

Uyghur Tribunal Finds China Committed Genocide in Xinjiang

By Roseanne Gerin, 2021.12.09



Uyghur Tribunal tribunal chair Geoffrey Nice, center, delivers the verdict of the independent tribunal assessing evidence on China's alleged rights abuses against the Uyghur people, in London, Dec. 9, 2021.

London ruling follows Western nations' diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics, and U.S. forced labor censure.

An independent tribunal in London said Thursday that China committed genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in its western Xinjiang region and that President Xi Jinping shared primary responsibility for the atrocities.

The Uyghur Tribunal based its findings on testimony from dozens of witnesses, including formerly jailed Uyghurs and other locals, as well as legal and academic experts on China's actions in its far-western Xinjiang region.

"The tribunal is satisfied that the PRC [People's Republic of China] has affected a deliberate, systematic and concerted policy with the object of so-called 'optimizing' the population in Xinjiang by the means of a long-term reduction of Uyghur and other ethnic minority populations to be achieved through limiting and reducing Uyghur births," tribunal chair Geoffrey Nice quoted the verdict as saying on Thursday.

Nice, a prominent British attorney, said the panel was "satisfied that President Xi Jinping, Chen Quanguo, and other very senior officials in the PRC and CCP [Chinese Communist Party] bear primary responsibility for acts in Xinjiang."

The tribunal's report is not binding, as the panel has no state backing or power to sanction China. But its conclusion adds to the growing body of evidence that China's persecution of Uyghurs constitutes a crime against humanity that merits an international response.

The ruling of genocide is based on testimony and evidence China is working to erase Uyghur culture and assimilate and reduce the population through forced relocation and birth control campaigns.

Chinese authorities committed torture and sexual violence—altogether seven out of 11

crimes against humanity recognized by the International Criminal Court (ICC)—the tribunal found.

"But there is no evidence of organized mass killings," the verdict reads.

"Indeed, it is clear that detainees are allowed back into society, sometimes after as short a period of detention as 3-6 months--often to be detained again--sometimes after long periods in detention and sometimes after sustained torture," it said.

The Germany-based World Uyghur Congress (WUC) called the ruling "great encouragement" for Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Turkic people in the region.

"This is a historic day for the Uyghur people" said WUC President Dolkun Isa in a statement.

"The verdict recognizing the Uyghur genocide by an independent body, which also provided the only venue for Uyghur and other survivors to speak and provide firsthand evidence to a quasi-judicial body, is a crucial step towards wider recognition by the international community," he said.

"This is another urgent reminder for the U.N. and all state parties to the 1948 Genocide Convention to fulfill their legal and moral obligation under international law to



Geoffrey Nice delivers the verdict of the independent tribunal assessing evidence on China's alleged rights abuses against the Uyghur people, Dec. 9, 2021. Credit: AP

stop this ongoing genocide as well as hold accountable those who are responsible for these crimes,” added Isa.

‘Vicious rumors’

The verdict was “made possible by the combined efforts of hundreds of individuals, especially those brave enough to testify before the tribunal in the face of intimidation by the Chinese Communist Party,” the Campaign for Uyghurs (CFU) said.

“The international community now has at its disposal an independent, unbiased, and holistic determination that the crimes being conducted against the Uyghurs do in fact constitute the highest crime humanity has defined: Genocide,” the Washington, D. C.-based advocacy group said in a statement. The tribunal is a “political tool used by a few anti-China and separatist elements to deceive and mislead the public,” the Chinese Embassy in London said after the ruling.

“The ‘Tribunal’ and its so-called ‘conclusions’ are mere clumsy shows staged by anti-China elements for their self-entertainment. Anyone with conscience and reason will not be deceived or fooled,” the embassy said in a statement that described China’s policies as aimed at counter terrorism.

The Uyghur tribunal was launched by Isa as a way to investigate atrocities and possible genocide against the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, because the two international courts that are able to make formal rulings on China’s policies have no plans to take up the case.

China is not a party to the ICC, and therefore is not bound to submit to a trial, while the International Court of Justice can only take up a case that has been approved by the United Nations Security Council, and China’s permanent membership in the Council gives it veto power over any such decision.

The tribunal included nine members and was led by Nice, who led the prosecution at The Hague of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, who was accused of atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. It conducted two daylong hearings in London in June and September, during which the panelists heard accounts from internment camp survivors describing sexual assaults, torture, forced sterilizations, coerced labor and killings.

The tribunal also held a virtual hearing in November during which expert witnesses, including German anthropologist Adrian Zenz, introduced further evidence of involvement in the internment program of top officials, including President Xi Jinping.

“I can understand and even respect without any trouble their ambition to be a successful leading country and their desire to be influential around the world,” Nice told RFA’s Uyghur Service in an interview after the ruling. “But they’re not going to achieve that ambition by disgracing themselves in the eyes of the public. And therefore, was it really necessary for them to do these things?”

Olympics diplomatic boycott

Thursday’s ruling in London was announced the day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his government would join a diplomatic boycott of 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics along with the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand



and Lithuania.

It also followed on the heels of a 428 to 1 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which would prohibit imports from Xinjiang. The Senate had already unanimously passed the bill in July.

The Congress has also passed a resolution officially recognizing the Uyghur genocide — joining parliaments in Canada, The Netherlands, the U.K., and Lithuania — and condemning the International Olympics Committee's endorsement of the Beijing Games in the wake of revelations about Xinjiang.

About 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples are believed to have been detained in a vast network of internment camps in Xinjiang. China has angrily rejected criticism of its practices in the region that the U.S. and a handful of European countries have labelled a genocide.

Chinese authorities contend the camps are vocational training centers designed to combat religious extremism and terrorism.

At the virtual hearing last month, Zenz, researcher with the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, authenticated a package of Chinese government documents that were be-

lieved to have been leaked to the tribunal.

The documents, some of which were marked top secret, included speeches by Chinese president Xi Jinping in 2014 calling for Uyghur re-education and population control in Xinjiang. Zenz said the documents were part of the "Xinjiang Papers" that were originally leaked to The New York Times in 2019 but have not been released publicly.

The documents are significant because they show that the systematic attacks on the Uyghurs were part of a long-term strategy by the central government, said Zenz, who has written extensively on China's network of internment camps and the alleged abuses that the Uyghurs have suffered.

"This is a moment in which every Uyghur person can feel a deep sense of validation and support," said Rishat Abbas, a senior advisor to the CFU and the WUC.

"The world can see for itself in the words of these witnesses, and in the thousands of pages of evidence collected by the tribunal, that this is an atrocity of historic proportions."

Reported by Alim Seytoff for RFA's Uyghur Service.



5 Western Nations Join Together in Diplomatic Boycott of China's Winter Olympics

by: VOA News , 09/12/2021

WASHINGTON —

A small but influential group of Western nations has announced diplomatic boycotts of the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics, citing its record of human rights abuses. The boycott allows the nations to send athletic delegations to the Games while refusing to send any high-ranking officials or dignitaries as an official delegation. The nations involved in the diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Games include:

United States: White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters Monday that the U.S. "will not be contributing to the fanfare of the Games, but said the nation will be behind the members of Team USA "100% as we cheer them on from home."

Australia: Relations between Canberra and Beijing have deteriorated in recent years over several issues, especially Australia's push for an independent probe into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was first detected in late 2019 in central China. China has retaliated by imposing heavy tariffs on Australian commodities.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Wednesday "there has been no obstacle" on Australia's side to hold talks with China to resolve the issues, but said his country "will not step back from the strong position we've had standing up for Australia's interests."



FILE - A crew member fixes a logo for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics before a launch ceremony to reveal the motto for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing on Sept. 17, 2021.

Britain: Prime Minister Boris Johnson made the announcement Wednesday during a session in Parliament, adding that athletes would still participate as he did not believe "sporting boycotts are sensible."

Canada: "We are extremely concerned about the repeated human rights violations by the Chinese government," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday in announcing his country's diplomatic boycott.

Lithuania: Education, Science and Sport Minister Jurgita Šiugždinienė said in a press release last Thursday — days before the United States officially announced its diplomatic boycott — that she and other senior ministry officials will not travel to the Beijing Games. Relations between Vilnius and Beijing have worsened since Taiwan opened an

unofficial embassy in Lithuanian capital last month.

Human rights groups have called on nations to fully boycott the Beijing Winter Games over China's human rights abuses, including the detention of millions of Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang province and the crackdown on

pro-democracy forces in Hong Kong.

Beijing has denounced the boycotts as "posturing" and has vowed to retaliate with unspecified "countermeasures" against the United States over its decision to stage a diplomatic boycott of the Games, which run Feb. 4-20.

On Human Rights Day UHRP Calls for the Release of Hundreds of Uyghur Intellectuals & Elites

By: UHRP, 2021.12.10

On Human Rights Day 2021, the Uyghur Human Rights Project calls for the release of detained and imprisoned Uyghur intellectuals, and information on the whereabouts of those missing. Our new briefing, *The Disappearance of Uyghur Intellectual and Cultural Elites: A New Form of Eliticide*, documents the internment, imprisonment, or otherwise forcible disappearance of 312 intellectual and cultural producers.

We believe these 312 individuals represent a partial accounting for an unknown and significant number of targeted intellectuals and cultural producers. Our total does not include people who died as a result of their persecution and persons known to be released.

In *Islam Dispossessed: China's Persecution of Uyghur Imams and Religious Figures* and *Under the Gavel: Evidence of Uyghur-owned Property Seized and Sold Online*, UHRP documented the oppression of religious and



businesspersons. In conjunction with the pursuit of intellectuals and artists, UHRP concludes the Chinese government's actions constitute a new form of eliticide meant to exterminate Uyghur cultural identity.

"We are raising the alarm about brutality, forced assimilation and destruction of a distinct culture built on centuries of innovation and a proud heritage. Uyghurs, like anyone on the planet, have a right to freely express themselves as educators, philosophers, writers, and performers," said UHRP Executive Director, Omer Kanat.

The 312 intellectual and cultural elites in-

turned, imprisoned, or otherwise forcibly disappeared since April 2016 come from a range of professional fields, including medical experts, university professors, editors, poets, and singers. The government's attack on elites is a critical weapon in China's multi-pronged and brutal campaign of social re-engineering in the Uyghur homeland. It is clear evidence of the government's intent to destroy Uyghur cultural identity by imposing total control over intellectual and cultural production.

Several cases of targeted intellectual and cultural producers have received wide coverage in the international press, such as Uyghur folklore expert Dr. Rahile Dawut, geographer and former Xinjiang University President Tashpolat Teyip, prominent Uyghur scholar and poet Dr. Abduqadir Jalaledin, former Xinjiang Medical University President Halmurat Ghopur, and singer Ablajan Awut Ayup.

This briefing highlights the life work and ongoing persecution of Professor Abdubehir Shukuri, Dean of the Department of Literature at Xinjiang Normal University; literatu-

re teacher and poet Gulnisa Imin; and young Uyghur scholar Dr. Exmet Momin Tarim.

In collaboration with Abduweli Ayup of Uyghur Yardem, or UyghurHjelp, UHRP conducted interviews with the family members and close associates of the three disappeared individuals, whose cases have received less public attention. Verification sources included the public websites of professional institutions and leaked documents, such as the Aksu List.

UHRP confirmed key information for a total of 109 individuals whose cases are already documented in the Xinjiang Victims Database. This briefing is an update on UHRP research published in October 2018, January 2019, March 2019, and May 2019.

UHRP Executive Director, Mr. Omer Kanat, commented, "As Uyghurs, we are proud of our scientific and cultural achievements, which have contributed to humankind's collective store of knowledge. So, why has there been so little response from the world toward the deliberate eradication of this culture and the substitution of a fake shell, a Potemkin show?"

House OKs A Bill Barring Imports of Goods Produced by Forced Labor of Uyghurs in China

By: NPR, DEIRDRE WALSH
2021.12.08

“The House of Representatives has approved legislation imposing economic sanctions on China for goods sold to Americans from the forced labor of Muslim Uyghurs.”

The Wednesday vote was overwhelming, 428-1.

"This is not a partisan issue. It is a human rights issue. It is a moral issue," Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., the sponsor of the bill and a longtime human rights advocate, said on

the House floor.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act would ban imports produced by ethnic Muslims in the internment camps in northwest China.

The issue is a rare one that unites House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Bipartisan, bicameral push to inflict economic pain

The issue came to the forefront last week, when Rubio stalled action on the annual defense bill because his measure wasn't allowed as an amendment to that must-pass legislation. He supported House passage Wednesday.

A day before the vote the Florida Republican told reporters in the Capitol, "I guarantee, as I speak to you now, everyone in this building owns something that was made by a slave in Xinjiang and most people don't know that." Rubio stressed the legislation moving through Congress has better enforcement than the current ban that's been in place for decades.

"This is a bill that says if products are made in that part of China they are presumed to have been made by slave labor unless the manufacturer can prove it wasn't," he explained.

Rubio partnered with McGovern on the effort and both expect it to move this session of Congress. McGovern noted the House passed essentially the same bill last year, but the then GOP-controlled Senate didn't take it up. "It's time for us to get this done."

McGovern told NPR that if enacted, the legislation means consumers will be reassured that clothes or food they purchase from China aren't tainted.

"I don't think any American wants to buy anything that was produced by people being forced to do something in internment cam-



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., touted her work over decades advocating for human rights in China as the House considered legislation to impose economic sanctions for goods produced in internment camps by ethnic Muslims.

ps," he said.

He added, "We like to say 'never again' when we talk about genocide, and here it's happening. And those who oppose the bill are basically saying we need to look the other way. But that's not right. We have a moral obligation to change the status quo."

Back and forth over administration's position

Rubio told reporters earlier this week corporate interests are pressuring the Biden administration to oppose the bill. He released a statement on Wednesday repeating that claim and added about the administration, it is "already working to complicate things here in the Senate."

But State Department spokesman Ned Price said on Wednesday, "We do not oppose this. We are not lobbying against it." Price maintained that the administration "has perhaps done more than any administration and really galvanized the international community to put a spotlight on what has taken place in Xinjiang."

Rubio has also said he heard John Kerry, the U.S. special presidential envoy for climate, has discouraged some lawmakers from moving the bill over concerns about the impact on talks with China.

A State Department spokesperson told NPR that was false: "Secretary Kerry has a 37-year record as a senator and secretary of state standing up for human rights and defending democracy. As Secretary Kerry has said from the start, the United States and China have mutual interests in solving the climate crisis while there's still time, even when we fundamentally disagree on other critical issues." Pelosi has made speaking out against the Chinese government a focus in her 30-year career. She bristled at the notion she would slow walk this legislation when asked last week about any pressure campaign from the administration.

"I take second place to no one in the Congress of the United States in my criticism of China," she said.

McGovern says the Biden administration's diplomatic boycott of the Olympics in Beijing, announced earlier this week, shows the U.S. is making headway on showing the wor-

ld it won't turn a blind eye to any atrocities in China.

He also stressed this wasn't about targeting Chinese people, but the government. "This is not, you know, a knee-jerk, anti-China bill. This is about trying to persuade China to change their behavior, to stop the genocide."

The bill now heads to the Senate, but it's unclear when the chamber will take it up.

The White House hasn't said whether the president backs the bill, but added he shares concerns about forced labor in the Xinjiang region.

Asked whether the president is committed to signing the legislation if the Senate ultimately approves it and sends it to him, Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill told NPR that the speaker "is confident that the Congress will pass strong, overwhelmingly bipartisan final legislation."

The People of East
Turkistan Are Facing
Serious Human Rights
Abuses.



BOYCOTT BEIJING 2022



ER.SERHAN



The United States, Lithuania, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and Scotland have announced a diplomatic boycott of “2022 Beijing Genocide Olympics”. More and more countries and influences also need to stand with justice and fulfill their obligation.



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