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China's 'Unease' Over Türkiye's Support for Uyghur has Hurt Ties: Foreign Minister Cavusoglu

By Merve Aydogan, Anadolu Agency, 2022.12.29

The ebb in ties between Türkiye and China comes from Beijing's "unease" over Ankara's support for the Uyghurs of Xinjiang, northwestern China, said Türkiye's top diplomat on Thursday.

Turkish-Chinese ties have suffered over Beijing being disturbed by "our attitude on the Turkic Uyghurs. They have extradition requests for people who are our citizens, who live in Türkiye all the time, and we don't grant any of them," Foreign Minister Cavusoglu told reporters at an end-of-year press briefing in the capital Ankara.

Rebuffing claims that Türkiye Uyghurs are being extradited to China, Cavusoglu called such claims "a total lie."

"Our defending the rights of the Turkic Uyghurs in the international arena disturbs China. But

this is a humanitarian issue," he said, citing a UN Human Rights Council report on Turkic Uyghurs in China released in September.

The report "reveals all (human rights) violations. We have to react to it," he added.

Stressing that Türkiye wants to cooperate with China in a transparent manner, Cavusoglu said: "Our ambassador hasn't been there (Xinjiang) yet, they don't allow him."

Chinese authorities do not allow the ambassador in Beijing to freely visit the region where Uyghur Turks live but instead want him to follow a "program that they provide"

"Why should we become a tool for China's propaganda? They said that a humanitarian delegation from Türkiye could come and examine (the region). It's been five years since



(Chinese President) Xi (Jinping) proposed this. Why have you been preventing this delegation from visiting for five years, why don't you cooperate?" he asked.

"We want to cooperate, we don't see this as a political issue. We are categorically not anti-Chinese. We have always said that we support the One-China policy," Cavusoglu added, referring to the dispute over Taiwan.

In September the UN released a report on alleged violations of the human rights of ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in

China, concluding that the country may have committed crimes against humanity.

The report found that mass detentions in China's ~~Xinjiang~~ region from 2017 to 2019 were marked by credible documentation of torture, sexual violence, and forced labor, as well as forced abortions and sterilizations.

The 48-page report concluded that "serious human rights violations" were committed by the Chinese government against the Uyghurs and other Muslims under China's policies to fight terrorism and extremism.

The Urumqi Fire was State Terror: the European Parliament got it Right

By Kok Bayraq, Bitter Winter, 2022.12.28

The world stood up when a Syrian boy drowned in the sea, and when George Floyd was brutally murdered; it became not only an American or Syrian problem, but also a world problem. This sensitivity, this responsibility is certainly deserved and appreciated; but when 44 people were burned alive in Urumqi, one hundredth of this sensitivity was not aroused. Why?

When I was considering this mystery, I heard the voice of the European Parliament. On December 15, the European Parliament, called on the Chinese government to be transparent about the number of victims and the circumstances under which they died in the Urumqi fire. They called for prompt, effective, and thorough investigation.

The passing of a joint motion for a resolution on the Chinese government crackdown on peaceful protests across the People's Republic of China was a good step toward

drawing international attention to one of the most tragic events in modern history: forty-four people were burned alive in Urumqi because of politics. It was also a chance to highlight the Muslim world's shameless silence and the US's weak voice regarding the tragedy.

The European Parliament went to the root of the tragedy by stating, "All the victims of the Urumqi fire are of Uyghur ethnicity, thus deepening the suffering of this ethnic group, which has fallen victim to systematic human rights atrocities taking place in the ~~Xinjiang~~ Uyghur Autonomous Region, which the European Parliament has recognized as constituting crimes against humanity and representing a serious risk of genocide."

The value of this call is clearer if we look at the nature of the Urumqi fire tragedy.

What is the character of the Urumqi fire? Was it natural or human-made? Intentional or



unintentional? Were the motives and causes negligence or inhumane selfishness?

In my view, the fire may be natural, but it is unnatural for a fire to last three hours and cause forty-four deaths. This is an artificial harm, an artificial death. Because their doors were locked by officials! The damage may not be intentional, it may be the result of negligence, but this negligence does not arise from the mystery of a disaster but from the indifference to the life of these forty-four souls. It is the savagery and barbarism of totalitarian regimes, putting their own interests above all else, always, everywhere. It would be a great mistake to view and characterize it as just the fruit of ineffectiveness and laziness.

Why would a person stay silent when a group door is locked or even closed? Because she is scared.

Why did the Chinese government try to scare its citizens? To reduce COVID cases to zero? For the safety of the people? Their slogan says

yes, but that is not the reality of the situation. A country that cares about the security of its people will first respect their rights and dignity and will not violate those rights because of politics. It will give a free press the right to investigate. It will not imprison dissenters or crash protests with tanks to protect the regime.

What was China's real reason for wanting to reduce COVID cases to zero? The goal was to justify their dictatorial regime by doing what other countries and governments in the world could not do, proving that dictatorship is also useful, finally prolonging the life of the ruler, and consolidating his throne.

How do we call politically motivated intimidation? Terror.

Most of the forty-four people who died in the fire were mothers and children. Their husbands and fathers, who might have been able to break the locked doors, were in camps and jails. For example, victim Qemernisa's husband, father, two brothers, and eldest son have all been in prison for six years. What do you call keeping mothers and children separated from the rest of their families for political purposes? A hostage situation. A terror organization can take hostages for a few days or weeks; if a group functions as hostage for years, this is a case of state terror.

Thus far, China has neither updated the number of dead nor announced the victims' identities. If an organization carries out an attack, it will take responsibility and make demands, but if the state commits terrorism, it will not take responsibility. On the contrary, it will consider its behavior as a way of protecting the people, protecting the unity of the state, consolidating the integrity of society, and, in

this case, bringing the virus to zero.

Again, the Urumqi Fire is part of a scene of state terror, launched by China against the Uyghur people.

A terror state can take as hostages hundreds or thousands, but China has “successfully” taken as hostages more than three million Uyghurs. What should we call such situation? I think the best definition is “super state terror.” Or “superpower terror.”

In previous decades, some forms of state terror evolved into genocide. In those cases, the terror was reported by the international media and was condemned. In emergency situations, such as in the case of the Bosnian and Rwandan genocides, the world joined hands, and peacekeepers went into the field of terror and stopped it. However, the Uyghur

Genocide which includes the Urumqi Fire, has not seen such action. On the contrary, most of the world is turning a deaf ear. Just because the terror’s responsible is a super state with extraordinary power.

This must be known. There was a terror incident at a residential building in Urumqi on 1122/24/. A list of the dead has not been published. The families of the victims have not been compensated. No one has been told how the bodies of the dead were treated. It is unknown whether the imprisoned family members of the dead were informed of this situation and were given the opportunity to participate in the funeral ceremonies. The most surprising thing is that no country came forward to call this what it was: state terrorism. The Urumqi Fire is a true picture of state terrorism perpetrated by a superpower.

Police in China can Track Protests by Enabling ‘Alarms’ on Hikvision Software

By Johana Bhuiyan, The Guardian, 2022.12.29

Chinese police can set up “alarms” for various protest activities using a software platform provided by Hikvision, a major Chinese camera and surveillance manufacturer, the Guardian has learned. Descriptions of protest activity listed among the “alarms” include “gathering crowds to disrupt order in public places”, “unlawful assembly, procession, demonstration” and threats to “petition”.

These activities are listed alongside offenses such as “gambling” or disruptive events such as “fire hazard” in technical documents available on Hikvision’s website and flagged to the Guardian by surveillance research firm IPVM, or Internet Protocol Video Market.

The company’s website also included alarms for “religion” and “Falun Gong” – a spiritual movement banned in China and categorized as a cult by the government – until IPVM contacted the company.

The findings come a month after mass protests against the country’s zero-Covid policies erupted across China. Though the demonstrations resulted in the government easing restrictions, many protesters later received calls from police.

The US government has long had its sights set on Hikvision. The company was placed on a commerce department blacklist that

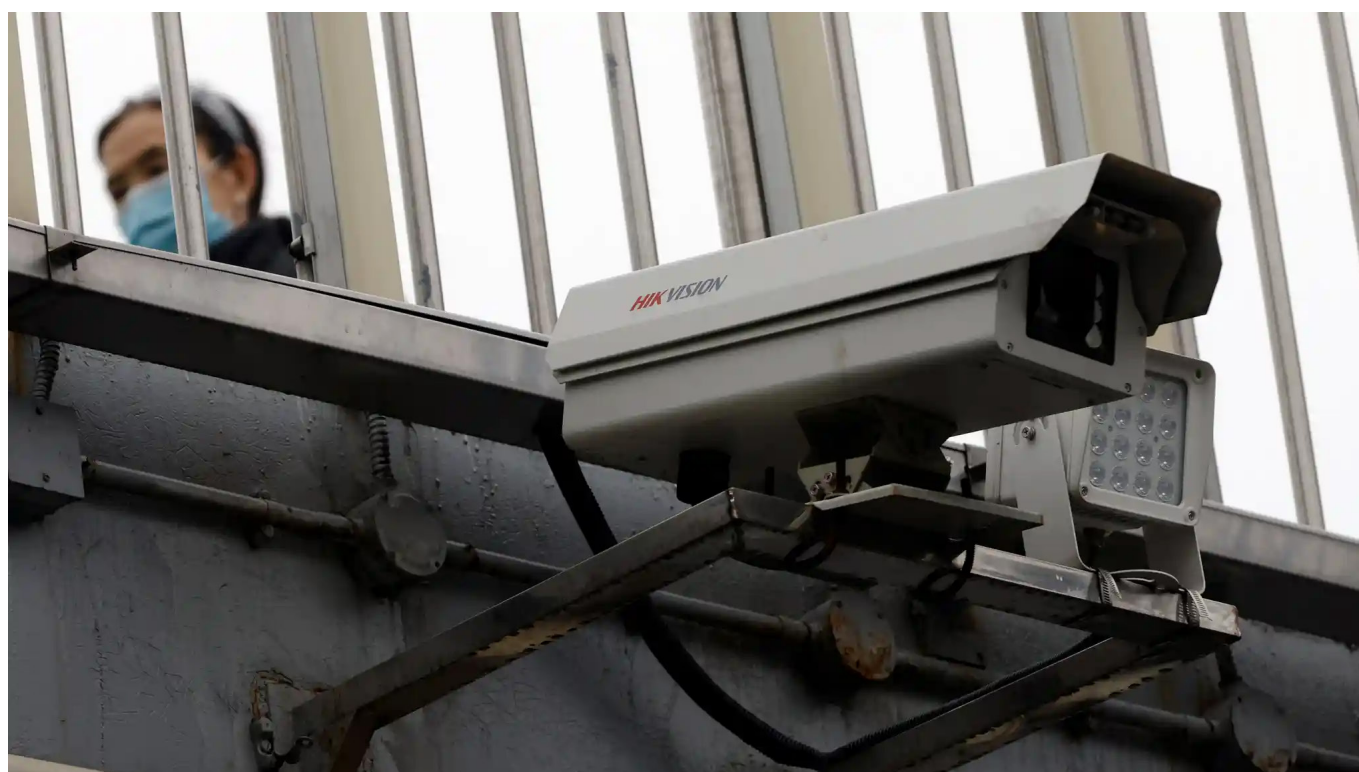


restricts the use of federal funds to purchase equipment manufactured by the firm as well as US exports to the surveillance firm for its complicity in human rights violations associated with China's mass incarceration of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

In November, the Federal Communications Commission also introduced new rules that prohibited imports and sales of future Hikvision communications equipment in the US.

workload, inability to share data", according to the company's website.

The technical document available on the Hikvision website does not give many details about exactly how these alarms work but describes a long list of events or activities under "types" of alarms which include "infringement of property rights", "stealing", "trafficking of women and children" and pornography. The document also describes "alarm methods"



While Hikvision is best known for its camera equipment, the company has joined other players in developing and providing centralized platforms for police and other law enforcement to maintain, manage, analyze and respond to information collected through the many cameras set up across China. Hikvision pitches its cloud platform, called Infovision IoT, as a means to "provide intelligent public security decision-making and services" for police in order to alleviate "uneven allocation of resources, heavy

that include "discovery on duty", "equipment alarm" and a call to the police.

At least nine alarm types are protest-related, according to a translation of the Hikvision technical guide: "gathering crowds to attack state organs", "gathering crowds to disrupt the order of the unit", "gathering crowds to disrupt order in public places", "gathering crowds to disrupt traffic order", "gathering crowds to disrupt order on public transport", "gathering crowds obstructing the normal running of vehicles", "crowd looting", "unlawful

assembly, procession, demonstration” and a “threat to petition”.

Police who are on duty, for example, will be able to report events or incidents as a “503” event – the code that corresponds with “gathering crowds to disrupt order in public places” – which could then trigger an alarm in the system for the rest of the police department, according to Charles Rollet, an IPVM researcher. That would also be the case for the “Falun Gong” alarm.

“It raises significant freedom of assembly and freedom of religion concerns,” Rollet said. “Technically those two rights are in the People’s Republic of China constitution, but in reality, the government cracks down very hard on those liberties. So I am concerned about how technology can facilitate the tracking of repressed groups.”

The “Falun Gong” and “religion” alarm were removed from the website with no explanation after IPVM contacted the company.

The technical document also illustrates the sheer breadth of data on individuals the company enables its customers to track. Various personal attributes are listed as part of a “personnel dictionary” including political status, religion and ethnicity as well as physical descriptions such as whether someone has long or short hair or wears glasses, the color of their coats, their age range and whether they smile.

The company has previously come under fire for developing the capabilities to detect Uyghurs and other minorities. In 2018, it won a contract to install facial recognition systems at the entrance of 967 mosques as well as re-education camps where Uyghurs and many

members of other ethnic minorities have been detained. These are just a small part of the Chinese government’s larger campaign to use technology to monitor and track members of religious and other minority groups. The United Nations said in a report that China’s actions against Uyghurs may be considered “crimes against humanity”.

Hikvision has disputed all reports of enabling the Chinese government to target Uyghurs.

Hikvision declined to comment but has previously told the Guardian: “In 2018, a separate recognition function produced by Hikvision, which was not focused on any single ethnic group, was removed through a firmware update and is no longer available, as reported by The New York Times in 2019.

“Hikvision has strictly followed all applicable laws and regulations in the UK and all countries where we operate to ensure complete compliance.

“Hikvision has never knowingly or intentionally committed human rights abuses itself or acted in wilful disregard and will never do so in the future.”

But Senator Marco Rubio has called for sanctions on the company as well as other firms for their role in the repression of the mostly Muslim Uyghur ethnic minority and said in a statement that he would continue to push that bill forward in the new year.

“Hikvision’s technology plays a central role enabling the Chinese Communist Party’s disgusting human rights abuses and genocide, including against groups such as the Falun Gong and the Uyghurs,” Rubio said in an emailed statement.



Uyghur Muslim Preacher Omar Huseyin Confirmed Dead in China's Xinjiang Prison: Report

By ANI, 2022.12.30

A former Uyghur Muslim preacher, Omar Huseyin, who was arrested in 2017 for making a pilgrimage to Mecca, was confirmed dead in China's Xinjiang prison, reported Radio Free Asia (RFA).

He was serving a five-year sentence in China's far-western Xinjiang region. He died of liver cancer in prison in February, according to a police officer who works in the district where the preacher resided.

Huseyin, 55, was the former hatip, or

preacher, at the Qarayulghun Mosque in Korla, known as Ku'erle in Chinese and the second-largest city in Xinjiang.

Authorities apprehended him in September 2017 amid a widespread crackdown on Islamic clergy and other prominent Uyghurs, for travelling to the holy city of Mecca in 2015.

Authorities also detained Huseyin's three brothers in 2017, one of whom was serving a 12-year sentence for participating in

religious activities, and died in prison, reported RFA.

Huseyin was healthy before authorities took him away for 're-education' in one of the hundreds of facilities across Xinjiang where authorities detained an estimated 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslims purportedly to prevent religious extremism and terrorism.

Mahmut Moydun, an Uyghur inmate who escaped from another prison in Korla and was in hiding, told RFA that conditions at detention centres had been deteriorating because more inmates, including the preacher, had died in the last two years.

A Korla resident, who declined to be named for safety reasons, told RFA that the health of inmates incarcerated in city prisons had deteriorated due to low-quality food, the intensity of prison labour, long political study sessions, and endless interrogations.

Huseyin was taken away for 're-education' in 2017 at a time when authorities were transforming internment camp centres in Korla into prisons, he said.

The RFA contacted the Qarayulghun police station in Korla for a list of inmates who died in 2021 and 2022, but the political commissar refused to provide it. When asked for information about Huseyin, he

said the police station in the district where the preacher used to reside could provide it.

"I cannot send you that information," he said, adding, "There is no such thing."

A district policeman later confirmed that Huseyin was serving a sentence in the district prison and that he died on Feb. 2, reported RFA.

Meanwhile, Omar Huseyin, one of four brothers, ages 50 to 62, from the same family hauled in by authorities for 're-education' because they were considered a security threat for participating in religious activities, according to a Uyghur emigre from Korla who now lives in Turkey.

Besides the preacher, his elder brother, Samat Huseyin, also died in prison in 2021, reported RFA.

Two of the brothers, Rahman and Ablet, 'graduated' after spending two years in a re-education centre because their attitudes had 'improved', while the other two were considered "problematic" and accused of disturbing public order by assembling with others, he told RFA.

He added that Chinese authorities sentenced Omar to five years in prison and Samat to 12 years in jail.



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