

**CHINA'S XI:
POLICIES IN "XINJIANG"
TOTALLY CORRECT,
MUST BE HELD TO FOR
THE LONG TERM!**



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BRUSHING OFF CRITICISM, CHINA'S XI CALLS POLICIES IN XINJIANG 'TOTALLY CORRECT'

NewYorkTimes

By Chris Buckley

Mr. Xi made the remarks at a meeting on the region of western China, suggesting that the Communist Party remains committed to drastically changing Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

President Xi Jinping of China at an event in Beijing earlier this month. "Viewed overall, Xinjiang is enjoying a favorable setting of social stability with the people living in peace and contentment," Mr. Xi said this weekend.

Brushing aside condemnation from Western powers, China's leader, Xi Jinping, called his policies in the ethnically divided region of Xinjiang a "totally correct" success, and vowed more efforts to imprint Chinese national identity "deep in the soul" of Uyghurs and other largely Muslim minorities.

Mr. Xi made the remarks during a two-day conference that ended Saturday, which is likely to set the direction of Chinese policy in Xinjiang for years to come. While the initial official summary of the meeting gave few details, Mr. Xi's unyielding words signaled that condemnation from the United States, the European Union and other powers has not shifted his determina-

tion to subdue Xinjiang's Muslim minorities through a dual strategy of political indoctrination and state-driven demographic change.

“Viewed overall, Xinjiang is enjoying a favorable setting of social stability with the people living in peace and contentment,” Mr. Xi told the meeting, according to the summary issued by Xinhua news agency. “The facts have abundantly demonstrated that our national minority work has been a success.”

Mr. Xi's speech was revealed at the end of a week that exposed the stark costs of China's security strategy in Xinjiang, as well as continued international ire over the indoctrination camps and detention sites that have held hundreds of thousands — and possibly a million or more — Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. But Mr. Xi gave no signs of markedly softening his policies there.

The Chinese Communist Party's strategy in Xinjiang had been proved “totally correct,” Mr. Xi said, adding that “it must be held to for the long term.”

The implications of Mr. Xi's latest comments on Xinjiang may take months, even years, to become clear. Mr. Xi used a similar meeting in 2014

to demand a much tougher approach to unrest, resistance and separatist violence in the region.

Ever since Chinese Communist Party forces took over Xinjiang in 1949, the authorities have struggled to establish lasting control over the region's Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other minorities. Their Turkic language and Muslim traditions have set them apart from China's Han majority, and many members of these minorities have resented the expanding presence and power of the Han Chinese majority.

After a string of attacks and protests by Uyghurs, Mr. Xi set policy in Xinjiang on a more radical course after 2014, leading to the construction of hundreds of indoctrination camps intended to weaken Uyghur and Kazakh adherence to Islam, and to turn them into loyal citizens who disavow separatism. At the same time, the Chinese government has tried to uproot hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs from villages and assign them urban and factory jobs, where officials hope they will earn more and cast aside their traditional lifestyles.

The Chinese government has kept building detention facilities in the region, including hulking prisonlike complexes hemmed by high walls, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute said in a report released on Thursday. Separately, another report released by the Institute, and a parallel investigation by The New York Times, found



that thousands of mosques, shrines and other Islamic religious sites have been demolished in Xinjiang since 2017.

In his published remarks, Mr. Xi did not expressly mention the indoctrination camps, which Chinese government officials have defended as a friendly vocational training centers. Even so, Mr. Xi's broad comments suggested that he wants the government to continue indoctrination efforts across Xinjiang, even if the camps play a reduced role in that campaign.

"Incorporate education about a shared awareness of Chinese nationhood into education for Xinjiang cadres, youth and children, and society," Mr. Xi said. "Make a shared awareness of Chinese nationhood take root deep in the soul."

A Times investigation last year cited internal speeches by Mr. Xi in 2014, when he called for all-out "struggle against terrorism, infiltration and separatism" in Xinjiang using the "organs of dictatorship," and showing "absolutely no mercy." But it took years for his broad demands to lead to mass detentions into the new camps.

At his latest meeting, Mr. Xi's published remarks sounded less alarmed than he did in 2014, suggesting that his government feels it has a firmer grip on Xinjiang. The published remarks did not mention terror threats but focused on what he said were rising in-



comes of the people of Xinjiang and government spending.

Mr. Xi's latest speech appeared to signal that the Chinese government would continue investing heavily in industrial and urban development in Xinjiang. In a recent government white paper, Beijing defended labor allocation programs for rural Uyghurs in Xinjiang that many international experts say rely on pressure and coercion to keep the job recruits in their posts.

But products from Xinjiang are increasingly shunned by Western companies, worried that they may be implicated in accusations of using forced labor.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives approved legislation that would bar imports from Xinjiang unless they were proven not to have used forced labor. The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on officials deemed responsible for policy in Xinjiang, and imposed restrictions on imports of clothing, hair products and technological goods from that region.



AT UN: 39 COUNTRIES CONDEMN CHINA'S ABUSES OF UYGHURS

By Margaret Besheer

NEW YORK - Western diplomats at the United Nations criticized China for its human rights abuses against ethnic Uyghur Muslims and its crackdown on Hong Kong's autonomy Tuesday, while Beijing hit back, focusing its anger on the United States.

"We call on China to respect human rights, particularly the rights of persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet," German Ambassador Christoph Heusgen said on behalf of 39 countries at the U.N committee that deals with human rights issues.

Xinjiang is the province in northwestern China where the government has detained as many as a million Uyghurs in so-called "re-education" camps in recent years.

He went on to express grave concern about the increasing number of reports

of gross human rights violations there.

"There are severe restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and the freedoms of movement, association, and expression as well as on Uyghur culture," said Heusgen. "Widespread surveillance disproportionately continues



to target Uyghurs and other minorities, and more reports are emerging of forced labor and forced birth control, including sterilization.”

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Heusgen called on Beijing to close the detention camps.

He noted that last year, 23 countries joined the condemnation of China on the Uyghur issue, and the near doubling of countries this year signaled that there is growing international concern about Beijing’s policy toward the ethnic minority.

Heusgen was joined by British envoy Jonathan Allen, who said that China must grant U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet’s long-standing request to visit Xinjiang to see the situation of the Uyghurs.

Allen also condemned China’s imposition on June 30 of a controversial se-

curity law that he said “violates Hong Kong’s autonomy, and threatens rights and freedoms.”

Imposition of the law set off months of anti-government protests in Hong Kong.

China’s ambassador, Zhang Jun, hit back, targeting the United States. Without addressing the Uyghur issue, he claimed China’s human rights achievements are “widely recognized” and he urged Washington to “take a good look in the mirror” and eliminate racial discrimination in its own society before attacking other countries.

“Millions of Americans have cried out ‘I can’t breathe’ and ‘Black lives matter,’” the envoy said, referencing recent calls of protesters in the U.S. demanding an end to decades of racial discrimination and injustice in the aftermath of the death in police custody

of an African American man, George Floyd, in May.

Zhang also hit out at President Donald Trump's repeated accusations that the coronavirus pandemic originated in China and that Beijing is responsible for its global spread.

"What the U.S. government needs is treating the sick and saving lives, not spreading the political virus and making troubles everywhere," the Chinese envoy said.

China did receive support from more than 50 countries, including Iran, North Korea, Syria and Venezuela, for its authority over Hong Kong, while some 45 countries signed on to a statement delivered by Cuba, supporting Beijing's assertion that its measures in Xinjiang are part of counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts. Diplomats said some other countries, including some Western ones, were pressured by China not to support the group of 39's statement.

The United States did not speak at the session but was part of the joint statement of 39 countries that Germany delivered.

U.S. envoy Kelly Craft tweeted out her concern, saying, "The situation in Xinjiang & recent developments in Hong Kong make clear that the PRC has outright contempt for its human rights obligations & the well-being of its citizens." PRC stands for the People's Republic of China.



Human Rights Watch said the statement by the 39 countries is a "stinging rebuke" of China's "brutal treatment of Uyghurs, the people of Hong Kong and Tibet, and many ordinary Chinese struggling to have their human rights respected."

"Their growing outrage signals the urgent need for the U.N. leadership to create an international mechanism to monitor and report on the increasingly dire rights situation across China," U.N. Director Louis Charbonneau said.



CHINA FOUNDING DAY MET BY GLOBAL PROTESTS OVER UYGHURS, TIBET, HONG KONG

Hundreds of Tibetans, Uyghurs and Hong Kongers and supporters including U.S. lawmakers rallied in Washington Thursday to mark China's National Day with protests over deepening Chinese repression in those regions.

The rally near the U.S. Capitol -- part of a chain of protests in 60 cities from Canada to Sweden to New Zealand called "Resist China: A Global Day of Action" -- highlighted re-

pression in Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang while calling attention to heavy-handed language policies in Inner Mongolia and threats to Taiwan.

Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang are each formally "autonomous regions" of the People's Republic of China that have experienced increasingly heavy-handed rule from Beijing during the eight-year tenure of Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Grievances toward Beijing by Uyghurs and Tibetans stretch back to the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) 71 years ago Thursday, a development that brought the regions under repressive communist rule and ended centuries of independence or varying degrees of autonomy from imperial Beijing.



The target of Thursday's protests in world cities including Washington, Istanbul and Bangkok focused on present-day Chinese actions in Xinjiang, chiefly Beijing's sprawling network of re-education camps and program of forced labor by current and former camp inmates.

China is believed to have detained up to 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities since April 2017, subjecting them to political indoctrination.

Tibet protesters and supporters focused on longstanding repression of religion and erasure of cultural identity, as well as recent developments including a media blackout of the Himalayan region and policies that replace the Tibetan language with Chinese as the medium for education.

FLAGS AND SLOGANS

Hong Kong's simmering resentment at Chinese political encroachment since it came under Beijing's control in 1997 broke into the open in 2019 with widespread protest that were met with heavy police force.

China responded by imposing a harsh national security law in Hong Kong

from July 1 that has brought civil liberties in the once freewheeling former British colony closer to mainland norms.

Against blue early autumn skies on Thursday, protesters held high "Free Tibet" and "Free Southern Mongolia" posters, photos of Uyghurs who were disappeared by the Chinese government, and the light blue star and moon flag representing East Turkistan, the Uyghurs preferred name for their region, the snow mountain lion flag of Tibet, and the black flag of Hong Kong protesters.

"The Chinese regime is foolishly clinging to their evil ways," said Campaign for Uyghurs founder and director Rushan Abbas.

"The name of China has been ruined, and this shame will not be erased for a thousand generations. We demand of the entire world: Do not be counted with them. The conscience of the world is being tested today!" she told the crowd.

In a statement from Germany, World Uyghur Congress president Dolkun Isa called the PRC's foundation day "a very sad anniversary for the Uyghur people."

"All promises to the Uyghur people have been broken. Instead of granting autonomy, self-governance and human rights, Uyghurs are now experiencing a genocide," he said.

TURKEY TO THAILAND

Joyce Ho, an 18-year-old Hong Kong human rights activist, wore a black mask to the rally and called on young people to speak up against repression.

“The protests in Hong Kong were mainly promoted by young people, demonstrating the influence and power of young people. It is our responsibility to support democracy and human rights movements, because we are the future of this world,” she said.

Yang Jianli, founder of a U.S.-based activist group called Citizens Force, told the crowd that the Chinese Communist Party’s extermination of minority cultures and oppression of Hong Kong threatened Taiwan.

Under Xi Jinping, Yang said “the persecution methods are more cruel than before, including the punishment of torture for every political prisoner.”

“In China we see that many ethnic minorities face persecution, but Han people are also subject to much political persecution.” Yang Jianli said,



referring to the largest ethnic group, accounting for more than 90 percent of China’s 1.4 billion people.

The AFP news agency reported that about 500 demonstrators marched in the Turkish city Istanbul on Thursday to protest over China’s treatment of Uyghurs.

They held up pictures of their missing families and displayed banners reading: “Where’s my family?”, “Free my family” and “Shut down concentration camps!”

Hong Kong’s South China Morning Post reported that about two dozen mostly college students in Bangkok gathered opposite the Chinese embassy, bearing messages of support for protesters in Hong Kong as well as Tibetans and Uyghurs.

The newspaper quoted organizer Napassorn Saengducan, a political science student at Bangkok’s Chulalongkorn University, as saying her group, Anti One China TH, aimed to raise awareness among Thais that “the Hong Kong national security law and the human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Tibet” – had effects on the world stage, including on democracy in Thailand.

Reported by Alim Seytoff for RFA’s Uyghur Service and by the Mandarin Service. Written in English by Paul Eckert.



NO TO CHINA OLYMPICS AMID UYGHUR GENOCIDE

By Ho Chao-tung

On Oct. 6, the UN Committee on Human Rights released a statement on the concentration camps in China's Xinjiang region in which at least 1 million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are incarcerated. On the same day, Chinese President Xi Jinping (習近平) was telling delegates at a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) meeting that "happiness among the people in Xinjiang is on the rise."

It was a stark reminder of the CCP's longstanding practice of trampling on human rights and deceiving the world.

In October last year, the Taiwan East Turkestan Association and the Taiwan Friends of Tibet held an event titled "A prison without walls: Uyghurs today" to raise awareness among Taiwanese

of the increasingly severe oppression that is being inflicted upon Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

“

The CCP's modus operandi in the region includes violent suppression of freedoms through forced "re-education" and the monitoring of every aspect of residents' lives.

”

The international community is increasingly paying attention to these acts. The greatest pushback so far has come from Washington. In July, the US government announced visa bans and an asset freeze on three Chinese officials: Xinjiang CCP Secretary Chen Quanguo (陳全國), widely

viewed as the architect of Beijing's concentration camp policy; Xinjiang CCP Deputy Secretary Zhu Hailun (朱海倫); and Xinjiang Public Security Bureau Director Wang Mingshan (王明山). The three are, to date, the highest-level Chinese officials subjected to US sanctions.



Since then, the US has placed additional sanctions on several dozen Chinese companies and organizations that are connected to human rights violations against Uyghurs and further expanded sanctions against CCP officials in Xinjiang.

Unfortunately, since the sanctions were put in place, rather than improving, the situation in Xinjiang has gone from bad to worse. In addition to the notorious “re-education camps,” investigations by international media have also revealed birth control measures.

Birthrates in the regions of Hotan and Kashgar, mostly inhabited by Uyghurs, fell by more than 60 percent between 2015 and 2018, Chinese government statistics show.

Beijing has spent vast sums to ensure that Xinjiang's population — which not long ago grew faster than any of China's provincial-level administra-

tive regions — is now growing the slowest, and this has been achieved within the space of just a few years.

There is now a consensus within the international community that Uyghurs are the victims of a genocide committed by CCP authorities.

Although the international community is paying attention to human rights violations in Xinjiang, and a number of actions have been taken, due to the rapid acceleration of Beijing's oppression campaign, and the destruction of the Uyghurs' religion and culture, time is running out and there is not a moment to lose.

Last month, more than 160 human rights groups wrote a joint letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), calling on it to reverse its decision to award China the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in light of the human rights abuses.

We call on all those who are concerned about the religious freedom and human rights of all ethnic groups within China's borders to continue to pressure the IOC to cancel the 2022 Games in Beijing. If the IOC does not do so, there will inevitably be a mass boycott of the Games and the IOC will join the WHO as the second global organization to be covered in shame.

Ho Chao-tung is the director of the Taiwan East Turkestan Association.

Translated by Edward Jones



PEACE PRIZE TO VICTIM OF CHINA WOULD SHINE LIGHT ON XINJIANG ABUSES: UYGHUR NOMINEE'S DAUGHTER

Awarding the Noble Peace Prize to a victim of persecution under Beijing's rule would do much to justify additional pressure from the international community on China for its rights abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), the daughter of jailed Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti said Friday.

Tohti, a former professor of economics at the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing, was sentenced to life in prison for "separatism" by the Urumqi Intermediate People's Court in the XUAR on Sept. 23, 2014, despite having worked for more than two decades to foster dialogue and understanding between ethnic Uyghurs and Han Chinese.

He had been nominated for the Peace Prize, which on Friday was awarded by Norway's Nobel Committee to the World Food Programme (WFP)—the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest hu-

manitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.

Speaking to RFA's Uyghur Service following the announcement of this year's recipient, Tohti's daughter, Jewher Ilham, congratulated the WFP, say-



ing she hopes the organization can live up to the expectations of a Peace Prize winner and use the award's recognition to contribute to society.

But she suggested that selecting a winner from the Uyghur diaspora or from Hong Kong would "help make other countries feel more comfortable" confronting China over repression in the XUAR and elsewhere.

China's policies toward Uyghurs' in the XUAR have gotten progressively harsher in the six years since Tohti's jailing, with a re-education program launched in 2017 putting as many as 1.8 million people through a vast network of internment camps, and many inmates now pressed into forced labor.

On Wednesday, the U.K. and Germany led a group of 39 member states in condemning China's treatment of Uyghurs at the U.N. General Assembly, signaling increasing opposition to Beijing's policies from the international community.

The countries pointed to "severe restrictions" on freedom of religion or belief and the freedoms of movement, association and expression, as well as on Uyghur culture. They also noted

widespread surveillance that "disproportionally continues to target Uyghurs and other minorities," as more reports emerge of forced labor and forced birth control, including sterilization.

They also expressed "deep concern" about elements of the July 1 Hong Kong National Security Law, which outlaws words and deeds deemed by the authorities to constitute separatism, subversion or terrorism, or collusion with a foreign power. Under the law, certain cases can be transferred for prosecution to the Chinese mainland.

The condemnation marked a significant increase in the number of countries willing to stand up to China's threats of cutting off trade with nations that support such statements. A similar resolution last year received only 23 backers.

But Ilham noted that "there are still more than 100 countries out there that remain silent" about what is happening in the region.

"That's why I really think if this award was given to a Uyghur or even a Hong Konger, or anyone who is suffering from the Chinese regime, I believe it would help the international community to feel more comfortable with speaking out and have less concern when they want to show support to our cause," she said.

Ilham said that if the award had been

given to her father, who in 2006 launched the Uyghur Online website as an advisory platform for him and other Uyghur intellectuals to promote voices from within their community, “it would also help stop the Chinese government from continuing to call the Uyghurs violence supporters and extremists, because that’s not who Uyghurs are.”

International Recognition

Tohti has endured mistreatment in prison and has only been granted limited visits by family members. Ilham has told RFA that she hadn’t heard anything about her father since 2017, and is unsure of his condition or if he has been transferred to another facility.

The former professor had given a lengthy statement by phone to RFA before he was detained by Chinese authorities from his Beijing home, expressing concern that he would be tortured and forced to make a confession, or even face the prospect of death while in custody.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) awarded

Tohti the 2019 Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize, named after the Czech playwright and politician who opposed Soviet communism, making him the first dissident from China to receive the prize.

After Tohti was shortlisted for the seventh Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize in August last year, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang told a press conference that PACE should “withdraw the nomination and stop supporting separatist and terrorist forces.”

In addition to winning the Sakharov Prize, the Vaclav Havel prize, and the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award, Tohti was awarded the Martin Ennals Award in 2016, the Liberal International Prize for Freedom in 2017, and Freedom House’s Freedom Award in 2019. The jailed professor was also a nominee for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

Speaking to RFA on Friday, Ilham said she appreciates the recognition her father has received, bringing attention to both his case and that of the Uyghur people in general.

“I really hope my father will receive the Peace Prize one day and that he will be able to pick it up in person,” she added.

Reported for RFA’s Uyghur Service and translated by Alim Seytoff. Written in English by Joshua Lipos.





NUCLEAR IMPERIALISM IN CHINA'S XINJIANG

A third of the PRC's uranium for nuclear energy comes from extortion in the Yili basin of Xinjiang. This is also home to a great population of Uyghurs. TARA RAO

Today, china has one of the world's largest nuclear energy development programmes. during the cold war era, there did not exist a political or economic motivator for commercialising nuclear energy as coal-fired power stations and hydroelectric energy dominated the system. however, after 2005, china has been able to reinvent this narrative. notably, what this resurrected was a reassertion of spaces of injustice for their minorities. their lands were first grounds for nuclear weapons' testing and now used for energy rather than warfare purposes, thus continuing a historical subjugation to nuclear imperialism. this nuclear imperialism situates itself within an already prevalent cyclic violence against china's far western frontier region of xinjiang's ethnic minorities, the predominantly muslim uyghurs, ever since the establishment of the people's republic of china (prc) in 1949.



fore be made to quarantine; containing their actions that often correspond to security threats. The antagonism was not restricted to the few Uyghurs rioters. Instead the entire Uyghur community as a single biological group was treated as the Homo Sacer. [1] These instances prove showcasing evidence of necropolitical [2] rule over Uyghurs by the PRC, in the face of Hui or Han for instance.

Taking what some might perceive as an opportunist stand, China was able to claim being victim to global terrorism, to justify crackdown on the minority group.

Given the inherent differentiation between the Uyghurs and the Chinese dominant ethnicity, the Hans, the former's identity was always up for scrutiny. The government came down particularly hard on the Uyghurs after the events of 9/11 initiated the Global War on Terror (GWOT), as well as the Ürümqi riots on 5 July 2009 which saw clashes between protesting Uyghurs, Han people, and China's People's Armed Police, leaving nearly 200 people dead in Xinjiang. The Chinese government has attributed security concerns with the certain 'terrorist' acts committed by a handful of them. Taking what some might perceive as an opportunist stand, China was able to claim being victim to global terrorism, to justify crackdown on the minority group. What this terrorist narrative in turn ushered in was a transnational territory of uncontrolled spaces where 'dangerous populations' need not be afforded legal protections and there-

China's approach towards the Uyghurs has witnessed many stages of crackdown, from a programme trying to integrate them into a Han-dominated society while cracking down on dissent, movement, practices of culture and religion, now to a virtual quarantine of the entire ethnic group by using eugenics to dilute their existence — de-Uyghurise Xinjiang. The systematic discrimination of the Uyghur feeds into a larger understanding of necro-politics of Uyghur lives having become too consequential juxtaposed with a system which is ready to dispense with this minority population. The emphasis here is on China's first nuclear weapons test in Lop Nor, and the legacy it has translated onto the present day context through states sponsored uranium mining in the Yili Basin, underscoring a new kind of imperialism.

Nuclear weapon testing began in the mid-1960s. Soon a kind of nuclear imperialism started to take root in the existing Han colonisation of Uyghur spaces. The latter revolved around a combination of contestation over the sovereignty of the Uyghur homeland and the resource-rich soils they inhabited. The aftermath of the Sino-Soviet split meant a collapse in PRCs nuclear relationship with China which acted as a driver for hastening and furthering their ambitious nuclear programmes. The PRC became the fifth nation to develop nuclear weapons during the Cold War. They formally established the 10,000 km sq. Lop Nor Nuclear Test base in 1956. It still stands as the largest site of its kind in the world.



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Mao Zedong's death in 1976 marked the end of the cultural revolution and brought in the economic liberalisation markets. Notably, the Nor test facility sustained through this transition.

And the repercussions of this on the region's Uyghur population were detrimental. Environmental degradation, health-related problems, restrictions on their traditional ways are surface examples of the many hardships were made to endure. Professor Jun Takeda conducted a study explaining how peak levels of radioactivity from large yield tests might have had prolonged consequences in the biological make-up of the generations to come observing congenital defects and cancer incidents in some. The cancer incidents in the region were approximately 35% higher than the rest of the state. Uyghur traditional medicine could not cope with these cases. In short, a biopolitical regime protected the state from liability, meanwhile for the Uyghurs, contestation around state assurance and health risks posed a blurring in the causation between sickness and exposition. The Uyghurs who were affected by the Lop Nor test therefore have been given no compensation or recognition from the state. Many Hans on the other hand were given assurance from the state especially in terms of healthcare on various occasions. This only furthered the resentment and tension between the Hans and the Uyghurs of Xinjiang in the years to come.

Following this, peaceful protests sprung up. In November 1985, protests led by students in Beijing against nuclear weapon tests were met with brute state coercion. In 1993, Uyghurs gathered at Log Nor and demanded the ban

of nuclear testing but were interrupted by PLA forces, some protestors were shot in the process. The Tigers of Lop Nor were an organisation that even managed to send tanks inside nuclear spaces and blew up planes in protest. Moreover, enveloped in this environment, the Uyghur identity that already clashed with Han nationalism was simply made starker; the anti-nuclear movement began to echo separatist tendencies.

A biopolitical regime protected the state from liability, meanwhile for the Uyghurs, contestation around state assurance and health risks posed a blurring in the causation between sickness and exposition.

Today, a third of the PRCs uranium for nuclear energy comes from extortion in the Yili basin of Xinjiang. This is also home to a great population of Uyghurs. The PRC has placed a moratorium on the manufacturing of fissile material for deterrence purposes, transforming Xinjiang into the primary hub for the nuclear energy industry. The NINT continues to partake in nuclear research, to the north of the Lop Nor test site. There is no state system in place to ensure the safety of those dwelling the Yili. What this reflects is a revival of a past narrative of nuclear imperialism as uranium energy extraction seems to have overtaken nuclear testing. There appears to be no incentive from the ends of the govern-



ment; a lacking in enforceable nuclear legislations and regional systems of monitoring and regulating nuclear activity.

In 2003, there was a law in place by China for the prevention and control of radioactive pollution coming from the development of Uranium mines. This meant that state council environmental units were delegated the responsibility to inspect this practice. However the “units” were held accountable over legitimate entities which guaranteed that any accident would have the blame falling upon a set of individuals rather than a full-fledged organisation. This left little motivation for organisations such as CNN to foresee protection of the workers. In fact, it is only when dealing with a large batch where occasional checks are made and endorsed by international agreements.

The PRC moved towards a stronger development of uranium after 2008. China now possesses over 44 nuclear reactors in operation and 18 others under construction and is striving towards ensuring that 1/5th of their energy comes from their power plants by 2030. Activism from the minorities in the region is often counted by of-



ficials as acts of Islamism or cultural protests rather than a legacy of activities against the nuclear industry which is another layer of discrimination that has been recognised by the Uyghurs. More anti-nuclear activism seems to be entering the eastern provinces of Shandong, Jiangsu, and Guangdong as a result of general community concerns against an unprotected nuclear policy. Online petitions and active media are slowly entering the scene to influence and mobilise public opinion. However, it is only perhaps a matter of time before the PRC silences them too.

Activism from the minorities in the region is often counted by officials as acts of Islamism or cultural protests rather than a legacy of activities against the nuclear industry.

Censorship is often used to subdue this kind of opposition online. What is worse is that the Uyghurs of Xinjiang lack the agency to voice their grievances while practitioners in the east who are often familiar with the political systems and often well-educated are able to make negotiations with the state in terms of the relocation of nuclear power plants. Moreover, this re-

location continues to happen at the expense of those lives perceived as less influential and whom the state already actively curtailing. Protected Han communities show little concern over the successor communities who not only receive the plant in their stead but also remain oblivious to the entangled intranational network whereby novel nuclear energy in the East is fueled by uranium extraction and milling in the West of the PRC.

Xinjiang, therefore, occupies the status of the core nuclear hub of the PRC who still perpetuates measures to curb challenges surrounding their Uyghur minority in a bid to wipe them off completely both culturally and politically, and showcase a biopolitics of hatred and cultural genocide. Without enough mounting pressure and deft interception from the International realm, Xinjiang remains a necropolitical space where the “.. the lines between resistance and suicide, sacrifice and redemption, martyrdom and freedom are blurred.”

[1] Categories of minority may be described as Homo Sacre (“sacred” or “accursed” man), within a modern environment of biologically excluding those deemed unproductive or dangerous in modern conflicts.

[2] Necropolitics describes the utilisation of socio-political power to determine how some people may live and how some must die.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CALLS CHINA'S MISTREATMENT OF UYGHURS 'GENOCIDE,' URGES OTTAWA TO SANCTION BEIJING OFFICIALS



MPs on a parliamentary committee dominated by the governing Liberal Party say China has committed “genocide” against its Muslim Uyghur minority and has called for Magnitsky-style sanctions against Chinese officials.

The statement from the House of Commons subcommittee on international human rights comes less than a week after China's envoy to Canada warned parliamentarians against recognizing the mass detention and abuse of Uyghurs in Xinjiang province as genocide. The United Nations calls genocide a crime under international law.

The all-party committee's three-page statement refers to the detention facili-

ties as concentration camps, and urges the government to not only condemn China's actions in Xinjiang, but recognize that they constitute genocide, and work with allies to help international observers gain access. It follows a study the committee has undertaken on Xinjiang, a region in northwest China.



The Interparliamentary Alliance on China, a coalition of 150 legislators from 17 countries, tweeted on Wednesday that the Canadian committee is the first parliamentary body to label Beijing's conduct in Xinjiang “as genocide” against Uyghurs.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

Sous-comité des droits internationaux de la personne du Comité permanent des affaires étrangères et du développement international

For immediate release

NEWS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF UYGHURS AND OTHER TURKIC MUSLIMS IN XINJIANG, CHINA

Ottawa, October 21, 2020 -

In a news release following its study on the human rights situation of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China (East Turkistan/Xinjiang) in 2018, the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (the Subcommittee) warned that:

if the international community does not condemn the human rights abuses in Xinjiang province by the Government of China, a precedent will be set, and these methods will be adopted by other regimes. Complacency is entrenched by a lack of access to Xinjiang; by the lack of free press; and through the silencing and harassment of Uyghurs living abroad.

Building on the important testimony of seven witnesses over five sessions before the Subcommittee in 2018, on 20–21 July 2020 the Subcommittee convened urgent meetings to understand the latest developments in the plight of the Uyghurs. Over two days and 12 hours of testimony, the Subcommittee heard from academics, civil society as well as many survivors of the Government of China's atrocities in the region. The subcommittee wishes to make clear that the condemnations in this statement are directed towards the Government of China, as represented by the Chinese Communist Party, and not the Chinese people, who the Subcommittee support wholeheartedly and hope that one day will benefit from the peace, freedom and security enjoyed by many others in this world.

The Subcommittee was profoundly disturbed by what it heard and is convinced of the need for a strong response. The Subcommittee heard that the Government of China has been employing various strategies to persecute Muslim groups living in Xinjiang, including mass detentions, forced labour, pervasive state surveillance and population control. Witnesses were clear that the Government of China's actions are a clear attempt to eradicate Uyghur culture and religion. Some witnesses stated that the Government of China's actions meet the definition of genocide as set out in Article II of the 1948 *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (*Genocide Convention*).

The Subcommittee unequivocally condemns the persecution of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang by the Government of China. Based on the evidence put forward during the Subcommittee hearings, both in 2018 and 2020, the Subcommittee is persuaded that the actions of the Chinese Communist Party constitute genocide as laid out in the *Genocide Convention*.

The MPs on the subcommittee are also asking Ottawa to impose Magnitsky-style sanctions “on all government of China officials responsible for the perpetration of grave human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims” in the region.

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Foreign Affairs Minister François-Philippe Champagne issued a state-

ment on Wednesday thanking the committee for its work, but did not say whether Ottawa would impose sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for the brutal repression in Xinjiang.

“We remain deeply disturbed by the troubling reports of human rights violations in Xinjiang and have publicly and consistently called on the Chinese government to end the repression of Uyghurs,” Mr. Champagne said. “Canada takes allegations of genocide very seriously. We will continue to work in close collaboration with our allies to push for these to be investigated through an international independent body and for impartial experts to access the region so that they can see the situation firsthand and report back.”

Anita Vandenberg, a Liberal MP who is a member of the subcommittee and previously chaired it, said the “gripping testimony” from “survivors, scholars and renowned human-rights advocates like Irwin Cotler, was alarming and compelling” for MPs.

“This is not a partisan issue but a human issue. The testimony, especially of the women who survived the camps, would move anyone to action,” Ms. Vandenberg said.

Last week, Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu said Beijing would have a “strong reaction” if Parliament was to condemn Beijing’s treatment of its Uyghurs as genocide.

The Chinese embassy in Ottawa did not have an immediate response to the subcommittee’s statement.

More than one million Uyghurs are in detention camps in Xinjiang province, facilities the Chinese government calls vocational and education training centres. Wednesday’s committee statement detailed actions that MPs heard are being used to “persecute Muslim

groups living in Xinjiang, including mass detentions, forced labour, pervasive state surveillance and population control.”

William Browder, the British-American entrepreneur who led the global campaign for Magnitsky sanctions, including in Canada, said it’s time for Ottawa to act against Beijing. The sanctions laws adopted by Canada, the United States and European countries are named after Mr. Browder’s friend, Russian whistle-blower Sergei Magnitsky, who was murdered in a Moscow prison.

Mr. Browder said Canada should join the United States and impose visa and financial sanctions against Chinese officials.

“Now is the time for the Canadian government to sanction Chinese officials responsible for the Uyghur genocide,” he said in a telephone interview from London. “Canada can’t get away with doing nothing and at the same time try and maintain its reputation as a country that cares about human rights.”

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Mr. Champagne is wrong to suggest that human-rights abuses suffered by Uyghurs are allegations that need to be investigated.

“These are facts and we



have documentary evidence. We have photographs and we have personal testimony, so it is more than allegations. These are the most serious human-rights violations of this century,” he said.

Mr. Mulroney said Canada should not only impose Magnitsky sanctions, but also boycott the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

“I don’t see how we can go and send athletes to Beijing at a time when millions of people are incarcerated and an entire religion and culture is being eliminated and a people are being mistreated,” he said.

Mehmet Tohti, executive director of the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, said the Canadian government has stayed silent for too long on China’s mistreatment of Uyghurs.

“Unless the government implements the recommendations of the subcommittee, then it is just empty words,” Mr. Tohti said.

He pointed out that Canada has used Magnitsky sanctions against officials in Russia, Venezuela and other countries, but has so far been leery of doing so against Beijing.

“When it comes to China, they stay silent . . . so it is important for the government to take immediate action to crack the perception that we don’t want to sanction China,” he added.

Mr. Tohti’s organization urged Ottawa to address the humanitarian crisis by granting refugee status to Uyghurs in Canada and set up an emergency relief program for Uyghur refugees trapped in unsafe countries where they face deportation to China.

Steven Chase and Robert Fife





NOW THEY COME FOR THE UYGHUR CHILDREN: THOUSANDS SENT TO JAIL-LIKE BOARDING SCHOOLS

Eyewitnesses talk to Bitter Winter, and confirm that data published by scholar Adrian Zenz, unlike CCP propaganda, are believable. *by Ruth Ingram*

Roshangul heard the commotion outside her apartment window. Switching off the lights in her living room, she peered out through a crack in the curtain. With cameras trained on every corner of their building, she could not risk being seen but the sight was terrifying and puzzling. Sirens blaring, lights flashing and women screaming, the chaos was palpable. People were being bundled out of large, black police vans and through the jaws of the police station. Suddenly it became quiet.

All she could see now was a room at the front of the building filled with children.

We have no idea what befell these particular children, but we do know that thousands upon thousands of Uyghur children have disappeared into the claws of a system that began to tear families limb from limb, as soon as Xi Jinping's euphemistically dubbed "New Era" began to take shape in Xinjiang in late 2016.

Their fate to date has only been hinted at and proof was hard to come by given the secrecy and denial of their “capture.” But researcher Adrian Zenz published data last week that provides firm evidence from the lips of the CCP itself of the fate of myriad children, since their parents were herded into so-called “vocational training schools,” in fact the transformation through education camps, once the iron grip of Chen Quanguo started taking Uyghurs “in hand.”

Witnesses to the first days of the round ups in early 2017, such as Roshangul, could not make sense of what their eyes were telling them. Scattered random events were gossiped throughout the Uyghur community. A son, an uncle taken away here, a brother disappeared there, government seals beginning to be pasted on doors everywhere. Arbitrary round ups on the street from time to time were commonplace, but where were they all going, and why? With no way of piecing it all together how could they possibly have known that these incidents were part of a jigsaw of internment and mass impris-

onment that would see millions taken away and others sentenced to draconian extralegal jail terms.

But the implications for boundless numbers of children had yet to be unveiled.

Zenz’s latest discoveries are shocking and fly in the face of the CCP’s vehement denials last year that children were being left “orphaned” by the mass detentions of their parents. Having trawled through local government websites and procurement data last year, published in July 2019 in the Journal of Political Risk, he uncovered a grim network of heavily financed boarding facilities in the south of the province, complete with perimeter alarms, 4-layered 10,000 volt electric fences atop high walls with police guards. He found one middle school in the Yarkand area to have ordered more surveillance cameras than even some internment camps.

But despite this evidence, a senior official from Xinjiang’s Propaganda department speaking to the BBC denied that there were many families where both parents had been detained. “If all family members have been sent to vocational training then that family must have a severe problem,” maintained Xu Guixiang. “I’ve never seen such a case.”



Zenz's latest findings prove that this official was lying. We know now that the fallout of Chen's policies has repercussions for the future of tens of thousands of young lives who have been cynically removed from not only their loved ones, but their culture, their religion, and their language.

"For the first time, new evidence from non-public Xinjiang government spreadsheets has come to light which details the fate of over 10,000 children from the Uyghur majority population county of Yarkand," claims Zenz. "All of these children have one or both parents in internment. The documents show how the State is caring for these children," he explains.

Analysis of the data lead Zenz to discover that about 1,000 of these children have both parents in detention, of which a number have been placed in state-run orphanages and others in full-time boarding school facilities. The documents themselves detail the internment status of entire households, "corroborating the veracity of these lists of 'children in difficult circum-

stances' and giving us a full picture of their actual family situation," he says.

He goes on to lament this "highly incriminating set of information that sheds further light on the dramatic social ramifications of Beijing's actions against these ethnic minorities."

He unearthed a master plan to dramatically expand provision of boarding facilities throughout Xinjiang. Special funds had been made available for children of families in "single or double hardship" situations, euphemistically referring to situations where either one or two parents had been interned.

Government statistics show that between 2017 and 2019, the numbers of boarding students in primary and middle schools increased by 76.9%, from 497,800 to 880,500, maintains Zenz. "This increase of 382,000 boarding school students occurred during the time frame of the internment campaign, and would have predominantly taken place in minority regions," he revealed.



Beijing defends its general policy of boarding education for children of families from remote areas, but critics say that children at an early age are severed from their roots and in the case of those with a strong religious background such as the Uyghur students, they are subject to atheistic indoctrination. A June 2018 government directive ordered every school to provide a



fully Chinese-medium education and forays into Uyghur would be severely punished.

Painstaking analysis of tens of thousands of files detailing government provision for “students in difficult circumstances” (children whose parents were interned), led Zenz to his alarming conclusion, “The fact that the state appears to have made detailed provisions for the situation of such school-children provides further evidence of the systemic nature of this issue. Clearly, the boarding school system is used to contain and manage the fallout of the campaign of mass internment, while representing a core mechanism within Xinjiang’s long-term cultural genocide approach.”

Zenz details heartbreaking lists of children from the Yarkand area, one as young as a year old and many under

ten, admitted to orphanages while one or both of their parents languished in camps of one sort or another. He concludes his report by suggesting that Beijing’s tactic of making itself the primary parent, is crucial to its “coercive project of social re-engineering in the region.” “At the forefront of this effort is a battle over the hearts and minds of the next generation,” he says. “A weaponized education system, enables the state to control a group from within their core and their roots rather than merely from the top down.”

Describing the boarding schools as, “highly securitized environments where students are monitored around the clock, where all human interaction inside must be conducted in the Chinese language, and where political propaganda and indoctrination are a daily ritual,” Zenz points out the horrific psychological impact of separating children from parents. “Children know that their parents’ fate can become their own if they fail to conform to the whims of the state,” he cautioned, adding that “securitized orphanage and boarding settings become environments of fear and of potential mental disorders and self-radicalization.”

He warned “Beijing’s battle for the hearts and minds of the next generation constitutes a particularly despicable aspect of its crimes against humanity in the region.”



the village had changed beyond recognition. “The only people I saw were elderly grandparents caring for toddlers,” she said. She spoke of a massive orphanage that had been built, now full of children whose parents had been taken away to camps. “They are building a second,” she said. “But they have no idea who will staff it or how they will feed the children.” She started to sob. She lived in the capital, removed from the worst excesses of government policies and so far, she had only half believed the rumors of internment and disappearance. She had not even thought about the children.

Inabet returned ashen faced from a three-week placement to help her Han boss fulfil his obligations as a “relative” in a remote village near Hotan. It is 2018. Chen Quanguo’s plans are in full swing. She hated the drunken, overindulgent trips down to the south but knew she would be in trouble if she refused to go, or commented negatively about the visits. She tried as hard as she could to show sympathy in private to the elderly people she met on the dusty village tracks.

She was visibly shaking and tearful as she recounted the latest trip to Bitter Winter. It had only been a matter of three months since her last visit and

Her last foray into the heart of Xi Jinping’s “New Era” for the south of her homeland had convinced herself that the rumors were not only true, but far worse than she could have ever imagined. “Where have their parents gone?” She sobbed. “And what will become of their orphans?”



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What is happening in East Turkistan?

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