

Rebiya Kadeer

Rebiya Kadeer, 61, is a human rights activist and former businesswoman. An advocate for the rights of the Uyghur people in East Turkestan (aka Xinjiang Province in northwest China), she established a multimillion-dollar trading company and worked to provide opportunities for disadvantaged Uyghurs. Previously held up as a model of Uyghur success, she fell from government favor after she began calling upon the People's Republic of China government to change its repressive policies against the Uyghurs. Kadeer spent nearly six years in prison before being released to the U.S., after which she has continued advocating on behalf of Uyghur human rights. Kadeer's children and other family members have frequently been persecuted by PRC authorities in retaliation for her human rights advocacy.