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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 May 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Investigation on the issues related to Human Rights protection in the practice of religion de-radicalization in Xinjiang

We have noticed that, the practice of religion de-radicalization in Xinjiang has recently been criticized by some countries and human rights organizations. Actually, there are many misunderstandings and prejudices in these criticisms. The international community should hear more voices on the issue of religion de-radicalization in Xinjiang.

Since 1990s, religious extremism has spread widely in Xinjiang. They deceitfully used people's ethnic identity and religious belief to instigate religious fanaticism. They spread religious extremism such as "die for their belief in order to enter heaven", and incited the common people to join in violent and terrorist activities. The spread of religious extremism in Xinjiang seriously violated the basic human rights of the masses in Xinjiang. In addition, religious extremism incited the masses to create social division and became a hotbed of violent terrorist activities.

The proliferation of religious extremism in Xinjiang has seriously interfered in other people's freedom of religious belief. In Xinjiang, religious extremists force others to believe in religious extreme thoughts, and treat all those who do not follow the path of extremism as pagans and scum, urging their followers to verbally assault, reject, and isolate non-believers. We have noticed that in some parts of Xinjiang, especially in the rural areas of southern Xinjiang, there has even been an atmosphere in which you have the freedom to choose your religion, but you have no freedom to choose not to believe in it, and people who do not believe in Islam are marginalized, isolated and even brutally murdered.

The proliferation of religious extremism in Xinjiang has seriously violated women's basic human rights. Religious extremists claim that, Muslim women who do not obey their husbands will be expelled from their home, and women cannot go out alone, learn scientific knowledge, or work outside. We have observed that, in rural areas where religious extremism is prevalent, women's equal rights within the family are largely deprived. Women's personal freedom and reproductive choices are greatly restricted. Women's right to education is violated. Many Uighur female students are not allowed to study even admitted to university. A survey shows that 65 percent of women in southern Xinjiang surveyed have no personal income and 42.5 percent cannot spend money alone.

The proliferation of religious extremism in Xinjiang has seriously violated the basic human rights of children. We have noticed that, the dropout rate of primary and secondary schools in southern Xinjiang is much higher than that in the mainland, and even exceeds 30 percent in some regions.

Religious extremism in Xinjiang have taken various means to create social confrontation and social division. Religious extremism generalizes the "Halal" concept, preaching a life without TV, radio and newspaper, forbidding people to weep at funerals or laugh at weddings, artificially creating ethnic differences and social divisions.

The religious extremist forces in Xinjiang distorted religious doctrines, advocated "die for their belief in order to enter heaven" and spurred violent terrorist activities. According to the data, separatist, terrorist and extremist forces launched thousands of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang killing large numbers of innocent people and hundreds of policemen.

We have noticed that, the Chinese government has established a relatively perfect de-radicalization legal and regulatory system, which providing a powerful legal weapon for the identification and disposal of religious extremism. In 2015, the National People's Congress passed the Counterterrorism Law of the People's Republic of China and the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China (Amendment 9). In June 2018, a multi-department jointly issued the Opinions on Certain Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases Involving Terrorism and Extremism. On this basis, Xinjiang has promulgated the Regulations of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Religious Affairs, the Measures of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Implementing the Counterterrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, and the Regulations of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on De-radicalization. The promulgation of various laws and

regulations has effectively guaranteed the de-radicalization work to be carried out on the track of the rule of law.

We have noticed that, the Chinese government has followed the principle of the rule of law strictly and safeguarded the basic human rights of relevant personnel in the process of combating religious extremism. Ringleaders, core members, and major offenders who are held accountable for organizing, planning and implementing violent, terrorist and religious extremist crimes are punished in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Counterterrorism Law of the People's Republic of China and the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China. In the judicial process, judicial organs in Xinjiang protect the defendants' right to defense and the right to use their own language in litigation to guarantee procedural justice and protect basic civil rights.

We have noticed that, the establishment of the education and training center has legal basis and conforms to international human rights principles. According to the relevant provisions of the Counterterrorism Law of the People's Republic of China, the State shall provide education to help reform their ways to people who were incited, coerced or induced into participating in terrorist or extremist activities, or people who participated in terrorist or extremist activities in circumstances that were not serious enough to constitute a crime.

We have noticed that, the school-based management model adopted by the education and training center can guarantee the human rights of the trainees effectively. The centers' curricula consist of standard spoken and written Chinese language, law, vocational skills, and courses on the eradication of extremism. The centers have sufficient teachers to ensure the quality of education and training. Although the centers implement boarding management, the trainees' personal freedom is not restricted. The education and training centers have perfect leave system that students can go home once every two weeks. The centers fully respects the customs and habits of trainees of different ethnic groups and provides halal meals to those in need. In accordance with the Law, the Center adopt a policy of separating education and religion, the centers Trainees may not organize and participate in religious activities at the centers.

We are pleased to find that the practice of religious de-radicalization has achieved good result in recent years. The phenomena that religious extremism interfere in other's religious beliefs, schooling, employment, marriage has been effectively reduced. Violent and terrorist incidents have been greatly reduced, and the basic human rights of the public have been effectively safeguarded.

The practice of religious de-radicalization has guaranteed the freedom of religious belief of the people in Xinjiang effectively. We have noticed that, with the development of religion de-radicalization, the phenomena that religious extremism interfere in other's religious beliefs has been greatly reduced.

The practice of religious de-radicalization has guaranteed women's human rights effectively. Data show that in the past five years, 1.14 million rural women have left the family to work in northern Xinjiang and even in other provinces and cities in China. By 2018, women's income contribution to rural households has reached 40%.

We have noticed that, the practice of religious de-radicalization has greatly reduced the dropout rate of children. A large number of students have returned to school.

We have noticed that, the practice of religious de-radicalization has effectively promoted the realization of people's rights to development. Through the vocational skills training by the education and training centers, trainees can master one or two vocational skills. The employment rate of the trainees after graduation has been greatly improved, effectively realizing their own right to development.

The practice of religious de-radicalization has effectively eliminated the breeding ground of terrorism and has guaranteed the right to life and health of people of all nationalities. Over the past two years, the public security in Xinjiang has improved significantly and no further violent terrorist incidents have occurred. With the improvement of public security, more than 150 million Chinese and foreign tourists visited Xinjiang in 2018, an increase of 40% compared with 2017.