

French Lawmakers Officially Recognise China’s Treatment of Uyghurs as ‘Genocide’

By France 24, 20/01/2022

France’s parliament on Thursday denounced a “genocide” by China against its Uyghur Muslim population, in a resolution that risks straining ties between Paris and Beijing two weeks before the Winter Olympics.

The non-binding resolution, adopted with 169 votes in favour and just one against, was proposed by the opposition Socialists in the lower house of parliament but also backed by President Emmanuel Macron’s Republic on the Move (LREM) party.

It reads that the National Assembly “officially recognises the violence perpetrated by the People’s Republic of China against the Uyghurs as constituting crimes against humanity and genocide”.

It also calls on the French government to undertake “the necessary measures within the international community and in its foreign policy towards the People’s Republic of



A general view shows a session of questions to the government at the National Assembly in Paris, France on September 21, 2021. © Gonzalo Fuentes, Reuters

China” to protect the minority group in the Xinjiang region.

“China is a great power. We love the Chinese people. But we refuse to submit to propaganda from a regime that is banking on our cowardice and our avarice to perpetrate a genocide in plain sight,” Socialist party chief Olivier Faure said.

He recounted testimony to parliament from Uyghur survivors who told of conditions inside internment camps where men and women were unable to lie down in cells, subjected to rape and torture, as well as forced organ transplants.

French MPs were also called to applaud Uyghurs refugees who had been invited to observe the parliamentary session.

The resolution follows a similar move in Britain in April last year which led to condemnation from China.

The Netherlands and Canadian parliaments both called Chinese treatment of the Uyghurs “genocide” in February 2021, while the US government also called it genocide under former president Donald Trump.

United States, Britain, Australia and Canada have announced diplomatic boycotts of the Beijing Winter Olympics, which start on February 4.

China denies genocide or the existence of forced labour camps in Xinjiang and has accused Uyghurs testifying overseas about conditions inside the northwestern region of being paid liars.

The French parliamentary resolution comes at a time when the European Union is weighing how to respond to a Chinese blockade of Lithuania’s exports, as well as Beijing’s crushing of democratic freedoms in Hong Kong.

China ties

French President Emmanuel Macron, who has sought to avoid being dragged into increasingly confrontational ties between China and the United States, was asked about the Uyghurs during an appearance before the European parliament on Wednesday.

“You were right to remind us of massacres, massive deportations and forced labour,” he told campaigning MEP Raphael Glucksmann. “France raises this in a very clear fashion in all of our bilateral talks (with Beijing).”

He said he was in favour of an EU regulation that would “ban the import of goods that result from forced labour.”

Speaking in parliament on Thursday to represent the government, Trade Minister Franck Riester referred to “systematic violence” and “overwhelming testimonies” from Uyghurs, but said that terming their treatment genocide was a formal decision taken by international institutions.

Beijing has turned down repeated requests from the UN High Commission for Human Rights to visit the region to investigate.

Human rights groups say they have found evidence of mass detentions, forced labour, political indoctrination, torture and forced sterilisation in Xinjiang.

After initially denying the existence of the Xinjiang camps, China later defended them as vocational training centres aimed at reducing the appeal of Islamic extremism.

The United States has slapped sanctions on a growing list of Chinese politicians and companies over the treatment of the Uyghurs, leading to tit-for-tat measures from Beijing. China has also sanctioned European, British and US lawmakers, as well as academics who study Xinjiang and a London law firm.

The only French MP to vote against Thursday’s resolution was Buon Tan from Macron’s LREM, the chairman of a Franco-Chinese “friendship group”.



China Adopted ‘Three-Warfare’ Strategy Aiming to Expand Global Influence: French MoD Think Tank

By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Jan 21, 2022

“Within the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), the Strategic Support Force (SSF) is at the forefront, especially through its Network Systems Department. It has the resources and is entrusted with missions in the informational domain. More precisely, the principal actor identified in this domain is Base 311, headquartered in Fuzhou, which is dedicated to the implementation of the “Three Warfares” strategy.

Beijing is increasingly comfortable with infiltration and coercion and its influence operations have been considerably hardened in recent years, according to a recent report by IRSEM (Institute for Strategic Research of the French Ministry for the Armed Forces).

The report titled ‘Chinese Influence Operations A Machiavellian Moment’ claims that a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) policy that consists in eliminating internal and external enemies, controlling groups that could defy its authority, constructing a coalition around the Party to serve its interests, and projecting its influence abroad – and the “Three warfares,” which represent the core of China’s “political warfare,” i.e. a form of non-kinetic proneness to conflict aimed at overcoming an opponent without a fight through the creation of an environment favorable to China. A wartime and peacetime underta-

king, it encompasses public opinion, psychological, and legal warfare (the latter being close to what is called “lawfare” in English), according to the report.

The main actors implementing Chinese influence operations are emanations from the Party, the State, the Army, and the companies, report claimed. “Within the Party, this includes the Propaganda Department, which oversees ideology, controls the entire media spectrum and all the cultural production in the country; the United Front Work Department (UFWD), with its twelve offices reflecting its main targets; the International Liaison Department (ILD), which maintains relations with foreign political parties; the 610 Office, which has agents across the world acting outside any legal framework to eliminate the Falun Gong movement. The Chinese Communist Youth League (CYL) should also be included in this group, serving at once as a link toward young people, as an incubator for future Party executives, and as a force that can be mobilized when needed – even if it is not a formal structure of the Party but rather a mass organization.”

Within the state, two bodies in particular are involved in influence operations: The Ministry of State Security (MSS), which is the main civilian intelligence agency, and the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO), in charge of the propaganda aimed at Taiwan, claimed the

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The report further alleged that the public and private companies play an important role in collecting the data needed to decide who should be targeted by influence operations, when, and how. “Infrastructures are particularly useful in data collection – buildings and submarine cables for instance – as are new technologies: digital platforms such as WeChat, Weibo and TikTok, companies like Beidou and Huawei, and databases that provide insight into what researchers call China’s “techno-authoritarianism” or “digital authoritarianism” are all used to prepare and feed influence operations abroad. The Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission, which has apparently inherited intelligence missions previously entrusted to the former 2APL, should also be included in this list.”

“The actions carried out by Beijing in its influence operations abroad pertain to two main and non-mutually exclusive objectives: first, to seduce and captivate foreign audiences by crafting a positive representation of China, which can be illustrated by four specific narratives (the Chinese “model,” its tradition, benevolence, and strength); and then, and above all, to infiltrate and coerce. Infiltration aims at slowly penetrating the opposing societies to hamper the very possibility of an action contrary to the Party’s interests. Coercion corresponds to the prog-

ressive enlargement of the Chinese “punitive” or “coercive” diplomacy toward a policy of systematic sanctions against any state, organization, company, or individual that threatens the Party’s interests. Both are generally carried out via a web of intermediaries. Overall, these practices target the following categories - Diasporas, with the dual objective of controlling them – so that they do not represent a threat for the Chinese power (Beijing carries out a transnational campaign of repression which, according to the NGO Freedom House, is the “most sophisticated, global, and complete in the world”) – and mobilizing them to serve its interests,” according to the report.

“The media, as Beijing’s explicit goal is to establish “a new world media order.” Indeed, the government has invested €1.3 billion annually since 2008 to impose a tighter control over its global image. The major Chinese media outlets have a global presence, in several languages, on several continents, and on all social networks, including those blocked in China (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram), and they invest large amounts of money to augment their digital audience artificially. Beijing also seeks to control the Chinese-language outlets abroad, which has proven so successful that the CCP now effectively enjoys a near-monopoly



among them, and it also seeks to control the mainstream media.”

The report concludes that while Chinese strategy has brought certain tactical successes, it has been a strategic failure overall, China being its own worst enemy in terms of influence. The abrupt degradation of Be-

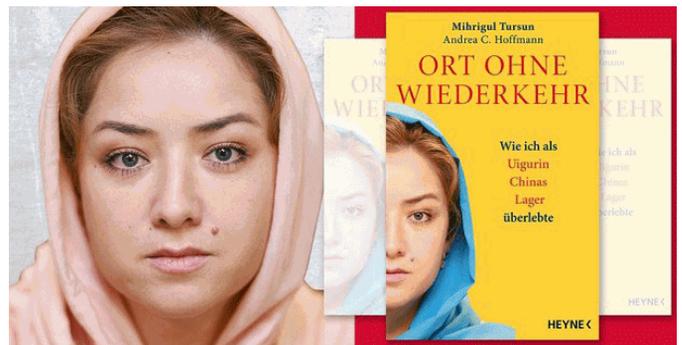
ijing’s reputation since the arrival of Xi Jinping, particularly in the last couple of years, confronts China with a growing unpopularity problem that may indirectly come to weaken the Party, including vis-à-vis its own population, the report claimed.

Interview: ‘It’s A Miracle That She Could Escape’

By The Bharat Express News -January 21, 2022

Journalist Andrea Hoffmann discusses the book she co-wrote with Uyghur camp survivor Mihrigul Tursun.

Mihrigul Tursun, 31, has spoken publicly about the violence and torture she and other Uyghurs suffered while interned in China’s vast network of “re-education” camps in the country’s far-western Xinjiang region. She has been denounced by the Chinese government, which produced a short documentary in which Mihrigul’s parents, police officers and doctors all speak against her, and tries to portray her testimonies as false. Mihrigul has co-written a book titled *Ort ohne Wiederkehr* (Place without Return) with German investigative journalist Andrea Hoffmann about China’s atrocities against the Muslim minority group. The nearly 300-page book released in January describes how Mihrigul was imprisoned several times in detention camps, during which time one of her three young children died. She has lived in exile in Washington, D.C. since 2018.



Co-author Hoffmann, who worked for several years as a foreign correspondent for German magazine *Focus*, was shocked when she learned about what was happening to Uyghurs in Xinjiang and joined forces with Mihrigul to tell her story. The professor of investigative journalism at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, Germany, has reported on the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, and written other books on women fighting for their freedom. Hoffmann told reporter Gulchehra Hoja of RFA’s Uyghur Service why she and Mihrigul wrote the book – the first publication by a Uyghur survivor of an internment camp – and what she hopes it will accomplish. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

RFA: Why did you write this book?

Hoffmann: I have a thing for people who get deleted. I hate when people find themselves in situations where force is applied, when they are treated unfairly, and there seems to be no escape. There are millions who have no escape. It's a miracle she was able to escape. It's a complete miracle. And all the others, they are in this situation without any fault [of their own], and that makes me so angry. Nothing justifies putting anyone in such a situation. Then I heard that all these women were in one room day and night. They didn't even have a place to sleep and not enough food; this propaganda all the time, then the fights. People were dying because it was so hard on their body and mind. I had this vision of her being in that room all the time. I don't know how you can't go crazy in a situation like this. She just had babies who were only six weeks old. I can't imagine how terrible it must have been for her body because she was still nursing them, and then also for them. One of them died. The situation is so terrible. I think you doubt you're a human being, and your life is so fragile that you can't do anything about it against this outside force. You feel so weak.

RFA: What is the most horrible thing that Mihrigul told you about his life outside the camps and the situation other Uyghurs faced?

Hoffmann: When she told me about those people [Chinese] living in family homes was so terrible. It's a nightmare. It's a complete nightmare.

RFA: You are an investigative journalist who has written books about courageous women fighting for their freedom. How is this book different from those?

Hoffmann: The difference is that it is a state that commits the crime. Even with the Isla-

mic State, it was not really a state, but a terrorist organization. But this time it's a state, and that's the big difference. It's really shocking. In Xinjiang, any random person can look suspicious. She [Mihrigul] has done nothing. When I spoke to her, I thought maybe she had [participated in] some kind of political activity, but the fact is that everyone there is subject to this harassment and brainwashing. It's really a dimension that I couldn't grasp before. It reminded me of German history. Many, many Uyghurs are afraid to speak out right now because they are all afraid of what will happen to their family members there. She [Mihrigul] passed this step. I think it's because of her son, because she feels obligated.

RFA: What is your vision of the book?

Hoffmann: I really hope it will have an impact. My goal was really to give her a louder voice, so hopefully she will be heard. We had a very good start in the German parliament the day before yesterday with a politician who has a strong focus on human rights monitoring, and there were 60 journalists present, so this is becoming a topic in Germany. Moreover, Germany is an important player in this [issue] currently because it is the largest economy in Europe. Germany plays an important role now because we are still very soft on China because we have a lot of economic interests there. So now this discussion



in Germany is very important. I think because it is about the position of Europe in this conflict. I really have to think about German history all the time. With what happened to the Jews in Germany, it was the same story. There were survivors, very few survivors, and they were talking, but no one believed them. Foreign countries were [considering whether] they had to act or not act, and they were very slow. The same is happening now. In Germany we have our own problems. We have this doctrine that you should never compare anything to the Holocaust, but I do it because I think it's very comparable because it's also a systematic killing of people.

RFA: How important is it to publish the book just before the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics?

Hoffmann: I wasn't really aware of that. I just knew we had to release it very soon, but it's the perfect time right now, just three weeks before [they begin].

RFA: Why is the German release of this book important?

Hoffmann: Germany is quite important right now because Europe has to make a decision on whether or not to work with China. It really depends on public opinion where Germany will go in this regard. Germany has a big influence on Europe because we have

the biggest country in Europe, so that's the most important thing about the German release. Of course, I hope it will be available in English because then it can be distributed all over the world, and everyone can read it.

RFA: What is the importance of this book for Mihrigul Tursun?

Hoffmann: I have a bit of experience working with traumatized people because I also studied psychology and did a bit of research. She will never get rid of it. It's part of her story, and those memories will always be with her. But maybe she could integrate them more, which would help her come to terms with what happened. She might be willing to move on, which will also give her more self-esteem. She is incredibly strong.

RFA: Are you concerned about challenges or threats from China for documenting Mihrigul's story?

Hoffmann: When I imagine what happened to him, I tell myself that I shouldn't be afraid of anything. It's really important to write everything down – everything that's going on there right now.

Reported by Gulchehra Hoja for RFA's Uyghur Service. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.



Olympic Corporate Sponsors Sticking to Deals Despite Boycott Calls Against China

By Sumner Park FOXBusiness, 22 Jan 2022

Corporations like Coca-Cola, Intel and Airbnb are sticking with multimillion sponsorship deals

Big corporate sponsors are facing questions over their backing of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing as China is facing heat over human rights abuses.

Despite the Chinese Communist Party's censorship, surveillance and treatment of the Uyghurs population in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, major corporations like Coca-Cola, Intel and Airbnb are sticking with sponsorship deals in the sum of billions of dollars.

Human rights activists say that they don't want to offend the leaders of the world's second-biggest economy, underscoring one common interest at play: profits.

"The corporate world has argued for 30 years that their engagement in China would help bring about some degree of liberalization, and along the way, they made a lot of money," Sophie Robinson, China Director of the Human Rights Watch told FOX Business. "The reality is that we're now at a point in time when companies have an affirmative responsibility to make sure that their own business activities aren't creating or contributing to human rights violations."

Robinson said that none of the sponsors are following through on their own corporate responsibilities and Environmental, Social and Governance statements, suggesting that



People walk by a street decoration for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics at National Olympic Sports Center on November 24, 2021 in Beijing, China. (Chen Xiaogen/VCG via Getty Images / Getty Images)

some corporations seem to be less entitled to ethical conduct than others. On the other hand, under the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the International Olympic Committee has a responsibility to ensure that their commercial activity is not causing problems.

IOC president Thomas Bach declined to speak out on human rights abuses in China. In a statement, Bach said, "We have our full focus on the athletes. We welcome that they can participate, that they are supported by their national governments. The rest is politics."

Other activists around the world warn that China is using the 2022 Winter Olympics to legitimize its human rights abuses by positioning itself in many areas as a candidate for world leadership at the expense of the United States.

The Human Rights without Frontiers, a nonprofit group based in Brussels, is calling on corporations to acknowledge these human rights violations, such as using forced labor in detention camps, and reevaluate their business choices.

“Business first and before human rights should be replaced by human rights first,” Director of Human Rights without Frontiers, Willy Fautré, told FOX Business. “Liberal democracies should revise their commercial relations with China in the light of this reality.” Other critics of these companies argue that even Beijing has been quick to punish Western companies that criticize the authorities or refer to topics that are deemed sensitive. A month ago, Intel apologized after prompting outrage among the Chinese state media and internet users for asking suppliers to avoid sourcing goods or services from the Xinjiang region.

Meanwhile, two dozen House members chided Coca-Cola and other U.S. companies for engaging in a “disingenuous and hyperbolic debate” over voting rights in Georgia while staying silent on Chinese repression. It follows rare, bipartisan support amongst lawmakers protesting the involvement of both U.S. officials and corporations in this year’s Olympics.

After the White House announced that it

would not send any officials to Beijing at the end of last year, Congress doubled down on demands for U.S. corporate sponsors of the Games to do the same.

FOX Business reached out to all 13 corporate sponsors, and has since received a statement from only one non-American company. Atos, a French-based multinational information technology service, said that it fully acknowledges the IOC’s strategy on rights, in addition to its own ethics and compliance program and actions.

“Atos has been at the forefront of the digitization of the Olympic Games, irrespective of their location, under the umbrella of the Olympic Movement’s values and guidelines,” a spokesperson for Atos said in a statement. With more pressure mounting from both diplomatic boycott led by the United States and the fear of retaliating against China’s authoritarian regime, sponsors will continue to be squeezed.

“These companies are in the spotlight in exactly the way they didn’t want to be,” Human Rights Watch’s Robinson said. “But they’ve really got nobody to blame for that, but themselves. You know, they bought into this exercise. They didn’t have to, and they don’t appear to have done the homework that is now considered their responsibility.”





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Contact Us:

Adres: Kartaltepe Mah. Geçit Sok. No: 6 Dükkan: 2
Küçükçekmece / İSTANBUL

Tel: +90 212 540 31 15 Gsm: +90 553 895 19 33

+90 541 797 77 00 info@turkistanmedia.com