



A CALL FROM TURKISH POETS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

“Apologize to the people of Eastern Turkestan and all of humanity due to your actions incompatible with human dignity!”

It seems that you consider an enemy every neighbor that you cannot conquer or assimilate. First you wanted to possess the lands of the Uyghur Turks in 711, yet you did not succeed. Many years have passed, but never did you abandon your ambition.

In 1949, you occupied Eastern Turkestan. Over years of occupation, you ran an oppressive regime with inhumane policies. You encouraged the Han Chinese to migrate to Eastern Turkestan as a way of assimilating the Uyghur population, all while killing more than half a million people, confiscating the properties of mosques and religious institutions, and banning education, books, and music in the Uyghur language.

In 2016, you escalated this oppression to the level of sheer nightmare for the Muslim peoples of the region, undertaking an “ethnic and cultural genocide” in Eastern Turkestan. You went to great lengths to “Sinicize” Uyghur, Kazakh, and Uzbek Muslims. The intelligentsia were imprisoned, people were subjected to forced displacement, sacred values were trampled upon, and places of worship were destroyed. You regarded as crimes conducting a traditional funeral, having more children, and not attending “mandatory propaganda courses.” You stood against humanity and maintained your cruelty despite the proof and condemnation by international organizations of your secret detention centers in which you imprisoned millions of Uyghur Turks.

We question and warn the nations that have remained silent in the face of this oppression in Eastern Turkestan, and the organizations attached to the United Nations, and the global human rights organizations controlled by the Chinese lobby:

Is it possible to remain silent in the face of such flagrant violations of the human rights people were born with and struggled for? Unless the heartbreaking cry of Eastern Turkestan is heard, can humanity rise from where it has fallen?

We the poets assert our voice by saying “no, never!”

Let it not be forgotten: where there are people, there is poetry, and poetry speaks for human values regardless of religion, language, race, class, or gender. We, the poets, have never lost our faith in the power of poetry to stand against oppression. Poetry must always be more awake, more vigilant than anything else. Poetry responds more quickly than anyone to wherever people are oppressed,



subjected to violence, face-to-face with death. Poetry calls on humanity to stand up, to be on the side of rights and justice and people who are oppressed and wronged. For Eastern Turkestan, where you have tried to destroy innocence itself, we call on you, the People's Republic of China: abandon this "Chinese torture" you are inflicting on innocent men, women, children, even babies! Cease this genocide without any delay.

Apologize to the people of Eastern Turkestan and all people whose rights you have abused without regard for human dignity.

Do not forget that the sky is at an equal distance for everyone. We all look at the same sky, and your crimes fill the sky. You must know very well that if the pains you caused the Uyghurs were to be written on paper (invented by your ancestors), all the paper and ink in the world would not suffice.

It is now in your hands, whether or not you wish to remain a disgrace in the book of humanity, that great text written letter by letter.

Return to that great wisdom that invented the kite. Only then can we write together poems of brotherhood under blue skies! Let us read together with our children poems of brotherhood, peace, and goodness, gazing upon blue skies in which kites fly in freedom...

Poets From Turkey Call For Global Solidarity With Eastern Turkestan

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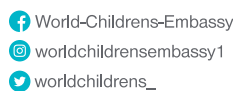
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