

# Importing for shahit.biz

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“Importing” for shahit.biz means taking testimonies (videos or written text) that are publicly available online and inputting the information presented therein into the submission form at [www.shahit.biz/eng/#submit](http://www.shahit.biz/eng/#submit). It does **not** involve direct translation or transcription, though for the cases where the original info is not in English, the translation is done implicitly by the importer to an extent.

Here is a screenshot of the form, together with explanations of what should go in the fields:

Xinjiang Victims Database [About](#) [Testimonies \(3862\)](#) [Submit](#) [Pending \(72\)](#) [Statistics](#) [Search](#) [Export](#) [Supporters](#) English

Please use the form below to submit your testimony, which will be posted as soon as we have reviewed and approved it.

**Testifying party (a little about the person testifying)**

**Are you submitting this testimony for someone else?**

No, this is my testimony  Yes, I'm submitting for someone else

**Relation to victim (the victim is the testifier's...)**

**About the victim (tell as much about the victim as you like)**

**Victim's location (where is the victim now, if known)**

**When victim was detained (approximate also okay)**

**Reason given for detention (if known)**

**Victim's status (if known)**

**How did the testifier learn about the victim's status?**

**Additional information (if any)**

**Tags (victim)**

Age:

Gender:

Ethnicity:

Location:

Detention type:

Detention time:

Detention reason:

Health status:

Profession:

**Chinese ID No. (if known/applicable)**

**Your e-mail (for us to contact you only, if needed; will not be disclosed)**

**Supplementary files:** You are strongly encouraged to submit supplementary files, such as photos or documents, to help document and prove the victim's identity and situation. Please send these to [info@shahit.biz](mailto:info@shahit.biz) from your specified e-mail above and we will include them in your testimony.

[Submit Testimony](#)

**Testifying party:** Write as much relevant information as you can about the person delivering the testimony. For video interviews, this is the person on camera who is testifying for the victim. For textual sources (media/NGO reports), you may list yourself as the testifier and mention the original source later (in the additional information, for example).

**Are you submitting this testimony for someone else?:** For video imports, the answer is always “Yes, I’m submitting for someone else” (since you are not the person in the video). If you are importing the contents of a written report/story and choose to list yourself as the testifier, then you may keep this as “No, this is my testimony”.

**Relation to victim:** The standard form is “The victim is the testifier’s \_\_\_\_ [fill in the blank].”

**About the victim:** Write as much relevant biographical information about the victim as you can, *not including the details of their arrest*. In the case that their Chinese ID is not available, include their age or date of birth if possible. The victim’s full name is mandatory. If the victim’s address is known, please write it here as well.

**Victim’s location (optional):** If the testifier knows where the victim is physically (city, county, prefecture, etc.), then write it here. If their *hukou* or registration area is reported, feel free to give that and add that the victim is “presumably” held in the corresponding prefecture (in estimating a victim’s location, we generally assume that it is in the same prefecture as their *hukou*). Leave blank if unclear.

**When victim was detained:** When possible, give the reported time when the victim was first detained (whether that means camp, prison, house arrest, having their documents confiscated, etc.). Write “unclear” if unclear. If the victim went through several detention types (e.g., having their documents confiscated, then being placed in a camp, then being transferred to a factory, then being released to house arrest), list all of them here. Other details regarding the arrest may be written here as well.

**Reason given for detention (optional):** The testifier will sometimes say why the victim was detained, in which case write the reported reason here. If it sounds like the testifier is assuming or guessing without actually knowing, then feel free to write their guess/assumption but add that this is what the testifier is guessing/assuming. If the testifier reports an “ideological reason” (e.g., “arrested for being Uyghur”), then you may report this also but use quotation marks, or add the clarification “, according to the testifier.” Leave blank if unclear.

**Victim’s status (optional):** Where and how the victim is right now. Here, you can write what kind of detention they’re being held in, as well as other relevant information. If they have health issues, write those as well. Leave blank if unknown or not reported.

**How did the testifier learn about the victim’s status?:** Many testifiers don’t say this, but if they do, please write it here since it makes the testimony stronger. Write “unclear” if they don’t specify. If you are importing information from media or NGO reports and are listing yourself as the testifier, feel free to reference the reports (with the relevant hyperlinks) here.

**Additional information:** Anything else that you feel is relevant/important but hasn’t been mentioned in the other fields.

**Tags:** Tags are metadata used to categorize the victims and to facilitate analysis. Please note that the tags should not carry any *new* information not already mentioned in the main testimony above – they should be a summary of the testimony, and any information presents in the tags should be available/explained in the main testimony also. Exceptions are gender and ethnicity (which are often clear from the name and need not be stated explicitly in the testimony). In the

case when the Chinese ID number is available, there is also no need to specify the age in the main testimony as this information is inherent in the ID number.

**Chinese ID no. (optional):** Very important component that should be included whenever available. For the vast majority, this is an 18-digit number – the first 6 are the birthplace code, the next 8 are the date of birth, the 3 after are an identifier that is odd for men and even for women, and the last is a check digit (sometimes an X). First-generation ID numbers will be shorter, but are rare.

**Your e-mail:** This is not very important, but feel free to put your e-mail so that I know who did the import.

**Supplementary files:** No need to send anything, unless you feel like there's an exceptional case where you should. Photos of the victim are welcome, however. After you complete the import and we accept it, I'll add these and any relevant videos to the testimony myself.

*Please don't hesitate to ask if you're not sure about something!*

Other points to keep in mind:

- One victim = one testimony. Some testifiers will talk about multiple victims, in which case you should submit **one form for each victim mentioned** (you may of course copy+paste as needed).
- Some victims may have already been included in the database, and as soon as you get the victim's name, please put it through the search via the database search function at [www.shahit.biz/eng/#search](http://www.shahit.biz/eng/#search). If it's already in the database, there's no need to import this testimony – just let me know that it's a repeat and/or let me know about any new information about the victim that I could add to the existing testimony.
- The victim's full name is mandatory, and we cannot accept those testimonies that don't provide this information. If the testifier does not give the name or does not give it fully, do not import this testimony.
- Please avoid subjective or judgmental language when writing testimonies (e.g., "this **poor** mother now has to live without her son, who was **unjustly** locked away by Chinese authorities"). Our goal is to report the data as objectively as possible and let people decide for themselves what they think of this.
- Please avoid extrapolating or drawing conclusions from the information provided by the testifier. We may only report what the testifier says, even if it sounds unlikely or erroneous. In case you really feel the need to stress that a certain piece of information is delivered by the testifier, feel free to use quotation marks or phrases like "according to the testifier", "allegedly", etc. (e.g., "the victim was allegedly killed in prison", "according to the testifier, the victim was killed in prison", " "killed in prison" "). If you think that the testimony could benefit from your opinion/expertise and want to leave a note, please do so in [brackets].