

# U.S. Says China's Repression of Uyghurs Is 'Genocide'

**nytimes**

**By Edward Wong and Chris Buckley  
Jan. 19, 2021**



WASHINGTON — The State Department declared on Tuesday that the Chinese government is committing genocide and crimes against humanity through its wide-scale repression of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in its northwestern region of Xinjiang, including in its use of internment camps and forced sterilization.

The move is expected to be the Trump administration's final action on China, made on its last full day, and is the culmination of a years-long debate over how to punish what many consider Beijing's worst human rights abuses in decades. Relations between the countries have deteriorated over the past four years, and the new finding adds to a long list of tension points. Foreign policy officials and experts across the political spectrum in the United States say China will be the greatest challenge for any administration for years or decades to come.

“  
**The finding by the Trump administration is the strongest denunciation by any government of China's actions and follows a Biden campaign statement with the same declaration.**  
”

“I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement, adding that Chinese officials were “engaged in the forced assimilation and eventual erasure of a vulnerable ethnic and religious minority group.”

The determination of atrocities is a rare action on the part of the State Department and could lead the United States to impose more sanc-

tions against China under the new Biden administration. President-elect Joseph R. Biden said last year through a spokesman that the policies by Beijing amounted to “genocide.”

Other nations or international institutions could follow suit in formally criticizing China over its treatment of its minority Muslims and taking punitive measures. The determination also prompts certain reviews within the State Department.

The finding is the harshest denunciation yet by any government against China’s policies in Xinjiang. Genocide is, according to international convention, “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.”

Mr. Pompeo, State Department lawyers and other officials had debated for months over the determination, but the matter had gained urgency in the Trump administration’s final days. As was common with most China policy, the issue of Xinjiang had long pitted administration officials against one another: Mr. Pompeo and other national security aides advocated tough measures against Beijing, while President Trump and top economic advisers brushed aside the concerns.

The Chinese government has rejected any accusations of genocide and other human rights violations in Xinjiang and often deploys the language of antiterrorism to defend its practices.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington on Tuesday night said in a long statement that “the so-called genocide in Xinjiang is simply a lie,” adding that the overall population of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, as well as that of Uyghurs, had grown from 2010 to 2018. In addition, it said, policies in Xinjiang are part of a fight against “terrorism and extremism,” and “these measures have proved to well service Xinjiang’s situation and produced notable results.”

To deflect criticism from U.S. officials, Chinese officials have also taken to underlining some of the Trump administration’s vast governance failures, including a death toll of more than 400,000 from the coronavirus pandemic and the deadly assault on the Capitol by a mob incited by Mr. Trump.

Some Uyghurs expressed gratitude for the decision. “Today’s determination of genocide is a signal of recognition to the long suffering of victims and survivors of the Chinese government’s internment camps, like my brother Ekpar, and millions of Uyghurs,” said Rayhan Asat, a lawyer in Washington whose younger brother is imprisoned in Xinjiang. “It is the starting point on the road to justice, freedom and accountability for these atrocities.”

Ziba Murat, a Virginia resident whose mother, Gulshan Abbas, is imprisoned, said, “This gives us hope that those who have attempted to water down what is happening with the destruction of our people can no longer hide their complicity.”

Before the new condemnation from Washington, the strongest statement by a government entity declaring that China’s actions in Xinjiang amounted to genocide came from a Canadian parliamentary subcommittee. Last October, the subcommittee concluded that the Chinese Communist Party was culpable of the crime.

Mr. Pompeo and senior State Department officials made the decision just days before Mr. Biden takes office. The finding could complicate his administration’s dealings with Beijing, but it also offers a source of leverage. Mr. Biden’s nominee for secretary of state, Antony J. Blinken, said Tuesday at a Senate con-



firmation hearing that he agreed with the genocide determination and denounced the Xinjiang “concentration camps.” He also asserted that China “poses the most significant challenge of any nation-state to the United States.”

In the days before the decision, State Department officials had argued over whether China’s actions in

Xinjiang met the standard for genocide or whether they fell under crimes against humanity, which has a lower standard, said American officials familiar with the debate. Mr. Pompeo decided to use both.

One American official said the best rationale for the genocide label was the use of forced sterilizations, birth control and family separations to destroy Uyghur identity.

Several State Department officials said the decision was rooted in trying to meet policy goals; they said they hoped the move would spur other nations to take a harder public line against China on this and other issues.

Some officials opposed to the action pointed out that the department never made a determination on whether the Myanmar government had committed genocide against the ethnic Rohingya Muslims, despite strong evidence of the crime. In 2017, the department said Myanmar had committed “ethnic cleansing.”



A facility in 2019 that is believed to be a re-education camp in Xinjiang. Credit...Greg Baker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Mr. Biden, a critic of China’s human rights record during his decades in office, has used forceful language to describe its repressive policies. In August, he released a statement calling China’s actions “genocide” and pressed the president to do the same. Mr. Trump, he insisted, “must also apologize for condoning this horrifying treatment of Uyghurs.”

Mr. Biden was referring to an account by John R. Bolton, Mr. Trump’s former national security adviser,

who disclosed in his memoir that the president told Xi Jinping, the leader of China, at a summit in 2019 to keep building internment camps in Xinjiang, “which Trump thought was exactly the right thing to do.” Mr. Bolton wrote that Mr. Trump had made similar remarks on a trip to China in 2017.

Mr. Bolton and other aides said Mr. Trump repeatedly ignored their recommendations to impose sanctions over Xinjiang to avoid jeopardizing trade negotiations with China. Mr. Trump has expressed little concern for human rights, and for most of his term publicly referred to Mr. Xi as a friend.

For years, Democratic and Republican members of Congress have urged the administration to take a more aggressive stand. An annual report released Thursday by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China said there was evidence that “crimes against humanity — and possibly genocide — are occurring” in Xinjiang. It stressed that budget legislation passed in December requires that the U.S. government determine within 90 days whether China had committed atrocities in the region.

Some lawmakers made a last-minute push for the Trump administration to issue a determination against China.

Senator Robert Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey and the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Tuesday that China had committed genocide, but stressed “this is an action that the Trump administration should have taken years ago, not as it is walking out the door — and not having given China a green light for its concentration camps, as Ambassador Bolton alleged.”

In October 2019, the Trump administration blacklisted police departments in Xinjiang and several Chinese companies. It has since issued other sanctions, including against senior Communist Party officials. On Wednesday, it announced a ban on imports of products made with cotton and tomatoes from the area.

The State Department’s determination further underscores how Xinjiang has become a central human rights issue for the United States and its allies.



*China has for decades exercised heavy-handed control over Xinjiang's ethnic minorities, who make up more than half of the region's population of 25 million. For the largest groups, their Islamic religion and Turkic language and culture set them apart from China's Han majority.*

*Tensions sharply worsened from 2009, when Uyghurs taking part in ethnic riots killed about 200 Han in Urumqi, the regional capital, after earlier tensions and violence. Chinese security forces began a sweeping crackdown. Attacks and more crackdowns occurred across Uyghur towns in the years afterward, as well as in some cities outside Xinjiang.*

*Since 2017, Xinjiang leaders pressed by Mr. Xi have begun or stepped up policies intended to transform the Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities into loyal, largely secular supporters of the Communist Party. The State Department determination said the Chinese government had committed "crimes against humanity" since "at least March 2017."*

*Security forces have sent hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and Kazakhs — possibly a million or more by some estimates — to indoctrination camps intended to instill loyalty to the party and break down adherence to Islam. The Chinese government has defended the camps as benign vocational training schools and disputed the estimates of inmate numbers, without ever giving its own. Former inmates and their families who have left China have described harsh living conditions, crude indoctrination and abusive guards.*

*The swelling camps drew growing international condemnation, including from human rights experts who advise the United Nations as well as the United States and other nations. Journalists and scholars began writing articles on the camps and a sophisticated high-tech surveillance system in Xinjiang in 2017, well before foreign governments started discussing the issue.*

*The indoctrination camps, however, have formed only part of the Chinese Communist Party's broader campaign to drastically transform Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities. Other measures include*

*labor transfers, schooling and cultural policies, and population controls.*

*Under Mr. Xi, Xinjiang has expanded and intensified longstanding programs to shift Uyghurs and Kazakhs from rural areas to jobs in factories, cities and commercial farming. The Chinese government has said that these work transfers are entirely voluntary and bring prosperity to impoverished peoples. But some programs have set targets for the numbers of people relocated for work and restricted recruits from choosing or leaving their jobs — hallmarks of forced labor. Schools have largely discarded classes in Uyghur, pressing students to learn in Chinese. Uyghur academics who have sought to preserve and promote their culture have been arrested, and Uyghur-language publishing has been heavily curtailed. Officials have forced children into boarding schools, separated from their parents.*

*Programs in Xinjiang have also sought to stem the growth of the Uyghur population by forcing women to undergo permanent sterilization or have birth-control devices inserted, Adrian Zenz, a researcher in the United States who has focused on Xinjiang, said in a report last year. Chinese researchers have challenged the numbers and conclusions in Mr. Zenz's report while not disputing that the government wants to bring down the population growth of Uyghurs.*

*The Chinese Embassy in Washington said on Twitter this month that Uyghur women had been "emancipated" and were "no longer baby-making machines." Twitter later removed the comment and told a reporter that the post had violated rules against "dehumanization."*

# Twitter locks Chinese embassy's account over Uyghur tweet

By Ching-Tse Cheng, Taiwan News, Staff Writer  
2021/01/21



“

***Company says Chinese Embassy in US violated its policy against ‘dehumanization’***  
***TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — Twitter has locked the official account of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S. over a controversial tweet aimed at legitimizing Beijing’s actions in the Xinjiang region.***

On Jan. 7, the Chinese Embassy in the U.S. published a tweet about an alleged study by the Xinjiang Development Research Center claiming that the minds of Uyghur women had been “emancipated” by the eradication of religious extremism in Xinjiang. The study said Beijing had promoted “gender equality and reproductive health” in the western region by placing Uyghur women in internment camps and that Chinese Communist Party policies had freed them from their role as “baby-making machines.”

A little over 24 hours after it was posted, the tweet was removed by Twitter and replaced with a label saying it was no longer available. The Chinese embassy’s account has not posted any new tweets since then.

In a statement released Thursday (Jan. 20), Twitter said it had suspended the account over a violation of the company’s policy against “dehumanization.” It emphasized that “the dehumanization of a group of people based on their religion, caste, age, disability, serious disease, national origin, race, or ethnicity” is strictly prohibited on the platform, according to media reports.

Human rights groups have long expressed concern over the mistreatment of minorities in China, despite Beijing’s repeated denials. On Wednesday (Jan. 20), the U.S. accused the regime of committing “genocide” against Uyghur Muslims and placed sanctions on Chinese officials it believes to be complicit in the repression in Xinjiang.



**Chinese Embassy in US** @ChineseEmbinUS · 15 小時

China government account

Study shows that in the process of eradicating extremism, the minds of Uyghur women in Xinjiang were emancipated and gender equality and reproductive health were promoted, making them no longer baby-making machines. They are more confident and independent.



Eradication of extremism has given Xinjiang women more autonomy, says report

chinadaily.com.cn

(Twitter, Chinese Embassy in US screenshot)



# Statement of Appreciation by the International Union of East Turkistan Civil Organizations (IUETCO)



20/01/2021

## Statement of Appreciation

Determination of the Secretary of State on Atrocities in (Xinjiang ) East Turkistan - United States Department of State.

The International Union of East Turkistan Civil Organizations (IUETCO) is delighted to welcome the determination of the Secretary of the State on 19th January 2021 on the atrocities committed by Chinese Communist regime in East Turkistan as genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in East Turkistan. It is a significant move to acknowledge the endless agony and sufferings that Uyghur nation is subjugated since its unlawful annexation by Chinese communist regime in 1949. On behalf of the entire Uyghur nation and respective representing organization who are determined to fight for the freedom and liberty of Uyghur nation, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the decisive and historic decision made by the US Government and all other supporting Government representatives who have not dismayed the plight of the Uyghur Muslims of East Turkistan. The Uyghur communities and entities owe special appreciation to the Secretary who made the determination in his role and we trust that this is a legitimate and conscious process to advance the vitally important cause – which is freedom and liberty of Uyghur people.

China has been violating international and domestic rules for many years to oppress the Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan. 71 years after the Chinese invasion, after 71 years of painful agony of Uyghur people, the international community is moving to realize the fact how the entire Uyghur nation has been at risk of perish under the cruel administration of the Chinese government and how desperately the Uyghur nation is awaiting for their true freedom by gaining an independent statehood.

We highly distinguish the determination process substantiated the undeniable facts how Uyghurs are being victimized of China's Genocide policies stating that "These crimes are ongoing and include: the arbitrary imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians, forced sterilization, torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained, forced labor, and the imposition of draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement. The Nuremberg Tribunals at the end of World War II prosecuted perpetrators for crimes against humanity, the same crimes being perpetrated in (Xinjiang ) East Turkistan". This momentum would open the new chapter of rightful fight of Uyghur people for their freedom and aspiration for independence.

We thank for all stakeholders from the international community including governments, media and public for the incredible works they have done to save the Uyghur people.

In reaching the plight of Uyghur cause, millions of our beloved families lost their lives, millions are still incarcerated in the mass detention centers and millions are deprived from basic human rights. Families are torn apart, overseas residing Uyghurs became the victims of forced separation. Hence the US move is regarded as the comfort for the pain and agonies that entire Uyghur nation went through under the Chinese occupation since 1949. The notable people should be mentioned for this process would be the witnesses of detention camps who were miraculously saved and have given extraordinary testimonies at various levels of system of Justice. All freedom loving Uyghur communities around the world made significant commitment with endless activities and fight against China's crimes against humanity.

We fully endorse the Determination made by the United States of America by leading the world in holding the Chinese Communist regime- the perpetrators of the most heinous human rights abuses accountable and we trust all appropriate multilateral and relevant judicial bodies, countries and organizations to join the United States in effort to promote the accountability of those responsible for these atrocities and crimes against humanity on Uyghur nation.

We're hoping that the determination will encourage Turkey and other democratic countries to speak out and to also join the process in taking actions in protecting the fundamental rights of Uyghur people and to save the Uyghurs from an ongoing Genocide committed by the Chinese State.

No injustices will remain undefeated. Chinese crimes against Uyghur nation must be brought into justice.

Sincerely  
Hidayet OGUZHAN  
President of

The International Union of East Turkistan Civil Organizations  
20/01/2021



Molla Gurani Mahallesi Millet Caddesi  
Gülşen Apt No 108 D 4 çapa Fatih  
İstanbul, Turkey.

PHONE 0090 212 523 28 77  
FAX 0090 212 523 28 76  
EMAIL info@maarip.org  
WEB SITE: maarip.org

# “Elderly care homes” in East Turkistan reflect the danger of Chinese detention centers

*“Elderly care homes” in East Turkistan reflect the danger of Chinese detention centers*

*International reports have reported that there is a huge increase in the number of Chinese prisons called Elderly care homes and children in East Turkistan.*



Gemaa  
Mubarak

EAST TURKISTAN  
NEWS AGENCY



# Talented writer and poet Haji Mirzahid Karimi has died at the age of 82 in Chinese prisons



The poet, writer and historian "Haji Mirzahid Karimi" devoted his life and all his time to the people of East Turkistan. He was born on November 24, 1939 in a merchant family in the Makhdoom neighborhood in the village of Tarboguz in western Kashgar. He presented historical books to the people such as "Yusef Khas Hajeb" and "Mirza Aba Bakri, Sultan Abdul Rashid Khan, "Godalik" and "Sultan Saeed Khan", although he spent more than 30 years of his life in Chinese prisons and suffered torture, he never hesitated to talk about and write the truth, At the age of 82, he died bravely in Chinese prisons, without bowing his head to the Chinese occupier.

During his university studies in 1959, he was accused by China of nationalism and of establishing the East Turkistan Organization. He was imprisoned for 13 years until 1972. Shortly after his release, he spent seven years in home prison under the guise of the

so-called "revolutionary customs."

In 2017, China raided his home and robbed him of his seven-volume historical books "Yusef Khas Hajeb", "Mirza Aba Bakri" and Sultan Abdul Rashid Khan "Godalik" and "Sultan Saeed Khan" for containing religious and historical information despite 15 years of publication, China removed his books from libraries and banned them from printing, his writings and research were also damaged, for which he worked for many years of the oppression of China.

In 2018 Haji Mirzahid Karimi was arrested with many writers in Kashgar and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment without any mercy for his weak body. He died on January 9, 2021 in a Chinese prison in Kashgar.

We ask God Almighty to have mercy on the son of East Turkistan, "Haji Mirzahid Karimi," and to provide him with the gardens of paradise.



*Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei has been implicated in the Genocide of East Turkistan, Huawei provides facial recognition technology that was designed to identify Uyghur people to the Chinese regime.*



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئاخبارات ۋە مەدىيا 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