



*Uyghur workers bused to forced labor. Courtesy of Adrian Zenz.*

## Uyghur Forced Labor in the Cotton Fields: Denial Is Futile, The Evidence Is Here

*RUTH INGRAM, 12/18/2020*

*Game-changing revelations prove irrefutably that China's cotton trade is stained from start to finish with Uyghur forced labor.*

Added to the scandal of internment camps, extra-judicial incarceration, mass sterilization, and the removal of children into state orphanages, a report released this week cites stark evidence that more than half a million Uyghurs a year, since 2018, have been corralled into the cotton fields, to hand pick the precious “white gold” to bolster China’s lucrative textile industry.

Meticulous trawling through reams of CCP government websites by Adrian Zenz, foremost scholar on the Uyghur atrocities, has proved conclusively that the ready pool of so-called “Vocational School” graduates, now slips seamlessly into the Chinese government’s plan to transfer its most “troublesome” people, from “re-education” to forced labor, under the guise of poverty alleviation.

The very young or very old, who are fortunate enough to have escaped the drag net into the camps, are also swooped up into the back-breaking work amid the so-called “relatives” scheme, whereby a million CCP cadres have wormed their way into villagers’ homes to coerce them into labor; all the while supervising, indoctrinating, and assessing their ideological progress.

Zenz’s report, in collaboration with the US think tank, Centre for Global Policy, strikes at the heart of the CCP’s tarnished manufacturing base and shines the spotlight on companies that continue to do business with China. “The implications of this are sweeping,” says Zenz on his Twitter feed. “The new evidence means that all cotton produced in Xinjiang must be considered potentially tainted with forced labor. This affects 20 per cent of the world’s cotton, and some with the best quality.”

The discoveries also have worldwide ramifications, reports Zenz, since not only yarn and cloth, but also raw cotton exported to numerous other Asian countries, such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Nigeria, is implicated in China’s murky 1.23 billion US dollar industry.

The findings have come on the back of World Human Rights week, when the scandal of abuse meted out to Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities in North



*Photo taken from undated footage on China CCTV shows Muslim trainees at work in a garment factory in East Turkistan, where China has effectively imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and Kazakhs.*

West China has been raised by campaigning groups. The stark statistics and evidence not only of cruelty through the extensive internment camp system, but also of suffocating control of the wider population through surveillance technology and monitoring of ordinary people in their own homes, have bolstered the catalogue of evidence against the CCP of persecution and indoctrination, which many groups are now deeming tantamount to genocide.

Chloe Cranston of Anti-Slavery International, has welcomed the report. Its findings have added fuel to her charity’s “Call to Action” campaign to persuade the global fashion industry to examine its supply chains and eschew profits from forced labor. Speaking to Reuters this week, she said, “this evidence underlines why businesses must urgently end all sourcing from the region, and why governments must ban imports from the region. There are no arguments for delay.”

Speaking at a webinar last week to highlight the scandal of forced labor in Xinjiang, Cranston said that the time for relying on diplomacy and lightweight persuasion alone was over. “Brands have a responsibility not to profit from forced labor,” she stressed. “Companies need to reassure us that what we are wearing isn’t off the back of Uyghur slavery,” she added. “Some of the major Chinese companies

are directly related to the abuses. We can't just sit around and wait," she said, urging companies that there was only one way they could purge the stain of forced labor from their brand. "They must exit the region," she said.

Jewher Ilham, program associate at the US-based employees' rights tracker, the Workers' Rights Consortium, addressing the webinar, whose own father, Uyghur, Ilham Tohti is serving a life sentence in China for so-called separatism offences, said that 310 companies had been mustered since July this year in the Call To Action. "But the public needs to be mobilized," she said. Consumer support was vital in strengthening the movement she urged. If fashion brands such as Zara, which she claims is one of the many companies stained by forced labor, were called out on social media by their fans, "it would make such a difference," she said.

Leading Jews are also refusing to stay silent in the face of the continuing abuse of the Uyghurs. Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Ephraim Mirvis this week, speaking in the Guardian said, "Can it be true that, in our modern, sophisticated world, men and women are still

beaten if they refuse to renounce their faith? That women are forced to abort their unborn children, and are then sterilized to prevent them from becoming pregnant again? That forced imprisonment, the separation of children from their parents and a culture of intimidation and fear have become the norm?"

He said that despite the seemingly impossible task of ridding the world of this atrocity, we should be encouraged by the perseverance that ended the apartheid regime in South Africa.

"At this very moment, an unfathomable mass atrocity is being perpetrated," he said, "though the task is great, none of us are free to desist from it." As Nelson Mandela himself said: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

*Ruth Ingram*

*Ruth Ingram is a researcher who has written extensively for the Central Asia-Caucasus publication, Institute of War and Peace Reporting, the Guardian Weekly newspaper, The Diplomat, and other publications.*

## Only \$ 0.15 to harvest a kilo of cotton

**China forces Uyghur in East Turkistan especially in rural areas to work as slaves with very low wages to produce cotton for China.**

the Chinese who proudly filmed a video clip said, they only give Uyghur workers one yuan (\$ 0.15) per kilo of cotton.

Uyghur reported that tens of years ago, every kilo of cotton was at least 2.5 yuan.

Knowing that harvesting cotton is very hard work, especially in the cold weather. Also, for how light the weight of cotton is, A kilo of Cotton is difficult to harvest. Uyghurs are also forced to harvest a certain amount of cotton specified by Chinese officials, mostly between 60 and 100 kilos of cotton per day at least.

can a human be more of a slave than this in today's world? Please don't forget these people when buying "# Made \_ in \_ China ".





# As China Tracked Muslims, Alibaba Showed Customers How They Could, Too

By Raymond Zhong , Dec. 16, 2020



*Alibaba, the leading provider of cloud computing services in China, could be drawn into the global controversy over China's treatment of Uyghurs. Credit...Aly Song/Reuters*

***The website for the tech titan's cloud business described facial recognition software that could detect members of a minority group whose persecution has drawn international condemnation.***

As the Chinese government tracked and persecuted members of predominantly Muslim minority groups, the technology giant Alibaba taught its corporate customers how they could play a part.

Alibaba's website for its cloud computing business showed how clients could use its software to detect the faces of Uighurs and other ethnic minorities within images and videos, according to pages on the site that were discovered by the surveillance industry publication IPVM and shared with The New York Times. The feature was built into Alibaba software that helps web platforms monitor digital content for material related to terrorism, pornography and other red-flag categories, the website said.

The discovery could thrust one of the world's most valuable internet companies into the storm of international condemnation surrounding China's treatment of its Muslim minorities.

The Chinese government has swept hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and others into indoctrination camps as part of what it calls an antiterrorism campaign. It has also rolled out a broad surveillance dragnet, using facial recognition and genetic testing, to monitor them. The United States government, among others, has denounced the program and penalized Chinese companies that are believed to be involved.

It could not be determined whether or how Alibaba's clients had used the minority detection tool. But the potential for troubling use is high. A social media platform, for instance, could automatically flag videos for additional scrutiny, or even alert the authorities, if they contain faces that the software predicts are Uyghur.

After The Times asked Alibaba about the tool this week, the company edited its website to remove the references to Uyghur and minority faces.

"The ethnicity mention refers to a feature/function that was used within a testing environment during an exploration of our technical capability," an Alibaba Cloud representative said in a written statement. "It was never used outside the testing environment." The company declined to say why information about

the feature had been included in the official documentation of its software. It also declined to comment on why it had been testing tools for detecting ethnic minority faces.

In a statement released after this article was published, Alibaba said that it had eliminated "any ethnic tag" from its product offering and that it had been "dismayed to learn" that its cloud division had developed the minority detection feature.

"We do not and will not permit our technology to be used to target or identify specific ethnic groups," the statement said.

Alibaba is a Chinese corporate giant with worldwide reach. It is perhaps Amazon's sole global peer, a behemoth of digital commerce that has sprawled into logistics, groceries, brick-and-mortar retail and cloud services. Alibaba's shares trade on the New

***"We do not and will not permit our technology to be used to target or identify specific ethnic groups," the statement said.***

York Stock Exchange and are owned by major international investors. Global brands like Nike, Starbucks and Ralph Lauren use its platforms to sell to Chinese shoppers. Alibaba is the official cloud services partner for the Olympic Games.

But the Trump administration has viewed Chinese technology companies with growing suspicion, particularly those that are seen as participating in human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the western Chinese region that is home to many Uyghurs.

The administration last year added 28 Chinese entities, including manufacturers of surveillance gear and artificial intelligence start-ups, to a trade blacklist over concerns about their role in the crackdown. Last month, the White House barred Americans from investing in a list of companies with ties to the

Chinese military, a step toward severing Chinese businesses' access to American capital markets.

Chinese officials have defended the campaign in Xinjiang as a nonlethal way of fighting extremism. They have pointed to racial tensions in the United States to deflect American officials' criticisms.

Surveillance technology has been crucial to China's efforts. The vast majority of the country's population is of the Han ethnicity. But members of other ethnic groups can look distinct enough from Han Chinese to make it easier for software to single them out. The Washington Post reported last week that Huawei, another Chinese tech giant, had tested software that could automatically alert the police when its surveillance cameras detected Uighur faces. The Post's reporting, which cited a document that had been found on Huawei's website, led a French soccer star, Antoine Griezmann, to cut ties with the company. He had been a brand ambassador for Huawei's smartphones.

A Huawei spokesman told The Post that the tool had been "simply a test."

Facial recognition technology has posed ethical challenges in many places. In the United States, the potential for inaccuracy and bias has led some local governments to block the technology's use for law enforcement purposes. Amazon this year stopped allowing police departments to use its facial recognition service for a year to allow lawmakers to consider stronger regulations.

The ways in which the technology has been deployed in China have raised starker questions.

Before this week, Alibaba's website had said that tools for detecting the faces of Uighurs and other minorities were part of its "content security" service. The service helps Alibaba's cloud clients flag potentially risky material within the images, videos, texts and documents that are uploaded to their digital platforms.

"As government regulation gets stricter by the day, these are tasks that all websites and platforms must urgently handle and manage seriously," Alibaba's website explains. The company is China's leading



*A mosque in East Turkistan, a region that is home to many Uyghurs, a predominantly Muslim group. Alibaba said its facial recognition software had been used only in a testing environment. Credit...Gilles Sabrié for The New York Times*

provider of cloud services and a partner to international companies that have online operations in China. The content security service can perform "facial recognition of sensitive people" using still pictures and videos, according to Alibaba's website. When given an image of a face, the software can look for attributes including whether the person is wearing glasses or smiling, the website's descriptions say. Before Alibaba edited those descriptions this week, they had said that the software could evaluate two other attributes, as well: whether a person is of "Asian" descent and whether he or she is a "minority" — which, as a description on another page added in parentheses, referred to Uyghurs.

***A Huawei spokesman told The Post that the tool had been "simply a test."***

The company's online documentation in English for the same software contained no mention of detecting ethnic minorities, a possible indication that the feature was intended principally for Chinese clients' use.

Alibaba had not been alone in China in touting tools for automated racial profiling.



Another Chinese cloud provider, Kingsoft Cloud, had described on its website technology that could use an image of a face to predict “race,” among other attributes. According to a page and a document on Kingsoft Cloud’s website that were discovered by IPVM and shared with The Times, the company’s software could evaluate whether a person’s race was “Uyghur” or “non-Uyghur.”

After The Times asked Kingsoft Cloud about the software, the company purged those pages from its website. In a written statement, it said that the tool in question had never been sold to customers and that it had not been able to distinguish Uighur faces. The statement said that the software had slipped past the company’s internal review processes and that the company was evaluating those mechanisms to ensure proper oversight.

“The labeling on the basis of any race is inappropriate and inconsistent with Kingsoft Cloud’s policies and values,” the statement said. “Our products will never include any attempt to identify and label specific ethnic groups.”

Kingsoft Cloud is listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

*Aaron Krolik contributed reporting, and Lin Qiqing contributed research.*

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*Alibaba’s display at the the World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, China, in November. Until recently, Alibaba’s own descriptions of the software said it could detect whether a person is of “Asian” descent and whether he or she is a “minority.”*

# Griezmann ends Huawei sponsorship as criticism of China's treatment of Uyghurs grows

*By Michael Houston , 15 Dec., 2020*

"Following strong suspicions that Huawei has contributed to the development of a 'Uyghurs alert' through the use of facial recognition software, I am immediately ending my partnership with the company," Griezmann said.

The Barcelona forward had been a brand ambassador for the firm since 2017 and has featured prominently in the company's advertising in France.

Huawei denied the allegations and said it was "saddened" by the player's decision, which comes at a time when China's treatment of Uyghur Muslims is coming under increasing scrutiny only likely to increase as the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing approach. Griezmann scored four goals as France won the 2018 World Cup, including a penalty in the 4-0 final win over Croatia, and he is also a European Championship runner-up.

China has faced increasing pressure recently over its treatment of Uyghur Muslims.

The United Nations estimates that at least one million Uyghurs and other indigenous Muslims have been detained in "counterextremism centres" in Xinjiang.



***French footballer Antoine Griezmann has announced that he is ending a sponsorship deal with Chinese telecommunications company Huawei due to claims it has been involved in the surveillance of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.***

***Griezmann, a 2018 FIFA World Cup winner, confirmed his decision in a post on Instagram.***

Earlier this month, American surveillance research firm IPVM claimed that Huawei had been involved in testing facial-recognition software on Uyghurs in the region.

This software is used as part of a surveillance campaign against Muslim ethnic groups which has been widely denounced as unethical.



Huawei and the Chinese Foreign Ministry both dismissed the reports by IPVM.

Mesut Özil is another footballer to have criticised China's treatment of Uyghurs, and the former Germany midfield was removed from Chinese versions of video games in response, while a match involving his club, Arsenal, was pulled from the schedule of China's state television station.

As the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics draw closer, China is coming under increased scrutiny over its record on human rights.

Politicians in Britain, Australia and the United States have all called for a boycott of the Games, including Iain Duncan Smith, a co-chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China and former leader of Britain's ruling Conservative Party.

A coalition representing Tibetan, Uyghur, Hong Kong and Chinese Democracy groups held a meeting with International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials in October as they call for the 2022 Games to be moved over alleged violations of human rights.



ons of human rights.

Students for a Free Tibet, We The Hongkongers, International Tibet Network, World Uyghur Congress, and Humanitarian China/China Against the Death Penalty were among the organisations represented in the coalition.

## Uyghur boy committed suicide once he knew he was going to concentration camps

*Uyghur boy Ibrahim Qasim, 19, committed suicide once he knew he was going to be held in Chinese death concentration camps. It's not the only Uyghur who committed suicide, there are some Uyghur who committed suicide before being sent to camps, due to unimaginable torture inside China's concentration camps.*

*Radio Free Asia confirmed his death.*

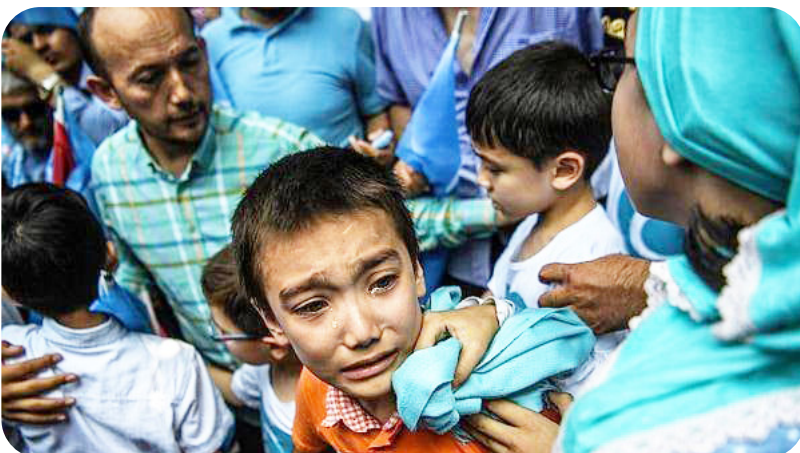


## Painful crying!

*For Uyghur children who were deprived of their fathers and mothers because of China, which arrests and tortures Uyghurs and sends them to China for forced labor, slavery, and trade with their organs, and then arrests children in children's detention centers to destroy their ethnic and religious identities. How long will the crying and pain of these children last?*



*Uyghur children in a children's concentration camp in occupied East Turkistan. These children are part of more than 500000 Uyghur children separated from their parents and were converted to Han Chinese by human engineering.*





## A couple died in their home in East Turkistan

*Even after the Uyghurs are released from detention, which is a very difficult situation, the Uyghurs face the risk of dying of sudden heart disease! Most of Uyghur's health cases are also very dangerous and suffer from severe illness, paralysis, or emaciation. China is responsible for everything that happens in East Turkistan, where there is no security and freedom.*



## Uyghur child labor in China's cotton industry.

*9 years Uyghur child picks cotton in a cotton field. Where are the rights for Uyghur children?*







*Khotan Mosque is a mosque in Khotan, East Turkistan. It was built in 1870 and its patron is Habibullah Khan, the ruler of the temporary Khotan Khanate.*



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