

# 50 Countries Urge China to Release Detained Uyghurs

*By Edith M. Lederer, Washington Post, 2022-10-31*



Fifty mainly Western countries urged China on Monday to fully implement all recommendations in a U.N. report accusing the country of possible “crimes against humanity” against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups, including taking prompt steps to release all those “arbitrarily deprived of their liberty” in the far western province of Xinjiang.

Canada’s U.N. Ambassador Bob Rae read the statement at a meeting of the General Assembly’s human rights committee expressing grave concern at the human rights situation in China, and Beijing’s failure so far to discuss the report’s findings on the ongoing violations against the Uyghurs and other Muslim groups.

Human rights groups have accused China of sweeping a million or more people from the minority groups into detention camps where many have said they were tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion. The camps were just one part of what the rights organizations have called a ruthless campaign against extremism in Xinjiang that also included draconian birth control policies and all-encompassing restrictions on people’s movement.

The assessment from the Geneva-based U.N. human rights office was released in the final minutes of High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet’s four-year term on Aug. 31. It largely corroborated earlier

reporting by researchers, advocacy groups and the news media.

The report concluded that China has committed serious human rights violations under its anti-terrorism and anti-extremism policies and called for “urgent attention” from the U.N., the world community and China itself to address them.

The statement from the 50 countries calls the report “an independent, authoritative assessment that relies extensively on China’s own records” and “makes an important contribution to the existing evidence of serious and systematic human rights violations in China.”

In light of “the gravity” of the report’s assessment, the countries expressed concern “that China has so far refused to discuss its findings” and urged the government “to fully implement the recommendations.”

In addition to calling for fulfillment of the recommendation to release of all those arbitrarily detained the 50 countries urged China to clarify “the fate and whereabouts of missing family members” and arrange safe contacts and reunions.

In response to the statement, the Uyghur Human Rights Project tweeted that “A growing number of UN member states are pushing back on China’s treatment of Uyghurs.”

Britain’s Foreign Minister James Cleverly tweeted that the statement “supported by a record 50 countries across 6 continents, demonstrates growing breadth of international concern.”

The 50 countries that signed on to the

statement were: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

Last week, the U.S., UK and others organized a meeting following up on the former high commissioner’s report that included U.N. ambassadors, Uyghur human rights advocates, the U.N. special investigator on minority rights and Human Rights Watch.

China’s U.N. Mission sent a letter to all U.N. member states expressing its “resolute opposition” to the meeting and strongly recommending that they boycott “this anti-China event.”

“It is a politically motivated event,” said the letter, obtained by The Associated Press. “The co-sponsors use human rights issues as a political tool to interfere in China’s internal affairs like Xinjiang, to create division and turbulence and disrupt China’s development.”

Calling the event “disinformation propaganda,” the letter accused the sponsors of violating “the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and norms of international relations.”



## 20th Congress: Why Did Xi Jinping Not Even Mention the Uyghurs?

*By Kok Bayraq, Bitter Winter, 2022-10-31*



Xi Jinping did not mention the name of the Uyghurs in his 2-hour report during the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. This is odd, considering that it can be argued that China's most consistently implemented policy under Xi Jinping has been the Uyghur genocide. The most serious criticism China has faced over the past five years has been about its Uyghur policy. Xi Jinping has uniquely contributed to the Chinese nation being called a genocidal state in the 21st century.

Has Xi Jinping forgotten the Uyghurs?

At a huge financial cost, the Chinese

government established 380+ camps in East Turkestan (Xinjiang to China) and sent more than three million Uyghurs to these camps. China also built the world's largest prison—Dabancheng—near the capital Urumqi. However, this enormous construction project completed by Xi Jinping was not mentioned in his report.

All countries in the UN that have the ability to think independently, including three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, have recognized China's Uyghur policy as genocide and have expressed their opposition. Xi Jinping has activated

all his partners and client states around the world to justify his actions. Clearly, what has bothered and tired Xi Jinping the most has been having to hide the camps and deny the Uyghur genocide!

Xi Jinping mentioned “security” fifty times in his report, but there was, deliberately, not a single mention of the Uyghurs.

Why? Because it is impossible to justify genocide. If you try to cover blood, it will seep out. It will spread everywhere if you attempt to wash it, and if it is seen, people will focus on it. When some see blood, they are either scared or frozen in place, or moved to stop it.

Therefore, hiding the scene and story of a murder from the eyes of the world is the only way for the murderer to escape punishment.

Delaying former Commissioner Bachelet’s visit to China, changing its goal to an exchange of views instead of an independent investigation, and forcing her not to release the Uyghur report until the last minute of her tenure were nothing more than attempts to hide the Uyghur genocide from the eyes of the world. The most recent example of this is China’s effort at the United Nations Human Rights Council that led to reject the plan to discuss the Uyghur massacre. This was an acknowledgment that, should the Uyghur situation have been discussed, China would have been severely criticized.

A murderer is only strong in the field of murder, not in the field of debate.

Although it has been six years since the Uyghur genocide was revealed, it has been



seventy years since it began. Clearly, hiding the Uyghur genocide is part of a certain historical process.

In 1997, when then-US secretary of state Madeleine Albright first raised the Uyghur issue at the UN, she began by saying: "There is a people called Uyghur in China." Clearly, that Uyghurs existed needed to be explained. The weakness of the world's cognitive ability corresponded to the superiority of China's policy of concealment and their skills and experience in propaganda.

In 2001, just a few days after the September 11 terror incident in New York, the Chinese announced that they were also victims of terrorism and needed international assistance. This was the first time that China admitted to having a problem called the "Uyghur separatism," claiming that it had suffered more than 200 terrorist attacks in the previous 10 years. Until then, almost no one had spoken about such events, which were contrary to the propaganda insisting that all nationalities in the region were living in harmony and peace. In the end, the opportunity they expected from the era after September 11 may not have worked for China, so they closed the subject again.

Between 2008 and 2014, the vast majority of the protests and incidents that took place in the region were covered only by Washington-based Radio Free Asia's (RFA) Uyghur service. The most notable reports of RFA identified more than 100 Uyghurs who had disappeared during the July 5, 2009, incident. Based on this information, Uyghur scholar, Prof. Ilham Tohti asked

the National People's Congress of China to provide information on the missing persons or the bodies of the dead to their families. China has yet to respond. The request was one of the "crimes" that led to Ilham Tohti receiving a life sentence.

On September 18, 2015, RFA reported a deadly attack on a coal mine field in Bay County, Aksu. On November 14th, 56 days after the incident and one day after a terrorist attack occurred in Paris, France, China saw another opportunity and released a brief report about the September 18 incident. However, they did not reveal the details, including that the death toll surpassed 50.

In the report, Chinese officials proudly announced victory after Chinese soldiers launched an attack by using flamethrowers against a cave where the suspects were hiding. They burned 17 people to death, but they named only the 10 attackers. They did not mention the seven women and children dead in the cave.

In 2017, China established a 21st-century system of concentration camps detaining more than three million people. This did not warrant a single mention in the Chinese news or in their official reports for that year. After independent researchers revealed the location of the camps through satellite images, China acknowledged the existence of the camps but disguised them as vocational training centers.

On the international stage, China's silence on the Uyghur situation is a necessary lie, and contradictory statements are made when it is impossible to remain silent. This does



not occur due to the power of the Uyghurs or international pressure. It is the power of truth.

The truth does not leave its enemies alone. When attacked, it glows, flashes, and sometimes explodes and destroys its opponents. It is for this reason that Xi Jinping did not mention the Uyghurs in his report.

Xi Jinping did not forget about the Uyghurs. As a political leader, he will never forget the people who are the original owners of one sixth of the current national territory. As a murderer who ordered “no mercy” for the Uyghurs and commanded the genocide, he will live with the guilt of his crimes against humanity forever. He cannot be free for

one minute from the threat of retaliation and from the tears of parents and children in families that have been broken up for six years.

It is for these reasons that Xi Jinping did not mention the Uyghur genocide or even the name “Uyghur” in his 20th Congress report. This is not a sign that there is no Uyghur issue on his mind. It is instead a sign that the Uyghur genocide continues, and Xi Jinping fears accountability.

It is inevitable that Xi Jinping, who did not mention the Uyghurs today with cunning and fake arrogance, will confess his crime tomorrow when he will face the punishment of history.

## Newcastle Ends Twinning With Chinese City Amid Torture Claims

*By BBC, 2022-11-4*

Newcastle is to cut ties with a Chinese city over claims the country's regime has abused Uyghur people.

City councillors have agreed to end a long-standing twinning arrangement with Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi Province.

China has been accused of detaining a million Uyghur Muslims in so-called “re-education” camps.

Lib Dem Wendy Taylor, who proposed the motion, said she felt Newcastle could not have a relationship with China amid the claims of “horrific abuses”.

The motion to end the sister city agreement was passed unanimously on Wednesday.

It said China's Communist regime's actions “repeatedly demonstrate that it is not concerned with upholding the universal values we safeguard and adhering to international rules of conduct”.

Councillors had been urged to terminate the agreement by the student-led Newcastle Stands with Hong Kong group as part of a Global De-twin with China campaign, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said.

The arrangement with the industrial city of Taiyuan had existed since 1985, and delegations had visited Tyneside on several occasions.

Newcastle has highlighted its status as a City of Sanctuary with «a proud history



of promoting the advancement of human rights and standing in solidarity with those oppressed».

Ms Taylor said of the situation with the Uyghur people: «There's talk of rape, forced sterilisation, even organ-harvesting.

«I just felt that this was a country that we really could not have this relationship with whilst they are carrying out such horrific abuses.»

Labour cabinet member Jane Byrne said the council had no argument with the Chinese people and expressed solidarity with those campaigning for democracy in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

«They are fighting for the rights that we take for granted in Newcastle, but we should

never forget that those rights we have were fought for by others who came before us,» she added.

«We are the beneficiaries of other people's fight and I believe it is our moral duty to repay that debt by standing in solidarity with all those who are fighting for human rights and democracy today.»

China denies all allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang. It has dismissed claims of mass sterilisation of Uyghur people as «baseless» and allegations of forced labour as «completely fabricated».

In September, UN investigators said they found «credible evidence» of torture possibly amounting to «crimes against humanity».



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