

1. Why should we carry out “Visit the People, Benefit the People, and Bring Together the Hearts of the People”?

The Party Central Committee has always attached great importance to Xinjiang. In December 2013, the Politburo Standing Committee made a special study of work in Xinjiang, and General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered a significant speech, making an important judgment on the state of affairs in Xinjiang and issuing major plans for Xinjiang work under the new situation, clearly proposing that social stability and long-term peace and stability are the general objectives of Xinjiang work. In order to thoroughly implement the spirit of the Party Center and the important speech of General Secretary Xi Jinping, in February 2014, the Party Committee of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region decided to deploy 200,000 cadres at all levels to carry out a three-year “Visit the People, Benefit the People, and Bring Together the Hearts of the People” exercise (*fang minqing, hui minsheng, ju minxin*, 访民情, 惠民生, 聚民心, hereafter referred to simply as *fanghuiju* 访惠聚). This is the result of the Xinjiang Party Committee’s focus on the general objectives laid out by General Secretary Xi Jinping, a response to new challenges, a solution to get at the root of various complex problems in Xinjiang, and a strategic plan to stabilize and secure Xinjiang.

Carrying out *fanghuiju* is an urgent requirement to promote national unity and religious harmony. General Secretary Xi Jinping has clearly pointed out that “the most difficult and long-term problem in Xinjiang is the issue of national unity” and “the greatest mass work in Xinjiang is national unity and religious harmony.” Ethnic and religious issues are largely a matter of ideological understanding, and ethnic and religious work is typical mass work. It is necessary to use the method of education and guidance, and do patient and meticulous ideological and political work. To promote national unity and religious harmony, what is needed is to go to places where ethnic minorities live in concentrated communities. The most urgent task is to get at fundamentals, the most effective method is to go to the masses, face to face with the masses, and educate and lead the masses in the process of serving the masses.

To carry out *fanghuiju* is to deal with the special requirements of the complex situation of the “three overlapping periods.”¹ General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that Xinjiang is currently in an active period of violent terrorist activities, an intense period of anti-separatist struggle, and a painful period of interventional treatment.² To

¹ *San qi diejia* 三期叠加, shorthand for economic slowing and fiscal difficulties due to structural changes in China's economy.

² *Ganyu zhiliao* 干预治疗; this phrase is seemingly identical to the language used by Xi in a speech while visiting Xinjiang in 2014. Xi has also apparently called extremism a “virus” that spread like “contagion.” Other documents relating to detention and indoctrination of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang also use medical or pseudo-medical terminology. Especially when considered in light of the population control measures enacted by the Chinese government in Xinjiang, this type of language exhibits disturbing parallels with Social Darwinist and eugenicist language of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Ramzy, Austin; Buckley, Chris (2019-11-16). “Absolutely No Mercy”: Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims” and “Document: What Chinese Officials Told Children Whose Families Were Put in Camps” *The New York Times*. Adrian Zenz, “Wash Brains, Cleanse Hearts”: Evidence from

deal with the present special and complex situation, a multi-pronged and comprehensive approach is needed. In the end, the focus and the key are to strengthen the grassroots. Whether it is measures to strike hard and maintain high pressure [on the forces of separatism, extremism and terrorism], ethnic and religious measures, or measures to promote and educate the masses, the question is how to implement them at the grassroots level. We must effectively strengthen the grassroots, "organize Party branches on a company basis"³, mobilize the masses, and effectively fight a people's war. Organize cadres to go to the grassroots, incline to directing human, material, and financial resources towards the grassroots, implement hard and practical measures directly at the grassroots, focus on improving weak links, lay a solid foundation for Xinjiang, and resolve contradictions and problems at the grassroots level.

To carry out *fanghuiju* is an inevitable requirement for carrying out the second batch of mass line education and practical activities. In carrying out the large-scale maneuver of sending cadres down to the grassroots, we should adopt a different style, oppose the "four winds"⁴, and employ the style of leading and progressing. This fully embodies the requirements of improving work style and keeping close contact with the masses, and is a strong push for educational and practical activities.

To carry out *fanghuiju* is an important measure to strengthen the construction of cadre ranks in Xinjiang. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that "cadres are the most important factor in ethnic relations," which grasps the fundamentals of governing Xinjiang and profoundly clarifies the extreme importance of cadres in promoting democratic unity and doing a good job in Xinjiang, while also putting forward new and higher requirements for us to strengthen the construction of our cadre. If we want to truly build a contingent of high-quality cadres that are politically strong and able to withstand the tests of wind and waves, we must allow the majority of cadres to go to the frontline at the grassroots level and experience the complex environment. There are two main considerations: on the one hand, the guidance of more experienced cadres is necessary to promote the quality of grassroots-level cadres; on the other hand, it is necessary to let cadres receive training in frontline stability maintenance and serving the masses, so that they can grow up, become mature, and become competent as soon as possible.

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Chinese Government Documents about the Nature and Extent of Xinjiang's Extrajudicial Internment Campaign' *Journal of Political Risk*, Vol. 7, No. 11, November 2019.

³ *Zhibu jian zai lian shang* 支部建在连上, a quote from Mao Zedong on organization of the Party within the military

⁴ The "four winds" refer to "formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and waste."