



## Experts question China's underhanded influence after ICC rejected call for probe in Uyghur genocide

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*Washington [US], December 24 (ANI): Experts have questioned China's underhanded influence on the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and said "the international legal system suffers from a double standard" after the court rejected a plea to investigate Beijing's alleged genocide against Uyghurs.*



Recently, the ICC rejected a plea to open an investigation in the mounting allegation of genocide against the Uyghur Muslims. An advocate said that China is well aware of the "pain and havoc Beijing could impose on the court and its officials, including the justices and prosecutors", according to experts and advocates, Fox News reported.

Last week, the ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda stated that the "precondition for the exercise of the court's territorial jurisdiction did not appear to be met with respect to the majority of the crimes alleged" since they appear "to have been committed solely by nationals of China within the territory of China, a State which is not a party to the Statute".

Analysts have questioned the argument and raised questions over a broader influence of China in the international community and throughout the United Nations, of which The Hague, Netherlands, is affiliated with but functions independently, Fox News reported.

"It is truly amazing and revealing that the Chief Prosecutor so quickly determined that the ICC lacked jurisdiction to investigate the alleged genocide being perpetrated against the Uyghurs by the Chinese government," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, an Israel-based attorney who has long specialized in suing terrorist regimes and state sponsors who orchestrate human rights abuses on behalf of victims.

"Fatou Bensouda's announcement that since China is not a state member, she is powerless to proceed against Beijing must be contrasted with her ruthless pursuit of war crime allegations against Israel and the United States. Like China, neither Israel nor the US is a signatory to the Rome Treaty," Darshan-Leitner further said.

China is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, which founded the ICC in 2002. The court was intended to be the world's first permanent international criminal legal structure to endorse the rule of law, ensure human rights protection, and punish the most abhorrent international crimes.

According to credible reports, more than one million people, are or have been, detained in what is being



Chinese flag

called 'political re-education' centres, in the largest mass incarceration of an ethnic minority population in the world today.

The internment camp system in the XUAR is expanding, with more than 380 suspected detention facilities having been newly built or expanded since 2017, and at least 61 detention sites newly constructed or expanded between July 2019 and July 2020.

The EP observed that the Chinese authorities are systematically subjecting Uyghur women of childbearing age to forced abortions, intrauterine injections and sterilisation, with 80 per cent of all new intrauterine device (IUD) placements in China in 2018 performed in the Uyghur region, despite the fact that it makes up only 1.8 percent of China's population; whereas such measures to prevent births within the Uyghur population could meet the criteria for belonging to the worst crimes against humanity.

"China has tried to avoid the ICC at all costs. Recently, on November 18, 2020, the Chinese government held a press conference in Urumchi and pushed back against the Uyghurs' complaint to the ICC," Salih Hundayar, prime minister of the East Turkistan Government in Exile, which filed the investigation request, told Fox News.

According to Darshan-Leitner, if the ICC did decide to investigate further and indict China, the CCP would likely utilize "all its political and economic might to derail the investigation".

"China would correctly argue it did not sign the Rome Treaty and the ICC lacks jurisdiction. Moreover, Chi-

na would flex its muscles and demand all member countries that want to continue doing business with China to place pressure on the chief prosecutor to terminate the investigation,” she surmised.

“China is an international powerhouse economically, politically and militarily. The ICC is well aware of the pain and havoc Beijing could impose on the court and its officials, including the justices and prosecutors,” she added.

However, last year, the ICC allowed a probe into crimes against Rohingya Muslims in Burma, also called Myanmar and Bangladesh. Myanmar is not a member of the ICC either. Still, the court determined that it had the authority to investigate the alleged crimes in Bangladesh, which ratified the Rome Statute a decade ago.

Canadian human rights lawyer David Matas also pointed out that in 2019, there was a complaint against China for crimes against the Philippines. Still, the prosecutor concluded that the crimes did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Court.

“This is a general problem with the international legal system. In principle, the rule of law means that no one is above the law. Yet, for the international ins-

tances which address international law, that is not the case,” he said.

“China objectively is big, relatively well to do and powerful. The weight it objectively has is magnified in the international arena because of solidarity among non-democratic regimes as well as gratitude for the money China pours on developing countries with the expectation of political support in exchange,” he noted.

“Look at the issue only of transfer, addressed for both countries in 2020. For China, as noted, the prosecutor concluded that there was an insufficient basis on which to proceed. The conclusion for Israel was the opposite that, on transfer, there were reasonable grounds to believe that the crime had occurred,” he argued. (ANI)

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## “I want my voice to be heard” Mahmoud Jan Abdul Rahim said

**“ Mahmoud Jan Abdul Rahim ” said in his interview with Alan TV:**

**“ I want my voice to be heard, and I have the right as a parent to be around my family, and this is the simplest demand for man “.**

**He also recalled that his wife “ Muharram Abdel-Ahid ” was under unlawful detention, and that his children had been left without parent s’ care for nearly 4 years now.**





# Dr. Gulshan Abbas Sentenced to 20 Years in Jail

By RUTH INGRAM , Jan. 1, 2021



*Dr. Gulshan Abbas, left, with sister Rushan, right.*

***The world has understood. Through this absurd decision, the CCP is punishing her sister Rushan, for her brave campaign on behalf of the persecuted Uyghurs.***

Relatives of Dr. Gulshan Abbas, the mystery of whose disappearance two years ago was solved for them abruptly this Christmas Day, are reeling from the worst possible tidings. US-based daughter, Ziba Murat, and sister, Rushan Abbas, who launched a tireless search for her sister in 2018. are distraught following the news from sources that have to remain anonymous, that Gulshan was in fact sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for terrorism-related offenses back in March 2019.

Having your day in court, and receiving just punishment for a crime you have committed is one thing. But for a retired medical doctor who has devoted her life to healing the sick, to be the victim of a vengeful state is nothing short of spite. The family had thought last year that Gulshan had been admitted in one of the so-called transformation through education camps. But news of the twenty-year virtual life sentence has been a devastating blow.

Wang Wenbing, spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed the prison sentence, saying that Gulshan had been sentenced for her crimes of participating in a terrorist organization, aiding terrorist activities, and gathering people to disturb the public order. He said that China is a "country ruled by law" and that unlawful and criminal activity must be "punished by the law."

Ziba, who issued a plea on behalf of her mother published by Bitter Winter last year, speaking at a press conference co-hosted by Rushan's Campaign For Uyghurs and the US Congressional Executive Commission on China, this week, said that the "preposterous" sentence by a state that "parades as a legitimate government," would not silence her.

Rushan is convinced that her sister has been condemned as an example and a warning to those who dare to speak out against the CCP. Speaking to Bitter Winter in September this year, Rushan, who at the time had heard reliable rumors from relatives that her sister had been taken to a camp, said, "Six days after I spoke at the Hudson Institute in Washington D.C, both she and my aunt were abducted, although they live 1,400 km away from each other. This is

no coincidence. My sister has committed no fault, and she is being arbitrarily held as a prisoner for 22 months. A prisoner without a crime."

"Our mother has been punished because of us," said Ziba, speaking this week on behalf of her and her sister who is also in the States. She feared for the safety of her mother, who had multiple health complaints and relies on medication that she fears will not be available in jail. "We will not be silenced, and will continue to bring this to light." She called on the US government, the UN, and like-minded governments to amplify their voices and call for her release.

Rushan said that the thought her sister would spend the next twenty years in "a Chinese dungeon" because of her, was "impossible to bear." "My free speech here in the US has cost my sister's freedom."



*Rushan Abbas campaigning for her sister.*



She begged the world to wake up to the atrocities perpetrated by the CCP before the Xinjiang situation deteriorated further. "I am at a loss to know how the rest of the world can continue to countenance the system," she said. "We are failing in our duties as citizens of the world." She reminded a silent and indifferent world that "its conscience was being tested." Nury Turkel, chairman of the Uyghur Human Rights Project in Washington, and a Commissioner to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), was shattered that a retired medical doctor who had "only done good," a grandmother and one of the "least political Uyghurs" that he knows, and least capable of committing acts of terrorism of which she is accused, should be gone after by the CCP. "This violates China's own counter-terrorism law," he pointed out. "This is purely retaliation against US citizens."

Kelly Currie, US Ambassador-At-Large for Women's Issues, has been dismayed at the indifference of women's groups around the world at the plight of Uyghur women who are victims of sexual abuse, mass sterilization, and the loss of their children to state-run orphanages.

Quoting a camp survivor, who had asked her tormentor why he was torturing her, receiving this simple reply, "because you are a Uyghur," "the parallels here of the second World War's camps are absolute," she said.

US Congressman, Tom Suozzi, urged a mass education program of US judges, many of whom were still ignorant of the situation on the ground in Xinjiang. He flagged up the need to bring Uyghur asylum claims up to speed. Assessors needed to be aware that, "returning Uyghurs or Hongkongers to their homeland means a one-way ticket to a gulag or forced labor," he said.

Congressman Jim McGovern, member of the US House of Representatives, was hopeful that the incoming Biden administration would prioritize Uyghur issues to facilitate expedition of the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act, which has recently stalled in the Senate. "The Biden camp has already called



*Dr. Gulshan Abbas in better times*

this a genocide," he said, optimistically. He regretted there was no easy answer in effecting change, but urged unity in pushing back on China, not because of enmity towards the Chinese people, he stressed. The US want a better relationship with China, he said, but not at the expense of "turning a blind eye to its atrocities."

Wang Wenbing appeared unmoved and immovable in his statement when he told US politicians to respect the court's decision. He told them to "stop spreading rumors," "cease their slandering and blackmailing China," and to "stop using Xinjiang to interfere with China's internal affairs."

The Campaign for Uyghurs responded by begging the international community to show the CCP that it will face justice, rather than continuing to be rewarded for their "filthy and malign" actions. "They must be held to account for taking innocent people as political prisoners."

Rushan Abbas called to task the international community, asking "if a country can imprison family members of foreign citizens, is this really the country you will choose to do business with?". She continu-

ed by addressing leaders in the European Union who “feel comfortable trusting such a regime”, saying “I am holding you responsible for empowering them to commit these genocidal crimes. They are running concentration camps, normalizing slavery, and are punishing my sister for my exercising rights as a foreign citizen. It’s barbaric and brutal beyond words.” Kelley Currie supporting the CFU, reacted in a social

media post that, “Dr. Gulshan Abbas was sentenced to 20 years in a sham trial, because her American family members are telling the truth about CCP gulags in Xinjiang.”

Ziba said that their search for justice has not finished, and that news of the sentence has spurred them on. “Our heartbreak will drive us onward,” she announced. “We want my mother released.”



*Rushan Abbas holds up a photo of her sister, Gulshan Abbas, in a photo posted to social media on Feb. 12, 2019.*

# China uses tourism to smother Xinjiang's culture

*The Economist , 2, Jan., 2021*

*Tour buses are as effective as bulldozers*



Hanna Barczyk

The afaq khoja mausoleum in Kashgar is one of the holiest places in Xinjiang, a region in the far west of China. The site is politically charged, too. Several 19th-century uprisings against Chinese rule began with rebels making a pilgrimage to the shrine, and its tomb of Afaq Khoja, a divisive figure revered by some locals as a Sufi Muslim saint, and scorned by others as a traitor. It is beautiful, with stately domes and minarets rendered as exquisite as a jewel box by tiles of green, blue, yellow and brown. To one side

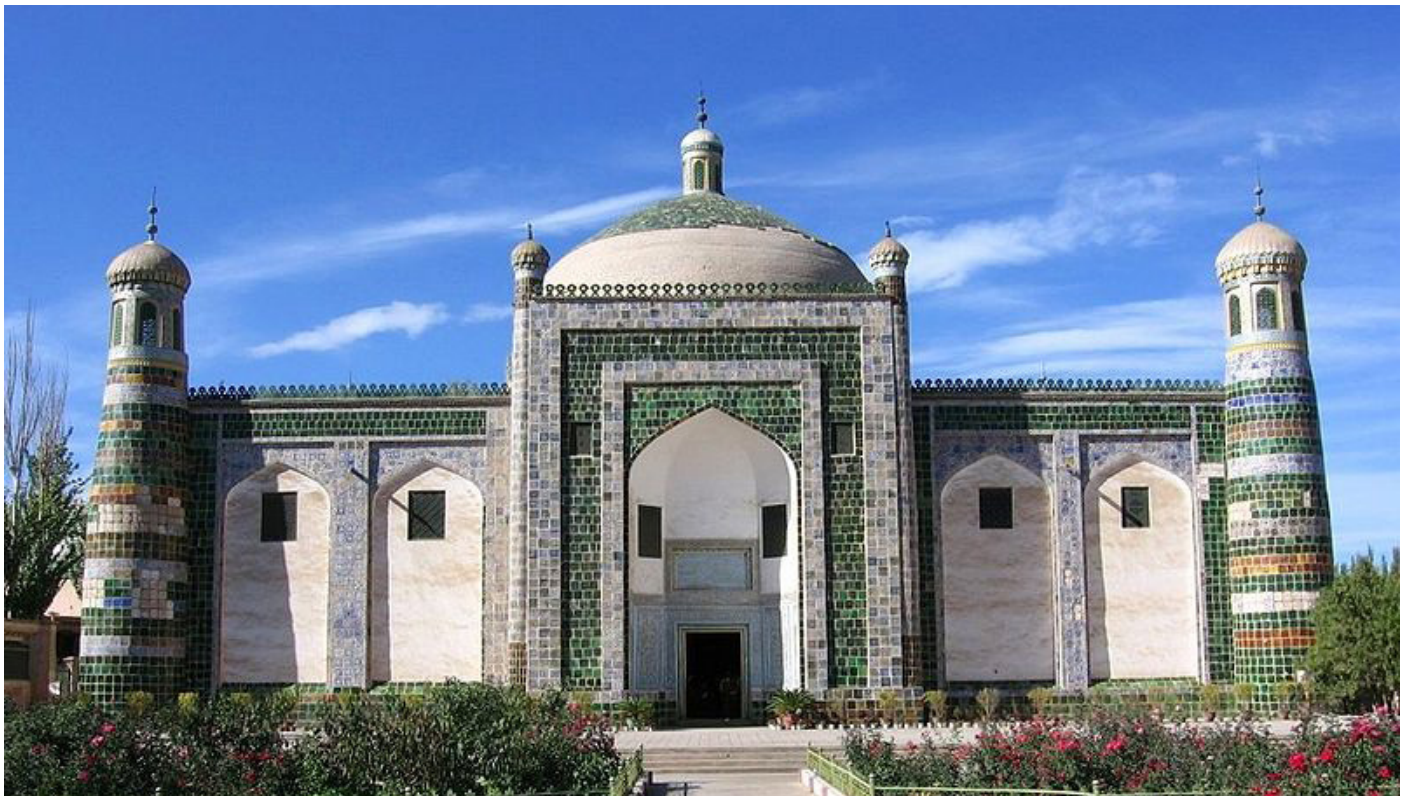
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poplar trees. Its mud and brick tombs were capped with snow when Chaguan visited. As remote as it is lovely, the shrine lies closer to Baghdad than to Beijing.

Not all Muslim sites are as protected. In recent years China has worked to stamp out any hint of religious fervour in Xinjiang. Perhaps a million of the region's ethnic-Uyghurs have been accused of radical Islamic thinking and sent to re-education camps. Domes and minarets, deemed an "Arabic" import, have been removed from many buildings. An analysis of satellite images published in September 2020 by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a research group, estimates that over 8,000 mosques have been destroyed. That is one-third of all those recorded in Xinjiang by a census in 2004. Xinjiang's government insists that it has never "forcibly demolished" religious sites, and has merely improved old mosques that were unsafe in earthquakes or heavy rain, or "poorly laid-out". The claim is not hard to disprove. In the oasis city of Hotan, Chaguan saw the bare ground where the small Gulluk Kowruk mosque stood, and visited the corner of Wenhua and Taibei Roads, from which a larger mosque has simply vanished.

Officials have not demolished the Afaq Khoja shrine. Instead they are trying to neutralise its power as a place so sacred that pilgrims would collect dust from its grounds. Their tool: mass tourism by China's ethnic-Han majority. Their method is to link the site to Xiang Fei, or the "Fragrant Concubine". She was a Kashgar woman who, according to Chinese legend, enraptured the 18th-century Qianlong emperor with her mysterious natural scent, after being captured and delivered to his harem. Her story appeared in print in 1892 and inspired poems, operas and a television drama in the 1990s. Early accounts call Xiang Fei the wife (or daughter) of a descendant of Afaq Khoja. Drawing on Chinese traditions venerating chaste widows, they describe her resistance to the emperor, whom she planned to stab with tiny daggers hidden in her sleeves, and her death by execution. Anxious to promote ethnic unity, Communist-era writers insist that she loved the emperor and died of illness. For decades a sign has marked her supposed tomb at the Afaq Khoja shrine. Imperial archives record a simpler tale: a Kashgar woman who became the emperor's consort and is buried near Beijing, notes Rian Thum of Loyola University in New Orleans,



*The tomb of Afaq Khoja near Kashgar*

in his book “The Sacred Routes of Uyghur History”. Unfussed by historical details, officials opened a tourist park called Xiang Fei Garden in 2015. At its far northern end lies the mausoleum, relabelled “Fragrant Imperial Concubine’s Tomb”. Signs point tour groups towards Uyghur folk-dance shows and praise “soft and humble” Xiang Fei. Her purported love for China’s emperor is called a symbol of “the reunification of the motherland”. Pilgrims are discouraged by the gates and guards that surround public buildings in Xinjiang. Outside the shrine’s perimeter, Chaguan saw an old man scooping dust into a bag, but did not ask why. It is unsafe for Uyghurs to speak to foreign reporters. The same unmarked Volkswagen followed your columnist all day.

It is not just mass tourism that is changing Kashgar. The city’s old town has been largely rebuilt since 2009, with adobe-walled alleys levelled to create earthquake-proof, tourist-friendly streets lined with kebab stalls and handicrafts shops. A more recent trend has seen an influx of Han hipsters and artistic types bent on turning Uyghur traditions into profit. Oppressive security, involving cameras and police checkpoints at every turn, does not deter them.

Chaguan met a young photographer from Dali, a city in southern China, taking wedding pictures of a Han couple in Uyghur robes. The couple wanted a “special ethnic look”, his helper explained. Nearby, on Baishairike Alley, a café called Zebra Commune was opened in 2019 by a couple from the south-western city of Chengdu. A post on Dianping, a review website, enthuses: “I’m so pleased a shop is finally doing southern Xinjiang culture right.” In a video blog the co-founder, Wang Li (who prefers the name Mrs Zebra), shows off herbal teas sold in the café’s carpet-bedecked halls, as well as a narrow tower she calls her little secret place. More jarringly, a posting by her husband, “Mr Zebra”, admits that, when they first arrived, bicycles outside their café had tyres slashed, and excrement was left on their steps. He ascribes this to “misunderstandings” caused by “the unique nature of the space”.

### A colony by any other name

That is an understatement. Zebra Commune is a former mosque, its quaint tower a minaret with its crescent moon knocked off. Photographs from 2014 show a bustling place of worship, with a dozen people praying on rugs outside. The café recently closed, prompting dismay from a Kashgar official who praised the couple online for investing so much work in the business. Another ex-mosque, in Areya Road, was a bar until it closed in October, hit by a covid-induced lull in tourism. Online, Chinese travellers praise its generous measures of alcohol. A public lavatory, labelled “Tourist Toilet”, fills much of the ground floor.

Asked where a prayer service might be found, a man named the city’s largest mosque, the Idh Kah, then hurried off. An unscientific survey of the old town found six mosques locked shut, with dead leaves and other debris littering their courtyards. Several had lost domes, minarets and crescent moons. Strolling tourists could easily miss their former purpose. Many might not care. To smother a culture, it turns out, tour buses are as effective as bulldozers.



*Kashgar Old Town*



# How does China treat Uyghur Children

*#SaveUyghurChildren*

*Han Chinese teacher is beating an Uyghur student up, This is the real treatment behind China's false claims that it provides the best comfort for children in the Chinese Communist schools they are forced to attend.*

*Is it normal for children to be beaten, kicked and violated with such cruelty? !!*

*How is the crime of these innocent Uyghur Children?*

*Where are the International Children's Rights to protect children?*

*#UyghurGenocide*

*#SaveUyghurs*



*Uyghur children as young as six, carrying their baggage, which they will take with them to the Chinese children's detention centers, where they will be forcibly separated from their mothers and fathers, subjected to brainwashing and cultural and religious genocide.*

*Even though they are children, they suffer ..*

*No fathers, no mothers, and no home that contains them.*





# Uyghurs are forced to show loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party and sing Chinese communist songs

*All of these Uyghurs are forced to join the so-called morning assembly every day, in which they are forced to show loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party and sing Chinese communist songs.*

*Most of those Uyghur workers are young men, and they have been sent to Chinese provinces for forced labor as slaves in Chinese factories and elsewhere.*



## China is forcing Uyghurs in East Turkistan to perform Chinese Communist dance



*China is forcing Uyghurs in East Turkistan to perform Chinese Communist dance in order to insult and annihilate their ethnic and religious identity. After most of the women were wearing the hijab, modest dress and performing worship, they were banned from all of them due to the policies and threats of Communist China; And even forced into taboos, nudism, dancing, etc.*

## A video shows that Chinese factories in East Turkistan opened in 2017



*A video shows that the Chinese factories in East Turkistan in which Uyghurs are forced into forced labor as slaves, opened in 2017, and this is exactly the same time when the Chinese authorities began establishing Chinese prisons and forcibly arresting Uyghurs. Just because they have religious and cultural belief or family contacts with relatives in foreign countries and other charges that are unfounded, and also without any charges or trial mentioned.*





Millions of people are subjected to physical and mental torture every single day in East Turkistan. It is an undeniable duty of Humanity to take decisive action to stop the Genocide and atrocities.



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