



## 7TH INTERNATIONAL EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL KICKS OFF



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# 7TH INTERNATIONAL EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL KICKS OFF

**The 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 7th International East Turkistan National Unity Council, organized by the International East Turkistan NGO Union (UDTSB), began today with an enthusiastic opening on October 5, 2024. The council is set to last for 4 days, from October 4 to 7.**

At the East Turkistan National Unity Council, concrete negotiations and consultations will be held regarding the future of the East Turkistan cause, its strategy, and solution proposals.

It is planned that the presidents and representatives of the East Turkistan Organizations from more than 30 countries in Turkey and around the world, parliamentarians, politicians, representatives of civil society organizations, scholars, opinion leaders, and academics from Turkey and various countries will participate.

Representatives from Turkey and various parts of the world arrived in Istanbul on the evening of October 4 to attend the meeting. That evening, a welcoming ceremony was held in Istanbul.

The President of the East Turkistan Education and Cooperation Association, Hidayet Oghuzkhan, stated on his X

account: "The 7th International East Turkistan National Unity Council and the 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting began this evening in Istanbul with a welcoming ceremony, attended by NGO representatives, members of parliament, journalists, and other distinguished participants from Turkey and various countries around the world."

The official opening ceremony of the meeting began on Saturday, October 5, at 9:30 AM, with a recitation of the Quran and the singing of the East Turkistan National Anthem. Hidayet Oghuzkhan delivered the opening speech. Following his speech, representatives from East Turkistan organizations and several invited guests also delivered remarks.

Countries Expected to Participate include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, USA, Canada, England, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocco, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Turkistan people to self-determination was ruthlessly taken away from them, and their freedom and independence were disregarded. This occupation by China not only seized our lands, but also marked the beginning of a brutal colonial and genocidal project aimed at destroying thousands of years of Turkish heritage.

After occupying East Turkistan, China







# 7TH EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL FINAL DECLARATION

Unity of East Turkistan that started in Istanbul on October 04, 2024, ended successfully on October 07, 2024.

East Turkistan Organization leaders, opinion leaders and special representatives, journalists, diplomats, ambassadors, political party representatives, parliamentarians, researchers, and writers from 31 countries, including Turkey, the Middle East, South Asia, countries, Europe, the USA, the Arab world, African countries, India and Japan, came together with the same thought and will.

The National Unity Council, hosted by the International East Turkistan NGOs Union between October 4-7, took into

account the current status and future of the East Turkistan cause, and determined strong steps and multi-faceted strategies to be taken in line with the principle of independence.

The program, which began at around 10:00 a.m. on October 7 with the greeting speech of opinion leader Abdulkadir Yapçan, featured the Australian East Turkistan Society President Adem Turan, Filanda Uyghur Civilization Center President Muhammed Ali Atavullah, East Turkistan Nuzgum Culture and Family Association President Münevver Özüygür, as well as the Malaysian Muslim Students Union Representative Ridvan Bey, and Terpedan Institute President Naufell



Ubeydullh, who made separate speeches to express their feelings.

While the final declaration regarding the workshops held afterwards was being made, guests from different countries of the world were invited to the stage, and the final Declaration of the 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 7th East Turkistan National Unity Council was read.

The 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 7th International Council of National Unity of East Turkistan were held in Istanbul between October 4 and 7, with the participation of over 200 guests from 31 countries. In addition to the participation of the elites, opinion leaders, and organization representatives of the East Turkistan diaspora living in various countries of the world, more than 50 politicians, members of parliament, diplomats, statesmen, academics, youth leaders, and civil society representatives attended.

The 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 7th International Council of National Unity of East Turkistan were held with the main theme of "10 Years of the Xi Jinping Era: Genocide, Results, and Impacts.". The leaders of the East Turkistan cause, heads of organizations, academics, politicians, and human rights defenders made detailed and comprehensive analyses on the assimilation and colonial policies that have been continuing in occupied East Turkistan for 75 years and the genocide policies that continue today. In

this council, negotiations were held within the framework of the following headings based on six main topics.

1. National Impact of the Genocide: Characteristics, Results and Effects
2. The Threat of Expansionist China in Asia
3. China's Rising Power and Global Reflections of the East Turkistan Genocide
4. China's Increasing Influence in the Arab-Islamic World and the East Turkistan Issue
5. Ways to Stop the Genocide and End the Occupation
6. East Turkistan's Independence and Principles

In the meeting, detailed discussions were held on China's 75-year occupation and colonial policies, especially the concentration camp policy it has implemented in the last 10 years, forced labor, birth control, restrictions on free travel, the isolation of East Turkistan from the world, the imprisonment of millions of people, the suppression of Islam, the ban on national education and the mother tongue, the sinification of culture, and all other systematic genocide policies. In parallel with this, it was emphasized that expansionist policies in the Asian region, occupation policies, wolf diplomacy, debt trap diplomacy, the "Road and Belt Initiative", border conflicts with India, the fueling of the civil war in Myanmar, the weakening of the political independence of Central Asian countries and the

strengthening of policies and plans aimed at the occupation of other regional and international institutions pose a direct threat to many countries and peoples in the region and around the world.

It was also stated at the meeting that the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan is the political and economic guarantee of China's expansionist strategy mentioned above, and that the current fate of the people of East Turkistan is directly related to their lives, property, and freedoms. Representatives of the countries that have gained independence shared their countries' experiences on the path to independence, and stated that the struggle against colonialism

and occupation is long and arduous, but with determination, continuity, common political wisdom, and understanding, East Turkistan's independence will definitely be achieved, and the East Turkistan diaspora was called to national unity, solidarity, and joint action on the path to independence.

It was also emphasized that the struggle for the independence of East Turkistan, the freedom of the East Turkistan people, and the cessation of the genocide in East Turkistan are legitimate struggles, that the East Turkistan people will not give up their will for independence, and that it is both important and a responsibility for the international community to respect





the will and choice of the East Turkistan people and to fairly support their independence based on historical facts and international law.

During the meeting, workshops and closed meetings were held with delegations from various countries and regions on topics such as public diplomacy, the role of religious scholars in the East Turkistan case, cooperation among youth, the national identity crisis, forced labor, and human rights. In these meetings, practical decisions were made regarding the future stages of the East Turkistan case.

The main issues discussed and decided at the meeting are as follows:.

□ The independence of East Turkistan is the fundamental principle of the East Turkistan cause, the struggle for independence is the legitimate right of the East Turkistan people, and it is important to protect and support this struggle.

□ The only way to end the genocide in East Turkistan and ensure the real freedom and national existence of the East Turkistan people is independence.

□ The failure of the international community, international law, human rights organizations, the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization of Turkic States, and the European Union to fully fulfill their responsibilities in stopping the ongoing genocide and human rights violations in East Turkistan and other parts of the world, and their double standards.

□ The different dimensions of the genocide in East Turkistan, that forced labor is one of the most powerful tools of genocide today, and the importance of efforts in various countries to list and ban products of forced labor.

□ The “Road and Belt Initiative” and its supply chain are one of the main sources of China’s international hegemony.

□ China’s economic and commercial expansionist policies in the Middle East and African countries, and the opportunity and possibilities to act in these regions for the East Turkistan cause.

□ The Islamic world’s lack of sufficient support for the East Turkistan cause due to its close relationship with China, and the creation of a suitable situation for the East Turkistan cause.

□ The geostrategic importance of the countries neighboring East Turkistan and especially India’s important role in the East Turkistan cause.

□ The experiences of the independence struggles of countries and regions colonized in the past, such as India, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Balkan countries, and Algeria, give hope to the independence struggle of the East Turkistan people.

□ The importance of professionalization and rejuvenation of the organizational staff in the East Turkistan case and the successes of the International East Turkistan NGOs Union and its member organizations in this regard.

□ The creation of new strategies and



international cooperation platforms for East Turkistan, the promotion of East Turkistan's soft power to the world through culture, religion, academic research, and social movements.

□ The effective use of the media, international law, organizations, mass movements, boycott calls, and other various means to stop the genocide.

As the organizers and participants of the 16th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 7th East Turkistan National Unity Council, they called on all countries and international organizations to take urgent action to stop the genocide in East Turkistan. The

statement emphasized that the struggle and efforts of the East Turkistan people are always justified, and that individuals and organizations that play a leading role in the East Turkistan cause should be recognized and supported by the international community, and stated that within this framework, they are ready to provide all kinds of support and take an active role in the work to end the ongoing human rights tragedies in Palestine, Lebanon, and other countries of the Middle East as soon as possible, to prevent the spread of war, and to develop international justice and human rights mechanisms.





Finally, gratitude was expressed to the guests from all over the world, and the program ended with the hope of always

walking together in the future and the promise of determination against the enemy.





# **A LAWSUIT WAS FILED AGAINST 7 SUSPECTS WHO ALLEGEDLY PASSED INFORMATION TO CHINESE INTELLIGENCE**



*A lawsuit was filed against 7 suspects who were arrested for allegedly collecting information about individuals and associations originating from East Turkistan (Xinjiang) in Turkey and passing it on to Chinese intelligence.*

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office prepared an indictment against Chinese intelligence operatives for espionage activities targeting Uyghurs in Turkey.

Chinese agents contacted people of East Turkistan (Xinjiang) origin living in Turkey, threatening to harm their families or send them to "vocational training camps" if they didn't cooperate.

The agents also offered financial support and promises of travel freedom to East Turkistan (Xinjiang) to those who agreed to gather intelligence.

The main suspect, Shadeke M., a Chinese citizen of Uyghur origin, allegedly shared information about Uyghur individuals

and organizations in Turkey with Chinese intelligence.

Shadeke M. reportedly received a total of \$132,910 for his espionage activities.

The suspect claimed he was coerced into spying after being detained and tortured in China and threatened with harm to his family.

Seven suspects, including Shadeke M., are facing charges of "obtaining state secrets for political or military espionage" with potential prison sentences of 18 years and 10 months to 25 years each.

This case highlights the ongoing tensions between China and Turkey regarding the treatment of Uyghurs and China's alleged transnational repression activities.



# A UYGHUR FATHER PERSECUTED TO DEATH HIS SON REMEMBERS HIM

"Bitter Winter" readers know the "lonely Uyghur" protests in Amsterdam. He did not manage to save his father and is now mourning him.



"When they are struck with hardship, they say, 'We belong to Allah, and to Him we shall return.'" Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayah 156.

Due to the Chinese government's oppressive and genocidal policies in East Turkistan (Ch. Xinjiang), which included preventing communication between Uyghurs in exile and their families back home, I lost all contact with my father, Gheni Khudaberdi, in 2017.

On July 6, 2024, Chinese police threatened my brother, forcing him to call me. They demanded that I refrain from testifying at the World Citizens Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, from July 8 to 12, where the crimes of the totalitarian Chinese dictator Xi Jinping were being prosecuted. They pressured me not to testify, but I angrily hung up the phone. This threat, just one of the many sinister plots that have infiltrated every Uyghur family, deeply shocked me.

Not long after, Chinese police took my father out of the detention camp, where he had been suffering from a serious illness. They had my brother record a video, urging me to stop my activism against the Chinese government, using it to emotionally manipulate me. Despite seeing the video, I remained firm and refused to bow to their psychological torture. I even used that painful video as further evidence of China's atrocities at the World Citizens Tribunal. The judges, investigators, and even the lawyer appointed to represent the Chinese government were visibly shaken by the overwhelming evidence, and they expressed sympathy for me.

When the Chinese government failed to break my spirit, they once again sent my father and brother back to the detention camps. Two months later, on September 17, I received the devastating news from a friend that my father had died in the detention camp. Hearing this broke my heart, but instead of weakening me, it fuelled my anger and determination against the oppressive Chinese

government. It strengthened my resolve to continue my fight for freedom and justice. My hopes for a brighter future were reignited, and my steps toward the hoped-for victory have become even more steadfast and unwavering.

Dear Father and Beloved Mother,

I promise you that I will turn all my grief into strength, forge my anger into a weapon, and strike at the heart of the Chinese government. Until my last breath, I will continue this fight. The colonial rule of the Chinese communist-totalitarian regime in East Turkistan will end. We, the people of East Turkestan, will live in freedom and dignity. Until that day comes, I will not stop.

My dear father, my angelic mother, I deeply regret that I could not fulfil my duties as your son. I was not able to be by your side during your illnesses, nor was I able to bring you any comfort. The brutal Chinese government has separated us, taking away the joy you would have felt in seeing your son's achievements in the fight for freedom and the happiness of holding your grandchildren close. The emotional bonds between us have been cruelly severed. No words can truly capture the pain and scars left by this colonial life and forced exile.

Beloved father, the Chinese government has even prohibited funeral prayers for Uyghurs who die in East Turkistan. But here, in the free world, things are different. I met with the Turkish mosque committee near my home to arrange for your absentee funeral prayer. When I told



them, through tears, how you had died in a Chinese detention camp, they asked me, "Didn't you visit him in his old age? If you couldn't be there, did you at least speak to him over the phone and hear his last words?" I explained to them that in East Turkistan, the Chinese authorities do not even hand over the bodies of Uyghur detainees to their families, and that performing funeral prayers is considered a crime. I told them how I have been unable to speak with my relatives for years. The congregation was stunned, shocked that such atrocities could exist in our world. They offered me their condolences and agreed to perform your absentee funeral prayer after Friday prayers.

My beloved father, you endured unspeakable suffering in this world, witnessing the horrific atrocities of the Chinese colonial regime, and now, you have moved on to the next life. You have left behind this world filled with darkness, oppression, and injustice, and entered the eternal and peaceful presence of the Almighty. May your soul rest in paradise.

Father, I am filled with the regret of not having been able to fulfil my duties as your son. I still remember the last time we spoke on the phone when I tearfully asked for your forgiveness. You comforted me, saying, "I understand your pain, my son." Even though you couldn't say it aloud, I felt your love through your heavy breaths,

and you reassured me, "I am always proud of you, and you should also be proud of me."

Dear Father, my role model and guide, you raised me from a young age to be a man who loves his nation, who is loyal to his homeland, and who stands up for justice. You worked tirelessly to instil these values in me. I grew up hearing the stories of our family's noble lineage and the heroism of our ancestors from your lips. You passed on to me the national spirit you had inherited from our forefathers. You always told me, "Our ancestors have always stood against oppression and colonialism, and they have fought for freedom and justice." You also shared with me that the hero General Muhammad Amin Imanov, one of the leaders of the East Turkestan Republic, was from our family. This filled my heart with a wave of pride and determination to resist the Chinese invaders.

Father, rest assured that I, your proud son, will never betray my nation or my people. I will never dishonour our family, you, or our homeland. I am your son, and the spirit of resistance and justice that runs in my veins comes from our ancestors.

May Allah grant us the chance to reunite in paradise, in freedom and happiness.

Goodbye, Father! May your resting place be in paradise.



# **UYGHUR AMERICAN ASSOCIATION DEMANDS IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED WRITER**



**The Uyghur American Association has called for the immediate release of prominent Uyghur writer i in a recent post on social media.**

**The demand follows a heartfelt video message from Rozi's daughter, Tumaris Yalqun, who pleaded for her father's release. In her message, she said that it had been eight years since her father was taken away by the Chinese government and that his courage and love had been guiding her in continuing to seek justice and also to fight for his freedom.**

"Eight years have passed since my father, Yalqun Rozi, was taken from us. His courage and love guide me as we continue to seek justice and fight for his freedom," she said in a social media post on X.

In January 2018, Yalqun Rozi, a prominent Uyghur writer, critic, and educator, was sentenced to 15 years in prison by Chinese authorities for charges of "splittism" and promoting "extremist ideas."

According to reports, Rozi had vanished from his home in Xinjiang in October 2016. When he reappeared in January 2018, it was during a court hearing in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. There, a judge sentenced him for allegedly attempting to "split" the nation and disseminating "extremist ideas" to schoolchildren.

The human rights situation in Xinjiang has garnered significant international attention due to widespread allegations of violations against the Uyghur Muslim population.

Reports from various human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, indicate that over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been detained in what the Chinese government refers to as "re-education camps."

These facilities are characterised by forced indoctrination, cultural erasure, and forced labour.

Eyewitness testimonies and leaked government documents reveal a systematic campaign aimed at eradicating Uyghur identity through measures such as mass surveillance, restrictions on religious practices, and the separation of children from their families. The United Nations and various governments have condemned these actions, describing them as possible crimes against humanity.

Additionally, investigations by journalists and researchers have highlighted the use of advanced technology for tracking and controlling the Uyghur population.

The scale and nature of these violations have prompted calls for accountability and international intervention, as well as

discussions surrounding the geopolitical implications of China's actions in the region. (ANI)







# EU PARLIAMENT URGES CHINA TO RELEASE UYGHUR DOCTOR GULSHAN ABBAS, ECONOMIST ILHAM TOHTI

**The European Parliament adopted today an urgent resolution condemning Beijing's persecution against Uyghurs, demanding the release of prominent figures Gulshan Abbas and Ilham Tohti. Following this landmark call, Abbas' daughter, Ziba Murat, and ISHR urge EU leaders to step up EU action on the fate of Uyghurs at the United Nations.**

The European Parliament (EP) in session in Strasbourg adopted a landmark motion urging the People's Republic of China (PRC) to 'immediately and unconditionally release Ilham Tohti and Gulshan Abbas, as well as those arbitrarily detained in China' and whose cases have been mentioned by the European Union (EU) at the Human Rights Council.

The text lays out a strongly-worded demand that the PRC halts its 'repression and targeting of Uyghurs', including forced sterilisation, birth prevention measures, the destruction of Uyghur identity and other abuses 'which amount to crimes against humanity and a serious risk of genocide'.

The EP lamented that 62-year-old retired doctor Gulshan Abbas is 'serving a 20-year sentence on fallacious terrorism-related charges relating to activities of her sister, a defender of the human rights of persecuted Uyghurs in the PRC'.

The resolution also regretted that Uyghur economist Ilham Tohti, winner of the

EP's 2019 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of 'separatism' despite striving to 'foster dialogue between Uyghurs and Han Chinese'.

This resolution reflects a growing global consensus and the mounting diplomatic pressure on China to release all wrongfully imprisoned individuals in the Uyghur region, like my mother.

Ziba Murat, daughter of detained Uyghur doctor Gulshan Abbas

Today's resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of 540 out of 610 voting members of the European parliament (MEPs), with only 23 oppositions and 47 abstentions.

In September, ISHR joined Dr. Abbas' daughter, Ziba Murat, in an advocacy mission to engage extensively with MEPs leading to today's historic resolution.

Dr. Abbas has been arbitrarily detained since 2018, and held incommunicado most of that time. In June 2024, UN experts sent a letter to the Chinese



authorities and later released a statement on Dr. Abbas' situation. Under mounting pressure from UN bodies and Western governments, Beijing finally disclosed Dr. Abbas' whereabouts, sentence, and stated date of release, scheduled for 2038.

This was the first written acknowledgement that the Chinese authorities are holding Dr. Abbas ever since her abrupt forced disappearance six years ago. However, China failed to address UN experts' request for disclosure of detailed information on her health, of her court judgment and evidence used to convict her.

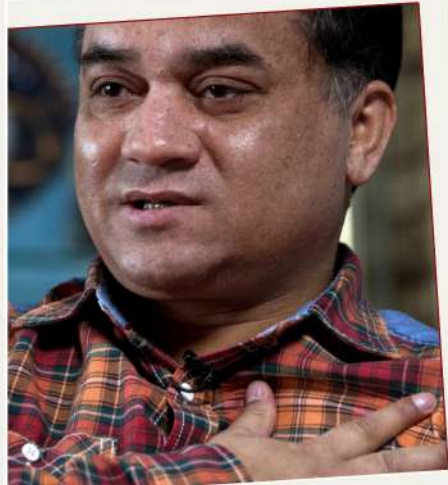
My mother is a medical professional who devoted her life to helping people and saving lives. She is a non-political, warm-hearted and loving mother. The

charges against her are preposterous and baseless. My mother is suffering the consequences because her family in the United States spoke out against the Chinese government's unfair treatment of Uyghurs. This is a clear example of kin punishment and transnational repression.

#### ZIBA MURAT

Dr. Abbas was forcibly disappeared on 10 September 2018, in retaliation for her sister Rushan Abbas' public advocacy in the United States against the persecution of Uyghurs in China a few days prior.

She has multiple health concerns which require medication and medical attention, including severe high blood pressure, back pain often leading to immobilisation, osteoporosis, and recurring migraines.



Both her eyes have undergone multiple surgeries and require monitoring.

In March 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention released an authoritative, quasi-judicial opinion determining her detention to be arbitrary and calling for her prompt release. The EU also raised her case during its latest human rights dialogue with China in June 2024.

This EU resolution and UN actions follow a concerted campaign of global advocacy, including by Dr. Abbas' relatives, who have remained in the dark about her fate for six long years. It is also indisputable evidence that when governments and UN experts press Beijing publicly on individual cases, in a coordinated and sustained fashion, the wall will eventually crack. It is not time to give in: it is now the moment for global actors to step up pressure until Dr. Abbas is released on medical parole.

#### **RAPHAËL VIANA DAVID, ISHR'S CHINA PROGRAMME MANAGER**

On 11 September 2024, Murat addressed the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of ISHR to call for Dr. Abbas' release and urge the Council to 'step up monitoring and reporting and hold the [Chinese] government accountable for gross violations of international law' – watch a recording of the statement [here](#).

#### **STEPPING UP UN MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The EP's motion 'strongly condemns the PRC for not implementing the

recommendations of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)' and urges Beijing to 'allow the OHCHR independent access to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region'. It further encourages the OHCHR to issue a 'comprehensive situational update and an action plan for holding the PRC accountable'.

We now expect EU Members States to measure up to the Parliament's motion and to demonstrate leadership and commitment to supporting Uyghurs through bold global action. This includes leading a joint statement on China at the ongoing UN General Assembly session and ensuring a united EU position around it. It is deeply regrettable that four EU members – Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Hungary – have refused since 2019 to align with their peers and endorse such statements at high-level UN fora.

#### **RAPHAËL VIANA DAVID**

The EU parliament text calls on EU Member States to suspend extradition treaties with the PRC and Hong Kong and 'respect the non-refoulement principle'. It further urges EU governments to 'address the transnational repression of Chinese dissidents and Uyghurs on their territory and prosecute individuals responsible'.

EU Member States must exert persistent and coordinated pressure on China to implement UN expert recommendations and ensure that individual cases are prioritised in bilateral and multilateral talks. They should not shy away from

demanding my mother's release. She is innocent and must be released.

#### ZIBA MURAT

On 27 August 2024, in a rare public statement on the matter, the OHCHR stressed that 'many problematic laws and policies' documented in its 2022 Xinjiang report remain in place, that abuses still need to be investigated, and

that fear of reprisals against sources and lack of access to information hinder the OHCHR's monitoring of the situation.

The Office further echoed its urgent calls on China to release all those arbitrarily detained, to clarify the status and whereabouts of those disappeared, and to fully review the legal framework governing counter-terrorism, national security and minority rights.







# DRUGMAKERS RELY ON SUPPLIES USING UYGHUR FORCED LABOR

**THE GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY RELIES ON INGREDIENTS MADE IN XINJIANG REGION USING UYGHUR FORCED LABOR DESPITE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THIS RISK FROM SUPPLY CHAINS, ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT.**

*The report by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, or C4ADS, says that even two U.S. government agencies the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Agency for International Development via its contractor Chemonics International have not cut ties with Xinjiang-linked drug suppliers.*

authorities forcing girls and women to take pills that caused them to stop menstruating and nursing mothers' breast milk to dry up.

"Nearly 90% of women in this camp were aged 18 to 40 years old. All of these women's menstruation ended after taking these pills and injections," Sidik said. "Even the milk of the nursing mothers was depleted."

Uyghur men had to take tablets or were given injections and later had blood drawn, she added.

"I am confident that the Chinese government used the detained Uyghurs for experiments to test their medicines," she said.

Tursun said the small white tablets she had to take gave her severe stomach pains and made her feel weak and drowsy. They also made her period stop for six months.

"I was given medicines once a week. I don't know what medicines they were," she said. "They called your number from a book. When they called your number, you opened your mouth. They gave me small white tablets. They checked our mouths to make sure we swallowed them."

Tursun said she then developed a bad stomach ache. "My whole body became weakened and drowsy, my head spun, and my legs shivered. It lasted 2-3 days."

Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said the accusation of forced labor in Xinjiang is "a lie of the century fabricated by anti-China forces" and "a tool used by American politicians to undermine Xinjiang's stability and contain China's development."

The United States created and implemented the 2021 Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which bans imports from Xinjiang unless they are certified

as not made with forced labor, based on lies, and imposed sanctions on relevant entities and individuals in Xinjiang, he told RFA in an email.

“This is an escalation of the United States’ suppression of China under the guise of human rights,” Liu said. “It is also a proof that the United States willfully undermines international economic and trade rules and undermines the stability of the international industrial chain and supply chain.”

“The United States should immediately stop slandering China and stop interfering in China’s internal affairs and undermining China’s interests under the guise of human rights,” he said.

Acetaminophen granules, estrogen cream Though Xinjiang is a minor player in the pharma production industry in China — the world’s largest active pharmaceutical ingredient producer and the second-largest drug market in the world — there are 43 licensed pharma companies in the region.

Among the 661 products they manufacture are acetaminophen granules, estrogen tablets and cream, and traditional Chinese and Uyghur medicine. Seventy-six pharma products exported from China are manufactured only in Xinjiang, exposing global supply chains to forced labor, the report says.

Eleven of the manufacturers are Chinese state-owned enterprises, 21 are owned by private individuals, nine are owned by companies with a known record of forced

labor in other industries, and two are tied to Chinese defense contractors.

Acetaminophen gel capsules photographed in New York, Nov. 2, 2017. Acetaminophen granules are listed by C4ADS as a product manufactured in Xinjiang. (Patrick Sison/AP)

Acetaminophen gel capsules photographed in New York, Nov. 2, 2017. Acetaminophen granules are listed by C4ADS as a product manufactured in Xinjiang. (Patrick Sison/AP)

None of the manufacturers appear on the Entity List under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, or UFLPA, the report says.

And foreign companies — including Citigroup and BlackRock — continue to hold shares in some of them, it says.

But implementation of the UFLPA remains weak, the report says.

“Supply chains and corporate structures are often opaque; enforcement agencies lack sufficient resources to track, monitor, and enforce regulations, and the diverse agencies responsible for implementing them are still in the process of translating how to most effectively do so,” it says.

Despite the UFLPA’s rebuttable presumption — which assumes goods made in Xinjiang are produced with forced labor and thus banned under the U.S. 1930 Tariff Act — only one pharma producer from Xinjiang — Chenguang Biotech Group Co., Ltd. — has been added to the Entity List, the report notes.



## Chemonics International

As recently as 2019, USAID contractor Chemonics International, based in Washington, purchased products from the ~~Xinjiang~~ Tianneng Chemical Ltd. Co., the report says, citing data from the 2023 Global Health Supply Chain Program Procurement and Supply Management Project.

Tianneng Chemical is owned by a subsidiary of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, or XPCC, a state-owned enterprise and paramilitary organization operating in ~~Xinjiang~~ that has been added to the Entity List for perpetrating human rights abuses.

“Through this procurement, Chemonics International appears to have unknowingly financially supported (through trade) a company owned by a subsidiary of a paramilitary entity and perpetrator of human rights abuses,” the report says.

In response to C4ADS’ information, Chemonics said it had not ordered any other products directly or indirectly from Tianneng Chemical and did not plan to do so.

A USAID spokesperson told RFA that the agency prioritizes preventing the use of U.S. government funds for contract awards to companies that may use forced labor, and its partners are required

to comply with legal requirements prohibiting the use of forced labor under federal acquisition regulations.

Chemonics confirmed to USAID that it has not purchased any products from Tianneng Chemical outside of one transaction in 2019, prior to the date the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions, and said it has taken steps to avoid procurements from the manufacturer in the future, according to the spokesperson.

The report also says that the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, has registered at least two ~~Xinjiang~~-linked pharmaceutical producers, authorizing them to import to the United States, though the companies should be on the UFLPA Entity List.

A FDA spokesperson said the agency would be in touch when it had information to share.

Liu Jingzhen, chairman of Sinopharm, attends a news conference on vaccines for the coronavirus disease in Beijing, China, Oct. 20, 2020. (Carlos Garcia Rawlins/Reuters)

Liu Jingzhen, chairman of Sinopharm, attends a news conference on vaccines for the coronavirus disease in Beijing, China, Oct. 20, 2020. (Carlos Garcia Rawlins/Reuters)



# 15 COUNTRIES CALL ON CHINA TO RELEASE UYGHUR AND TIBETAN

Fifteen Western countries have signed a public statement calling for China to release all “arbitrarily detained” Tibetans and Uyghurs and allow human rights observers to visit the regions in which they live.

The statement was delivered in a speech on Tuesday to the U.N. Humans Rights Committee by Australia’s ambassador there, James Larsen, who drew a strong rebuke from his Chinese counterpart.

“Transparency and openness are key to allaying concerns, and we call on China to allow unfettered and meaningful access to **Xinjiang** and Tibet for independent observers, including from the United Nations, to evaluate the human rights situation,” Larsen said in the speech.

The statement was co-signed by Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States.

Beijing must live up to the human rights obligations it has “voluntarily assumed,” the statement adds, and accept the recommendations of the global community to improve its human rights.

“This includes releasing all individuals arbitrarily detained in both **Xinjiang** and Tibet, and urgently clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing family members,” the Australian ambassador said.

U.N. bodies have repeatedly detailed the detention of Tibetans and Uyghurs for the peaceful expression of political and religious views, Larsen noted, as

well as the separation of families, forced abortions and sterilization, forced labor, forced disappearances and torture.

The United States, meanwhile, has said that China’s treatment of the Uyghurs, in particular, constitutes an ongoing “genocide”.

### ‘LIVING HELL’

In response to Larsen’s speech, China’s U.N. ambassador, Fu Cong, told the human rights committee that the governments who signed the document were ignoring the “living hell” of the situation in Gaza.

“The human rights situation that should gather the most attention at the committee this year is undoubtedly that of Gaza,” Fu said. “Australia and the United States ... played down this living hell, while unleashing attacks and smears against the peaceful and tranquil **Xinjiang**.”

However, Tibetan and Uyghur advocates welcomed the statement.

“This is a positive development and sends a strong message to China,” said Namgyal Choedup, the Dalia Lama’s representative in North America. “Like-minded countries in the world have been monitoring China’s behavior, and they must press China on rights issues.”

Maya Wang, the interim China director at Human Rights Watch, welcomed the statement, which she noted came two years after a U.N. report that found China may be responsible for “crimes against humanity” for its treatment of Uyghurs in the **Xinjiang** region.



“The Chinese government continues to deny these grave abuses,” Wang said. “Therefore, it is all the more important for governments like Australia to continue to persist in pressing the Chinese government.”

Ilshat Hassan Kokbore, the vice chairman of the World Uyghur Congress, said he was “glad” to see the statement released,

but said it was time for more concrete actions to pressure change in China.

“The genocide hasn’t stopped until today. Therefore, it’s not just a matter of transparency, it is a matter of urgency in light of ongoing genocide happening today,” he said. “The world should take more meaningful action to stop the Chinese government’s atrocities.”

# UYGHUR RIGHTS BODY MEETS IN BOSNIA UNDER TIGHT SECURITY OVER THREATS



A body fighting for Uyghur people’s rights in China and abroad had to meet in virtual secrecy with police protection in the Bosnian capital after threats and pressure to cancel, it said.

The Germany-based World Uyghur Congress (WUC) held a four-day

conference until Sunday with several hundred delegates from 25 nations in a Sarajevo hotel - but few outside would have known.

There were no signs or placards, reception staff hesitated to give information, and plainclothes policemen were in the lobby

while special units parked outside.

Organisers and participants told Reuters that social media and email messages were received in advance pressuring them to cancel the event and threatening to disrupt it.

“We have seen Chinese individuals here at the hotel taking photos of our delegates during the event which was a way to intimidate them,” said Zumrety Arkin, who was elected as a WUC vice-president at the meeting.

She and other attendees largely stayed inside the hotel for safety reasons, Arkin said.

The Chinese Embassy in Sarajevo did not respond to requests for comment about the accusations over the conference.

The event proceeded normally without incident.

Rights groups accuse China of repression, including forced labour, mass surveillance and placing 1 million or more of the mainly Muslim ethnic group in a network of internment camps in the northwestern province of Xinjiang.

China denies abuses and says it created “vocational training centres” to curb terrorism, separatism and religious radicalism.



Arkin and WUC chief coordinator Erkin Zunun said harassment began when the assembly was announced in June, with delegates receiving threatening messages, some referring to killing them or their relatives, and a false cancellation email.

Some emails were also hacked, they said.

The WUC said it hired private security for the event.

“Some of our delegates were afraid to leave the hotel. For some of our candidates, there was security stationed 24/7 in front of their rooms,” Arkin said.

Bosnian authorities have not commented on the conference.

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