which seriously violates the market and WTO rules, wreaks havoc on the international trade order, disrupts the stability of industrial and

supply chains and undermines the companies' right to development and the employees' right to work. The attempts have caused "forced unemployment" and "forced poverty", and are typical and genuine violations of human rights.

**25. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang has maintained a fairly high growth for a long period and has continued to expand.**

The anti-China forces in the US and other Western countries claimed that Xinjiang launched so-called "genocide" against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. It is a blatant and utter lie.

**First, Xinjiang has long implemented more relaxed family policies for Uyghur and other ethnic minorities compared to Han people.** China's family planning policy was first rolled out in urban areas, and then in rural areas. It was first applied to the people of Han ethnicity, and then to other ethnic groups in China. In 1975, Xinjiang adopted family planning in cities such as Urumqi where there are large Han population. In 1981, with the promulgation of the *Provisional Regulations on Several Issues of Family Planning Policy*, the policy began to apply to all Han people. The *Family Planning Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region* was enacted in 1992, allowing looser policies for ethnic minorities than the Han people in Xinjiang. To be specific, Han couples in urban areas were encouraged to have one child and those in rural areas could have two; whereas ethnic minority couples in cities may have two children and those in rural areas could have three. In 2017, with improving economic and social conditions and converging childbearing aspirations of different ethnic groups, Xinjiang amended the *Regulations on Population and Family Planning of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region*, granting a unified policy to all people in Xinjiang, namely, each urban couple may have two children and each rural couple may have

three. All these show that in Xinjiang, the family planning policy was applied to ethnic minorities 17 years later than the Han population, and the policy was more relaxed compared to other places in China. In May 2022, the Standing Committee of the 13th People’s Congress of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region once again revised the *Regulations on Population and Family Planning of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region*, allowing couples to have up to three children.

**Second, after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the population in Xinjiang including that of ethnic minorities has continued to grow both in size and quality.** From the first national census in 1953 to the seventh one in 2020, Xinjiang’s population rose from 4.7836 million to 25.8523 million, among which the Uyghur population grew from 3.6076 million to 11.6243 million. Average life expectancy has also increased significantly, from less than 30 years in 1949 to 75.65 years in 2020. Today’s Xinjiang enjoys all-round economic and social development, and a stable and secure society. People of all ethnic groups live a safe and happy life and the population enjoys balanced and healthy development. Over the years, as Xinjiang deepens its poverty reduction efforts, the living and working conditions in poverty-stricken areas in southern Xinjiang have been gradually improved. Urbanization has accelerated significantly, and urban population has continued to grow. People of all ethnic groups have become better-educated and more culturally competent. People’s perception about childbirth has also changed. More have opted for late marriage, late childbearing, and fewer and healthier births. Such trend conforms to the global



Total population of Xinjiang in the past censuses

trend of population growth.

**Third, China has adhered to the principle of combining national guidance with voluntary participation in providing technical services for family planning.**

People have the right to know and choose the contraceptive methods. In Xinjiang, family planning is practiced in accordance with law. Mandatory sterilization and forced pregnancy tests are strictly prohibited. Whether to take birth control measures and which method to choose are all decided independently and voluntarily by the individuals concerned, no matter their ethnicity, and no organizations or individuals are allowed to interfere in such decisions. With the elevation of women's social status and changes in people's perception toward marriage and childbearing, more and more women prefer late marriage and late childbearing, fewer and better births, and opt for long-acting contraceptive methods. Among various types of contraceptive options, long-acting contraceptives such as tubal ligation and intrauterine contraceptive devices are internationally recognized as safe and effective contraception with minimal side effects. They are widely used in other parts of China and are voluntarily accepted by people of childbearing age in Xinjiang. Allegations such as "forced sterilizations and forced insertions of IUDs" against Uyghur women and women of other ethnic minorities "as part of the efforts to reduce Uyghur population" are nothing but disinformation. For



■■■■ from Topluk Township, Aksu City



■■■■ from Zhanmin Township, Shufu County, Kashgar Prefecture



example, Turanisa Rahman, a mother of three from Lop County, Hotan Prefecture. Her children received free vaccinations such as those against hepatitis B and poliomyelitis. Now her three children are growing up healthy and happy. After having the third child, she decided to get an IUD at the local hospital after consulting her husband. She wants all her three children to receive good education, go to college, and maybe one day work and live in big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai.

**26. Xinjiang protects the lawful rights and interests of overseas Chinese nationals and their family members in accordance with law, cares for and supports the work and life of those living overseas.**

Xinjiang has fully implemented laws and regulations such as the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Returned Overseas Chinese and the Family Members of Overseas Chinese* and *Measures of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Returned Overseas Chinese and the Family Members of Overseas Chinese*. It has worked to improve laws, regulations and policies regarding identity verification, exit and entry, investment and entrepreneurship, education and housing, marriage and family related to overseas nationals, returned overseas Chinese and their family members living in China, to effectively safeguard the lawful rights and interests of overseas Chinese native of Xinjiang. Accusation of “intimidation, threat and retaliation against overseas Chinese from Xinjiang” is sheer fabrication. For example, returned overseas Chinese, their children, and the children of overseas Chinese nationals enjoy an extra 10 bonus points in the national college entrance exam and in admission exam for senior high school in Xinjiang; family members of returned overseas Chinese who work in new and high tech sectors are entitled to a 15% preferential tax rate, and a 20% preferential tax rate if

they start small or micro businesses. Returned overseas Chinese who serve as NPC deputies and CPPCC members have been encouraged to take part in the deliberation and administration of state affairs and to exercise democratic oversight; every year, their representatives have been invited to relevant meetings in Xinjiang to offer insights and recommendations. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Xinjiang government has sent health kits to overseas Chinese through China's embassies and consulates abroad, and held seminars on epidemic prevention and control to help protect the health of overseas Chinese. The Xinjiang government has also stepped up consular protection and assistance to protect the legitimate rights and interests of overseas Chinese, help solve their difficulties and problems through coordination, and care for and support their work and life abroad. For example, to set up online platforms for overseas Chinese from Xinjiang to be able to talk to their families in China, Xinjiang contacted 25 Chinese embassies and consulates abroad, including those in Kazakhstan, Türkiye and Germany, to hold 28 video conferences, during which overseas Chinese from Xinjiang met with their families online and shared with each other their work and life. Participants were appreciative of such opportunities created by the government to feel the changes of their hometowns, and expressed the wish for family reunions when the pandemic is over.

**27. Installing CCTV cameras in public places in Xinjiang is consistent with established international practices.**

In Xinjiang, cameras installed in public places including rural and urban public areas, main roads and transportation junctions have enhanced people's sense of public security and enjoy the support of people in Xinjiang. The measure is not designed against any ethnic group, as the cameras themselves cannot identify or target any particular group. Using modern technology and equipment to enhance social governance

is a common international practice. Back in 2010, as many as 4.2 million surveillance cameras, which accounted for one-fourth of the total number worldwide, were installed in the UK, covering almost all streets, roads and expressways of the country. In New York, a city-wide surveillance system built by the NYPD consists of monitoring devices all across the city, which target pedestrians and vehicles and track people's cell phones. A report from *The New York Times* in 2014 shows that according to confidential documents released by Edward Snowden, the National Security Agency has harvested huge numbers of images of people through its global surveillance operations for use in sophisticated facial recognition programs. This also helps the NSA find intelligence targets around the world. How come that when modern technologies are used in Western countries, they are regarded as reasonable, but when they are used in Xinjiang, they become tools of "surveillance against ethnic minorities" and "human rights violation"? This is naked double standards.

**28. Xinjiang safeguards the rights to exit and entry of people of all ethnic groups in accordance with law.**

Xinjiang has earnestly implemented laws and regulations including the *Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China* and the *Passport Law of the People's Republic of China*, and the lawful rights and interests of overseas Chinese, including the ethnic minorities of Xinjiang, have been protected in accordance with law. Xinjiang has never imposed any restriction on the normal rights to exit and entry of any ethnic group, including the Uyghur population. Individuals, regardless of their ethnicity, are free to exit and enter China, as long as they are not banned from leaving the country on grounds of suspected crimes. For overseas Chinese, as long as they are Chinese nationals and have not violated China's laws and regulations, they can apply to the Chinese embassy or consulate where they live for renewal or replacement of



Citizens with passports exiting the country going through border check at Horgos port

passports. In fact, most renewal or replacement applications made by people from Xinjiang have been approved so long as they are in line with relevant requirements. Only a very few, which are found to be inconsistent with China's legal provisions, including those of individuals who have engaged in or are suspected of involvement in terrorist activities, have been denied approval. There are no such things as "refusing to renew or replace passports for Uyghurs living abroad in order to force their return".

**29. Xinjiang protects the freedom of correspondence of people of all ethnic groups in accordance with law.**

Article 40 of the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that freedom and confidentiality of correspondence of citizens of the People's Republic of China shall be protected by law. Except in cases necessary for national security or criminal investigation, when public security organs or procuratorial organs shall examine correspondence in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, no organization or individual shall infringe on a citizen's freedom and confidentiality of correspondence for any reason. Article 252 of the *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that whoever conceals, destroys or unlawfully opens another person's letter, thereby infringing upon the citizen's right to freedom of correspondence, if the circumstances are serious, shall be sentenced to fixed-term imprisonment of not more than one year or criminal detention. Xinjiang protects the freedom of correspondence

of people of all ethnic groups in accordance with the Constitution and other laws. Correspondence between people of all ethnic groups and their relatives, at home or abroad, is free and normal. People in and outside China can contact one other through letters, international calls, and instant messaging apps such as WeChat and QQ for audio and video chats.

As for some overseas claims that people had “lost contact” with their family members in Xinjiang, after investigation and verification, most cases fall within the following scenarios. First, some individuals from Xinjiang went abroad to join the ETIM, and their relatives in Xinjiang do not want to come into contact with them. Second, in a few cases, the relatives in Xinjiang are suspected of criminal offence and therefore are still under investigation; in accordance with law, they are not allowed to contact others. Third, some overseas Chinese lost contact with relatives in Xinjiang because they had the number wrong or had changed number without informing each other. Fourth, stories about “losing contact” or “being detained” were invented by ETIM members attempting to incite anti-China activities and some individuals from Xinjiang who became radicalized or were coerced by hostile forces. For instance, [REDACTED] head of the “Uyghur American Association” and nephew of [REDACTED] former head of the “World Uyghur Congress”, said at a press conference held by anti-China organization “Alliance for the Promotion of Religious Freedom in China” as well as in media interview that his father [REDACTED] had been “arrested” and was probably dead. The truth is, [REDACTED] lives a normal life in Urumqi, and the son has been in constant contact with the father.

**To sum up, respecting and protecting human rights is a basic principle enshrined in the Constitution of China, and has been fully demonstrated in the counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Xinjiang. In the fight against**

terrorism and extremism, Xinjiang has protected people's freedom of religious belief, personal freedom and normal contact between family members in strict accordance with the Constitution and other laws. As the dividends of stability are fully unleashed, people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including the Uyghur population, are enjoying higher-level, more secure and more sustainable rights to subsistence and development, and leading happy and harmonious lives. Anti-China forces in the US and the West, however, have tried to obstruct and undermine the progress of human rights in Xinjiang under the pretext of "protecting human rights". Pretending to care about the human rights condition of the people of various ethnic groups there, their real aim is to destabilize Xinjiang and suppress China. Such despicable plots are doomed to fail.

## Conclusion

Facts speak louder than words, and truth is not to be tampered with. Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts have achieved remarkable outcomes. Taking stock of its practice, we can draw the following conclusions:

**(1) Xinjiang adheres to the principle that everyone is equal before the law, and the accusation that its policy is “based on ethnic discrimination” is groundless.**

The *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* stipulates that “All ethnic groups of the People's Republic of China are equal. The state shall protect the lawful rights and interests of all ethnic minorities and uphold and promote relations of equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony among all ethnic groups. Discrimination against and oppression of any ethnic group are prohibited; any act that undermines the unity of ethnic groups or creates divisions among them is prohibited.” The principles and the spirit of the Constitution are fully embodied in Xinjiang's fight against terrorism and extremism, which never targets any particular region, ethnicity or religion, but aims to realize the equal rights of all ethnic groups. This is the purpose and the goal of Xinjiang's counter-terrorism and de-radicalization policy. The allegation that the policy is “formulated based on ethnic discrimination” is untenable, and is a gross distortion and smear of Xinjiang's efforts.

**(2) The counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Xinjiang have been all along conducted on the track of the rule of law, and are by no means the alleged**

**“suppression of ethnic minorities”**. Xinjiang’s fight against terrorism and extremism follows clearly specified legal and policy framework, complies with the spirit of anti-terrorism conventions and documents of the United Nations, and is consistent with international human rights law. The Constitution and other laws of China as well as regional laws and regulations of Xinjiang all strictly define the authority and responsibility of the legislative body, the judicial organ and the law enforcement agencies. These authorities have exercised their legal mandate in strict accordance with the laws of China and relevant judicial interpretations and under rigorous legal supervision in accordance with law. The allegations of “massive detention”, “arbitrary detention” and “abuse of justice” are unfounded.

**(3) The vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang are learning facilities established in accordance with law intended for de-radicalization, and are by no means the so-called “concentration camps”**. The centers mainly teach the national language, laws and regulations and vocational skills to achieve the goal of de-radicalization, with the aim of educating and rehabilitating people influenced by religious extremism and involved in minor crimes or violations of law. The centers put people first, exercise standardized management, and provide people-centered services, with no restriction on trainees’ personal freedom, freedom of correspondence or cultural rights. This has been confirmed by the many accounts of graduated trainees. The groundless allegations that “millions of ethnic minority people are detained”, “male trainees receive brutal torture and female trainees suffer sexual assault” and “trainees are subject to mandatory sterilization, removed of their liver and kidney, and abused to death” are nothing but sensational fake news fabricated by anti-China forces in the US and the West manipulating several “actors”.

**(4) The lawful rights and interests of workers of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang**



**are protected, and there is no such thing as “forced labor”.** The various labor rights and interests of ethnic minority workers from Xinjiang are protected under Chinese laws. They are free to choose their profession, and decide on where to work and which job to take of their own will. Their personal freedom has never been restricted, and their rights and interests in terms of religious belief, ethnic culture and spoken and written language use have been fully safeguarded. Relevant enterprises have provided them with favorable working and living conditions, to ensure that they live and work at ease and their families rest assured. Anti-China forces in the US and the West, however, have deliberately distorted Xinjiang’s practice of helping ethnic minority people get stable employment, lifting them out of poverty and increasing their incomes as “forced labor”. Their aim is to deprive the ethnic minority workers of their right to employment, which amounts to “forced unemployment” and “forced impoverishment”. It is such attempts that truly infringe upon human rights.

**(5) Xinjiang has earnestly safeguarded the human rights of people of all ethnic groups through the combat against terrorism and extremism, and there is no such thing as “massive violations of rights”.** Terrorism and extremism are enemies for safeguarding human rights. Cracking down on them is a protection, not violation, of human rights. In the combat against terrorism and extremism, the rights of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including their right to life and safety, freedom of religious belief, right to labor and employment, right to free entry and exit and freedom of correspondence have been fully protected. Some international organizations and foreign officials have turned a blind eye to these facts, but focused instead on the human rights condition of the terrorists and extremists who committed heinous crimes, willingly serving as their umbrella and spokesperson, and even openly endorsed and cheered them on. These organizations have pit themselves against justice and human

conscience. They have failed to take an objective, fair and just stance expected of them, and discredited and disgraced themselves.

We call on the international community to be clear-eyed about the truth of the combat against terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang, and see through the clumsy performances and malicious motives of anti-China forces in the US and the West, who attempt to use Xinjiang to contain China. The international community needs to make the right choice between justice and evil, brightness and darkness, and progress and retrogression.

We suggest that UN human rights agencies and other international organizations should investigate the human rights disasters caused and numerous crimes committed by the US and some other Western countries both at home and abroad. It is important to bring to light the problems in these countries, such as ignoring the life and health of their people, condoning racial discrimination, persecuting aboriginal inhabitants, abusing immigrants, bullying and showing hostility to Muslims, and abusing force and sanctions against other countries and triggering humanitarian crises. These countries should be urged to compensate the victims of human rights violations.

We encourage people with a just stance from the international community to visit Xinjiang, so as to see and feel for themselves what Xinjiang is truly like — with economic growth, social stability, better livelihoods, cultural prosperity, ethnic unity and religious harmony. They will then witness a Xinjiang totally different from the one portrayed by anti-China forces in the US and the West. We are also willing to further share the realities about Xinjiang so that the world will get to know Xinjiang as it truly is.

