



## CHINA'S ETHNIC CLEANSING COULD KILL 4.5 MILLION UYGHURS BY 2040: STUDY



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
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## THINK TANK FLAGS CONCERNS OVER CHINA'S USE OF DNA PROFILING AGAINST UYGHURS

Toronto [Canada], August 30 (ANI): Amid the mounting accusation of large-scale human rights violations and persecution of Uyghurs by China, fresh reports have emerged where the Chinese authorities are said to be racially profiling minority group to build a large DNA database.

China has been rebuked for cracking down on Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. Multiple reports suggest that Beijing sends the ethnic minorities to mass detention camps and interferes in their religious activities. Moreover, it subjects them to abuse including forced labor.

Despite mounting evidence, Beijing has vehemently denied that it is engaging in human rights abuses against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

**“ A report by a Toronto based think tank, published on August 28, highlighted how a database is being made to enable selective ethnic cleansing in what perhaps could be labelled as one of the most “egregious crimes against humanity” that the Chinese authorities have undertaken.**

“The incarceration of Uyghur minorities in Chinese detention camps and continued violation of human rights in the Xinjiang region has added another dimension, DNA and racial profiling, in attempts to build a large DNA database to enable selective ethnic cleansing in what perhaps could be labelled as one of the most egregious crimes against

humanity that the Chinese authorities have undertaken,” said International Forum for Rights and Security (IFFRAS).

**// Back in 2017, bioinformatician Yves Moreau at a research university in Belgium had discovered a paper in Human Genetics on a problematic theme, titled “male genetic landscape of China.” This study was based on a study of 38,000 Y-STR sequences, which are bits of repetitive DNA deployed for use in forensic investigations and law enforcement agencies.**

IFFRAS report said that this research paper revealed several troubling aspects in the manner such genetic data was being collected. The think tank stated that the use of genetic data is often problematic per human rights standards due to its susceptibility to misuse and the violation of informed consent requirements when collating such data sets that involve DNA matter from minorities.

Further slamming the Chinese authorities, IFFRAS report said, “What Moreau has discovered is a revelation for the human rights community as several other journals have

published papers on similar points that cover genetic data testing.”

According to the Toronto think tank, the paper published by human genetics is jarring for the human rights community as it includes important data of more than 300,000 individuals and is available publicly for use by law enforcement agencies and researchers.

The researchers from Canada further warned of a host of issues that range from privacy violations to genetic profiling, which in the hands of an authoritarian China drastically reduces public trust in human genetic studies and the ability of the academic community to maintain confidentiality.

Experts argue that informed consent and privacy are often alien rights to minorities who have been incarcerated by the Chinese authorities as nationalism eclipses all human rights in the minds of the CCP.

“In such circumstances, it falls upon the international academic community to publish genetic data without compromising on inviolable principles of informed consent,” the think tank added. (ANI).







## DETAINEE SAYS CHINA HAS SECRET JAIL IN DUBAI, HOLDS UYGHURS

A young Chinese woman says she was held for eight days at a Chinese-run secret detention facility in Dubai along with at least two Uyghurs, in what may be the first evidence that China is operating a so-called “black site” beyond its borders.

**The woman, 26-year-old Wu Huan, was on the run to avoid extradition back to China because her fiancé was considered a Chinese dissident. Wu told The Associated Press she was abducted from a hotel in Dubai and detained by Chinese officials at a villa converted into a jail, where she saw or heard two other prisoners, both Uyghurs.**

She was questioned and threatened in Chinese and forced to sign legal documents incriminating her fiancé for harassing her, she said. She was finally released on June 8 and is now seeking asylum in the Netherlands.

While “black sites” are common in China, Wu’s account is the only testimony known to experts that Beijing has set one up in another country. Such a site would reflect how China is increasingly using its international clout to detain or bring back citizens it wants from overseas, whether they are dissidents, corruption suspects or ethnic minorities like the Uyghurs.

The AP was unable to confirm or disprove Wu’s account independently, and she could not pinpoint the exact location of the black site. However, reporters have seen and heard corroborating evidence including stamps in



her passport, a phone recording of a Chinese official asking her questions and text messages that she sent from jail to a pastor helping the couple.

China's Foreign Ministry denied her story. "What I can tell you is that the situation the person talked about is not true," ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Monday.

Dubai Police stated Monday that any claims of a Chinese woman detained by local authorities on behalf of a foreign country are false, and that Wu freely exited the country with her friend three months ago.

"Dubai does not detain any foreign nationals without following internationally accepted procedures and local law enforcement processes, nor does it allow foreign governments to run any detention centers within its borders," said a statement from the Dubai government media office. "Dubai also follows all recognized global norms and procedures set by international organizations like Interpol in the detainment, interrogation and transfer of fugitives sought by foreign governments."

Black sites are clandestine jails where prisoners generally are not charged with a crime and have no legal recourse, with no bail or court order. Many in China are used to stop petitioners with grievances against local governments, and they often take the form of rooms in hotels or guesthouses.

Yu-Jie Chen, an assistant professor at Taiwan's Academia Sinica, said she had not heard of a Chinese secret jail in Dubai, and such a facility in another country would be unusual. However, she also noted that it would be in keeping with China's attempts to do all it can to bring select citizens back, both through official means such as signing extradition treaties and unofficial means such as revoking visas or putting pressure on family back home.

"(China) really wasn't interested in reaching out until recent years," said Chen, who has tracked China's international legal actions. "This trend is increasingly robust."

Chen said Uyghurs in particular were being extradited or returned to China, which has been detaining the mostly Muslim minority on suspicion of terrorism even for relatively harmless acts like praying. The Uyghur Human Rights Project tracked 89 Uyghurs detained or deported from nine countries from 1997 to 2007 through public reports. That number steadily increased to reach 1,327 from 20 countries from 2014 until now, the group found.

Wu and her fiancé, 19-year-old Wang Jingyu, are not Uyghur but rather Han Chinese, the majority ethnicity in China. Wang is wanted by China because he posted messages questioning Chinese media coverage of the Hong Kong protests in 2019 and China's actions in a border clash with India.

Along with Uyghurs, China has been cracking down on perceived dissidents and human rights activists, and has launched a massive effort to get back suspect officials as part of a national anti-corruption campaign. Under President Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in decades, Beijing brought back 1,421 people in 2020 alone for alleged corruption and financial crime under Operation Skynet. However, the AP could not find

comprehensive numbers for how many Chinese citizens overall have been detained or deported from overseas in recent years.

Dubai also has a history as a place where Uyghurs are interrogated and deported back to China. And activists say Dubai itself has been linked to secret interrogations involving other countries. Radha Stirling, a legal advocate who founded the advocacy group Detained in Dubai, said she has worked with about a dozen people who have reported being held in villas in the UAE, including citizens of Canada, India and Jordan but not China.

“There is no doubt that the UAE has detained people on behalf of foreign governments with whom they are allied,” Stirling said. “I don’t think they would at all shrug their shoulders to a request from such a powerful ally.”

However, Patrick Theros, a former U.S. ambassador to Qatar who is now strategic advisor to the Gulf International Forum, called the allegations “totally out of character” for the Emiratis.

“They don’t allow allies freedom of movement,” he said. “The idea that the Chinese would have a clandestine center, it makes no sense.”

The U.S. State Department had no comment on Wu’s specific case or on whether there is a Chinese-run black site in Dubai.

“We will continue to coordinate with allies and partners to stand against transnational repression everywhere,” it said in a statement to the AP.

## HELD IN A VILLA

Wu, a Chinese millennial with cropped hair dyed blonde, never cared about politics before. But after her fiancé was arrested in Dubai on April 5 on unclear charges, she started giving interviews to media and get-



ting in touch with overseas-based Chinese dissidents for help.

On May 27, Wu said, she was questioned by Chinese officials at her hotel, the Element al-Jaddaf, and then taken by Dubai police to the Bur Dubai police station. Staff for the hotel declined in a phone interview to confirm her stay or her departure, saying it was against company policy to disclose information about guests.

She was held for three days at the police station, she said, with her phone and personal belongings confiscated. On the third day, she said, a Chinese man who introduced himself as Li Xuhang came to visit her. He told her he was working for the Chinese consulate in Dubai, and asked her whether she had taken money from foreign groups to act against China.

“I said no, I love China so much. My passport is Chinese. I’m a Chinese person. I speak Chinese,” she said. “I said, how could I do that?”

Li Xuhang is listed as consul general on the website of the Chinese consulate in Dubai. The consulate did not return multiple calls asking for comment and to speak with Li directly.

Wu said Li took her out of the police station along with another Chinese man who handcuffed her, and they put her in a black Toyota. There were multiple Chinese people in the

car, but Wu was too scared to get a clear look at their faces.

Her heart thumping, they drove past an area where many Chinese lived and owned businesses in Dubai called International City, which Wu recognized from an earlier trip to Dubai.

After driving for half an hour, they stopped on a deserted street with rows of identical compounds. She was brought inside a white-colored villa with three stories, where a series of rooms had been converted into individual cells, she said.

The house was quiet and cold in contrast with the desert heat. Wu was taken to her own cell, a room which had been renovated to have a heavy metal door.

There was a bed in her room, a chair and a white fluorescent light that was on all day and night. The metal door remained closed except when they fed her.

“Firstly, there’s no sense of time,” Wu said. “And second, there’s no window, and I couldn’t see if it was day or night.”

Wu said a guard took her to a room several times where they questioned her in Chinese and threatened that she would never be allowed to leave. The guards wore face masks all the time.

**She saw another prisoner, a Uyghur woman, while waiting to use the bathroom once, she said. A second time, she heard a Uyghur woman shouting in Chinese, “I don’t want to go back to China, I want to go back to Turkey.” Wu identified the women as Uyghurs based on what she said was their distinctive appearance and accent.**



Wu said she was fed twice a day, with the second meal a stack of plain flatbread. She had to ask the guards for permission to drink water or go to the bathroom. She was supposed to be allowed to go the bathroom a maximum of five times a day, Wu said, but that depended on the mood of the guards.

The guards also gave her a phone and a SIM card and instructed her to call her fiancé and pastor Bob Fu, the head of ChinaAid, a Christian non-profit, who was helping the couple.

Wang confirmed to the AP that Wu called and asked him for his location. Fu said he received at least four or five calls from her during this time, a few on an unknown Dubai phone number, including one where she was crying and almost incoherent. She again blamed Wang and said Fu should not help him.

The AP also reviewed text messages Wu sent to Fu at the time, which are disjointed and erratic.

“I could tell she was hiding from telling me her whereabouts,” said Fu. “At that point we concluded that something has happened to her that prevented her from even talking.”

Wu said towards the end of her stay, she refused meals, screamed and cried in an effort to be released. The last thing her captors demanded of her, she said, was to sign docu-



ments in Arabic and English testifying that Wang was harassing her.

“I was really scared and was forced to sign the documents,” she told the AP. “I didn’t want to sign them.”

## HUB FOR CHINESE INTELLIGENCE

Reports have emerged in recent years of Emiratis and foreigners being taken to villas, sometimes indefinitely.

Perhaps the best-known case involves Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the daughter of the ruler of Dubai. Sheikha Latifa tried to flee in 2018 by boat, but was intercepted by the Indian coast guard in the Arabian Sea and handed back to the UAE.

In videos published by the BBC in February, she claims she was held against her will in a villa in Dubai.

“I’m a hostage,” she says in one of the videos. “This villa has been converted into jail.” A statement since issued on behalf of Sheikha Latifa said she is now free to travel.

**China and the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, have deep economic and political ties and also work together on counter-intelligence. China ratified an extradition treaty with the UAE in 2002 and a judicial cooperation treaty in 2008. The UAE was an experimental site for China’s COVID vaccines and cooperated with China on making tests.**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and de facto ruler of the UAE, has said he was willing to work with China to “jointly strike against

terrorist extremist forces”, including the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, a militant group Beijing has accused of fostering Uyghur separatism. In late 2017 and early 2018, local authorities arrested and deported at least five Uyghurs to China, according to four friends and relatives who spoke by phone with the AP.

In one case, a long-time UAE resident, Ahmad Talip, was called in for questioning at a local police station and detained, according to his wife, Amannisa Abdullah, who is now in Turkey. In another case, eight plainclothes officers broke into a hotel room and arrested a 17-year-old boy who had just fled a police raid in Egypt.

The detentions were carried out by Arabs who appeared to be UAE police, not Chinese agents, the Uyghurs said. However, one of the detainees, Huseyin Imintohti, was sought by three Chinese agents at a Uyghur restaurant in Dubai before his deportation, according to his wife, Nigare Yusup.

Another Uyghur detainee, Yasinjan Memtimin, was interrogated twice by people in the UAE who appeared to be Chinese police, said his wife, who declined to be named out of fear of retribution. She said she had heard from a Uyghur who fled overseas of a detention facility in the UAE where Uyghurs were detained and interrogated, but she could not offer more details.

The UAE appears to be a hub for Chinese intelligence on Uyghurs in the Middle East, for-





mer Uyghur residents told The AP. A Uyghur linguist, Abduweli Ayup, said he had spoken with three Uyghurs coerced into working as spies in Turkey who passed through Dubai to pick up SIM cards and cash and meet Chinese agents.

Jasur Abibula, a former Xinjiang government worker, also told the AP that Chinese state security lured him from the Netherlands to the UAE in 2019 after his ex-wife, Asiye Abdulaheb, obtained confidential documents on internment camps in Xinjiang. He was greeted by a dozen or so people working for the Chinese government in Dubai, he said, including at least two who introduced themselves as working for China's Ministry of State Security.

One, a Uyghur man in his fifties who gave his name as Dolet, said he was stationed in Dubai. The other, a Han Chinese man who spoke fluent Uyghur, said he was on a mission to uncover the source of the leaks, according to Abibula.

The agents presented Abibula with a USB and asked him to insert it in his ex-wife's computer. They offered him money, put him up in a Hilton resort and bought toys for his kids. They also threatened him, showing him a video of his mother back in China. On a drive through dunes of sand, one said it reminded him of the deserts back in Xinjiang.

"If we kill and bury you here, nobody will be able to find your body," he recalled them telling him. Abibula is now back in the Netherlands, where the AP spoke to him by phone, and he sent photos of some of the agents, his hotel and his plane ticket to support his claims.

Besides the UAE, many other countries have cooperated with China in sending Uyghurs back. In 2015, Thailand repatriated over 100 Uyghurs to China. In 2017, Egyptian police

detained hundreds of Uyghur students and residents and sent them back as well.

Rodney Dixon, a London-based rights lawyer representing Uyghur groups, said his team has filed a case against Tajikistan in the International Criminal Court, accusing local authorities of aiding China in deporting Uyghurs.

China isn't the first country to hunt people deemed terror suspects outside its borders. After 9/11, the U.S. government also operated and controlled a network of CIA clandestine detention facilities overseas in countries including Thailand, Lithuania and Romania. The CIA's detention and interrogation program ended in 2009.

### **"I'M AFRAID TO CALL YOU"**

After Wu was released, she was taken back to the same hotel she had stayed at and given her personal belongings. She immediately reached out to Fu, apologized for her past calls and asked for help, in text messages seen by the AP.

"I'm afraid to call you," she told Fu in one message. "I'm afraid I will be overheard."

On June 11, she flew out of Dubai to Ukraine, where she was reunited with Wang.

After threats from Chinese police that Wang could face extradition from Ukraine, the couple fled again to the Netherlands. Wu said she misses her homeland.

"I've discovered that the people deceiving us are Chinese, that it's our countrymen hurting our own countrymen," she said. "That is the situation."

Staff writers Nomaan Merchant and Matthew Lee contributed to this report from Washington, D.C.

*By The Associated Press*



## CHINESE POLICIES AGAINST UYGHURS COULD CLAIM 4.5 MILLION LIVES BY 2040, STUDY SAYS

Study by Dr Adrian Zenz, an anthropologist who has researched extensively on Uyghurs, reveals Chinese govt has been using birth control measures to control Uyghur population.

New Delhi: With forced birth control measures and ‘re-education camps’, China has been deliberately reducing the population of Uyghurs, a Muslim minority ethnic group, a new study has claimed.

**The study by Dr Adrian Zenz, a German anthropologist known for his research on Muslim minorities in China, estimates that the country's policies could lead to a loss of over 4.5 million lives by 2040 and suggests that this could be classified as genocide under the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.**

The UN Genocide Convention, ratified by 152 countries, is an instrument of international law that has codified the crime of genocide, noting that it can happen both in times of war or peace.

Published in the Central Asian Survey journal Wednesday, the study by Zenz shares evidence of an organised campaign to reduce population growth of Muslim Uyghurs by forcibly using birth control as well as other measures.

Zenz, a Senior Fellow in China Studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in the US, analysed publicly available documents in Xinjiang — an autonomous territory in northwest China — along with articles written by academics in the region for the study.

He noted that the documents shed light on a common narrative, which is the wish to “optimise” the ethnic population structure in Xinjiang.

This instruction, according to Zenz, comes

right from the top with the central government in Beijing “attaching great importance to the problem of Xinjiang’s population structure and population security”.

The study also reveals the presence of a state-run scheme to forcibly uproot, assimilate and reduce the population density of Uyghurs.

Measures ranging from mass internment of Uyghurs for political re-education to systematic birth prevention, mass sterilisation and forced displacement have been introduced by the Chinese government since 2017, according to the study.

As a result, natural population growth in Xinjiang has declined dramatically in recent years.

Zenz estimates that birth prevention could result in a potential loss of between 2.6 and 4.5 million lives by the year 2040.

“My study reveals the presence of a long-term strategy by Beijing to solve the Xinjiang ‘problem’ through ‘optimization’ of the ethnic population structure,” Zenz said in a statement.

“The most realistic method to achieve this involves a drastic suppression of ethnic minority birth rates for the coming decades, resulting in a potential loss of several million lives. A smaller ethnic minority population will also be easier to police, control and assimilate,” he added.

“The most concerning aspect of this strate-



gy is that ethnic minority citizens are framed as a ‘problem’. This language is akin to purported statements by Xinjiang officials that problem populations are like ‘weeds hidden among the crops’ where the state will ‘need to spray chemicals to kill them all’. Such a framing of an entire ethnic group is highly concerning,” noted Zenz.

### **Policies against Uyghurs**

More than 10 million Uyghurs, predominantly Muslims, live in the Xinjiang province. They speak a Turkic language and more closely resemble the people of Central Asia than they do China’s majority population, the Han Chinese.

In 2018, a research by Zenz uncovered evidence that up to one million Uyghur people were detained in what the Chinese government defines as ‘re-education’ camps.

While China had initially denied the existence of such camps, it later defended the camps noting that they were a measure against terrorism.

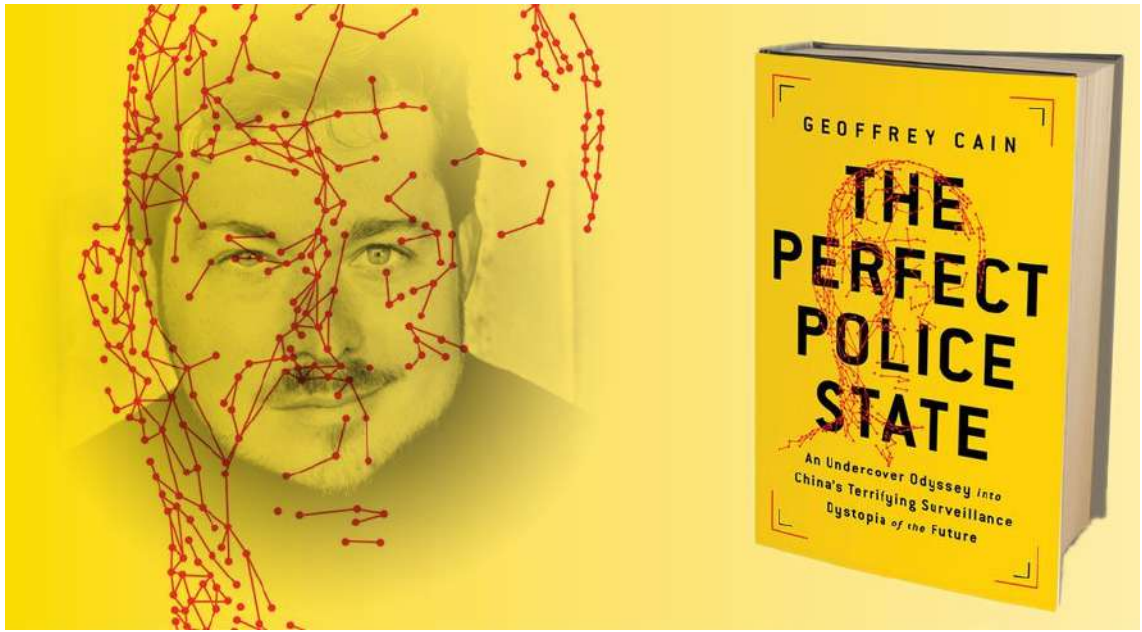
Zenz, however, presented a series of leaked official documents, which showed that many of those detained were accused only of harbouring “strong religious views” and “politically incorrect” ideas.

In another study, published in 2020, Zenz highlighted that unknown drugs and injections were being administered to Uyghur women in detention.

The study revealed that authorities were forcibly implanting intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUDs) in women, which are medical implants that prevent conception, or are forcing women to undergo surgical sterilisation.

He added that detention was being used as a punishment for birth control violations.

*(Edited by Rachel John)*



## GEOFFREY CAIN ON XINJIANG'S 'PERFECT POLICE STATE'

**"Every person in Xinjiang is documented down to their genetic makeup, the sound of their voice, and whether they enter their homes through the front door or the back."**

In "The Perfect Police State: An Undercover Odyssey Into China's Terrifying Surveillance Dystopia of the Future" (Public Affairs, 2021), American journalist Geoffrey Cain examines the reality of daily life in China's Xinjiang region. Based on dozens of interviews with Uyghur exiles, the book illuminates how the Chinese government has pioneered a series of law enforcement and surveillance techniques, including data-enabled "preventive policing," which have funneled hundreds of thousands into "re-education camps" and brought the region close to the reality depicted in George Orwell's "1984."

Cain spoke with The Diplomat's Sebastian Strangio about the genesis of the Chinese

government's "slow, sinister erasure" of Uyghur culture, the complicity of Western tech firms, and the texture of daily life under the Party's unblinking eye.

As your book reveals, the ethnic minorities of Xinjiang refer to the region's regime of pervasive surveillance as "the situation." What does "the situation" mean in practical terms for the average Uyghur or Kazakh? How and where does this system intersect with people's everyday routines?

When Uyghurs and Kazakhs say "the situation," they're using a euphemism and code-word for all the surveillance that envelopes their daily lives. You can live your entire life in Xinjiang under the watch of the state.





Of course, other regimes have attempted this before. But what makes life in Xinjiang so foreboding is that the police have seized on new advances in artificial intelligence, deep neural networks, facial and voice recognition, and biometric data collection to establish the all-seeing eye. Every person in Xinjiang is documented down to their genetic makeup, the sound of their voice, and whether they enter their homes through the front door or the back.

**I wrote “The Perfect Police State” because I wanted to show readers just how bad things can get. We live in an age where the unprecedented pace of technological advance has collided with the rise of authoritarians, strongmen, and major technology corporations with the muscle to overpower, or the cash piles to buy off, sovereign states. It’s a dangerous mix, and not one we should rule out coming to stable democracies in the West, too.**

What was the genesis of the “perfect police state” in China? Why did the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) embark on this far-reaching project, and what is its ultimate goal?

Under the CCP, Xinjiang was always a far-off and restive region, with its own identity,

language and culture distinct from the Han Chinese majority. And so Xinjiang was always the site of repression at the hands of the CCP, fearful that the region could break off and form its own nation. It’s what happened in the Soviet Union after its own collapse, with the creation of the states of Central Asia, such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

China was also concerned about terrorism in the region of Xinjiang – a small, radical segment of the population was bent on launching terrorist attacks against China. In 1996, China set up the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and signed up Central Asian nations for its mission to deter terrorist attacks and maintain security in the oil-rich regions of Eurasia. But it wasn’t until September 11, 2001 that China had a new impetus, a shield of “counterterrorism” with which to cover its repression of Xinjiang from criticism.

Ultimately, China’s goal was to create a total security state. It wanted to monitor, document, and surveil every square meter and every person in Xinjiang, buying its own propaganda that the region was teeming with terrorists. As one Chinese official in Xinjiang put it: “You can’t uproot all the weeds hidden among the crops in the field one by one – you need to spray chemicals to kill them all.” It sums up the CCP’s approach the region.

One strategy for creating a total security state is the absolute assimilation of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslim minorities – about 12 million people – into the ways of life of the Han Chinese majority.

This isn’t a genocide in the sense of the twentieth century, when fascist bureaucracies marched “unwanted” populations to death camps and forced them into gas chambers. This is the slow, sinister erasure of an entire culture, through psychological and physical torture at concentration camps, and never-ending surveillance that forces them to



internalize the state’s thinking and deny their own realities.

It’s also the generational erasure of the population through forced sterilizations of women. By that token, under international law, China has committed genocide against the people of Xinjiang.

In your book, you describe the sheer pervasiveness of the surveillance state in Xinjiang, from the ubiquitous CCTV cameras to the use of data and algorithms in “preventive policing,” which have collectively brought the region into the realm of that described in Orwell’s “1984.” Can you give us a summary of what tools the Chinese government is using to police the minority populations of Xinjiang?

In addition to “1984,” life in Xinjiang reminds me of the Tom Cruise film “Minority Report,” based on the short story by the sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick, who also wrote the classic book that inspired “Bladerunner.”

Xinjiang runs a “predictive policing” program that uses AI, camera technologies, big data, and algorithms to crack down on its people. If the system believes you will commit a crime in the future, for whatever arbitrary reason, you’re in danger of getting a visit from the police and being taken to one of hundreds of known concentration camps. Without being charged with a crime, you’ll be brainwashed into “cleansing” your mind of “ideological viruses” and “cancers.”

That’s literally the language that the Xinjiang authorities use.

For China to build its all-seeing surveillance state, it needed new advances in technology that converged around the same time period. The first was the hardware switch from the old analog CCTV cameras of the 1990s and early 2000s, and the shift to digital, where China led the way with state-run firms like Hikvision, the world’s largest maker of surveillance cameras.

**The second breakthrough covered the interconnected fields of deep neural nets, facial recognition, and voice recognition in the early 2010s. New AI software had abandoned old algorithms and could now learn and train its own algorithms from vast amounts of data, gathered through cameras, clicks and purchases. Microsoft, Amazon and Chinese firms Megvii and SenseTime led the way, eager to monitor customers under the profit motive.**

Do you think the CCP’s anathematization of Islam is a product of its ideology and history, or does it also reflect older patterns of interaction between the Chinese state and the empire’s Muslim populations?

I think the approach to Islam within its own borders, comes from ideology and recent history under the Chinese Communist Party. When we go back before the communist takeover, China had structured a different and more open set of relationships with Muslim populations in Central Asia and along the Silk Road.

Party apparatchiks will say differently. But China was not a dominant hegemon over Eurasia for much of its history. Its imperial court didn't hand down edicts to a ragged and impoverished "Muslim world." The silk roads were replete with cosmopolitan and prosperous empires, many of them Muslim, and China traded with them, and made enemies with others.

Eurasia would have looked more like Europe, with scattered identities and languages and people, that traded and fought. Claiming that China has an ancient, imperial lineage over Central Asia would be like arguing ancient Rome, the Renaissance and Mussolini are all a line of continuity to Italy now, or the 19th century German Romantics inspired the rise of the Nazis.

Mulan, the legendary figure, would have probably been Turkic, not Han Chinese, with a heritage closer to the Uyghurs and Kazakhs of today. Zheng He, the famed Chinese seafaring explorer, was Muslim, built mosques, and was key to connecting China with Muslim nations. The Qing dynasty, in the 19th century, wasn't all that interested in Xinjiang, finding control too costly. The fact is that what we envision today as "China" is really just a collection of disparate peoples, including Muslims, who happen to be blanketed under the aggressive, colonizing force of the CCP.



## In recent years, the Uyghur human rights issue has become wrapped up with broader strategic tensions between China and the United States, which makes it even less likely that the Chinese government will take U.S. concerns on board. What, if anything, can concerned foreign governments and individuals do to address the situation in Xinjiang?

Because of sanctions, Chinese officials are terrified of the possibility that their assets in the U.S. and in the European Union could be exposed. But corporate transparency hasn't been a strong point in the U.S. system, and in the Caribbean where tax havens are typically under British control. We're more than happy to host the dirty money of foreign kleptocrats as long as we can take a cut.

Many abuses come down to forced labor in global supply chains. Reforming the global offshoring system would be a strong way of pulling out the rug from underneath the CCP's human rights abusers.

The U.S. and U.K., in particular, need stronger laws that require real-name registration on corporations that would open the door to exposing and freezing the holdings of CCP kleptocrats. The sanctions so far haven't been enough. By going after individual companies and people, they attack a symptom, not the problem. The CCP's human rights abusers get away with a lot, stashing their dirty money in the West, because Western law enforcement authorities are hamstrung from seeing who owns what in a transparent way.

*By Sebastian Strangio*





## NEW REPORT DOCUMENTS THE COMPLICITY OF PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN IN CHINA'S TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION OF UYGHURS

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) and the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs (Oxus) have released a new report documenting the complicity of the Pakistani and Afghan states in China's transnational repression of Uyghurs.

The report, "Nets Cast from the Earth to the Sky": China's Hunt for Pakistan's Uyghurs, distinguishes different methods by which the Chinese government represses Uyghur communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan and describes how these methods violate international human rights and legal norms.

Researchers gathered cases of China's transnational repression from interviews with Uyghur activists and refugees in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey, in addition to government documents and human rights reports, and Urdu and English media.

"Pakistan and Afghanistan are becoming

Chinese client states," said UHRP Executive Director Omer Kanat. "At the behest of the Chinese authorities, Islamabad and Kabul are engaged in the harassment, detention, and deportation of vulnerable Uyghurs. Some of the targeted Uyghurs have been tortured and executed in China, while others have experienced the breakup of their families and heavy-handed surveillance of their communities. China's economic largesse can buy all sorts of complicity in violence against Uyghurs."

"It is urgent that the international community recognise that Imran Khan has not only been silent on the plight of the Uyghurs, but that his government has been fully complicit in China's crackdown," said Bradley Jardine, Director of Research at the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs. "As the US prepares to leave Afghanistan, Uyghur Afghan citizens and long-term residents alike face the



threat of increased persecution and even extradition to China under the leadership of the Pakistan-backed Taliban movement.”

The report draws from the China’s Transnational Repression of Uyghurs Dataset, a joint project by the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs and the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) published in June 2021.

From the dataset, UHRP and Oxus have identified and analyzed 21 cases of detention and deportation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, with an upper estimate of 90 reported incidents lacking full biographical records. For those Uyghurs not directly targeted in Pakistan or Afghanistan, China is creating conditions resembling an open-air prison through intimidation and surveillance.

**According to UHRP and Oxus’ analysis, transnational repression of Uyghurs in Pakistan has been consistently on the rise since 1997 and falls into four distinct stages. The most recent of these, China’s 2014 People’s War on Terror, marks a shift in China’s transnational repression in Pakistan and Afghanistan, with some 16 Uyghurs deported or detained from 2015 into the present. This fourth stage has also seen a significant increase in the scope of Chinese activities, including hacking, malware, coercion-by-proxy, and the growing use of the Ex Chinese Association to monitor Uyghurs living in Rawalpindi.**

In the wake of unrest in Ürümchi in July 2009, thousands of Uyghur refugees fled China—some of whom would cross through Pakistan on their way to Turkey. The result was a third stage for China’s campaign of in-



timidation within Pakistan’s borders (2009–2014) in which a total of 16 Uyghurs were arrested or deported.

Following the U.S. Global War on Terror, China began to intensify its crackdown on Uyghurs in Pakistan, issuing a series of lists demanding extradition of Pakistani citizens. Throughout this second phase (2001–2008), Pakistan detained or rendered a total of 17 Uyghurs.

In the first stage of China’s evolving system of transnational repression in Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan (1990–2001), a total of 27 Uyghurs had been deported to China or detained by Pakistani security services.

“This pervasive danger for Uyghurs shows why it is urgent that the U.S. Congress pass the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, and that other governments act decisively to provide safe resettlement for Uyghur refugees at risk,” added Mr. Omer Kanat.

The report recommends concerned governments to increase quotas for the resettlement of Uyghur refugees, given that safe havens for Uyghurs are increasingly insecure. Further, the United Nations should investigate allegations against the UNHCR office in Pakistan, given the alarming testimony that Uyghur refugees are being denied asylum services by the UNHCR office in Islamabad.

*By Uyghur Human Rights Project*



## AUSTRALIAN SENATE PASSES BILL BANNING IMPORTS MADE USING FORCED LABOR

Independent Rex Patrick says the onus is now on the Coalition to allow the bill to clear the House of Representatives

The Morrison government faces growing pressure to tighten Australia's customs laws after the Senate passed a bill to ban anyone from importing products made using forced labor.

On Monday the Senate passed a bill proposed by the independent senator, Rex Patrick, but for the measure to come into effect it would also have to clear the government-controlled lower house.



The Coalition did not support passage of the legislation through the Senate, even though at least one Liberal senator said it was “a bill worthy of consideration and support in principle”.

Patrick said the passage of the bill was “an important step forward in the international efforts to combat modern slavery”. He said the onus was now on the Coalition government to allow the bill to clear the House of Representatives.

**“We can't have the government dodge the issue by saying that they are conducting another review,” Patrick said. “Action is required within the life of this Parliament, indeed within this calendar year.”**

The bill would amend the Customs Act to prohibit the importation into Australia

of goods produced or manufactured, in whole or in part, through the use of forced labor.

There is no specific reference to China, despite concerns about human rights abuses in Xinjiang being the initial trigger for the proposal – and something that was mentioned repeatedly in Monday’s Senate debate.



The Liberal senator Eric Abetz told the Senate the Chinese Communist party was a “brutal dictatorship” and he backed Patrick’s bill in principle.

But Abetz called for more detailed scrutiny of the proposal, saying it could be difficult for the government and small business to fully understand the supply chain from where a product is originally sourced.

“If this bill were to go to a vote my heart would say ‘yes’ but my head would be saying ‘not yet’,” Abetz said.

Labor and the Greens were among the supporters of the bill. “Slavery is not a thing of the past,” the Greens senator Janet Rice said.

Earlier, Guardian Australia reported the bill was poised to pass the Senate.

Patrick initially proposed to ban imports of goods made in Xinjiang region due to concerns about the forced labor of Uyghur Muslims – but he changed course after a bipartisan committee said it would be better to amend the law without specifying a particular geographic region.

Ahead of the Senate vote, the Australian Council of Trade Unions joined with several groups to urge senators to support the bill.

The president of the ACTU, Michele O’Neil, said there was “no possible defence for standing in the way of this bill”.

O’Neil, who previously told Guardian Australia it “should appall all Australians that there is no ban on the importation of goods produced by forced labor”, said the bill was a matter of upholding basic human rights.

Carolyn Kitto, from the anti-slavery coalition Be Slavery Free, said Australia was once regarded as a leader in addressing modern slavery – with the introduction of supply chain reporting requirements – but “now we are lagging”.

Freya Dinshaw, a senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, added that no business should profit from slavery.

“Most Australians would be horrified to know there is nothing in place to stop goods made with forced labor in places like Xinjiang ending up on Australian shelves,” Dinshaw said.

“We want to see a robust imports regime introduced that places the onus back onto importers to show their goods are slavery-free.”

The government has been facing growing pressure – including from its own MPs – to join international efforts to curb forced labor practices, a move that looms as another potential flashpoint in the tense relationship with Beijing.





**China denies all allegations of forced labor in Xinjiang or of human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims and other minorities, but the US and several western parliaments have labelled the Chinese government's actions in the region as "genocide".**

A prominent Uyghur leader based in Australia on Monday called on senators to "take meaningful action against slavery".

"The industrial scale at which Uyghurs are being held in internment and labor camps means immediate action on this issue is needed," said Ramila Chanisheff, the president of the Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association.

Patrick's bill uses an existing definition of forced labor. It includes when someone is not free to cease providing labor or services "because of the use of coercion, threat or deception". It also includes if a person is not free to leave the place or area where the victim provides the labor or services.

Kylie Porter, the executive director of Global Compact Network Australia, said many businesses were taking action on modern slavery.

"However, we recognise that the passing of this bill may come as a significant challenge for some businesses due to the complexity of supply chains and limited visibility beyond the first tier of suppliers," Porter said.

She said the government would need to put in place practical measures "to enable businesses to comply with the ban".

The Modern Slavery Act that passed the parliament in 2018 is limited in its scope, with only Australia's biggest companies – those with annual revenue of more than \$100m – required to submit annual statements on the steps they are taking to address modern slavery in their supply chains and operations.

The government has not ruled out toughening up the modern slavery laws.

*By Daniel Hurst*





## INTERPOL CANCELS ALERT FOR UYGHUR MAN SOUGHT BY CHINA

Interpol has cancelled a red notice for a Uyghur man sought by Beijing after the international police body conducted a review, as accusations mount that it is being used to repatriate dissidents to China.

The red notice had led Moroccan authorities to detain Yidiresi Aishan, a 33-year-old Chinese national born in Xinjiang and also known as Idris Hasan, after he arrived in Casablanca on July 19 from Turkey, where he has lived since 2012.

**“The Interpol general secretariat has cancelled the red notice for Yidiresi Aishan and informed all 194 member countries,” an Interpol statement said on Monday.**

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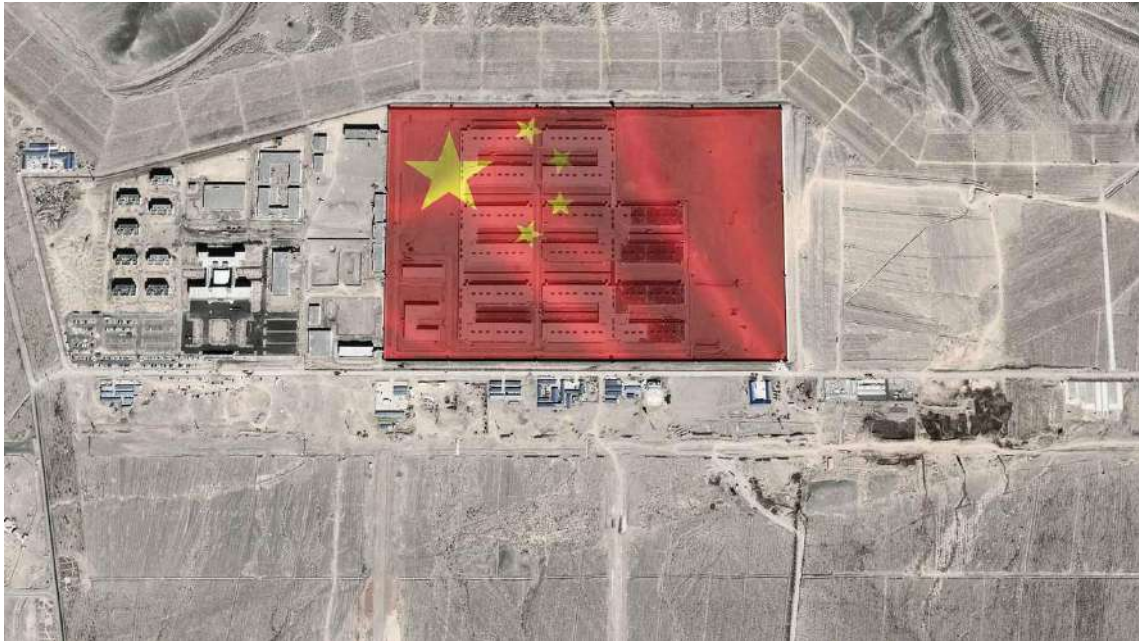
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“The decision was made following a review of the notice after new information was brought to the attention of the general secretariat.”

An Interpol spokesman declined to provide more information on why the notice was cancelled.

China’s public security ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed list of questions about the cancellation of the red notice. It also did not respond to previous questions about Aishan’s case, sent on August 2.

The Chinese government has been accused of human rights abuses against the Uyghur people, who live mostly in China’s western



region of Xinjiang. Beijing has denied the accusations and said its security measures in the region are aimed at cracking down on terrorism and separatism.

The Moroccan prosecutor has started the extradition process for Aishan, holding the first hearing on August 12. But China did not provide evidence to the court to support its request, Aishan's wife Zeynure told the South China Morning Post.

A second hearing had been set for Thursday to give more time for the Chinese authorities to present evidence, said Zeynure, who is in Turkey with their three children. She said she was hopeful that the withdrawal of the red notice would help Aishan in the case.

"This is great news," she said. "In the first hearing, the Chinese government didn't present much evidence. They called my husband a terrorist but didn't have any proof."

Aishan, a software engineer, had been active in the Uyghur diaspora community in Turkey, helping to publish newsletters that shared resources for resettlement. He also wrote a book in the Uyghur language about

computer hacking, according to his friend, Abduweli Ayup, an exiled writer based in Norway.

China has been accused of misusing the Interpol red notice system to harass and attempt to repatriate overseas Uyghur dissidents, often claiming they were involved in terrorism.

Dolkun Isa, the president of the World Uyghur Congress, had a red notice against him for his arrest for 20 years until 2018, during which he was detained or threatened with extradition to China in at least five countries that he travelled to, including the United States, South Korea and Italy.

A naturalised German citizen since 2006, Isa found out about the red notice in 1999 from the German police, who told him that Chinese authorities had accused him of murder in 1996 – a bogus charge given that he had left China and fled to Turkey in 1994, he said.

After the September 11 attacks in the US, the Chinese authorities began to use terrorism charges against Uyghur dissidents, and 11 people including Isa were placed in 2004 on the first terrorism wanted list issued by the

Chinese police, according to Isa.

**//The Chinese government has turned to the Interpol system for Uyghur dissidents," Isa said. "Freedom of expression is not a crime under international law and China knows that. That's why China [describes] all kinds of activism as acts of terrorism.//**

### **China sends Uyghurs from Xinjiang camps to other parts of country**

Bruno Min, from the legal NGO Fair Trials, which helped with Isa's appeal to remove his red notice, said Interpol's alerts had been misused previously against political dissidents, and by countries such as Turkey to go after people of Kurdish origin who sought asylum in nations including Belgium, Germany and Britain.

There were reforms in 2016 to make the Interpol system more transparent, and make it easier for individuals to contest a red notice for their arrest, according to Min.

The NGO had not seen large-scale targeting of Uyghur exiles with red notices, but the case of Aishan, who was not a high-profile dissident, may suggest a systematic abuse of Interpol alerts to pursue people fitting a profile, Min said.

"Aishan's case is a pretty good example of how there is still a lot of room for improvement," he said. "They need to have systems to make sure there is a thorough review of every single red notice request that goes through the system.

"Where there is an obvious human rights issue, or there are strong grounds that it might be politically or religiously motivated, Interpol should be refusing the request. I think this case probably highlighted that it's not really working that well."

An Interpol spokesman said safeguards were in place to ensure a transparent and structured process to resolve such issues and avoid potential misuse of red notices.

*By Linda Lew*







The Winter Games are just six months away, kicking off in Beijing on Feb.

**Why it matters:** Beijing will become the first city that has hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics, and it will do so when the virus that originated in China will still be wreaking havoc on the world.

**The big picture:** We don't yet know the exact COVID protocols and attendance restrictions that the Beijing Games will use, but other storylines will compete to dominate the narrative.

Calls for boycotts have been widespread, with a coalition of 180 human rights groups saying participation in Beijing 2022 would be “tantamount to endorsing China’s genocide against the Uyghur people, and legitimizing the increasingly repressive policies of the totalitarian Chinese regime.”

A traditional boycott is highly unlikely, but some lawmakers around the world have suggested a more plausible diplomatic boycott, which would still allow athletes to compete even as nations refuse to send a formal delegation of officials to the Games.

Beyond that, foreign journalists who say

anything negative about China have become increasingly subjected to a campaign of state-backed hostility, sometimes escalating to threats of physical danger. It’s unclear how the 15,000 foreign media and broadcasters expected to attend will be received.

**Details: Geopolitics aside, here’s what to expect in Beijing:**

109 medal events across seven sports in 15 disciplines: biathlon, bobsleigh (including skeleton), curling, ice hockey, luge, skating (including figure, speed and short track), and skiing (including alpine, cross-country, freestyle, Nordic combined, ski jumping and snowboard).

Venues will be spread among three clusters: Beijing, hosting the opening and closing ceremonies and indoor ice events; Yanqing, 60 miles northwest of Beijing, hosting alpine skiing and sliding events; and Zhangjiakou, 120 miles northwest of Beijing, hosting other snow events like ski jumping.

Of the nearly 3,000 athletes, more than 45% will be women, making these the most gender-balanced Winter Olympics in history.

*By Jeff Tracy*



## CCTV WATCHDOG CRITICISES HIKVISION UYGHUR RESPONSE

The UK's CCTV watchdog has criticised a Chinese firm for not saying if its cameras are used in Uyghur internment camps.

Professor Fraser Sampson, said: "If your company wasn't involved in these awful places wouldn't you be very keen to say so?"

In July, MPs said Hikvision provided the "primary camera technology" used in Uyghur internment camps.

**The company said it respected human rights.**

**On 8 July, MPs on the foreign affairs committee published a report which said: "Cameras made by the Chinese firm Hikvision have been deployed throughout Xinjiang, and provide the primary camera technology used in the internment camps".**

More than a million Uyghurs and other mi-

norities are estimated to have been detained at camps in the north-west region of Xinjiang, where allegations of torture, forced labor and sexual abuse have emerged.

China has denied the allegations and claimed the camps are "re-education" facilities used to combat terrorism.

The foreign affairs committee recommended that Hikvision "should not be permitted to operate within the UK".

In June, President Biden signed an executive order prohibiting US investments in Hikvision.

Hikvision cameras are widely used in the UK, including by many local councils.

In a letter sent to "partners" after the report's publication, Hikvision wrote that the committee's accusations were "unsubstantiated and not underpinned by evidence".

It called the suggestion of a ban a "knee-jerk response... disproportionate, ill-measured,

and reinforces the notion that this is motivated by political influences”.

## Biometrics Commissioner

On 16 July, Professor Sampson, the UK Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, followed up that response, asking the company if it accepted that crimes are being committed against the Uyghurs and other ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

In a reply sent this week, Justin Hollis, Hikvision’s Marketing Director for UK & Ireland, wrote: “It is beyond our capability to make a judgement on this matter, particularly against a backdrop where the debate surrounding the Xinjiang issue comes with clashing geopolitical views.”

The firm said it was difficult to answer “narrow pointed questions on paper”, fearing what it called a “kangaroo trial by media”.

**It added that an “independent” report by former US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues (2001-2005), Pierre-Richard Prosper, had concluded: “We do not find that Hikvision entered into the five projects in Xinjiang with the intent to knowingly engage in human rights abuses or find that Hikvision knowingly or intentionally committed human rights abuses itself or that it acted in wilful disregard.”**

The company has previously said it had retained a law firm led by Ambassador Prosper “to advise on human rights compliance”.

Hikvision said it fully embraced the UN guiding principles of business and human rights.



The firm said that it did not oversee or control its devices once they are passed to installers, adding that “operational matters are not within our remit”.

## Simple Questions

But the letter’s answers were not a satisfactory response for Professor Sampson, who told the BBC: “It’s a simple enough question - ‘Were your cameras used in these internment camps?’”

“Saying ‘we’re not involved in operations’ or ‘we don’t have any control over what’s done with them’ isn’t really an answer.”

He wrote: “Our parliamentary committee accepted that these internment camps exist and that substantial and sustained human rights abuses are being enabled by sophisticated surveillance technology. I need to understand the level of Hikvision’s involvement.

He said he was “unimpressed” with what he had heard, and remained unconvinced he was getting a “full account”.

The company has invited Professor Sampson to meet Ambassador Prosper, but the commissioner says he wants answers to “basic questions” first.

Hikvision told the BBC: “We are looking forward to meeting the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, and have nothing to add to our letter.”

By Chris Vallance





**Millions of Uyghur children whose parents were incarcerated in concentration camps or prison are being targeted by the Chinese regime's brainwashing and Sinicization policy.**

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