

Islamic Scholars Gather in Istanbul to Highlight Uyghur Genocide, Support Their Struggle with China

By ANI, 2022-06-12



Islamic scholars and intellectuals gathered in Istanbul on Monday for an international conference to highlight the Uyghur genocide and to support their struggle with the Chinese Communist Party.

“This weekend, Islamic scholars and intellectuals of the Muslim world gathered in Istanbul for an international conference that aims to introduce the #UyghurGenocide to the Muslim World and to mobilize public opinion to support the #Uyghurs in their

struggle with #CCP. #ChinasWaronIslam,” tweeted Center for Uyghur Studies (CUS).

The Center for Uyghur Studies provides strategic policy recommendations and presents research reports to interfaith entities, related international organizations and governments on the people of East Turkistan/Xinjiang.

The Uyghurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.

Their native region is considered to be the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China.

Xinjiang is technically an autonomous region within China. The Uyghurs are Muslim, they don't speak Mandarin as their native language, and have ethnicity and culture that is different from that of mainland China.

Over the past few decades, as economic prosperity has come to Xinjiang, it has brought with it in large numbers the majority of Han Chinese, who have cornered the better jobs, and left the Uyghurs feeling their livelihoods and identity were under threat.

According to reports, since 2016, over a million Uyghur Muslims have been detained in Xinjiang re-education camps by the Chinese Government.

The main purpose of these re-education camps was to ensure adherence to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chinese authorities have been accused of imposing forced labour, systematic forced birth control and torture, and separating children from incarcerated parents.

Several countries, including the US, Canada and the Netherlands, have accused China of committing genocide – defined by international convention as the “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”.

China has been forcibly mass sterilising Uyghur women to suppress the population, separating children from their families, and attempting to break the cultural traditions of the group.

China denies all allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, claiming its system of “re-education” camps is there to combat separatism and Islamist militancy in the region.



European Parliament Calls China's Xinjiang Violations 'Serious Risk of Genocide'

By RFE, 2022-06-09

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution saying China's treatment of mostly Muslim, Turkic-speaking indigenous ethnic groups, such as Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and others in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, amounts to «crimes against humanity» and holds a «serious risk of genocide.»

The resolution, approved in a vote by the

«genocide» and «crimes against humanity.»

The resolution says the Uyghur community in China «has been systematically oppressed by brutal measures, including mass deportation, political indoctrination, family separation, restrictions on religious freedom, cultural destruction and the extensive use of surveillance.»



European Parliament on June 9, condemned «in the strongest possible terms» China's treatment of Uyghurs and other indigenous peoples in the northwestern region.

Although it stops short of calling China's actions genocide outright, the resolution is the strongest yet adopted by the legislature and marks a tougher line toward Beijing by Brussels. The United States has already labelled China's actions in Xinjiang as

It also says there is «credible evidence about birth-prevention measures and the separation of Uyghur children from their families amount to crimes against humanity and represent a serious risk of genocide.»

The document calls on the Chinese government to put an «immediate end» to the practice of arbitrary detention without charge, trial, or conviction for criminal offenses «targeted» against Uyghurs and

other ethnic Turkic peoples, and to close all camps and detention centers and «immediately and unconditionally» release all of those detained under the practices.

As many as 2 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and members of Xinjiang's other indigenous ethnic groups have been taken to detention centers in the western Chinese region, according to the U.S. State Department.

China denies that the facilities are internment camps but people who have fled the province say that thousands are undergoing «political indoctrination» at a network of facilities known officially as reeducation camps.

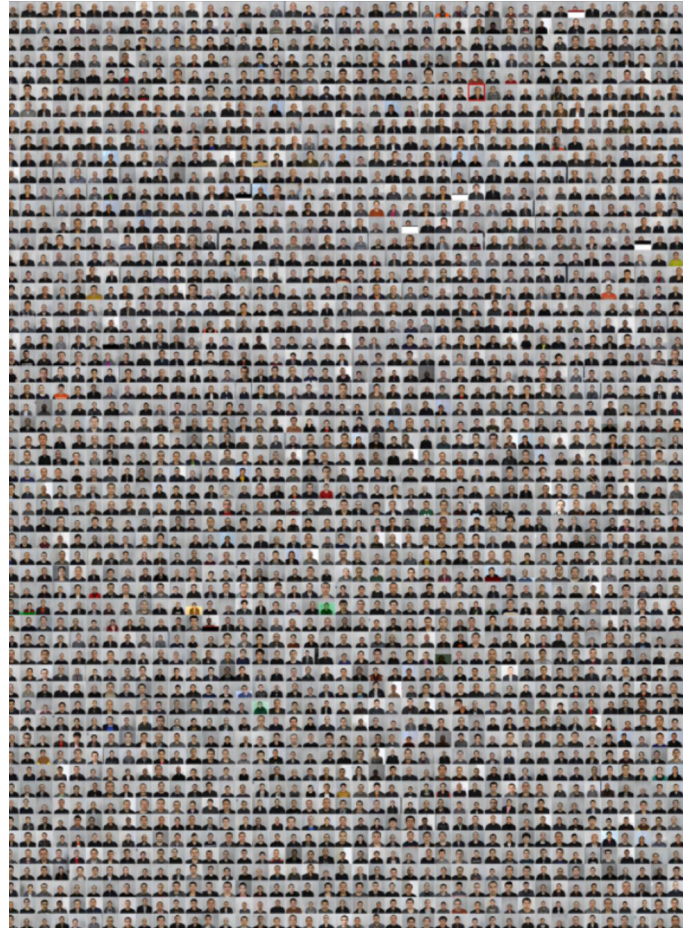
The resolution, which is nonbinding, also criticizes UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet for her recent trip to China, where she visited Xinjiang, saying she «failed to clearly hold the Chinese government accountable for human rights abuses against the Uyghurs during her visit.»

Dozens of rights groups called on June 8 for her resignation, charging that she «whitewashed» Beijing's «atrocities» during her trip to China.

Bachelet has said that during the trip she urged Beijing to review its counterterrorism

policies to ensure they comply with international human rights standards.

She also said that her six-day trip was not an investigation into China's human rights policies but an opportunity to engage with the government.



Fury at UN Human Rights Chief over 'Whitewash' of Uyghur Repression

By Helen Davidson, The Guardian, 2022-06-09

Dozens of scholars have accused the UN human rights chief of having ignored or contradicted academic findings on abuses in Xinjiang with her statements on the region.

In an open letter published this week, 39 academics from across Europe, the US and

Australia called on Michelle Bachelet to release a long-awaited UN report on human rights abuses in China.

The letter, published online, included some academics with whom Bachelet had consulted prior to her visit to Xinjiang. The



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letter's signatories expressed gratitude for this, but said they were "deeply disturbed" by her official statement, delivered at a press conference in Guangzhou at the end of her six-day tour.

They said her statement "ignored and even contradicted the academic findings that our colleagues, including two signatories to this letter, provided".

"It is rare that an academic field arrives at the level of consensus that specialists in the study of Xinjiang have reached," the letter said. "While we disagree on some questions of why Beijing is enacting its atrocities in Xinjiang, we are unanimous in our understanding of what it is that the Chinese state is doing on the ground."

Xinjiang is the site of a years-long crackdown by Chinese authorities on Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, with sweeping hardline policies of religious, cultural, linguistic and physical oppression.

An estimated one million people have been incarcerated in a vast network of detention and reeducation camps, which Beijing terms "vocational education and training centres". Document leaks have revealed countless others have been arrested or jailed for alleged crimes including studying scripture, growing a beard, or travelling overseas, and that authorities have established "shoot to kill" policies in response to attempted escapes.

Rights organisations and several governments have labelled the campaign a genocide or crime against humanity. Beijing denies all allegations of mistreatment and says its policies are to counter terrorism and religious extremism.

At the end of her visit Bachelet said she had urged the Chinese government to review its counter-terrorism policies in Xinjiang and appealed for information about missing Uyghurs. She was quickly criticised by some rights groups for giving few details or

condemnation of China while readily giving long unrelated statements about US issues in response to questions from Chinese state media.

The academics' letter is among growing criticism of Bachelet for not speaking out more forcefully against Chinese abuses after her visit, as well as a continued failure to release the UN report, which is believed to have been completed in late 2021. On Wednesday dozens of rights groups, predominately national and local chapters of organisations associated with Uyghur and Tibetan campaigns, demanded her resignation.

The 230 organisations accused Bachelet of having "whitewashed the Chinese government's human rights atrocities" and having "legitimised Beijing's attempt to cover up its crimes by using the Chinese government's false 'counter-terrorism' framing".

"The failed visit by the high commissioner

has not only worsened the human rights crisis of those living under the Chinese government's rule, but also severely compromised the integrity of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in promoting and protecting human rights globally," the statement said.

They also decried that she had repeatedly referred to the detention camps in Xinjiang by the Chinese government's preferred term: "vocational education and training centres".

The signatories said Bachelet had been "entirely silent on the human rights crisis enveloping Tibet" during her four years in office, and had "grossly underplayed the crackdown" in Hong Kong.

It also called for the urgent release of the UN report.

"The repeated, open-ended, and unexplained delays call into serious question the credibility of her office to fulfil its mandate," the statement said.

ILO Sending Mission to China to Report on Discrimination Against Uyghurs in Xinjiang

By WION, 2022-06-11

Amid allegations of discrimination against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the Xinjiang region, International Labour Organization (ILO) members have decided Saturday to send a mission to China.

The ILO's main annual assembly adopted a committee finding to send a «technical advisory mission» to China to «assess the situation», stopping short of a higher-level investigation, as requested by the United

States, Britain and other countries.

During the more than two-week International Labour Conference, the committee tasked with assessing China's compliance with global labour practices had heard allegations, vehemently denied by China, of systemic labour violations especially targeting Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

Also Read: Uyghur genocide: UN team arrives



in China ahead of visit by human rights chief
In its conclusions, adopted in full by the assembly Saturday, the committee «deplored the use of all repressive measures against the Uyghur people, which has a discriminatory effect on their employment opportunities and treatment as a religious and ethnic minority in China».

It issued a long line of recommendations to Beijing, including to «immediately cease any discriminatory practices against the Uyghur population and any other ethnic minority groups, including internment or imprisonment on ethnic and religious grounds for de-radicalisation purpose».

It urged Beijing to accept an ILO technical advisory mission and asked it to provide a report by September 1 with information on how it is applying the labour convention against discrimination in employment.

China reacted angrily to the findings, with government representative Qian Xiaoyan insisting that ILO committees should not be used as a «political instrument of some Western countries to smear and denigrate China».

Also Read: Human rights activists call on China to release Uyghur scholar

The committee review came after a group of 20 UN labour experts in February voiced their «deep concern» after evaluating the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities in China.

They had assessed allegations by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in late 2020 that Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang were systematically being used for forced labour in agriculture.

Rights groups also say at least one million Uyghurs have been incarcerated in «re-education camps» in the western region. Beijing flatly denies all such charges and maintains the camps are vocational training centres aimed at reducing the appeal of Islamic extremism.

Since China has not completed its ratification of conventions against forced labour, the committee review focused only on the country's adherence to Convention 111 against discrimination in employment, to which it is a party.



U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet has failed the people of East Turkistan.



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