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At Least 35 People Died in The Urumqi Fire

By Istiqlal English, 2022.11.25

According to video recordings obtained from open sources, a fire broke out in the home of Uyghurs living on the 16th floor of a complex near the Big International Market in Tanridag District of Urumqi at around 18:00 pm on November 24.

The fire engines had difficulty entering the site for 3 hours because the road was narrow and they could not overcome the barriers set up under the pretext of the so-called quarantine. The fire increased because the teams that came to extinguish it intervened remotely.

It is alleged that at least 35 people, including a 5-year-old child, died in the fire that broke out while the Chinese authorities had confined the Uyghurs in their homes for nearly 115 days,

under the pretext of the so-called Chinese epidemic. He also mentioned that only five people from one family died in the fire, and five other houses were exposed to fire due to not extinguishing the fire promptly.

According to the information, it was mentioned that all the doors of the houses in the compound are locked with iron wires from the outside, and the doors of the emergency exits are also closed by the Chinese authorities.

After the incident, the barriers began to be removed

In addition, while the Chinese authorities did not make any statement about the incident, it was reflected on the cameras that, as of

the morning hours, the so-called fedayeen in white clothes began removing sandbags and iron barriers that were placed in front of the entrances to the building in some areas of Urumqi.

Enforced isolation has been forced across East Turkistan for 115 days. In previously leaked footage, a person expressed concern that it would be impossible for them to reach a safe place in the event of a fire or earthquake, as the doors of Uyghur homes were still closed from the outside.

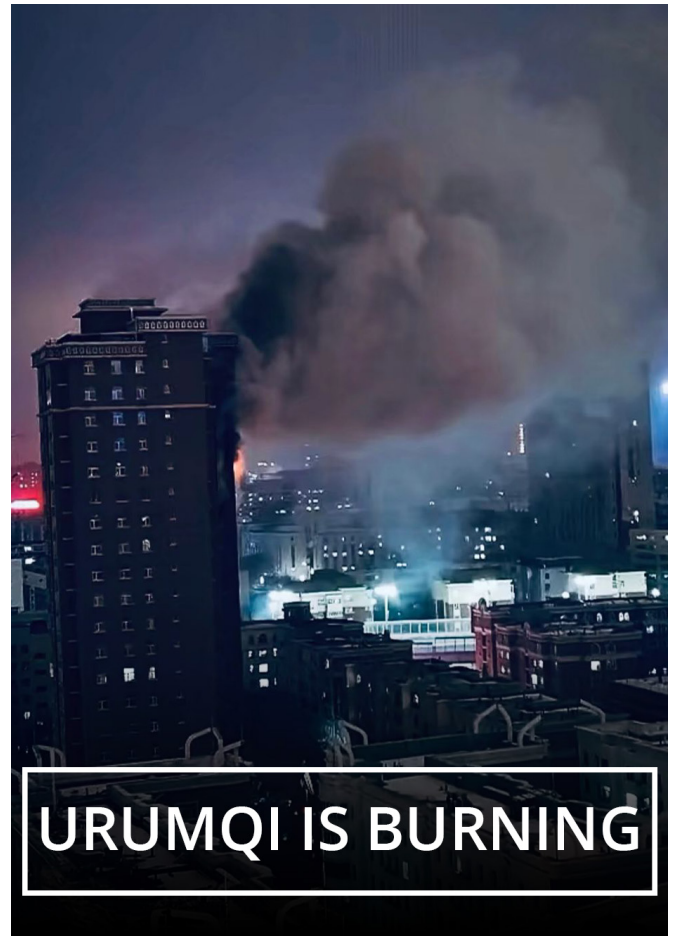
As a matter of fact, the people's cries of "Open the doors!", "Help me", and "Save us" in Urumqi are heartbreaking.

The Chinese propaganda media, as usual, circulated false news about the number of dead and wounded. However, eyewitnesses and many social media users confirmed that the number of dead and wounded is not 10 dead and 9 wounded, as claimed by Chinese government channels, but rather that at least 38 people died in at least 5 houses without being able to get out of the houses.

As is known, the nearest fire brigade is only 810 meters away from the large international market where the fire broke out. A women's

and children's hospital is 865 meters away, and Urumqi General Hospital is 1.3 km away. If people had the opportunity to get out, they would certainly have survived, but their doors are closed from the outside.

In this clip, the little boy yells, "You're bad, why don't you save me... Save me", Minutes before his death.



Ankara Asks Beijing to Explain Deadly Fire in Xinjiang

By Hurriyet Daily News, 2022.11.27

The Turkish Foreign Ministry has asked China to inform the public about the reasons behind the fire that killed at least 10 people and injured nine others in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

"We expect the reasons behind the fire to be made public," a written statement by the

Foreign Ministry on Nov. 26 read, following the news that fire killed civilians in Uyghur.

"We are deeply saddened to learn that a fire, which broke out in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, caused loss of lives and injuries. We extend our condolences



TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ DIŞİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI

No: 357, 26 Kasım 2022, Çin Halk Cumhuriyeti'nin Sincan Uyğur Özerk Bölgesi'ndeki Yangın Hk.

Çin Halk Cumhuriyeti'nin Sincan Uyğur Özerk Bölgesi'nin başkenti Urumçi'de çıkan yangın sonucunda hayatlarını kaybedenler ve yaralananlar olduğu derin üzüntüyle öğrenilmiştir. Bu elim hadise nedeniyle taziyelerimizi iletiyor, yaralılara acil şifalar diliyoruz.

Yangının çıkış nedenine ilişkin kamuoyunun aydınlatılmasını bekliyoruz.

and wish a speedy recovery to the injured," the ministry noted.

The fire broke out on the 15th floor of an apartment in Uyghur, which is under strict coronavirus lockdown. The fire and loss of lives have triggered protests in the region with criticism against the government for imposing

harsh quarantine without delivering proper services.

China has long been accused of imposing assimilatory policies in the Uyghur Autonomous Region, whose population is overwhelmingly Muslim.

China: UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Calls for Probe into Xinjiang Rights Violations

By OHCHR, 2022.11.24

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) today called on the Peoples' Republic of China to immediately investigate all allegations of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), including those of torture, ill-treatment, sexual violence, forced labour, enforced disappearances and deaths in custody.

Acting under its early warning and urgent action procedure, the Committee also called on China to immediately release all individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in the XUAR, whether in so-called Vocational Education and Training Centres (VETCs) or other detention facilities, and to provide relatives of those detained or disappeared with detailed information about their status and well-being.

The Committee further:

- Urges the State party to immediately cease all intimidation and reprisals against Uyghur and other ethnic Muslim communities, the diaspora and those who speak out in their defence, both domestically and abroad;
- Urges the State party to ensure that victims of human rights violations, including Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslim communities, are provided with adequate and effective remedies and reparation;
- Recommends that the China undertake a full review of its legal framework governing national security, counter terrorism and minority rights in the XUAR to ensure its full compliance with its obligations as a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- Also urges the State party to effectively implement its 2018 recommendations, as well as the 2015 Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture, and the UN Human Rights Office's assessment of human rights concerns in XUAR of August 2022;
- Reminds all States of their responsibility to cooperate to bring to an end through lawful means any serious breach of human rights

obligations, in particular serious violations of the peremptory norm of the prohibition of racial discrimination.

CERD's early warning and urgent action procedure primarily aims to consider situations which might lead to conflicts in order to take appropriate preventive actions to avoid full scale violations of human rights under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). A total of 182 States are party to ICERD. They are required to undergo regular reviews by the Committee of 18 independent international experts on how they are implementing the Convention.

In 2018, the Committee reviewed the periodic reports submitted by China and issued Concluding Observations in which it expressed a number of concerns, including about human rights violations of Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in the XUAR. As requested by the Committee, China submitted its follow-up report to those Concluding Observations in October 2019.

In 2022, due to the lack of improvement in the human rights situation in Xinjiang, the Committee decided to prepare and to adopt, at its current 108th session, a decision under its early warning and urgent action procedure.

Major Funds Exposed to Companies Allegedly Engaged in Uyghur Repression in China

By Geneva Abdul, The Guardian, 2022.11.23

Many of the world's largest asset managers and state pension funds are passively investing in companies that have allegedly engaged in the repression of Uyghur Muslims

in China, according to a new report.

The report, by UK-based group Hong Kong Watch and the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam



Passively Funding Crimes Against Humanity:

How Your Savings May Be Financing Internment Camps and Forced Labor in China



University, found that three major stock indexes provided by MSCI include at least 13 companies that have allegedly used forced labour or been involved in the construction of the surveillance state in China's Xinjiang region.

In recent years, China has come under increased scrutiny over what the UN has called "serious human rights violations" against Uyghur Muslims in the region, including systemic discrimination, mass arbitrary detention, torture, and sexual and gender-based violence. The Chinese government has denied repeated claims that Uyghur Muslims have been held in detention or re-education

camps and rejected the UN report as an anti-China smear.

"If the average Briton or American realised that hundreds of millions of pounds or billions of pounds were being invested in Chinese technology firms with close ties to the state, they would be outraged," said Johnny Patterson, an author of the report and co-founder of Hong Kong Watch.

"So few of us know where our money is invested," he added.

The report includes a list of major asset managers, including BlackRock, HSBC and Deutsche Bank among others, exposed to index funds that include companies accused

of engaging in labour transfers and the construction of repressive infrastructure in the region.

It found public pension funds across the UK, Canada and the US and funds in New Zealand and Japan exposed by the investments.

Of the companies listed in the report engaged in the alleged use of forced labour or construction of camps and surveillance infrastructure, four are on the MSCI All-Country World Index ex-US, 12 are on the MSCI China Index and 13 are on the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The companies were identified in academic research or media reports.

MSCI told the Guardian the only filters for inclusion in their indexes are accessibility and investability. "If an international investor is able to access the stock market and invest in the companies in the market, then the market and those companies are eligible for inclusion in our market indexes," the company said.

"So many people's pensions, retirement funds and savings are invested passively because, as average consumers, we don't have time to investigate each and every investment," said Laura Murphy, one of the report's authors and professor of human rights and contemporary slavery at Sheffield Hallam University.

"Investing in companies operating in the Uyghur region is a serious ethical risk, but it's also a financial risk, since these companies have been targeted by government sanctions and international advocacy campaigns," said Murphy.

The report's recommendations to governments include creating a list of banned entities,

banning investments in companies complicit in engaging state-imposed forced labour and passing legislation banning the import of goods with ties to forced labour.

Rahima Mahmut, Uyghur activist and director of the World Uyghur Congress, said the UK is not doing enough to protect her people.

"Recent years have revealed the true extent of the UK's complicity in Uyghur forced labour through public procurement, imports and, as this report details, investments," said Mahmut, who is living in exile in the UK.

"The UK government has the responsibility to ensure that the British consumer and taxpayer is never inevitably funding genocide," added Mahmut.

"It is simply unacceptable for UK companies to be complicit in crimes against humanity," Labour MP Afzal Khan said of the report. "If it means we need to name and shame companies, then so be it."

In October, a high court heard arguments that UK government agencies have broken the law by not investigating the import of cotton products manufactured by forced Uyghur labourers in China.

The agencies said the decision to investigate was a discretionary decision of law enforcement agencies and that there was currently insufficient material to warrant a criminal investigation, although that position could change in the light of new information.

BlackRock, HSBC and Deutsche Bank have been approached for comment.



The people of East Turkistan in Turkiye joined the massive protest organized by the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations in front of the Chinese consulate in Istanbul against China's repressive and genocide policies against the people of East Turkistan, especially its recent plan to exterminate the Uyghurs through house arrest and starvation, which was the main cause of the death of dozens of Uyghurs in the Urumqi fire; Because they were unable to leave their homes and escape from the fire due to forced confinement.





The East Turkistan people who are going through genocide by the Chinese regime and the painful reality.



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