

CHINA: Yingye'er re-education camp managed like prison (video)

New exclusive video details internal management regulations of the Yingye'er "transformation through education" camp in Xinjiang. Experts confirm that the rules are almost identical to those of a prison.

By Massimo Introvigne

Bitter Winter (11.12.2018) – <https://bit.ly/2SLeFyZ> – At the end of November, Bitter Winter posted an exclusive video about the large-scale Yingye'er "transformation through education" camp for Uyghurs in Yining city of Xinjiang. The video has drawn a lot of attention throughout the world. We now present another video about the same camp, detailing its internal management rules and regulation.

The rules and regulations are posted on public signboards displayed in the corridors of the camp and detail a variety of internal management issues, such as the security of the camp, the code of conduct of "students" and personnel, as well as provisions regarding the inmates' communication with families. According to public security personnel, some of these rules and regulations are almost identical to the management regulations of prisons.

The instructions regarding the security of the camp state, "The section needs to make overall arrangements of armed police officers, public security personnel, security guards, and other forces." In fact, armed police officers and public security personnel are part of the state security forces. So, if Yingye'er camp were an ordinary vocational school, the daily routine of providing safety would only require regular security guards.

The "Code of Conduct" for 'students,' posted on the "class affairs board" in the corridor, contains 26 regulations. Among these, article 23 is especially worth mentioning: it requires "students" to address armed police and special police as "police officers" and address teaching cadres as "training officers." The requirement is notably similar to the code of conduct used for prison inmates.

One of the responsibilities for teachers requires them to "strive hard to study Marxism-Leninism and Chairman Mao's thought," "adhere to the Party's basic line," and teach students a "proletarian philosophy."

As per the regulations, the responsibilities of the headmaster and Mandarin Chinese teachers include the indoctrination of students through ideological and political education. The rules state that, basically, only the students who speak Uyghur are required to learn Mandarin.

In a recent interview with Bitter Winter, an employee of another "transformation through education" camp revealed that all Uyghur detainees are forced to learn Chinese. "But even if

an Uyghur manages to get a perfect score in Chinese, he or she will not be allowed to leave the camp,” revealed the employee.

The regulations of the Yingye'er camp include detailed provisions regarding contacts between “students” and their families, which are extremely restrictive. Phone calls between them must be applied for and approved, and the length of each phone call is usually limited to under five minutes. The rules require that phone calls must be “personally registered, personally dialed, and personally monitored” by members of the staff. The use of “code words and secret language” during conversations is prohibited. Inmates who do not comply with these rules will be punished with deprivation of family phone call privileges from one to six months based, depending on a situation.

Article 1 of the regulations states that “anti-extremism” should be incorporated within the content of “heart-to-heart chats,” and emphasizes that through such chats, “staff should gain a multifaceted understanding of students’ ideological dynamics and strive to discover emerging and tendentious intelligence information and clues.”

Our reporter has also discovered a room with a sign on the door “zhēnbié shì (Screening Room).” The original meaning of the Chinese word zhēnbié (screening) is “to differentiate and distinguish,” which emphasizes carrying out the assessment, examination, identification, and verification cautiously and seriously.

One of the most probable explanations for the function of this

screening room could also lie in the interview with the employee of another “transformation through education” camp, mentioned earlier. He states that all detainees are divided into four levels of supervision: lenient, ordinary, strict, and enforced. According to him, special teams regularly screen “students” to determine whether they have signed a statement of repentance and “admitted their guilt.” An assessment is then conducted, and students who do not pass are sent to a detention center. Therefore, most probably, the screening room at the Yingye’er camp is used to evaluate the degree of “transformation” and “reform” of students.

Although CCP’s propaganda strives to conceal the truth, a growing body of evidence shows that the CCP authorities are carrying out large-scale persecution and suppression of Muslim Uyghurs. In its external communications, the CCP refers to “transformation through education” camps as “schools.” The factual materials our reporter has collected confirm that in terms of both internal structure and management regulations, this “transformation through education” camp is, in fact, a prison.

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