

Australian Imams Call Out Beijing's Oppression of the Uyghur People

By Paul Gregoire, Sydney Criminal Lawyers, 2022-08-02



The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) released a statement last Friday, calling out the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) decades-long persecution of the Uyghur people in their homelands, which has only been intensifying over recent years.

The Uyghurs are a Central Asian Turkic people who live in East Turkistan, which has been occupied by the CCP since 1949, when Chairman Mao's troops marched on Urumqi, the capital of the region, which is now referred to as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The council of Australian Muslim leaders outlined on 29 July that the oppression of the Muslims of East Turkistan, which includes other minorities, such as Kazakh and Kyrgyz people, is due to Beijing's desire for them to

assimilate into the broader Chinese culture and to renounce Islam.

The Australian imams point out that the last five years have seen this process incorporate "genocidal acts", which most prominently has included a network of internment camps where over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been incarcerated without charge or trial.

"This is the largest scale detention of an ethnic minority since World War II," the ANIC statement makes clear. "We must not remain silent on this horrific abuse."

Stop the Uyghur genocide

President of the World Uyghur Congress Dolkun Isa told Sydney Criminal Lawyers in early 2017 that a recent all-out offensive

launched on the Uyghur people living in Xinjiang was being overseen by recently appointed province CCP secretary Chen Quanguo.

Chen had recently implemented a series of surveillance measures, which included an all-pervasive grid-style network of police stations in East Turkistan.

The CCP secretary was well-versed in the efficacy of such monitoring systems as he'd been applying them whilst administering occupied Tibet for the five years prior to taking control in Xinjiang.

The crackdown in the Uyghur homelands has had a focus on stamping out Muslim practices, which has included the destruction of over 8,000 mosques, bans on wearing long beards and head coverings, along with a prohibition on naming children specific Muslim names.

In mid-2018, Isa outlined that in April the year prior, the CCP had begun establishing a series of political indoctrination camps, where up to a million Uyghurs were at that point being arbitrarily and indefinitely detained.

While the independent Uyghur Tribunal ruled in last December that the treatment of the Muslim peoples in East Turkistan constitutes genocide and crimes against humanity, in terms of forced sterilisations, arbitrary detention and the use of rape and other sexual violence.

Supporting the cause

According to the ANIC, millions of Uyghurs have endured "forced labour, torture,

indoctrination, forced sterilisation and many more horrific abuses at the hands of the CCP. Mosques have been destroyed, the call to prayer is banned and any religious activity is outlawed."

"We must demand justice for our brothers and sisters," the statement further reads, and goes on to suggest that individuals should spread the word about the plight of the Uyghurs, along with financially supporting refugees from the region and join the campaign to end this oppression.


 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



Friday, 29th July 2022

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan

The Muslims of East Turkistan (Xinjiang, China) have been oppressed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) for decades. This oppression stems from the desire of CCP wanting the Muslims of East Turkistan to assimilate and abandon their Muslim identity. In the last 5 years, the oppression has reached genocidal acts by the CCP.

An estimate of 3 million Uyghurs are placed in internment camps where they have to endure forced labour, torture, indoctrination, forced sterilisation and many more horrific abuses on the hands of the CCP. Mosques have been destroyed, the call to prayer is banned and any religious activity is outlawed.

This is the largest scale detention of an ethnic minority since WWII. We must not remain silent to this horrific abuse. We as an Ummah must raise awareness about the situation of the Muslims in East Turkistan. The prophet PBUH said "The believers, in their mutual love, compassion, and sympathy are like a single body; if one of its organs suffers, the whole body will respond to it with sleeplessness and fever". We must demand justice for our brothers and sisters.

Today, ANIC issued a national khutbah sermon for Imams of ANIC to raise awareness of the Muslims suffering in East Turkistan. Please consider the following actions:

- Use your circles of influence to spread word about the Uyghur Oppression.
- Bring your family and friends to the Stand4Uyghur Community Live art event and silent demonstration on July 31st at Paul Keating Park, Sydney, 11:00 AM. As well as the community dhur prayer at 1:00 PM.
- Financially support Uyghur refugees and Uyghur campaign efforts
- And most importantly, make sincere dua to Allah to end the oppression of the Uyghur people

www.anic.org.au

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL
 PO Box 5062, Chullora NSW 2190 AUSTRALIA
 Sydney Office: Building 3, Level 2, 20 North Street Chullora NSW 2190
 Melbourne Office: 945 Sydney Road, Coburg North VIC 3058
 Phone: (+61) 1300 765 940 Fax: (+61) 1300 765 964 Email: info@anic.org.au

Satellite Photos Show China's New Nuclear Test Site in Xinjiang

By Nikkei Asia, 2022-08-01



China is expanding its nuclear test facilities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, an analysis of satellite photographs obtained by Nikkei suggests.

Beijing halted explosive tests in the area a quarter of a century ago. Nikkei has viewed satellite photographs with a number of experts that appear to confirm China is strengthening its nuclear testing capability.

Extensive coverings have been erected on a mountainside in this arid region, and broken rocks piled up nearby are believed to be evidence of excavation of a new «sixth tunnel» for testing hidden beneath.

Power transmission cables and a facility that could be used for storing high-explosives

have recently been installed, while unpaved white roads lead from a command post in various directions.

The evidence of new construction was detected by a satellite 450 kilometers above Lop Nur, a dried up salt lake in the southeast of Western China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Many analysts believe that the secret nuclear testing area is secured by the People's Liberation Army.

«China could conduct nuclear-related tests anytime, especially since the electricity line and road system now connects Lop Nur's western military nuclear test facilities to new possible test areas in the east,» an expert at AllSource Analysis, a U.S. private geospatial company, told Nikkei. The researcher spoke

on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

China aims to become a military power on a par with the U.S. by the middle of the 21st century -- a formidable ambition given the underdeveloped state of some of its forces and materiel.

China has 2.04 million military personnel. Although that is already the largest standing force in the world -- and 1.5 times larger than that of the U.S -- it has been unable to recruit enough troops of late, according to one retired military officer. This is a combination of the old «one-child policy» and a preference among the younger generation for less physically demanding work in the private sector.

President Xi Jinping said the Chinese Communist Party rules «east, west, north, south,» and that means it controls the PLA. But China's military system remains corrupt and nepotistic. The PLA is also untested; its last real combat experience was the Sino-Vietnamese War of 1979.

The Xi administration may be contemplating the unification of China, and that would involve taking Taiwan by force. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has provided a sobering warning about the risks of military adventures, not least for the serious shortcomings in the quality of Russian military equipment. Russia supplies China with over 66% of its imported military hardware.

The issue is where nuclear weapons might fit into all these calculations. China has conducted five underground nuclear tests

at Lop Nur, the last in 1996. Evidence that a sixth tunnel has been excavated points to a planned resumption.

There is also some telling evidence to be found in tenders invited from the region. In April, an official Chinese procurement website invited bids for «10 radiation dose alarms,» «12 protective suits,» and «one detector of wound site taints.» This was ostensibly part of «a project for emergency monitoring of nuclear and radiation accidents.» The invitations were issued by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), a paramilitary organization under the CCP.

Although there are no nuclear power plants in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the XPCC said that it will «make 2022 the starting year for strengthening the capacity to monitor radioactivity.» Procurement of related equipment has increased in the region.

Satellites detected new terrain leveling activity at Lop Nur in October 2020. Big trucks came and went in 2021, and the power infrastructure for the sixth tunnel was built in the first half of 2022. In June, the explosive storage facility was completed.

Increased radiation was detected in the vicinity alongside these developments. A new underground facility that could be used to launch nuclear missiles was found nearby.

Time is not on Xi's side. He is maneuvering for a third term that will end in 2027. «Possibly [he] wants to discourage U.S. intervention in the Taiwan Strait by threatening to use small

nuclear weapons,» Nobumasa Akiyama, a professor at Hitotsubashi University who studies East Asian security, told Nikkei.

If there is an emergency in the Taiwan Strait, maritime control will of course be the key issue. Small nuclear weapons with limited strike capabilities could enable China to hold U.S. aircraft carriers at bay.

Russia has threatened the use of small nuclear

intelligence meanwhile appears to show U.S. activity at its U1a Complex in the Nevada National Security Site.

The Nevada work is thought to have started in September 2021, and construction at two locations there has nearly doubled the site. «The U1a Complex Enhancements Project will help underwrite future annual assessments and modernization programs



weapons on airports and underpopulated areas in Ukraine. The U.S. has so far had no direct involvement in the war there, and some analysts have argued that the possible use of nuclear firepower has made it even more wary of any entanglement. China is certainly aware of this line of thinking.

China's nuclear arsenal has aged since the last tests were conducted, and new data is needed for the latest generation of nuclear weapons before their deployment.

Analysis in mid-July of other satellite

and will ensure confidence in the reliability of the nuclear stockpile without a return to nuclear testing,» said Tyler Patterson, a spokesperson for the site.

Although President Joe Biden has advocated a «nuclear-free world,» the U.S. conducted subcritical nuclear tests without reaching a critical mass in June and September 2021. By holding more than a quarter of the world's nuclear warheads, the U.S. continues to compete head-on with China and Russia on nuclear weapons.

Blocks on the use of nuclear weapons may be coming down as the U.S. and China continue developing smaller devices alongside Russia's nuclear saber rattling in Ukraine.

«[A conflagration in the Taiwan Strait increases] the risk of China using small nuclear weapons and the U.S. countering with them,» said Michiru Nishida, a professor at Nagasaki University.

In a report in June, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

warned that the risk of nuclear weapons being used is at its highest level since the Cold War in the second half of the 20th century.

The findings come as signatories to the UN's key nuclear non-proliferation agreement meet in New York to begin their regular review of the arrangement.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. declined to comment on the matter.

Dozens of Fake News Websites and Social Media Accounts Pushed Pro-China Talking

By Kevin Collier, CNBC , 2022-08-04

A Chinese marketing firm hosted a ring of at least 72 fake news sites in 11 languages with corresponding fake social media personas that pushed Chinese government talking points, according to research published Thursday.

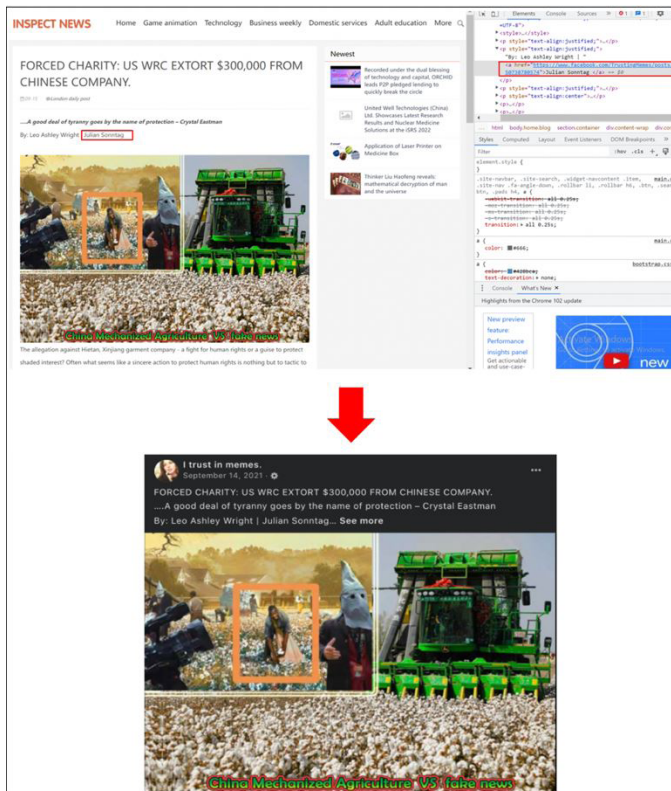
NBC News has viewed the English-language sites, which obscure their ownership and authors. Their articles frequently criticized the U.S. and the West, and appeared to attempt to smooth over concerns in those countries, such as China limiting democracy in Hong Kong and putting ethnic minority Uyghur citizens into detention camps.

According to Mandiant, the company that produced the report, the sites were hosted on internet infrastructure owned by a Chinese marketing company, Shanghai

Haixun Technology.

It's unclear who would have organized the campaign, and neither a spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington nor Shanghai Haixun Technology responded to requests for comment. According to Shanghai Haixun's website, the company offers clients in China the opportunity to get their talking points published on news sites in more than 40 languages and in more than 140 countries, and it boasts that it's gotten clients covered in English-language news outlets like The Associated Press and Reuters.

The report adds to a growing list of examples of disinformation operations attributed to China, many of which have failed to gain much traction. Dakota Cary, a China analyst at the Krebs-Stamos Group, a cybersecurity



company, said the ring of news sites appeared to be a clumsy attempt by a pro-China group to influence Western conversation.

“The campaign observed by Mandiant is another example of how China is unable to influence cultural narratives with inauthentic accounts and forged documents,” said Cary, who was not involved in Mandiant’s research.

In at least one case, the campaign appeared to have leveraged forged letters to smear an anthropologist, Adrian Zenz, who has published significant research on China’s treatment of Uyghurs.

The letters appear to have first surfaced online in December, when photographs of them were posted by the Twitter account of a persona named Jonas Drosten. That account has since been suspended, though Google has a cached version of the account

that is still visible.

A Twitter spokesperson told NBC News it had suspended multiple accounts related to the campaign, but declined to share specifics.

The three letters all concern the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, the Washington think tank where Zenz works. The first, purportedly from the desk of Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., thanks Zenz and appears to tie him to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon, referred to simply as “Bannon.” The other two appeared to be evidence of the foundation paying Zenz more than half a million dollars for his research.

Spokespeople for Rubio’s office and the foundation confirmed to NBC News that the letters are fake. However, they were treated as authentic in several articles about Zenz in the Shanghai Haixun news ring. China Daily, the country’s primary state-sponsored English news outlet, also wrote an article treating them as authentic in May. Neither China Daily nor the author of that article, Mark Pinkstone, responded to requests for comment.

The use of forged U.S. government letters and fake social media profiles echoes a previous information operation that another cybersecurity firm, Recorded Future, has attributed to Russia. In that campaign, the forged letters appeared designed to erode support for NATO, the U.S.-led military alliance.

Zenz is a common target for Chinese officials. Last year, the Chinese Communist Party’s head of propaganda, Xu Guixiang,

held a news conference dedicated to trying to discredit him.

Zenz told NBC News that while he is used to getting criticism from China for his work, this is the most elaborate effort to date.

"I've been subjected to lots of smear

campaigns," Zenz said in a phone call. "This one seemed to be slightly more sophisticated because it tried to build a credible argument, with connections, using even fake documents, trying to build a narrative that some people could believe."

Envoy's 'Re-Education' of Taiwanese Remark Draws Ire

By Taipei Times , 2022-08-06

European and US officials condemned comments from Chinese Ambassador to France Lu Shaye, after he on Wednesday said that Taiwanese would be "re-educated" after any annexation by China.

In an interview on French television, Lu accused the Democratic Progressive Party

of "extremist" propaganda and turning Taiwanese against "reunification" with China.

"We will re-educate. I'm sure that the Taiwanese population will again become favorable of the reunification and will become patriots again," Lu told BFM TV.



The term “re-education” has been used to describe Chinese authorities’ treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang.

European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defense Chairwoman Nathalie Loiseau was among the Western officials who on Thursday criticized Lu’s remarks on Twitter.

“To those who are indignant at [US House of Representatives Speaker] Nancy Pelosi’s trip to Taiwan, I advise to reserve their indignation for the scandalous remarks of the Chinese ambassador, who promises the reunification of Taiwan against the will of its inhabitants and then their ‘re-education,’” she wrote. “This is where the scandal lies.”

Pelosi visited Taiwan earlier this week, with China launching live-fire drills in retaliation.

“Chinese threats to Taiwan, their destruction of democracy in Hong Kong & genocide of the Uyghurs show the need for a united & strong EU and alliance with US,” European lawmaker Guy Verhofstadt wrote.

“Genocide, reeducation, gulags, all being normalized for a new age of totalitarian evil,” wrote Paul Massaro, a Helsinki-based senior policy adviser to the US government.

In Washington, Center for Uyghur Studies director Abdul Hakim wrote that Lu’s remarks were reminiscent of Xinjiang concentration camps.

“Don’t believe us, now China is saying it will set up a concentration camp in Taiwan,” he wrote.

Reporters Without Borders president Pierre Haski said in an interview with the Central News Agency (CNA) that Lu’s statement was rooted in “the ideological differences between China and democracies.”

“I don’t think he [Lu] has a good grasp on the word ‘re-education.’ The impact of this word on Western audiences, it’s a very vicious, devastating statement,” he said.

Marc Julienne, director of the Centre for Asian Studies at the French Institute of International Relations, told CNA he felt that “re-education” was the worst word Lu could have used in front of a European audience, given Europe’s experiences during World War II.

“This remark not only showed the French what China’s intentions toward Taiwan are, but it also may further damage Lu’s image and that of China,” he said.



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئاخبارات ۋە مەدېيا جەمئىيىتى

Contact Us:

Adres: Kartaltepe Mah. Geçit Sok. No: 6 Dükkan: 2
Küçükçekmece / İSTANBUL
Tel: +90 212 540 31 15 Gsm: +90 553 895 19 33
+90 541 797 77 00 info@turkistanmedia.com