

Rebiya Kadeer

Public face
of the Uighur
nation

Born in city of
Altay, northern
Xinjiang, China,
January 21,
1947



■ **1980s-90s:** Rises from poverty to become successful entrepreneur, running trading companies and department stores in provincial capital Urumqi. Becomes one of richest women in China. Uses her wealth to help fellow Uighurs in Xinjiang

■ **1995:** Appointed to ***Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference***. Sent as envoy to ***UN World Conference on Women***

■ **1996:** Harassed by authorities after husband ***Sidik Rouzi*** – campaigner for Uighur rights – flees to U.S.

■ **1999:** Detained trying to meet U.S. Congressional delegation. Charged with endangering state security

■ **2000:** Given eight-year prison term

■ **Mar 2005:** Released from prison on medical grounds following pressure from U.S. Exiled, now lives in Washington suburb from where she leads ***World Uighur Congress***