

## THE DISAPPEARING LABYRINTH







A young girl wanders among a razed area. Children were seen happily playing in these places



Chinese tourists take photos of the demolition

## PHOTO & TEXT BY YUKI IWANAMI

KASHGAR, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region- Amid the swirling dust, one by one, the old mud brick houses were being torn down. This is the ancient city of Kashgar, capitol and westernmost area of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Kashgar has long been a Silk Road junction and continues to be the hub for Uyghurs around the region. Large scale bazaars still thrive throughout the city.

The Old City of Kashgar, an area about eight square km, is where the traditional Uyghur dwellings stand. The unique living environment has been the result of many

years of altercation and extensions, and the tangle of side streets conjures a feel of stepping into a mysterious labyrinth, making it a popular destination for tourists.

Under the banner of redevelopment, the Chinese government continues to evict the 65,000 households, or approximately 220, 000 Uyghur residents, and demolish the Old City. Parts of the city are planned to be conserved as a tourist attraction, but most of the area will be torn down.

For those who chose to move out, modern apartment houses were arranged in the outskirts of the city and new high rise apartments have already started to spring up where once the ancient dwellings stood.

Translation by Taro Konishi



A security camera stands among the new apartment blocks built for the evicted residents



The narrow alleyways are part of everyday life where peddlers sell their goods from carts





A resident watches as, one by one, the surrounding houses are taken down

## THE OLD CITY OF KASHGAR

A single house stands among a flattened area. Newly built apartment complexes can be seen in the background. Some residents continue to resist eviction







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