



Press Clips

Protest and violence in Xinjiang Province, China

On June 25th two Uyghur factory workers were killed by Han Chinese in China's southern Guangdong Province. On July 5th thousands of Uyghurs in China's Northwestern Xinjiang province publically protested this killing as well as their ill treatment and reluctance by the Chinese government to address their concerns. This protest was blocked by Chinese police and quickly became violent leading to almost 200 mostly Han Chinese deaths ([Death toll in Xinjiang riot rises to 156 China Daily July 7th, Is China fraying? The Economist July 9th 2009](#)). Rebiya Kadeer, leader of The World Uyghur Congress, a Uyghur exile organisation, was blamed by the Chinese government for masterminding this violence as an act of terrorism ([Government: evidence shows Rebiya Kadeer masterminds violence China Daily July 10th](#)).



Chinese government demands film be dropped

On July 10th 2009 the [Melbourne International Film Festival](#) announced the screening of [The 10 Conditions of Love](#) featuring a Q&A with the director Jeff Daniels and subject of the film Rebiya Kadeer who was a guest of the festival. That same day the Chinese Consulate in Melbourne called Richard Moore, director of the festival, demanding he not screen this film or invite Ms. Kadeer as they deemed her a terrorist and mastermind of recent violence in Western China. This news made front page headlines throughout Australia

and internationally ([Uyghur activist film row CNN July 16th](#), [Beijing pressures film festival to dump documentary *The Age* July 15th](#), [7:30 Report ABC TV](#), [Rebiya Kadeer row engulfs Melbourne film festival *The Guardian* July 15th](#), [China orders Australian film-makers to drop Uighur documentary *The Times* July 16th](#)).

Chinese filmmakers withdraw films in protest

Chinese government condemnation of Rebiya Kadeer as the mastermind of this violence followed by news that a film about her was to be screened in Melbourne became widespread news throughout China ([Chinese films quit Melbourne festival over Kadeer film *China Daily* August 27](#), [China criticizes Australia over Kadeer visa *China Daily* August 4th](#)). After receiving phone calls from Chinese Communist Party officials, three Chinese filmmakers pulled their films out of the festival in what they call a protest to Kadeer's attendance at the event. One of the Chinese filmmakers who directed the controversial film *Petition*, about the unaddressed grievances of Han Chinese by their government, withdrew his film without comment. His French producer was careful to comment "lest the film's director be harassed by police in China." ([China runs true to type in snubbing film festival *The Age* July 23rd](#))

Soon after 4 other Chinese films withdrew in similar protests. ([Chinese directors protest film on Uighur's Kadeer *Time Magazine* July 24th](#), [China Central Television July 24th](#), [Tit for tat: Chinese films pulled from festival *Sydney Morning Herald* July 22nd](#), [Uighur tensions show up at Australia film festival *Los Angeles Times* July 25th](#), [Chinese melt away in the face of Uighur presence at festival *The Australian* July 23rd](#)).

Chinese 'patriots' hack into MIFF website

Shortly after news that Chinese filmmakers pulled out of the festival, Chinese hackers broke into the MIFF website putting a Chinese flag on its homepage with statements such as "We like film, but we hate Rebiya Kadeer" ([Chinese hack into film festival site *The Age* July 26th](#), [China-based cyber attack hits Australia Film Festival site *The Washington Post* August 2nd](#), [Hackers clash over China's rule in Muslim province *PC World* August 14th](#),). Soon hackers

overwhelmed the site preventing online ticket sales which cost the festival over AU\$50,000 ([Second Cyberattack on Australian festival *The New York Times* August 2nd](#), [Film Festival hacked *CNN* July 27th](#), [Chinese hackers circulate email on how to hack film website *The Age* August 1st](#)).



We like film, but we hate Rebiya Kadeer!
We like peace, and we hate East Turkistan terrorist!
Please apologize to all the Chinese people!
Hacked by oldjun!

The 10 Conditions of Love suddenly became an international symbol of artistic and political expression ([We are all Melbournian *The New Yorker* July 27th](#)). The controversy highlighted the purpose and importance of film festivals ([Withdrawals lead to program rethink *The Age* August 1st](#), Public outcry at what appeared to be a Chinese government provoked attack on Australia's freedom of expression was displayed in articles and TV news around the world ([Australian Film Festival Hacked, Japan Next? *The Wall Street Journal* July 27th](#), [China pressures film festival *CNN* July 27th](#), [Politics come before lights and camera *The Age* July 27th](#)).

The 10 Conditions of Love is finally screened



After arriving in Australia, Rebiya Kadeer met the press to talk about the film and China's response ([Uyghur activist at premiere CNN August 5th](#), [China's Public Enemy The Wall Street Journal August 7th](#), [Uighur leader to launch film in spirit of peace The Age August 5th](#), ['We're all Melbournians': Uighur leader controversy goes global The Age August 5th](#), [Kadeer finds support at Melbourne Film Festival NDTV August 5th](#)).

The film made front page news again when Rebiya Kadeer led a protest at the Chinese consulate the day before the film's screening

with a hundred other Australian Uyghur exiles ([Call for Australia to stand up to China The Australian August 7th](#)). At the same time Chinese officials threatened Melbourne's Lord Mayor with ending Tianjin's long sister city relationship if the screening went ahead ([China's new film threat The Age August 8th](#)).

Sudden overwhelming demand by filmgoers to see *The 10 Conditions of Love* prompted festival organisers to plan a second preview screening and move the original screening to the prestigious Melbourne Town Hall. 1000 additional tickets sold out in less than 4 hours ([Controversial Uyghur film a festival sell-out The Age July 27th](#)).

Finally on the night of the screening, with a strong police presence, 1700 people lined up around two blocks to see the film and ask Rebiya Kadeer questions ([Kadeer hopes for democracy and freedom AAP August 9th](#), [Australian local news reports](#)). The screening ended with a standing ovation as international press hovered over Rebiya Kadeer and the film's Director Jeff Daniels and Producers John Lewis and Dennis Smith. Press from various countries told their own versions of the film's reception ([A dull show by Rebiya Kadeer Xinhua News August 10th](#), [Film Festival in the Cross Hairs The New York Times August 9th](#)).



The controversy continues

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After Rebiya Kadeer's appearance at the screening of *The 10 Conditions of Love* her invitation to speak at Australia's National Press Club was met with more condemnation and pressure from the Chinese government ([Call for press club ban: Chinese pressure media *The Australian* August 11th](#))

Since Ms. Kadeer's visit to Australia its relations with China have been "challenging" as Prime Minister Kevin Rudd puts it ([Australia-China tie 'challenging' *BBC* August 20th](#), [Different approaches *The Economist* August 20th](#), [We decide who gets visa: PM *The Australian* August 22nd](#), [If crossing the dragon's path tread warily *The Age* August 24th](#)) The Chinese government has made other attempts to prevent the broadcast of *The 10 Conditions of Love*. In New Zealand, indigenous broadcaster Maori TV sought to screen the film on their station feeling it struck a cord with native New Zealander's historic struggle to maintain their culture and land title.

Again the Chinese government stepped in, demanding the station not broadcast the film, but instead their own documentary proving Rebiya Kadeer's involvement in the July 5th violence in Western China. Maori TV was stunned by this request and flatly refused to pull *The 10 Conditions of Love* from their schedule ([China wants Maori TV to show riot film *New Zealand Herald* August 11th](#), [China finds scapegoat for bloody unrest *New Zealand Herald* August 22nd](#), [Chinese Embassy asks Maori TV to pull controversial doco *3 News* August 16th](#)).

In Taiwan government officials were outraged when the film *Miao Miao* a Taiwan-China coproduction was withdrawn by Chinese producers from the Melbourne International Film Festival. Taiwanese government officials were not consulted over this decision and clamoured for the screening of *The 10 Conditions of Love* everywhere in Taiwan as a matter of national pride to protect their stance on freedom of expression and human rights ([Why Taiwan must show 'The 10 Conditions of Love' *Taiwan News* August 7th](#), [Now for the overseas fifth column *Taipei Times* August 27th](#)).

Today the film awaits news of selection to film festivals around the world. Invitations were sent to the film's producers from film festivals throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia including the Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea and even Hong Kong.

Editorials and opinions on the issue

[Courage of her convictions *The Australian* August 8th](#)

[Bullying tactics on film will rebound on Beijing *The Age* August 8th](#)

[Australian government disappoints with Kadeer visa *Global Times* August 10th](#)

[A dull show by Rebiya Kadeer *Xinhua News* August 10th](#)

[Uighurs must fight for rights within China *The Australian* August 13th](#)

[Chinese film whispers *News.com.au* August 14th](#)

[Who provide stage for Rebiya Kadeer? *Global Times* August 14th](#)

[Maori TV strikes a blow for democracy *New Zealand Herald* August 15th](#)

[Coalition sure of one thing: it's Rudd's fault *The Australian* August 22nd](#)

[Filmmakers, festivals under attack *San Francisco Chronicle* August 23rd](#)

Further Information

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[Uyghur American Association](#)

[World Uyghur Congress](#)

[True Xinjiang](#)

[Xinhua News Agency \(Chinese government news\)](#)

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