**RFA Uyghur Service Journalists with Detained Family Members** *April 3, 2018*

Six U.S.-based journalists with Radio Free Asia’s Uyghur Service have reported members of their family in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region being detained and disappeared by Chinese authorities. RFA’s staff has reported that these relatives are held in re-education camps, which act as open-air detention facilities holding thousands of Uyghurs at a time. Four of the six RFA staff members are U.S. citizens\*.

RFA’s **Shohret Hoshur**’s brothers Shawket Hoshur and Rexim Hoshur, both of whom were jailed from August 2014 until their release on Dec. 30, 2015, were detained again in September 2017. Shawket Hoshur and Rexim Hoshur are now being held in the Qorghos County re-education camp. Mr. Hoshur’s younger brother Tudaxun Hoshur, who was sentenced in 2015, remains jailed in Qarabughra prison. Shohret has heard from family members in the XUAR who have told him they were contacted by Chinese authorities urging them to ask Mr. Hoshur to stop calling inside China. (The State Department and its leadership were instrumental in efforts to obtain Shawket Hoshur and Rexim Hoshur’s previous release from detention in 2015.)

The whereabouts of many of RFA’s Uyghur Service journalists’ relatives remain unknown, as is the case with RFA broadcaster **Gulchehra Hoja**’s brother Kaisar Keyum and her ailing father Abduqeyum Hoja. Mr. Keyum was taken into custody by Chinese police in October 2017 from the Tengritagh District. Ms. Hoja’s father, who was hospitalized, and mother, are both unreachable. It is suspected that they, too, are in custody. Ms. Hoja is also concerned for her extended family – as many as 20 relatives – who may have been detained and are being held in undisclosed locations. When her brother was detained, police told Ms. Hoja’s mother that Ms. Hoja’s employment with RFA was the reason for his detention. Ms. Hoja has heard that the relatives may have been detained for being in communication with her through a WeChat group, according to a cousin whom she was able to contact.

***UPDATE (3/12) After a more than a month of not knowing their whereabouts, Ms. Hoja’s parents are now in contact with her. Her father has been in the hospital under "police supervision." Ms. Hoja’s mother, her aunt and up to two dozen members of her extended family were in detention camp. After the first nine days in detention during which she was handcuffed, Ms. Hoja’s elderly mother was deemed ill enough to be sent to the medical ward of the detention center. Eventually, she was transferred out of the center to the hospital where Ms. Hoja’s father had been this entire time under police-supervised medical care. (Ms. Hoja was finally able to contact both her parents on March 10.) But her aunt and two dozen family members are still missing and incommunicado, presume to be held by authorities in detention.***

RFA Uyghur Deputy Director **Mamatjan Juma** reported that his brothers Ahmetjan Juma and Abduqadir Juma were detained in May 2017. The whereabouts of Ahmetjan, who has a family and a toddler son, are unknown. Abduqadir was taken to Urumqi No. 1 Prison, a facility known for incarcerating political prisoners in Miquan County, Urumqi. Abduqadir suffers from heart and health issues that require medical care. His sister was denied access to him in prison. The family is deeply concerned about his health and well-being while being held in a prison known for its inhumane conditions. [Note: we have no information as to whether his brothers’ detentions and imprisonment are related to Mr. Juma’s work for Radio Free Asia]

RFA Uyghur broadcaster **Kurban Niyaz’**s youngest brother Hasanjan Niyaz was arrested in May 2017 in Bugur County, and in July sentenced to six years in jail. He was accused of “holding ethnic hatred.” Mr. Niyaz’s other relatives in the XUAR have been visited by police, who have questioned them about Mr. Niyaz and another U.S-based brother. [Note: we have no information as to whether Hasanjan’s arrest or the harassment of his other relatives is connected with his work with RFA]

RFA Uyghur broadcaster **Eset Sulaiman**’s older brother, Ehet Sulaiman, a school principal, his mother-in-law Saadet Kichik and father-in-law Memteli Sopi (both pensioners) were detained in October 2017 and sent to one of the political re-education camps in Qomul City (Hami). Sopi suffers from high blood pressure and is in need of medication. [Note: we have no information as to the motivation of the detentions.]

Broadcaster **Jilil Kashgary**’s brother’s wife, with which has been in regularly touch, has been detained and sent to a re-education camp. Members of his extended family, all in Ghulja, have also been detained. [Note: we have no confirmed information as to the motivation of the detentions.]