

UYGHURS AROUND THE WORLD MARK 12th ANNIVERSARY OF URUMQI MASSACRE



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئاخبارات ۋە مەدەنىيەت جەمئىيىتى



BELGIAN PARLIAMENT JOINS CALLS TO STOP UYGHUR 'GENOCIDE' IN CHINA

Brussels, Jul 8 (EFE).- The Belgian Parliament passed on Thursday a resolution condemning the Chinese state's repression of Uyghur ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region as crimes against humanity with serious risk of genocide.

"The parliament took a very courageous decision," said green party Belgian legislator Samuel Cogolati, co-author of the document, who mentioned the chamber had heard shocking testimony and proof of "torture, but also of illegal arrests of more than a million innocent Uyghur people."



The Belgian Chamber of Representatives is the sixth national parliament to recognize the Uyghur genocide, following the Netherlands, Canada, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

United States President Joe Biden is also part of the group classifying Beijing's mass detention of Uyghurs in "reeducation camps" as genocide.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, among other international NGOs, have also condemned the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and the use of internment camps.

The resolution has been a source of diplomatic tension between the European nation and China, which urged Belgium to amend its "mistake" after the resolution moved from the foreign affairs committee onto the general assembly.



UYGHURS AROUND THE WORLD MARK ANNIVERSARY OF VIOLENT 2009 CRACKDOWN

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has videoconference with Uyghurs previously detained in internment camps.

Uyghur groups around the world have held demonstrations commemorating a violent crackdown on Uyghurs by Chinese authorities 12 years ago in the capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), while the top U.S. diplomat has discussed the deepening repression of the largely Muslim ethnic minority group in northwestern China.

More than 200 Uyghurs, including many young people who came to the U.S as children, held an anti-China protest in Washington, D.C., marking the anniversary of the violent unrest in Urumqi (in Chinese, Wu-

lumuqi). Demonstrators in the U.S. capital held both American flags and the light blue flags of East Turkistan, the Uyghur name for China's Xinjiang region.

Some 200 people died and 1,700 were injured in the three-day rampage of violence that began on July 5, 2009, between ethnic minority Uyghurs and Han Chinese in Urumqi, according to China's official figures, although Uyghur rights groups say the numbers are much higher.

The Uyghur Japanese Association held a protest in Shinjuku, a central ward in Tokyo, with the participation of not only Uyghurs living in Japan, but also Japanese citizens, Mongolians, and Hong Kongers.

The Germany-based World Uyghur Congress held a protest on July 5 in London, where Uyghur community members, Tibetans, and representatives from Hong Kong also participated in the event.



The Uyghur community in Switzerland held a protest in Bern, while Uyghurs based in Turkey commemorated the 2009 incident by holding 10 events in Istanbul, Ankara, Kon-ya, and other cities.

Leaders of Uyghur organizations, members of the Uyghur diaspora, and Turkish supporters held a protest and press conference in front of Chinese Consulate in Istanbul on July 5, attended by thousands of people.

Uyghurs in Munich and Amsterdam also organized demonstrations in front of the Chinese embassies in these cities.

Uyghurs in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan gathered in mosques, halls, and cafés because they were not allowed to demonstrate, while diaspora members in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, held a meeting to commemorate the 12-year anniversary of July 5 unrest.

Only about 50 Uyghurs were allowed to attend the meeting organized by the Uyghur Association “Ittipaq” of Kyrgyzstan because of COVID-19 safety protocols limiting the number of people who can gather in public.

Blinken holds roundtable

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met via videoconference with seven Uyghur internment camp survivors, advocates, and relatives of people detained in the XUAR to hear directly from them about abuses against the minority group.

The camps are believed by experts to have handled as many as 1.8 million people – roughly one-sixth of the XUAR’s 12 million Uyghurs – since 2017.

China says the camps are vocational training facilities set up to combat religious extremism and terrorism. But many teachers, intellectuals and prominent businessmen have been incarcerated in the system.

Blinken told the Uyghurs that that U.S. was committed to working with allies and partners in calling for an end to China’s ongoing crimes against humanity and genocide, according to a statement issued by State Department spokesman Ned Price.





“The United States will continue to place human rights at the forefront of our China policy and will always support the voices of activists, survivors, and family members of victims who courageously speak out against these atrocities,” the statement said.

Anders Corr, publisher of the Journal of Political Risk and principal at the political risk mitigation firm Corr Analytics Inc., said that Blinken’s meeting with former internment camp detainees was an encouraging sign.

“It means that he is taking the genocide increasingly seriously,” he said. “Let’s hope he next brings these meetings and the suffering of the Uyghurs into the public to demonstrate yet greater American commitment to their liberation.”

Sophie Richardson, China director of Human Rights Watch, said Blinken’s decision to meet with the group of Uyghurs was “an incredibly important thing to do.”

Hearing their stories and soliciting their idea were “not just an important gesture of support for those individuals and their community, but also a very powerful way of putting China on notice that the U.S. government has no intention of dialing back its concerns about this issue,” she said.

Richardson also stressed the importance of putting in place mechanisms for investigations and accountability for Chinese government officials responsible for crimes against humanity to deter China from similar action in the future.

The U.S. State Department determined in January that the Chinese government is perpetrating genocide against Uyghurs in the XUAR, citing internment camps that have held some 1.8 million people, some of whom have been tortured or subjected to other abuse.

The U.S. and several other countries have imposed sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for abuses against Uyghurs, as well as on Chinese government agencies and companies suspected of using Uyghur forced labor to make products such as cotton, wigs, tomatoes, and polysilicon for solar panels.

In Beijing on Wednesday, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the chief issue in the XUAR is combating terrorism, when asked about Blinken’s meeting with Uyghurs previously detained in the camps.

“As we’ve stressed time and again, issues relating to Xinjiang are not about ethnicity, religion or human rights, but about fighting violent terrorism, extremism and separatism,” he told a news conference. “The crimes of ‘abuse,’ ‘atrocities,’ or ‘genocide’ can never be attributed to China.”

“U.S. lies and rumors have been exposed by the fact and truth that Xinjiang enjoys stability and prosperity and residents there are leading happy and fulfilling lives,” Weng said, repeating Beijing’s stock response since the well-documented internment camp system came to light in 2017.

“The U.S. attempt to use human rights as a cover to mess up Xinjiang and contain China’s development will never succeed.”

Reported and translated by RFA’s Uyghur Service. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.



ROOM FOR 10,000: INSIDE CHINA'S LARGEST DETENTION CENTER

“ DABANCHENG, China (AP) – The Uyghur inmates sat in uniform rows with their legs crossed in lotus position and their backs ramrod straight, numbered and tagged, gazing at a television playing grainy black-and-white images of Chinese Communist Party history.

This is one of an estimated 240 cells in just one section of Urumqi No. 3 Detention Center in Dabancheng, seen by Associated Press journalists granted extraordinary access during a state-led tour to China's far west Xinjiang region. The detention center is the largest in the country and possibly the world, with a complex that sprawls over 220 acres – making it twice as large as Vatican City. A sign at the front identified it as a “kanshousuo,” a pre-trial detention facility.

Chinese officials declined to say how many inmates were there, saying the number varied. But the AP estimated the center could hold roughly 10,000 people and many more if crowded, based on satellite imagery and the cells and benches seen during the tour. While the BBC and Reuters have in the past reported from the outside, the AP was the first Western media organization allowed in.

This site suggests that China still holds and plans to hold vast numbers of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in detention. Satellite imagery shows that new buildings stretching almost a mile long were added to the Dabancheng detention facility in 2019.

China has described its sweeping lockup of a million or more minorities over the past four years as a “war against terror,” after a series of knifings and bombings by a small number of extremist Uyghurs native to Xinjiang. Among its most controversial aspects were the so-called vocational “training centers” – described by former detainees as brutal internment camps surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards.

China at first denied their existence, and then, under heavy international criticism, said in 2019 that all the occupants had "graduated." But the AP's visit to Dabancheng, satellite imagery and interviews with experts and former detainees suggest that while many "training centers" were indeed closed, some like this one were simply converted into prisons or pre-trial detention facilities. Many new facilities have also been built, including a new 85-acre detention center down the road from No. 3 in Dabancheng that went up over 2019, satellite imagery shows.

The changes seem to be an attempt to move from the makeshift and extrajudicial "training centers" into a more permanent system of prisons and pre-trial detention facilities justified under the law. While some Uyghurs have been released, others have simply been moved into this prison network.

However, researchers say many innocent people were often thrown in detention for things like going abroad or attending religious gatherings. Darren Byler, an anthropologist studying the Uyghurs at the University of Colorado, noted that many prisoners have not committed "real crimes by any standards," and that they go through a "show" trial without due process.

"We're moving from a police state to a mass incarceration state. Hundreds of thousands of people have disappeared from the population," Byler said. "It's the criminalization of normal behavior."

During the April tour of No. 3 in Dabancheng,



officials repeatedly distanced it from the "training centers" that Beijing claims to have closed.

"There was no connection between our detention center and the training centers," insisted Urumqi Public Security Bureau director Zhao Zhongwei. "There's never been one around here."

They also said the No. 3 center was proof of China's commitment to rehabilitation and the rule of law, with inmates provided hot meals, exercise, access to legal counsel and televised classes lecturing them on their crimes. Rights are protected, officials say, and only lawbreakers need worry about detention.

"See, the BBC report said this was a re-education camp. It's not - it's a detention center," said Liu Chang, an official with the foreign ministry.

However, despite the claims of officials, the evidence shows No. 3 was indeed an internment camp. A Reuters picture of the entrance in September 2018 shows that the facility used to be called the "Urumqi Vo-





cational Skills Education and Training Center”. Publicly available documents collected by Shawn Zhang, a law student in Canada, confirm that a center by the same name was commissioned to be built at the same location in 2017.

Records also show that Chinese conglomerate Hengfeng Information Technology won an \$11 million contract for outfitting the Urumqi “training center”. A man who answered a number for Hengfeng confirmed the company had taken part in the construction of the “training center,” but Hengfeng did not respond to further requests for comment.

A former construction contractor who visited the Dabancheng facility in 2018 told the AP that it was the same as the “Urumqi Vocational Skills Education and Training Center,” and had been converted to a detention facility in 2019, with the nameplate switched. He declined to be named for fear of retaliation against his family.

“All the former students inside became prisoners,” he said.

The vast complex is ringed by 25-foot-tall concrete walls painted blue, watchtowers, and humming electric wire. Officials led AP journalists through the main entrance, past face-scanning turnstiles and rifle-toting guards in military camouflage.

In one corner of the compound, masked inmates sat in rigid formation. Most appeared

to be Uyghur. Zhu Hongbin, the center’s director, rapped on one of the cell’s windows.

“They’re totally unbreakable,” he said, his voice muffled beneath head-to-toe medical gear.

At the control room, staff gazed at a wall-to-wall, God’s-eye display of some two dozen screens streaming footage from each cell. Another panel played programming from state broadcaster CCTV, which Zhu said was being shown to the inmates.

“We control what they watch,” Zhu said. “We can see if they’re breaking regulations, or if they might hurt or kill themselves.”

The center also screens video classes, Zhu said, to teach them about their crimes.

“They need to be taught why it’s bad to kill people, why it’s bad to steal,” Zhu said.

Twenty-two rooms with chairs and computers allow inmates to chat with lawyers, relatives, and police via video, as they are strapped to their seats. Down the corridor, an office houses a branch of the Urumqi prosecutor’s office, in another sign of the switch to a formal prison system.

A nearby medical room contains a gurney, a tank of oxygen and a cabinet stocked with medicine. Guidelines hanging on the wall instruct staff on the proper protocol to deal with sick inmates – and also to force-feed inmates on hunger strikes by inserting tubes up their noses.





Zhao, the other official, said inmates are held for 15 days to a year before trial depending on their suspected crime, and the legal process is the same as in the rest of China. He said the center was built to house inmates away from the city because of safety concerns.

Urumqi No. 3 Detention Center is comparable in size to Rikers Island in New York City, but the region serves less than four million people compared to nearly 20 million for Rikers. At least three other detention centers are sprinkled across Urumqi, along with ten or more prisons.

The No. 3 center did not appear to be at full capacity; one section was closed, officials said, and six to ten inmates sat in each cell, taking up only half the benches. But the latest official government statistics available, for 2019, show that there were about twice as many arrests in Xinjiang that year than before the crackdown started in 2017. Hundreds of thousands have been sentenced to prison, many to terms of five years or more.

Xu Guixiang, a Xinjiang spokesperson, called the higher incarceration rates “severe measures” in the “war against terror.”

“Of course, during this process, the number of people sentenced in accordance with the law will increase. This is a concrete indication of our work efficiency,” Xu said. “By taking these measures, terrorists are more likely to be brought to justice.”

But many relatives of those imprisoned say they were sentenced on spurious charges, and experts caution that the opacity of the Xinjiang legal system is a red flag. Although China makes legal records easily accessible otherwise, almost 90 percent of criminal records in Xinjiang are not public. The handful which have leaked show that some are charged with “terrorism” or “separatism” for acts few would consider criminal, such as warning colleagues against watching porn and swearing, or praying in prison.

Researcher Gene Bunin found that Uyghurs were made to sign confessions for what the authorities called “terrorist activities.” Some were subsequently released, including one detained in the Dabancheng facility, a relative told The Associated Press, declining to be named to avoid retribution against the former detainee.



Others were not. Police reports obtained by the Intercept detail the case of eight Uyghurs in one Urumqi neighborhood detained in the “Dabancheng” facility in 2017 for reading religious texts, installing filesharing applications, or simply being an “untrustworthy person”. In late 2018, the reports show, prosecutors summoned them to makeshift meetings and sentenced them to two to five years of “study.”

AP journalists did not witness any signs of torture or beating at the facility, and were unable to speak directly to any former or current detainees. But a Uyghur who had fled Xinjiang, Zumret Dawut, said a now-deceased friend who worked at Dabancheng had witnessed treatment so brutal that she fainted. The friend, Paride Amati, said she had seen a pair of teens forced to sign confessions claiming they were involved in terrorism while studying in Egypt, and their skin had been beaten bloody and raw.

A teacher at the Dabancheng facility also called it “worse than hell,” according to a colleague at a different camp, Qelbinur Se-

dik. The teacher said that during classes she could hear the sounds of people being tortured with electric batons and iron chairs, according to Sedik.

Accounts of conditions in detention centers elsewhere in Xinjiang vary widely: some describe restrictive conditions but no physical abuse, while others say they were tortured. Such accounts are difficult to verify independently, and the Xinjiang authorities deny all allegations of abuse.

Chinese officials also continue to deny that they are holding Uyghurs on false charges. Down the road from the No. 3 center, high walls and guard towers were visible in the same location as the new detention facility shown in satellite imagery.

When asked what it was, officials pleaded ignorance.

“We don’t know what it is,” they said.

By DAKE KANG





U.S. SENATE PASSES BILL TO BAN ALL PRODUCTS FROM CHINA'S XINJIANG

WASHINGTON, July 14 (Reuters)
- The U.S. Senate passed legislation on Wednesday to ban the import of products from China's Xinjiang region, the latest effort in Washington to punish Beijing for what U.S. officials say is an ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Muslim groups.



French prosecutors have opened an investigation into four fashion retailers suspected of concealing 'crimes against humanity' in China's Xinjiang region, a judicial source said reut.rs/2UkAnzX



The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act would create a "rebuttable presumption" assuming goods manufactured in Xinjiang are made with forced labor and therefore banned under the 1930 Tariff Act, unless otherwise certified by U.S. authorities.

Passed by unanimous consent, the bipartisan measure would shift the burden of proof to importers. The current rule bans goods if there is reasonable evidence of forced labor.

The bill must also pass the House of Representatives before it can be sent to the White House for President Joe Biden to sign into law. It was not immediately clear when that might take place.

Republican Senator Marco Rubio, who introduced the legislation with Democrat Jeff Merkley, called on the House to act quickly.

"We will not turn a blind eye to the CCP's ongoing crimes against humanity, and we will



not allow corporations a free pass to profit from those horrific abuses,” Rubio said in a statement.

“No American corporation should profit from these abuses. No American consumers should be inadvertently purchasing products from slave labor,” Merkley said.

Democratic and Republican aides said they expected the measure would get strong support in the House, noting the House approved a similar measure nearly unanimously last year.



The bill would go beyond steps already taken to secure U.S. supply chains in the face of allegations of rights abuses in China, including existing bans on Xinjiang tomatoes, cotton and some solar products.

The Biden administration has increased sanctions, and on Tuesday issued an advisory warning businesses they could be in violation of U.S. law if operations are linked even indirectly to surveillance networks in Xinjiang.

Rights groups, researchers, former residents and some Western lawmakers and officials say Xinjiang authorities have facilitated forced labor by detaining around a million Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim minorities since 2016.

By Michael Martina



FRENCH LAUNCH PROBE INTO FASHION GROUPS OVER UYGHUR LABOUR

PARIS: French magistrates have opened an inquiry into allegations four fashion groups including Uniqlo and the owner of Zara profited from forced labour of the Uyghur minority in China, a judicial source said on Thursday (Jul 1).

Magistrates at the national anti-terror prosecutor's office in Paris are probing claims the multinational companies are complicit in crimes against humanity, the source said, confirming a report on the Mediapart investigative website.



The case is based on a complaint lodged in April by the anti-corruption group Sherpa, the French branch of the Clean Clothes Campaign, and the Uyghur Institute of Europe, as well as by a Uyghur woman who had been held in a camp in Xinjiang, China.

They accused Inditex, the Spanish owner of Zara and other top brands, Uniqlo, the French fashion group SMCP, and the footwear manufacturer Skechers of using cotton produced in the Xinjiang region.



Rights groups believe at least one million Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities have been incarcerated in camps in the Xinjiang region, where China is also accused of forcibly sterilising women and imposing forced labour.

The United States says “genocide” has been inflicted on the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the region, while Beijing has denied all allegations of abuses and has insisted its policies in Xinjiang are necessary to counter violent extremism.

The US has announced import bans on a handful of companies operating in Xinjiang, including the solar panel maker Hoshine Silicon Industry.

Several major consumer brands including Uniqlo, H&M, Nike and Adidas announced last year that they would stop buying cotton



from the region, leading to boycott calls in China.

Inditex disputed that it had used cotton from Xinjiang.

“The group has strict traceability controls which have allowed us to determine that the allegations in the complaint are unfounded,” a company representative told AFP.

The company has a “zero tolerance policy for forced labour” and has “procedures in place that guarantee that practice doesn’t exist in our supply chain”, the representative added.

Uniqlo, which has taken a public position against the forced labour of Uyghurs, is alleged to have sourced cotton from the Anhui province where thousands of Uyghur workers have been transferred.

SMCP is alleged to be a shareholder in a firm with factories in Xinjiang, but the company refuted that and said it would work with investigators.





US RENEWS CHINA 'GENOCIDE' CLAIMS OVER UYGHUR TREATMENT

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar and South Sudan were also cited in the report on genocide and atrocities. China has repeatedly denied accusations of mass detentions in Xinjiang.

The United States on Monday repeated allegations of “genocide” against China over Beijing’s repression of Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in the northwest Xinjiang region of the country.

In the State Department’s annual report to Congress on genocide, the US reiterated its stance that “the People’s Republic of China is committing genocide and crimes against humanity against Uyghurs, who are predominantly Muslim, and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang. The crimes against humanity include imprisonment, torture, enforced sterilization, and persecution.”

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar and South Sudan under scrutiny

In the Elie Wiesel Act report, the Biden administration suggested Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar and South Sudan could face further sanctions for conducting ethnic cleansing as part of conflicts with neighboring regions or within the countries themselves.

Myanmar remains at particular risk for geno-

cide, according to the report. The White House would continue to coordinate with allies and partners to press the military government there to halt all forms of repression.

The report also took Eritrea and Ethiopia to task for ethnic cleansing in their crackdown on dissent in Ethiopia’s western Tigray region.

The report cited deteriorating conditions in South Sudan, where it said the government “has perpetrated extrajudicial killings including ethnic-based killings of civilians, widespread sexual violence, and use of food as a weapon of war.”

The Elie Wiesel Act report

The annual report calls for the federal government to outline steps it is taking to prevent and halt such atrocities across the globe.

“This administration will defend and protect human rights around the world, and recognizes the prevention of atrocities is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility,” it said.

The report said that President Joe Biden has followed through and expanded on his predecessor’s sanctions for the alleged crimes against humanity.



EU PARLIAMENT URGES OFFICIALS TO SKIP BEIJING OLYMPICS

EU lawmakers on Thursday called for officials from the bloc to skip the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics unless China improves on human rights in Hong Kong and for the Uyghur Muslim minority.

The European Parliament vote was another sign of souring ties between the EU and China, already hit by a round of tit-for-tat sanctions over the rights issue that effectively blocked the ratification of a long-negotiated investment deal.

China's Commissioner's Office in Hong Kong slammed the vote as "political grandstanding and a stumbling block to mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the EU".

The non-binding resolution passed with 578 votes in favour, 29 against and 73 abstentions.

It had the backing of all of Europe's mainstream political groups, including the centre-right EPP group of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the centrists of France's Emmanuel Macron.

Lawmakers called on the EU's institutions and member states "to decline invitations for government representatives and diplomats to attend the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unless the Chinese Government demonstrates a verifiable improvement in the human rights situation in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Region, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and elsewhere in China".



The resolution condemned “in the strongest terms” the closure of Hong Kong’s pro-democracy Apple Daily tabloid and the arrests of its staff by Chinese authorities.

The acts were “yet another step by China in dismantling free society in Hong Kong and setting the definitive end of media freedom and freedom of expression there,” it said.

- Call for fresh sanctions -

The deterioration of freedoms under China’s draconian security law for Hong Kong amounted to a “human rights emergency”, the resolution said.

The Hong Kong security law has broken the trust between Europe and Beijing and “leads to a further erosion of Beijing’s credibility on the international stage”.

MEPs stressed “the need for the EU to take urgent and resolute action” and called on Brussels to draw up a fresh wave of sanctions against Chinese authorities.

The resolution said the earlier decision to block an EU-China investment deal stood as long as Chinese sanctions against MEPs and scholars were in place.

The parliament voted overwhelmingly in May to refuse any consideration of the deal as long as sanctions were there.

China says the sanctions are a justified response after the EU imposed punitive measures against Chinese officials over allegations of human rights abuses.

Belgium’s parliament also passed a resolution on Thursday warning of a “serious risk of genocide” against China’s Uyghurs.

The resolution aligned the parliament with similar statements by the US administration and a handful of western countries including Britain, Canada and the Netherlands.

It brought a sharp response from China.

“We call on Belgium to immediately correct its error so as to avoid a deterioration in Sino-Belgian relations,” said Chinese foreign ministry official Zhao Lijian.



MOROCCO AUTHORITIES ARREST UYGHUR ACTIVIST AT CHINA'S REQUEST

Supporters fear Yidiresi Aishan will be extradited and say arrest is politically driven

/// Moroccan authorities have arrested a Uyghur activist in exile because of a Chinese terrorism warrant distributed by Interpol, according to information from Moroccan police and a rights group that tracks people detained by China.

Activists fear Yidiresi Aishan will be extradited to China and say the arrest is politically driven as part of a broader Chinese campaign to hunt down perceived dissidents outside its borders.

Morocco's national security directorate said on Tuesday that a Chinese citizen was arrested after landing at Mohammed V international airport in Casablanca on 20 July, upon arrival from Istanbul.

"[He] was the subject of a red notice issued by Interpol due to his suspected belonging to an organisation on the lists of terrorist organisations," the directorate said.

The red notice – the equivalent of being on Interpol's most-wanted list – was issued at the request of China, which was seeking his extradition, the directorate said, adding that Moroccan authorities notified Interpol and the Chinese authorities about the arrest, and the Chinese citizen was referred to prosecutors pending the extradition procedure.

Moroccan police did not publicly name the arrested man, but nongovernmental organisation Safeguard Defenders identified him as Aishan. The group specialises in cases of people detained by China.

Aishan, a 33-year-old computer engineer and father of three, has been based in Turkey since 2012, where he worked as a web designer and activist and has residency papers,



according to friend and colleague Abduweli Ayup. Aishan worked on a Uyghur diaspora online newspaper and assisted other activists in media outreach and collecting testimonies of abuse in China's Xinjiang province.

After repeated arrests in Turkey, Aishan left Istanbul for Casablanca on the evening of 19 July, Ayup said. Aishan called his wife on Saturday and said he was being deported, according to Ayup, who is in touch with Aishan's family.

Interpol and the Chinese embassy in Morocco did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the arrest. The exact charges against him were unclear.

Morocco ratified an extradition treaty with China in 2017, among several such treaties China has made in recent years.

Advertisement

China has described its sweeping lockup of a million or more Uyghurs and other largely Muslim minorities as a "war against terror" after knifings and bombings by a small number of extremist Uyghurs native to Xinjiang. Researchers say many innocent people have been detained for things like going abroad or attending religious gatherings.

Safeguard Defenders has appealed to the Moroccan ambassadors in Washington and Brussels not to extradite Aishan. It was "not uncommon" for Chinese authorities to obtain Interpol red notices for Uyghurs and other dissidents abroad, said Peter Dahlin of Safeguard Defenders.



In a similar case, a Chinese teenager who says he is a US permanent resident was arrested in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in April while transferring for a flight. Chinese officials had sought Wang Jingyu, a 19-year-old student, over his online comments about deadly border clashes between Chinese and Indian forces last year. The US state department called it a human rights concern. Wang was freed in May, and he and his fiancée fled to the Netherlands.



FORMER NBA PLAYER ROYCE WHITE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST CHINA'S OPPRESSION OF THE UYGHURS

Former NBA Player Royce White spoke out to raise awareness about the millions of Uyghurs suffering oppression in Chinese concentration camps.

The one-time Sacramento Kings player spoke out on camera during a recent Big 3 basketball game when the floor reporter asked White what his t-shirt meant.

"Free the Uyghurs," Royce responded, "two million ethnic minorities in East Turkistan, China, in concentration camps. It's something we gotta talk about, you know I'm always going to talk about the real thing."

White later told fans more on his Twitter feed:

"When you know a moment like this should be going viral but instead you get crickets from media outlets... that's when you know

you're doing it the right way. When it doesn't suit anybody to talk about justice and freedom, that's when you should talk about it. #FreeTheUyghurs," he wrote on Sunday.





White also posted the clip to his Instagram page:

White's NBA career was short lived, but his stand against the NBA's billion-dollar Chinese business partners for their oppression and enslavement of the Uyghur minorities is worthy of immense praise.

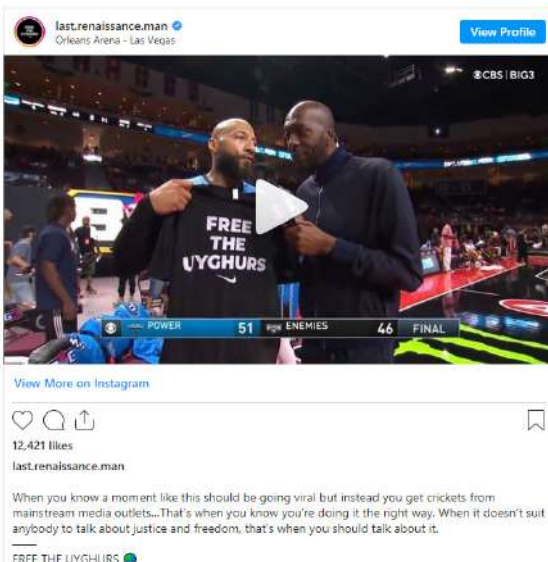
he plight of the Uyghurs is a topic the NBA steadfastly ignores in favor of raking in billions of dollars in broadcast and endorsement

deals with the Chinese government. Indeed, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has explained away the league's relationship with the world's leading oppressor by defending the relationship as good for "international relations."

Silver even recently expanded his league's dealings with China despite the accusations of hypocrisy.

Meanwhile, individual NBA players who claim to be civil rights activists at home in the U.S.A. also ignore the slave labor camps that make their jerseys and shoes. For instance, LeBron James constantly attacks Americans, but studiously remains silent about his oppressive Chinese business partners.

By Warner Todd Huston





CHINA ACCUSED IN DEATH OF UYGHUR RESEARCHER RETURNING FROM JAPAN

The suspicious death in December 2020 of a Uyghur plant biology researcher at a detention facility in Xinjiang has drawn attention on social media.

/// Mihriay Erkin, 29, left her job at Japan's Nara Technology and Science Institute in June 2019 and returned to China over concerns about the safety of her parents in Xinjiang. She was arbitrarily detained and sent to the Yanbulaq detention center in Kashgar in February 2020.

Her relatives blame Chinese authorities for her death, which they say they learned about only recently. China denies all allegations pertaining to the persecution of Uyghurs and calls the internment camps “vocational institutes” that deradicalize extremists.

“I learned the news almost six months after my niece Mihriay was killed by Chinese au-

thorities, but I still don't know if she has an actual grave or not,” said Abduweli Ayup, Erkin's uncle and a Norway-based Uyghur rights activist.

Ayup launched a social media campaign last week with Uyghur activists to highlight Erkin and demand that China disclose the circumstances surrounding her death.

Father, aunt detained

Mihriay Erkin's father, Erkin Ayup, a former Chinese government official, and her aunt, Sajidigul Ayup, a former high school teacher, had been detained by Chinese authorities for almost two years in Xinjiang when Mihriay decided to leave Japan in 2019.

The oldest of two siblings, Erkin moved to Japan in 2014 to pursue a master's degree in plant biology at Tokyo University.

Abduweli Ayup said he warned Erkin against returning to Xinjiang, but she ignored the



advice after local Chinese police used her mother to lure her back. Her last words to him before she left were, “If I die, if I have a grave, a bouquet of peonies will mark my grave.”

“My niece died in [a] detention center, and her father and aunt were sentenced to 12 and 14 years in prison,” he said. He added that it was unclear whether Erkin’s mother and brother were also detained, as he has lost contact with them.

According to a report July 10 by Amnesty International, China’s extreme measures toward Uyghurs and other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang constitute “crimes against humanity.”

“Chinese authorities have built one of the world’s most sophisticated surveillance systems and a vast network of hundreds of grim ‘transformation-through-education’ centers — actually, internment camps — throughout Xinjiang,” the report said.

During a news conference in Beijing on June 11, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin accused the watchdog organization of misleading the public through “lies” about Xinjiang.

“Its so-called report is like adding one more

page to its ‘record of lies,’” Wang said about the Amnesty International report.

Neither Wang nor any Xinjiang official has responded to Uyghur activists’ requests for information about how Erkin died in detention.

Diaspora targeted

Rushan Abbas, an American Uyghur rights activist and executive director of the Washington-based Campaign for Uyghurs, told VOA that Erkin’s fate marked a growing push by Beijing to target Uyghur diaspora members who speak up about Xinjiang human rights violations.

“My heart breaks for Mihriay, for Abduweli, and for the millions of Uyghurs around the world who are facing these same fears and trials,” Abbas told VOA.

Her sister, Gulshan Abbas, a retired doctor in China, was arbitrarily detained and sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2019.

“I am scared for my sister and pray that she is staying strong, but that love I have for my sister and for my people fuels me with strength to fight harder,” Abbas said.

According to a joint report recently published by the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs and the Uyghur Human Rights Project, many diaspora Uyghurs have been encouraged to return home by the government via messages on WeChat or phone calls from relatives, only to be arrested upon arrival.

By Asim Kashgarian



UYGHUR FROM CANADA WALKS 380 KILOMETERS FOR HIS PEOPLE

Bilal Malik reaches Ottawa from Toronto in 14 days of walking for a cause

A Muslim Uyghur from Canada has walked 380 kilometers (236 miles) to draw attention to the situation of his countrymen in China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region, also known as East Turkistan.

/// Bilal Malik, who set out from the city of Toronto for the March for Freedom, told Anadolu Agency that he will meet other Uyghurs in the capital Ottawa and present their demands to the office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"People that I met during my walk showed their support for the Uyghur struggle. They signed the text we prepared with our demands," said Malik, adding he has been on the road since July 4.

"Canada should bring all stranded Uyghur refugees to Canada and open its doors to all Uyghur refugees around the world. Canada should boycott the [2022] Beijing Olympics on the grounds of genocide against the Uyghurs. The Trudeau government should recognize the [February 2021] genocide resolution adopted by the federal parliament and take steps accordingly," Malik urged in his call to Trudeau, reiterating calls by Uyghur activists and human rights groups.

The Xinjiang region is home to around 10 million Uyghurs. The Turkic Muslim group, which makes up around 45% of Xinjiang's population, has long accused China's authorities of cultural, religious and economic discrimination.

Up to 1 million people, or about 7% of the Muslim population in Xinjiang, have been incarcerated in an expanding network of "political re-education" camps, according to US officials and UN experts.

Both the US and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Chinese officials over the issue, with China quickly retaliating.

Beijing has denied the claims of oppression, accusing Western capitals of using the Uyghur issue as a tool to counter China's rising influence.

By Seyit Aydogan



UNION OF EAST TURKISTAN SCHOLARS: THE MOST STATEMENT OF DENIAL AND CONDEMNATION

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most

Statement of denial and condemnation

//The Union of Eastern Turkistan Scholars expresses its deep regret and shock at the positions of Pakistani Islamic symbols in support of the Chinese communist regime at the expense of their Muslim brothers in Turkistan, as the Union denounces these disgraceful statements that provoke Muslim feelings.

During the celebration of the Communist Party of China on the occasion of its establishment, we were surprised by the participation of Sheikh Maulana Fadl Rahman, the representative of the Islamic Scholars Community, and Sheikh Siraj Al-Haq, Prince of the Islamic Community of Pakistan, in the

centenary conference of the Communist Party Chinese online, praising China and the Communist Party for claiming its contribution to global evolution, and even China is the supporter of the oppressed world, completely ignoring the tragedy of Eastern Turkistan Muslims near Pakistan's borders. The hand of communist Chinese authorities, genocide and crimes against humanity, from





arresting more than 5 million Muslims, demolishing mosques and preventing Islamic rituals and denouncing these crimes by many countries.

These disgraceful and biased statements and attitudes of the Chinese regime at the expense of their Muslim brothers, are certainly in violation of the following Islamic principles:

1-It's a violation of the principle of unity of the nation to say (This is your nation one nation and I'm your Lord so worship).

2-It violates the principle of the Islamic Brotherhood of saying (but the believers are brothers).

3-It is a pillar to the oppressor, and it is forbidden to say, " Glory be to Him (and do not leave to those who wronged you, so the Fire will touch you

4-It is a false testimony and this is an end to him for saying peace be upon him (except for false testimony).

5-It's taking an enemy of Islam as a good friend, and this is forbidden to say: " O you who believe, don't take my enemy and your

enemy as your affection, and they have disbelieved in what has come to you from the truth if scholars don't apply these Islamic principles High in their political statements and positions, who applies?

Hence, the Union of East Turkistan Scholars demands to undo these disgraceful and irresponsible statements and return to the right side.

And we remind everyone of the Hadith of the Prophet, peace be upon him: (Whoever helps an oppressor to refute his heroes, he has been acquitted from him and his Messenger).

This is and God bless and pay.

Union of East Turkistan Scholars

2021-07-10



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What is happening in East Turkistan?

What is true and what is false?

The “ISTIQLAL” journal uses reliable sources, evidence and witnesses to reveal China’s crimes against humanity and shine a light on the oppression in East Turkistan as well as exposing China’s fake news propaganda.

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