

# Uyghurs in Exile Mark Anniversary of Deadly 2009 Urumqi Unrest

*By Mamatjan Juma, RFA, 2022-07-05*



Uyghur exile groups around the world on Tuesday demanded that China end its persecution of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang in a series of protests marking the 13th anniversary of deadly ethnic violence in the region's capital.

Uyghurs demonstrated in the capital cities of European Union countries, Turkey, Australia, Japan, and Canada, and in New York and Washington, D.C., to commemorate the crackdown in Urumqi, which became a catalyst for the Chinese government's efforts to repress Uyghur culture, language and religion through a mass surveillance and internment campaign.

"We gathered here to commemorate the massacre that occurred on July 5 in Urumqi and to remember the ongoing genocide taking place in East Turkestan today," said Hidayetulla Oghuzhan, chairman of East Turkestan Organizational Alliance in Istanbul, using Uyghurs' preferred name for the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

"We call upon the international community to not to remain silent and to take action against this genocide," he said.

In Paris, one protester told RFA that he lost many of his friends in the July 5 clash and that remembering that day was very



important for him.

Smaller demonstrations were held in other cities.

About 15 members of the Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association protested outside a mall in Adelaide to mark the anniversary of the massacre and demand that the Australian government ban the importation of goods made with Uyghur forced labor in the XUAR, according to India's The Print online news service.

Muslims in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka and in Narayanganj district, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) southeast of the city, also staged protests against the Chinese government's oppression of Uyghurs, according to the same news source.

About 200 people died and 1,700 were

injured in three days of violence between ethnic minority Uyghurs and Han Chinese that began on July 5, 2009, in Xinjiang's largest city, Urumqi (in Chinese, Wulumuqi), according to China's official figures. Uyghur rights groups say the numbers of dead and injured were much higher, however.

The unrest was set off by a clash between Uyghur and Han Chinese toy factory workers in southern China's Guangdong province in late June that year that left two Uyghurs dead. News of the deaths reached Uyghurs in Urumqi, sparking a peaceful protest that spiraled into beatings and killings of Chinese, with deaths occurring on both sides. Chinese mobs later staged revenge attacks on Uyghurs in the city's streets with sticks and metal bars.

**'We mourn the past'**



Dolkun Isa, president of Germany-based World Uyghur Congress (WUC), called July 5 a day of mourning.

“We have to remember that day,” he told RFA on Tuesday. “That day is the turning point in from China’s ethnic segregation and discrimination policy to the beginning of the genocidal ethnic policy. 2009 is the starting point of the ongoing ethnic genocide since 2016.”

In late 2016 and 2017, authorities ramped up their clampdown on Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities in the XUAR through abductions and arbitrary arrests and detentions in what China called “re-education” camps or prisons.

An estimated 1.8 million members of these groups have been held in internment camps, where detainees who were later freed reported widespread maltreatment, including severe human rights abuses, torture, rape and forced labor.

The U.S. and the parliaments of the EU have said the repression of Uyghurs in the XUAR is a genocide and crime against humanity.

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), based in Washington D.C., demanded the protection of Uyghur refugees and asylum seekers residing abroad.

“Saving Uyghur refugees is the least that the world can do for Uyghurs, as we experience the 6th year of an ongoing genocide,” UHRP Executive Director Omer Kanat said in a statement. “It is urgent that all countries recognize the threat posed to Uyghurs

abroad, and develop their own resettlement programs on an emergency basis.”

Because China has sought the forcible return of some Uyghurs living abroad, UHRP said governments should immediately implement resettlement programs for those at risk of refoulement — forcing refugees to return to a country where they will likely face persecution.

UHRP called on the U.S. Congress to pass the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, which would make Uyghurs and other persecuted Turkic peoples eligible for priority refugee processing by the U.N., designating them as “Priority 2” refugees of special humanitarian concern.

The Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Uyghurs said the Urumqi Massacre was a reminder of the brutality of the Chinese government and the loss that Uyghurs have experienced in their fight for equality.

“The world no longer believes China’s whitewashed tales stating the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] is innocent and a victim in the Urumqi massacre,” Rushan Abbas, the group’s executive director, said in a statement. “While we mourn the past, we continue to fight for the living, fight for the future of this free and democratic world. Justice is on our side reclaiming this correct history.”

“We labor ensuring those who perished in 2009 will not have sacrificed their lives in vain,” she said. “With courage and hard work, justice shall prevail.”

# Cross-Party Mps Urge Ban on Two Chinese CCTV Companies Citing Ethics and Security Concerns

*By Rory Bathgate, IT Pro, 2022-07-05*

67 MPs have called for the Chinese surveillance equipment firms Hikvision and Dahua to be banned from operating in the UK, citing security concerns and calling into question the ethics of both companies.

The group represents as broad a range of the political spectrum as one could expect, from right-wing eurosceptics like Steve Baker MP to Labour peer and director of Liberty Baroness Chakrabarti, leader of the Liberal Democrats Ed Davey and the Greens' Caroline Lucas MP.

The civil liberties and privacy campaigning organisation Big Brother Watch published a report in February documenting the spread of surveillance equipment manufactured in China throughout the UK.

Of the public bodies who responded to their FOI requests, 60.8% use Chinese-made CCTV and 89% of these use Hikvision equipment specifically. Additionally, 12% of this figure uses Dahua equipment.

Both Hikvision and Dahua have been alleged by MPs to be the primary operators of CCTV in Uyghur internment camps operated by the Chinese government, part of ongoing

acts within China that human rights group Amnesty International calls crimes against humanity, and the US government officially calls genocide.

Moreover, last year the LA Times broke a story alleging that Dahua has developed facial-recognition technology that can sort by race, with specific capabilities to warn operators when it detects Uyghur individuals.

The use of technology from companies with ties to the Chinese government has recently prompted widespread concern. BT is currently removing Huawei from the UK's 5G network after a 2020 decision and the FCC last week cited major privacy concerns over the popular app TikTok, owned by Chinese company ByteDance, urging Apple and Google to ban it from their respective app stores.

The Foreign Affairs Committee published a report in 2021 specifically naming Hikvision and Dahua as companies whose equipment "should not be permitted to operate within the UK," calling them companies "known to be associated with the Xinjiang atrocities." Last month, the Department for Work and





Pensions announced that it will remove Hikvision CCTV cameras from its offices.

Professor Fraser Sampson, the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, wrote a letter to the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP last month concerning the risks to UK ethics and security posed by Chinese surveillance equipment. Within, he stated:

[T]he publicly available evidence tells me that some of these companies - notably Hikvision and Dahua - simply cannot be trusted, partly because of concerns about the role they and their technology are believed to have played in perpetuating the appalling treatment of Uyghur Muslims as set out in the report of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee last year (and recognised in the government's formal response), but also because of those companies' absolute

refusal to engage with even the most cursory level of public accountability in response to those concerns."

In a statement given to It Pro, a Hikvision spokesperson rejected claims made against them:

"CCTV has always played a critical role in the UK in the fight against crime and terrorism. Hikvision is proud of the role we play in that.

The UK also has fringe groups who would like to see a massive reduction of CCTV in the UK who are willing to throw allegations around about CCTV, and who would lie to demonise Hikvision.

"Hikvision has always worked with government bodies to provide solutions to the UK's CCTV requirements."

# China Uses Community Organizations to Tamp Down Global Criticism of Uyghur Repressions in Xinjiang: Report

*By ANI, 2022-07-08*

A new report details China's efforts to control Uyghurs beyond its borders. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is using community organizations as fronts to challenge global criticism of Uyghur repressions in Xinjiang.

Kurban Niyaz, writing in Radio Free Asia (RFA), said that the South Australia Xinjiang Association, a nonprofit organization set up in 2009, provides a platform for Chinese migrants from the region in northwestern China to meet one another and network.

However, the group, dominated by Han Chinese, according to two researchers work to neutralize or silence criticism of CCP policies in Xinjiang.

The South Australia Xinjiang Association, which has the backing of China's diplomatic mission to Australia, "claims the right to speak on behalf of the Xinjiang diaspora while neutralizing the legitimate concerns of the Uyghur community about Beijing's human rights abuses in the Uyghur homeland," write Lin Li, and independent researcher, and James Leibold, a senior fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's International Cyber Policy Centre.

The CCP uses deceptive and coercive influence operations around the globe to undermine Uyghurs living outside China, often through the United Front Work Department (UFWD), say Li and Leibold in their 65-page policy paper, titled "Cultivating Friendly Forces: The Chinese Communist Party's Influence Operations in the Xinjiang Diaspora."

The UFWD gathers information about and attempts to influence individuals and organizations inside and outside China to ensure they are supportive of or useful to the party's interests, reported RFA.

The CCP gathers intelligence on its critics, maintains databases of former and current Xinjiang residents with overseas connections, and establishes research institutes that suggest policies to lawmakers in their respective countries, the report states.

The tactics also include cultivating overseas community leaders and sending officials tasked with qiaowu — overseas Chinese affairs — to conduct united front work, while inviting targets residing abroad to China, said Niyaz.

The CCP taps into business networks, offer



political honours for its backers and stages cultural performances to “nurture friendly forces for China” through language schools and summer camps in a widespread public relations campaign.

On a sunny summer day in the South Australia city of Adelaide in late January 2018, dozens of SA Xinjiang Association members displayed a huge banner bearing the group’s name as they marched wearing the traditional attire of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in a parade to celebrate Australia Day.

It was done despite objections from some of the city’s 1,500 Uyghur residents that the Han Chinese were appropriating their culture, which Chinese authorities back home were working to extinguish through a harsh campaign of forced assimilation, said Niyaz.

Adding insult to injury, the association won the best costume award, its members triumphantly posing for photos with Jay Weatherill, who was then the premier of

South Australia, boosting the group’s public profile, reported RFA.

Some Uyghurs later complained to the Adelaide City Council that the parade march by the Han Chinese was intentional by the CCP, “a soft propaganda publicity act” to distract from the communist Chinese government’s persecution of Uyghurs, including members of their own families.

Community organizations with innocuous-sounding names serve as conduits for propaganda about Xinjiang in an effort to dispute the well-documented human rights abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), the researchers say.

Since 2017, Chinese authorities have ramped up a clampdown on Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities in the XUAR through arbitrary arrests and lengthy detentions. An estimated 1.8 million members of these groups have been held in internment camps, where some experienced severe human rights abuses, torture, rape and forced labour.



# How Australians Can Avoid Aiding China's Propaganda Machine

*By Sophie McNeill, HRW, 2022-07-06*



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China. With a change of government in Canberra, the Chinese government is reaching out to influential groups and individuals in the country.

During the past month, China's ambassador to Australia, Xiao Qian, has met with former prime ministers and ministers, senior Labor Party officials, a state premier, mining executives and news executives at Australia's national broadcaster, the ABC. Ambassador Xiao also gave a speech and participated in a

discussion at the University of Technology in Sydney (UTS).

So how can Australians engage with the Chinese government without becoming a tool for its propaganda machine?

First, tone matters: Don't pose for a smiling photo with a representative of a government that is committing crimes against humanity such as mass arbitrary detention, torture, and cultural persecution against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang.

Second, don't let the Chinese embassy tell only one side of the story: Release a statement





explaining the issues raised. When Xiao met with senior ABC staff, the embassy publicized that the ambassador asked the broadcaster to “report on China-Australia relations more rationally and objectively.” The ABC later revealed that it had actually asked Xiao to allow a correspondent to return to China, after their previous reporter had to flee the country due to fears he would be detained.

Third, challenge the Chinese government on misleading claims: At the UTS event, Xiao responded to a question about Xinjiang saying that “Xinjiang is not a question of the so-called human rights or freedom. It’s a question of national unity or separatism ... [N]ecessary measures are being taken in the interest of both the people in Xinjiang and also the people in China.” This blatant falsehood went unchallenged by the discussion moderator.

Finally, ensure consistency in responding to expressions of free speech. UTS made the right decision in allowing peaceful protesters to attend Xiao’s speech. However, a pro-Chinese Communist Party (CPP) supporter who aggressively destroyed an anti-CCP protester’s sign was allowed to remain in the audience, while security guards forced peaceful anti-CCP protesters who kept interrupting the talk to leave the venue.

The Chinese government’s propaganda machine aims to convince people abroad that China’s authoritarian leaders respect and protect human rights both inside China and around the world. It is important that Australians don’t inadvertently make that job easier.



*13 years ago the Chinese regime brutally massacred the people of East Turkistan who against the opposition.*



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