



GHULJA MASSACRE

26 years ago, on February 5, 1997, Uyghur demonstrators in Ghulja took part in a non-violent protest calling for an end to religious repression and ethnic discrimination in the city. After violently suppressing the demonstration, Chinese authorities arbitrarily detained large numbers of Uyghurs. Human rights organizations documented a pattern of torture in detention and unfair trials of detained Uyghurs. For their alleged role in the events, several Uyghur participants were executed.

Meshrep is a traditional Uyghur male gathering that typically consists of social, religious, and cultural activities such as music, dance, the recitation of poetry, the teaching of basic principles of our religion, or simple conversation, as well as organized sports.

AFTERMATH

Rather than supporting this initiative, they arrested the organizers. On February 5, 1997, the youths took to the streets to demand their release and the rights and freedoms that Uyghurs were constitutionally entitled to. The peaceful protest turned into a so-called "riot" according to state media; the Chinese military opened fire on the unarmed protesters on the street. **It was a massacre.**

Each of Meshrep organizers has either been tortured and killed, or is still serving their sentence in prison.

25 years after the Ghulja massacre, there has been no accountability for the atrocities committed that day or the months after. In fact, China continues to hunt down every Uyghur who had a connection to that movement and is punishing them by sending to concentration camps as well as millions of others detained in concentration camps since 2016

These and countless other unreported instances of oppression serve as testimony to the fact that China is systematically trying to erode Uyghur ethnicity: mentally, spiritually, culturally, and physically.



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