

**China Cases, 1970-2012**  
**Last Updated: 10 October 2016**

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T155	EAST TURKISTAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION		1996	2011
T156	ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF EAST TURKESTAN	2008	1990	2008
T2230	14 K TRIAD		1945	1998
T525	UYGUR HOLY WAR ORGANIZATION		2000	0
T639	TURKISTAN ISLAMIC PARTY		2008	2008

**I. ETIM**

**Min. Group Date:** April 5, 1990

**Max. Group Date:** Oct. 28, 2013

**ACD Onset:** 2008

**Category:** Onset before Tibetan separatists

**ACD Onset:** Yes

**Aliases:** East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Islamic Movement of East Turkistan, Eastern Turkestan Islamic Party (ETIP)

**Transnational:** Yes

**Location:** Kashgar region, Xinjiang Province

**Ideology:** Sufi Islam

**Goal:** separatist group

**Ethnic Group:** Turk/Uighurs/Uyghurs

**External Support:** Al-Qaeda and Taliban

**State Response:** assassination, show of force, military exercises, arrests, increase in security budget

**Part 1. Bibliography**

- Beina Xu, Holly Fletcher, Jayshree Bajoria, "East Turkestan Islamic Movement," Center for Foreign Relations, CFR, 2014, <http://www.cfr.org/china/east-turkestan-islamic-movement-etim/p9179>
- Philip Potter, "Terrorism in China: Growing Threats with Global Implications," Strategic Studies Quarterly, Winter 2013, [http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/digital/pdf/winter\\_13/2013winter-Potter.pdf](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/digital/pdf/winter_13/2013winter-Potter.pdf)
- Chien-peng Chung, "China's War on Terror: September 11 and Uighur Separatism," Foreign Affairs, 2002, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/asia/2002-07-01/chinas-war-terror-september-11-and-uighur-separatism>
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- Uran Botobekov, "China's Nightmare: Xinjiang Jihadists go global," <http://thediplomat.com/2016/08/chinas-nightmare-xinjiang-jihadists-go-global/>
- UN Security Council. "Security Council Committee Pursuant to Resolutions 1267, 1989, and 2253 Concerning ISIL, AQ, and Associated Individual Groups," Narrative Summaries Sanctions Committee, ETIM, 2011, [https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/aq\\_sanctions\\_list/summaries/entity/eastern-turkistan-islamic-movement](https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/aq_sanctions_list/summaries/entity/eastern-turkistan-islamic-movement)
- TOPS ID, 4347

## **Part 2. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

ETIM was first mentioned around 2000 in a Russian newspaper, but reports of violence by Uighur separatists emerged in 1990 (CFR 2014; Foreign Affairs 2002). Chinese media reports ETIM formed in 1997 after Hasan Mahsum and Memetuhu Memetrozi met together (CFR 2014). The stated goal of ETIM is to establish an independent Turkish state across parts of Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) (CFR 2014). The group supports transnational operations. Although they primarily target Chinese sites in and around Xinjiang, they have also set-up bases in the other countries they lay a claim to (Potter 2013, 73). The Chinese government labels ETIM a violent Islamic group and there is some evidence the Uighurs would like to establish an Islamic state (Refworld 2006).

### **Geography**

**Location:** Kashgar region, Xinjiang Province

### **Organizational Structure**

ETIM members are primarily Uighur - an ethnic minority which speaks Turkish and is predominantly Muslim (Foreign Affairs 2002). Hasan Mahsum led the group until his assassination in 2003 following which Abdul Haq led the group until 2010 (CFR 2014). A 2011 estimate of the group argues it has 200 people with a "sophisticated" organizational structure and access to advanced weaponry (UN 2011).

### **External Ties**

The group seems inspired by Islamic groups in central Asia like IMU and JIG although it's unclear if there are any direct relations (Foreign Affairs 2002). There are numerous reports it secures ties and support from Al-Qaeda. Bin Laden pledged funds to ETIM and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan in 1999. They also receive sanctuary and external support from the Taliban (UN 2011). It's thought that AQ supplies money, weapons, and support today although ETIM leader Mashum denied in 2002 that they received any organizational support from AQ or the Taliban (CFR 2014). The sophistication and tactics involved in attacks, primarily since the mid-2000s heavily imply the group is coordinating with Al-Qaeda (Potter 2013, 75).

### **Group Outcome**

China calls ETIM a terrorist group as the communist government fears China could splinter if regional separatist movements gain support. Chinese counterterrorism primarily involves threats to use force as well as increased military presences in and around Xinjiang (CFR 2014). Since 2002, the PLA has conducted military exercises in Xinjiang with Russia and other central Asian countries as a partner of the global war on terror (CFR 2014; Potter 2014). HR groups argue China uses CT tactics as a pretext for repression (CFR 2014). Repression and military crackdowns increased in 2008 as Chinese officials were preparing for the Beijing Olympics (Potter 2013, 78). At the same time, Abdul Haq instructed ETIM groups to target cities with car bombings (UN 2011).

### **Part 3. Proposed Changes**

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1990/1997

Group End (Outcome): 2012? (active?)

II. 14k Triad

Min. Group Date: 1945

Max. Group Date: 2008

Aliases: 14 K Triad, Wan Kuok-Ki, Broken Tooth

#### **Part 1. Bibliography**

- Times, <http://time.com/10445/hong-kong-triads-have-lower-profile/>
- IPSN, <http://www.ipsn.org/asg08107.html>
- Mike Carlie, [http://people.missouristate.edu/michaelcarlie/storage/asian\\_triads.htm](http://people.missouristate.edu/michaelcarlie/storage/asian_triads.htm)
- BBC, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/569620.stm>

#### **Part 2. Narrative**

##### **Group Formation**

The 14K Triad is an Asian gang operating out of Hong Kong and involved in drug trafficking and other illicit activities (Carlie nd.). It is unclear when they were founded, although Triads date back to the 17th Century when their initial goal was to oppose the Chinese regime (ISPN 1997). It is unclear why they are given a “mingroudate” of 1945 here.

### **Geography**

Hong Kong

### **Organizational Structure**

Their primary tactics involve extortion, money laundering, and drug-trafficking (Carlie, Times). It is unknown who their current leadership is or the organizational structure of these cartels.

### **External Ties**

The triad has ties to other criminal organizations operating in and around Hong Kong. It may have transnational operations in mainland China, Macau, and the UK (Times). The group became less active after the 1997 handover of Hong Kong (BBC).

### **Group Outcome**

The group became less active after the 1997 handover of Hong Kong, but they may still exist (BBC).

### **Part 3. Proposed Changes**

Aliases: None

Group Formation: “17th Century”

Group End (Outcome): 2012? (active?)

### **III. Uyghur Holy Organization**

Min. Group Date: 2000

Max. Group Date: 2012

Aliases: Uighur Holy War Organization.

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

TOPS 3691

- “US labeling of group in China as Terrorist is Criticized,” New York Times, Sept. 13, 2002, <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/13/world/us-labeling-of-group-in-china-as-terrorist-is-criticized.html>
- searched gscholar, google, proquest, lexis with name + dates + for more without luck

No information could be found about this group. It is not listed on GTD.

## **Part 2. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

No information could be found about this group apart from TOPS. It is not listed on GTD.

### **Geography**

No information could be found about this group. It is not listed on GTD.

### **Organizational Structure**

No information could be found about this group. It is not listed on GTD.

### **External Ties**

No information could be found about this group. It is not listed on GTD.

### **Group Outcome**

No information could be found about this group. It is not listed on GTD.

From TOPS:

Almost nothing is known about the Uyghur Holy War Organization, but the struggle from which they emerged is well-documented. The Uyghurs of Xinjiang province in Southwestern China have long had a complicated relationship with their rulers in Beijing. At various times throughout their history, the Uyghurs, Muslims of Turkic background, have enjoyed freedom of religion and some degree of self-rule. But since the Chinese Communists came to power, Xinjiang has come much more directly under the control of the majority Han Chinese who rule the country. The Communist disdain for religion has provided much fodder for disagreement, for example, when local Party officials refused to allow a mosque to be constructed in the city of Kashgar. Violations of human rights by Communist forces have also been widely reported, especially concerning the violent suppression of Uyghur protests. Beginning in the late 1980's, some Uyghurs began to turn to terrorism in an effort to convince Beijing to grant them autonomy.

Bombings and assassinations have plagued Xinjiang ever since, and the separatists even took the fight to the enemy, bombing the Chinese capital three times in the spring of 1997. Since September 11, 2001, Chinese officials have begun to crack down even more openly on the Uyghurs, arguing that they are contributing to the "Global War on Terrorism."

The Uyghur Holy War Organization may have existed for only one day - November 21, 2001. On that day, Uyghur separatists claiming membership in the organization raided a police station, killing the director, and the home of a judge, who was stabbed along with his wife. No further acts of terrorism have been claimed by, or attributed to, the Uyghur Holy War Organization, and none is expected in the future.

### **Part 3. Proposed Changes**

Aliases: Islamic Holy Warriors

Group Formation: 2001

Group End (Outcome): 2001 (unknown)

#### IV. East Turkestan Liberation Organization

Min. Group Date: 1996

Max. Group Date: 2011

Aliases:

Sharq Azat Turkistan, Eastern Turkistan Liberation Organization, East Turkistan Liberation Organization, ETLO

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

- TOPS 3588
- "China - East Turkistan," Refworld Australia Refugee Review Tribunal, 2006, <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4b6fe1430.pdf>
- Murray Scott Tanner, "China's Response to Terrorism," CNA Analysis and Solutions, 2016, [http://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Research/Chinas%20Response%20to%20Terrorism\\_CNA061616.pdf](http://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Research/Chinas%20Response%20to%20Terrorism_CNA061616.pdf)
- Global Security, "East Turkestan Liberation Organization," <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/etlo.htm>
- J. Reed and Diana Raschke, *ETIM: China's Islamic Militants and the Global Terrorist Threat*, 2010, Praeger Security
- "Mehmet Emin Hazret," World Heritage Encyclopedia, [http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/mehmet\\_emin\\_hazret](http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/mehmet_emin_hazret)
- <https://search.proquest.com/docview/257721756/4B4D29026FCA4AF5PQ/1?accountid=14026>

## **Part 2. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

ETLO is a separatist group from Xinjiang Province in China fighting for secession against the PRC (Global Security 2011). The group was allegedly founded in 1996 by Mehmet Emin Hazret (Global Security 2011).

### **Geography**

Kashi City and Urumqi

### **Organizational Structure**

ETLO is primarily composed of ethnic Uighurs. Not much is known about its organizational structure or size. There are allegations Chinese officials exaggerate the group's capabilities in order to justify their counterterrorism policies (Global Security 2011). ETLO funds itself through robberies, ransom, and external support from Al-Qaeda (Reed and Raschke 2010, 36). They may have originally trained in Chechnya (Reed and Raschke 2010, 36).

ETLO had a series of prominent attacks in 1998 where they poisoned a number of civilians in Jashi Citizen and Urumqi. They also had some incidents in Turkey indicating they have transnational bases of operations (World Heritage). They also allegedly shot the leader of the Kyrgyzstan Uighur Youth Alliance in March 2000 (Global Security 2011). The group disavowed the use of terrorism in 2003, but argued a military wing may be necessary in order to establish credibility about their cause. The group has not been heard from since 2005 (Reed and Raschke 2010, 36).

### **External Ties**

Despite having a similar name to the ETIM, Hazret denies coordination with ETIM, Al-Qaeda, and bin Laden (Reed and Raschke 2010 36). Unlike ETIM, ETLO is a secular organization (Reed and Raschke 2010, 44).

### **Group Outcome**

After 2001, China launched a massive crackdown against all Uighur separatists including the ETLO (World Heritage).

## **Part 3. Proposed Changes**

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1996

Group End (Outcome): 2012? (active?)

From TOPS:

The East Turkistan Liberation Organization (ETLO) is one of several ethnic Uyghur groups operating in central Asia and the Chinese province of Xinjiang. The Uyghurs, Muslims of Turkic descent, have had a tumultuous history with successive Chinese dynasties and governments. Although the Uyghurs have at times enjoyed autonomy and freedom of religion, their relationship to the current Communist regime in China has been rife with conflict. The ETLO is suspected to be an ally of the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an organization dedicated to the foundation of an Islamic State in Xinjiang. Although East Turkistan technically refers to the Chinese province of Xinjiang, some believe that these Uyghur militants are seeking to create a state that includes parts of Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Pakistan in addition to Xinjiang. Russia and China have blamed the ETLO for several small attacks in both China and Central Asia, as well as the assassination of the First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy and a Uyghur Kyrgyz citizen, in Bishek, Kyrgyzstan. However, Kyrgyz authorities disagreed, stating that the primary target of the attack may have been the Uyghur businessman the diplomat was traveling with. It is still possible that the attack was committed by Uyghur or other Islamic militants, but definitive group attribution is very difficult. Many analysts claim that Russian and Chinese authorities exaggerate the potency of the Uyghur groups to justify their repressive "counter-terror" policies. According to the State Department, the ETLO is responsible for a series of small politically-motivated bombings and armed attacks. In a radio interview, the leader of the ETLO claimed that a military wing was necessary to show people that his organization was serious. The ETLO has also been implicated in many small-scale attacks by non-Chinese and non-Russian sources, including Turkish and Kyrgyz authorities, who have nothing to gain by assigning responsibility to ETLO. China has called for the ETLO to be designated a terrorist organization by the United States and UN.

Much debate exists regarding the ETLO's links to al-Qaeda, Osama bin-Laden, and the Taliban. However, according to the Global Defense Review, both ETLO and ETIM are "widely acknowledged" to get funding and training from al-Qaeda. Although the ETLO has only been responsible for several small terrorist attacks at present, it is probable that their members will mount more attacks in the future. The ETLO's current goal continues to be the foundation of an Islamic state in Xinjiang province, an unlikely possibility given China's dedication to crushing Uyghur militancy in all its forms.

V. Turkestan Islamic Liberation Party

Min. Group Date: 2008

Max. Group Date: 2008

Aliases: Turkistan Islamic Party, Turkestan Islamic Party, TIP, TIP (China), ETIM

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

- Central Asia Caucuses Analyst, “Turkistan Islamic Party Increases Its Media Profile”, 2014,  
<https://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/12909-turkistan-islamic-party-increases-its-media-profile.html>
- East Turkestan Islamic Party,  
<http://islandora.wrlc.org/islandora/object/auislandora%3A11373/datastream/PDF/view>

### **Part 2. Narrative**

#### **Group Formation**

Note: This is an alias for ETIM and does not appear to be a separate organization.

#### **Geography**

Note: This is an alias for ETIM and does not appear to be a separate organization.

#### **Organizational Structure**

Note: This is an alias for ETIM and does not appear to be a separate organization.

#### **External Ties**

Note: This is an alias for ETIM and does not appear to be a separate organization.

#### **Group Outcome**

Note: This is an alias for ETIM and does not appear to be a separate organization.

### **Part 3. Proposed Changes**

Aliases: ETIM

Group Formation: None

Group End (Outcome): None

Themes

- Groups are distant from each other, but both differ from central government in terms of ethnicity and religiosity
- Shock – 2008
  - Tibetan violence/immolations begin again in 2008
  - ETIM violence escalates in 2008 spurred by police custody death of Mutallop Hajim
  - Technically both border each other
  - China researcher at HRW says they're not technically connected to each other, but 'reflection of the fact that current policies governing ethnic matters are not working'
- Types of groups
  - Ethnic
  - Separatist
  - Religious differences
  - Periphery?