

## Basic Facts about the July 5<sup>th</sup> Violent Crimes in Urumqi and the Chinese Government's position

I) On 5 July, highly violent crimes involving beating , smashing, looting and arson took place in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. A large number of innocent civilians and armed policemen were killed and many others were injured. Facts have fully shown that these are premeditated and organized crimes of violence, directed and instigated by separatists abroad and organized and carried out by separatists inside the country. The World Uyghur Congress headed by the ethnic separatist Rebiya Kadeer made an issue of an incident in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province and directly instigated, orchestrated, directed and staged these highly violent crimes. The government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region paid great attention to the situation. Police were speedily deployed to protect people's life and property, maintain social stability and restore public order. The situation has now been brought under control.

II) On 26 June, a brawl broke out between workers from Xinjiang and local workers in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province. It was an ordinary case of public order and was properly handled. The World Uyghur Congress, an overseas East Turkestan organization, used that incident to vilify China's ethnic and religious policies in an attempt to create publicity and stir up trouble.

Some people with ulterior motives inside China acted in collusion with the World Uyghur Congress. They played up the Shaoguan incident and made a lot of noise on the internet. On the evening of 4 July, messages appeared on the internet, calling for a gathering at the People's Square and South Gate in Urumqi at 5pm on 5 July, to answer the call from the World Uyghur Congress for a demonstration. Text messages were sent in large numbers to ask people to gather in Urumqi. The World Uyghur Congress incited troublemakers through the internet and other channels to "be braver" and to "do something big". Rebiya Kadeer clamored for "a big event in Urumqi on 5 July" and urged people to "follow closely the developments and collect relevant information".

Organized and orchestrated by ethnic separatist elements abroad, over 200 people gathered at the People's Square in Urumqi at about 6:20pm on 5 July. They were later persuaded to leave by the police. At about 7:40pm, 300 people blocked roads at Renmin Road and South Gate. They were asked to leave by the police. At about 8:18pm, some people started beating, smashing and looting. They pushed over guard rails and smashed three buses before they were dispersed by the police. At around 8:30pm, rioters set ablaze a police car at Longquan Street, Jiefang South Road. They also chased and beat passers-by. Seven to eight hundred people moved to Big West Gate and Small West Gate along the square. They continued their

sabotage activities along the way. The situation was gravely escalated. Rioters divided themselves into different groups and took different routes, wreaking havoc in streets, alleys and the area connecting the city and the countryside. They tried to kill any Han person within sight, and smashed to set fire to stores and vehicles.

To protect people's life and property and safeguard law and order in Urumqi, the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region speedily deployed police to those places where the situation was grave. The police acted resolutely in accordance with the law. They sent in small teams to rescue people across the downtown area and search for criminals. By evening of 6 July, the public security authority has arrested and detained over 1000 suspects in accordance with the law.

The violent crimes involving beating, smashing, looting and arson have inflicted heavy losses for life and property. At 220 sites, the rioters set fire to buildings, smashed or burned vehicles, and killed people. The cruelty of their deeds was abhorrent. According to updated figures so far, 1080 people were injured and 156 killed, including 57 who were beaten to death right on roads or alleys. The ethnicity and gender of those killed are being identified by medical experts. The death toll is still rising. About 260 vehicles were destroyed, including 190 buses, about 10 taxis and around 50 other vehicles. Approximately 203 shops with a total floor space of 6,300 square meters were affected, 14 private residences ruined and buildings of various types with a total floor space of 56,850 square meters burned by the rioters.

III) Transport and public order in Urumqi have now returned to normal. History has repeatedly shown that stability is a blessing and chaos is disaster. Without stability, nothing is possible in Xinjiang. We are unequivocally against ethnic separatism, violence and terrorism. Unity among people of all ethnic groups, social harmony and stability represent the highest interests of the Chinese nation, the 21 million people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang included. Xinjiang today enjoys development and prosperity. The good situation has not come easily. Actions taken by the Chinese government against the recent violent crimes are completely lawful and justified. It is doing what any responsible government is obliged to do under any similar situations. The Chinese government will redouble its effort to ensure that people of all ethnic groups will continue to work as one for common prosperity and development.

IV) In the last days following the violent crimes in Urumqi, ethnic separatist Rebiya Kadeer and her likes have been trying every means to confound black and white by spreading political lies. Their trick is to try to clear themselves of their evil acts, vilify the image of the Chinese government and mislead the American public. We sincerely hope that the innocent people in this country will see through the true nature of those people who are committed to violence, terrorism and separatism, and understand and support the just action of the Chinese government.