

Draft Testimony of Kalbinur Sidik
(CECC Hearing on Forced Organ Harvesting)

Honorable Chair, distinguished members, and respected committee members:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

My name is Kalbinur Sidik. I am from our homeland, Uyghuristan (East Turkistan), from the city of Ürümchi. I am a witness to the detention camps, and I am ethnically Uzbek.

For 28 years, I worked as a Chinese language teacher and held important administrative positions at Ürümchi City No. 24 Elementary School. Never did I imagine that one day I would be forced to teach inside a detention camp, or that I would become a witness to the crimes committed by the Chinese Communist Party against Uyghurs and other minority peoples.

Today, I stand before you to speak about atrocities, including the possibility of forced organ harvesting. I will

tell you only the truth — only what I personally witnessed and experienced.

In March 2017, I was sent under a six-month contract to teach in a men's camp located on a mountain in Sangfanggou Village No. 5, Ürümchi City. The authorities told us we would be teaching "students" in a literacy training course. But they were not students. They were prisoners.

They were fathers, young men, businessmen, religious figures, intellectuals, people from all walks of life, and ordinary citizens. There were also elderly men among them. They had been taken from their homes and imprisoned behind barbed wire, triple iron gates, surveillance cameras, armed guards, and locked cells.

Every Monday, no classes were held for the detainees. Instead, blood was drawn from them. They were given unidentified injections. Afterwards, they were given small white pills. Chinese nurses told me, "These are vitamins or calcium supplements. Since the detainees never see sunlight, the government ordered us to take care of them this way."

But I did not believe them.

How could a government that imprisoned, starved, tortured, and humiliated these people suddenly care about their vitamins? No, that was impossible. At that time, and even now, I believe there was another purpose behind it.

I also witnessed healthy men disappearing.

I clearly remember one man named Osman. He was active in class and eager to learn. He was a wealthy businessman and appeared very strong and healthy at first. Among hundreds of people, I could easily recognize his face. Then one day, he disappeared.

When I asked what had happened to him, I was told he suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes and had died on the way to the hospital.

There was another man who sat at the far end of the first row in the classroom. He too was hardworking, and I still remember his face vividly. Later, he also disappeared. I was told he died from “kidney poisoning.”

I did not believe these explanations.

Every day in the classroom, detainees were constantly replaced. Older and stronger prisoners were taken away, while new ones arrived. Familiar faces disappeared, and we were expected to accept whatever explanation the guards gave us.

Later, when I testified before parliaments in various countries, I was asked about the disappearance of detainees and organ harvesting. I told them what I had heard while working in the camps.

The special police driver who transported me, and the police officer assigned to accompany me, often talked among themselves. They said:

“Right now in our country, the ‘halal organ trade ’is booming. The detoxification center in Michuan, Ürümchi, has now become an organ transplant center.”

I did not witness the surgeries. I did not personally see organs being removed. But I heard these conversations.

Later, after hearing my testimony, a close relative and friend of mine living in Europe — married to a foreigner — spoke to me on the condition of anonymity. She personally told me that the Michuan “detoxification center” had indeed been transformed into an organ extraction hospital.

In 2018, she and her foreign husband were sent there for medical examinations before leaving for Europe. During that process, she saw many young detainees wearing prison uniforms lined up under heavy Chinese police supervision, entering designated rooms. She also observed that the number of doctors had increased greatly, and that doctors were carrying unusual containers in their hands as they exited the rooms.

She told me this with her own mouth and begged me to speak about it in my testimony.

So for the second time, I heard directly from someone I personally knew — someone who claimed to have seen with her own eyes that this place had become an organ harvesting hospital.

In the camps, I witnessed blood collection from detainees, injections, forced medication, disappearances, and the secrecy surrounding everything.

Therefore, if you ask me today whether I believe the Chinese Communist Party turned Uyghurs in the camps into a source of profit through a so-called “halal organ trade,” my answer is:

“Yes. Yes. A hundred times yes.”

While I was in these camps, I witnessed horrors beyond words.

Chinese police humiliated detainees to a level no human being should endure. They stripped them of their humanity. They did not call them by their names, but by numbers. They tried to break their minds, destroy their faith, and erase their dignity.

Let me tell you more about what I witnessed, so that the world will never forget the genocide taking place in East Turkistan.

When I first entered the men's camp, I walked into a building surrounded by barbed wire, electric doors, armed police, soldiers, and locked gates.

The detainees were brought out from their cells. Chains and shackles were on their hands and feet. Many still had unshaven beards because they had only recently arrived. Their eyes looked at me with desperation — as if I had come to save them.

But I could not save them. I could not even help them. Guards surrounded me everywhere.

The cells were dark. The windows were sealed shut. The detainees slept on bare concrete floors with only a thin blanket. For all three meals, they received only a small Chinese bun and watery rice soup.

They were allowed to use the toilet only for very short periods of time.

During the entire six months I was there, they were never once allowed to bathe.

Their bodies weakened. Their faces changed. Healthy people became thin, pale, and exhausted.

I taught four hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon — sometimes even four additional hours during inspection periods.

But gradually I realized the purpose there was not education. The purpose was control.

Later, detainees were forced to memorize “red songs,” patriotic songs praising the Chinese Communist Party and Xi Jinping, and political slogans. The detainees were forced to praise the same Communist Party that had imprisoned them. They were forced to express gratitude toward the very system destroying them.

During lessons, police would call detainees out not by name, but by number, and take them for interrogation. The interrogation room was next to the classroom. Shortly after they were taken away, heartbreaking screams could be heard.

They were tortured with devices such as electric batons, electric “tiger chairs,” electric gloves, and electric helmets.

After my six-month assignment in the men’s camp ended, I was sent to a women’s camp located in Tugong, Saybagh District, Ürümchi.

There I saw many women and girls. Most were highly educated. Their hair had been cut short. They wore gray prison uniforms with blue numbered vests over them. Their faces were pale and lifeless.

About 90 percent of these detainees were between 18 and 40 years old. The remaining 10 percent were older women, some even in their seventies and eighties.

These women and girls were also given medication and unidentified injections. As a result, many of them completely stopped menstruating.

Some had studied abroad. During lessons, they were forced first to thank the Chinese Communist Party and government before telling their stories.

One woman said she had recently given birth and still had a nursing baby, but her breast milk had stopped.

Another young woman said she had been preparing for marriage when she was suddenly taken to the camp, and that she no longer even knew where her fiancé was. Yet she was forced to thank the government for providing such a “good opportunity” to learn the “national language.”

Others said they had been taken directly to the camp immediately after returning from studies abroad.

From the way these women painfully sat and stood, I could sense the severe abuse they had suffered. Tears constantly streamed from their eyes.

In this camp, I heard about rape and sexual violence committed by Chinese police. I heard that guards used electric batons and other weapons to abuse detainees.

I personally witnessed the body of a young girl, around 18 to 20 years old, being carried away before my eyes. I later heard that she had bled to death.

Outside the camps, the control continued.

The Chinese government placed so-called “Chinese paired relatives” — Han Chinese men — inside the homes of Uyghur women, especially in homes where husbands had been taken to camps. Even in their own homes, these women faced various forms of abuse and humiliation.

People were afraid to speak. Phones were monitored. Relatives abroad became a source of danger.

My daughter was in the Netherlands, and we lived constantly in fear and anxiety.

Under pressure from neighborhood committees and assigned police officers, we were also forced to undergo sterilization procedures at Changleyuan Hospital in Tianshan District. Even though I did not want this, I had no choice.

My safety and the safety of my family depended on obeying government demands.

That is why I say: we no longer had ownership over our own bodies.

Because of time limitations, I will end my testimony here.

I am one of the fortunate few who managed to escape after enduring tremendous suffering.

The people inside the camps cannot speak to you. They have no way to make their voices heard.

I am standing here today, at enormous personal cost, to tell you this truth — because the men who disappeared, the women who were abused, the mothers separated from their babies, and the families destroyed by this genocide need witnesses.

Honorable Chair, distinguished leaders, and committee members:

I ask you not to turn your eyes away from this tragedy.

The horrific violence taking place in East Turkistan is not merely a crime. It is part of a system that sees Uyghurs — the original inhabitants of that land — as less than human.

This is genocide.

The world once said, “Never again.” Yet in East Turkistan, it is happening again.

I ask the United States Congress never to forget the Uyghur genocide. I urge you to continue investigations and hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable.

Thank you.

— Kalbinur Sidik