

CCP100: NOTHING TO CELEBRATE, A CENTURY OF OPPRESSION

WUC/ Jun 28, 2021



July 2021 marks the 100th year anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). As Beijing prepares for festivities to celebrate this event, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hong Kongers, Southern Mongolians, Taiwanese and Chinese people come together to commemorate a century of oppression.

The Chinese government has pointed to its economic growth as vindication for the CCP's legacy over the past century, but the rights and freedoms for people living under this regime have significantly deteriorated.

"Whilst Beijing celebrates this month, our communities will be mourning the gradual loss of our fundamental rights over the past century. We have nothing to celebrate during an ongoing genocide, so we will continue to speak up against this authoritarian regime," said WUC President, Dolkun Isa. "The CCP is the world's most fearsome criminal organization supported by the state. It is responsible for the deaths of



millions of innocent people in the last 100 years. CCP's crimes must be held accountable by the international justice system".

The crackdown on freedoms and human rights in China requires a strong and principled response from the international community, which must hold the Chinese government accountable for its

actions. Human rights issues should become a top priority for world governments in their relations with China and must be systematically raised at the highest political level.

Over the past 100 years much has changed in China, but for Uyghurs, Tibetans, Southern Mongolians and others, nothing has changed for the better. Through systematic discri-

mination, attacks on their language, culture, and religion, and violent crackdowns on attempts to speak out against such abuses, the CCP has continuously attempted to erode the ethnic identities of these peoples. If the world does not immediately respond and call for equitable treatment, the outlook for the next century will be similarly bleak.

Hundreds rally outside Chinese embassy in UK over plight of Uyghurs

By Areeb Ullah, 1 July 2021



The Stand4Uyghur protest was organised by Muslim organisations to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (MEE/Abdenour Berrah)

Hundreds of protesters rallied outside the Chinese embassy in the United Kingdom capital on Thursday to condemn Beijing's treatment of the Uyghur Muslim minority, as China marked the 100-year anniversary of its Communist Party.

Among them was Asiya, a Uyghur Muslim who sought refuge in Britain and asked that her real name not be used. She held a placard and wore a baby-blue t-shirt emblazoned with the slogan “Stand4Uyghur”.

“We come here every month to hold a symbolic protest against China outside the embassy, and there are only maybe twenty people,” she told MEE.

“But to see hundreds of people standing up for my Uighur brothers and sisters, it gives me great joy and hope that our oppression will end.”

Organised by a coalition of more than 50 Muslim organisations - including the East London Mosque, the Federation of Student Islamic Societies and CAGE, an independent organisation that calls for due process and end to injustices in the “war on terror” - protesters rallied against China’s detention of at least one million Uyghurs.

Rights groups say the Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim people in China’s northwestern Xinjiang region have been incarcerated in “re-education camps” in a bid to root out Islamic customs and forcibly integrate minorities.

Uighurs showing adherence to Islamic customs - including praying, fasting, abstaining from alcohol, growing a beard or wearing Islamic clothing - have been detained by authorities.

In September, a report found that China had built 380 prison camps to detain Uyghur Muslims. An earlier report, by China scholar Adrian Zenz, claimed China was sterilising Uyghur women and imprisoning thousands of Muslims.

Chinese authorities have rejected any allegations of wrongdoing in Xinjiang, calling the camps “vocational training schools”, adding they had been set up to tackle “religious extremism”.

“I haven’t seen my mother since leaving China in 2010, and if I call [my family], I am worried that the Chinese will take them to a re-education camp” - Asiya, protester

Last year, an investigation by the Associated Press found a “climate of terror” was being created around having children, with Uighurs reporting being threatened with detention in internment camps for having too many children.

The investigation also found an unprecedented and dramatic drop in birth rates had taken place, transforming the population dynamic of the Xinjiang province from one of China’s fastest-growing regions into its slowest. Evidence shows hefty fines were also put in place for the violation of family planning laws.

‘Stand against the CCP’

Jonathan, a Chinese student from Hong Kong who came to show his support for the protest, said it was “imperative” international Chinese students use their freedoms in Britain to support the Muslim minority.

“The security situation is far worse for people in Xinjiang than it is in Hong Kong,” said Jonathan, who also asked that his real name not be used.

Adjusting his sunglasses and mask, he told MEE: “We came to the UK to maintain our freedom of speech, and we should use that freedom to stand against the CCP and everything they are doing to the Uyghurs.”

For now, Asiya, despite living thousands of miles away from China, fears for her safety and that of those around her.

Hailing from the city of Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uighur region, Asiya left China in 2003 to study in Japan. The last time

she visited her hometown was in 2010. But after a crackdown, she fled China and watched from afar as Beijing rounded up her friends and relatives and took them to the so-called “re-education camps”.

“I haven’t seen my mother since leaving China in 2010, and if I call [my family], I am worried that the Chinese will take them to a re-e-

ducation camp,” she said.

The US, Canadian and Dutch parliaments have labelled Beijing’s actions against the Uyghurs a “genocide”, with Washington imposing sanctions on several Chinese officials. China has rejected the genocide charge and warned Western countries not to interfere in its internal affairs.

France to investigate fashion retailers for concealing crimes against humanity in Xinjiang

By Syndicated Content, Jul 1, 2021

PARIS (Reuters) – French prosecutors have launched an inquiry into four fashion retailers suspected of concealing crimes against humanity in China’s Xinjiang region, a judicial source said on Thursday.

The procedure is linked to accusations against China over its treatment of minority Muslim Uighurs in the region, including the use of forced labour, the source said.

The source told Reuters Uniqlo France, a unit of Japan’s Fast Retailing, Zara owner Inditex, France’s SMCP and Skechers were the subject of the investigation, confirming a report by French media website Mediapart.

“An investigation has been opened by the crimes against huma-



nity section of the anti-terrorism prosecution following the filing of a complaint,” the source said.

Inditex said it rejected the claims in the legal complaint, that it conducted rigorous traceability controls and would fully cooperate with the French investigation.

“At Inditex, we have zero tolerance for all forms of for-

ced labour and have established policies and procedures to ensure this practice does not take place in our supply chain,” the company said in a statement.

SMCP and Uniqlo France were not immediately available to comment outside of European business hours. Skechers did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) filed a complaint in France in early April against multinationals for concealment of forced labour and crimes against humanity.

Several Western brands including H&M, Burberry and Nike have been hit by consumer boycotts in China after raising concerns about forced labour in Xinjiang.

The United States in late March highlighted a deteriorating picture for human rights across the world, calling out China’s repression of Uighurs.

(Reporting by Benoit Van Overstraeten; Additional reporting by Richard Lough in Paris and Jesus Aguado in Madrid; Editing by Kirsten Donovan)

Camp Death of Principal, Lengthy Jailing of Six Teachers at Uyghur High School Confirmed

RFA, 2021-07-01

Within three months in 2017, seven educators from the high school were taken away with black hoods over their heads.

New information has come to light about the death of a principal and the jailing of six teachers at a Uyghur-language school arrested by authorities in 2017 amid a deepening crackdown on Uyghur education, culture, and language in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

The No. 5 Intermediate School in Altay (in Chinese, Aletai), the only



Uyghur students study at a bilingual high school in Hotan, East Turkistan, in a file photo.

school in the city where the Uyghur language was the medium of instruction, became a starting place for some of the earliest detentions in that city during the first half of 2017. In less than three months, local police said to be working with national security authorities had detained seven educators from the high school, taking them away as they wore black hoods over their heads.

The detainees included school principal Rayhan Amat, who later died during interrogation at one of the many internment camps China set up beginning in 2017 that are believed to have housed 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslims, according to sources from the region.

The seven educators — including geography teacher Rayhan Musa, Russian language teacher Akbar, and computer science teacher Alim — disappeared one after the other in 2017, according to a source with knowledge of the situation in Altay who spoke with RFA last week.

Other staff members and students at the school did not know why police had detained Rayhan or the other six teachers or where they had been taken.

"All [six] of them were detained along with their husbands and wives, after which they all completely disappeared without a trace," said Muhtar Abdurahman, a Uyghur researcher who lives in Japan who obtained information about the educators from acquaintances in Altay.

By July of that year, the Public Security Bureau in Altay informed school leadership that Rayhan had been arrested on charges of "opposing national language education" and "attempting to divide the country," and that she had died.

"National language education" refers to Mandarin Chinese language instruction, though Uyghurs say it has become code for extreme and overtly assimilationist "patrio-

tic" language and school policies in the XUAR since 2016-2017.

"We are witnessing their attempt to completely Sinicize Uyghur education, and to completely eliminate its roots," Muhtar said.

The Bureau of Education in Altay city declined to comment on the principal's situation when contacted by RFA, though the official who answered the phone call did not deny that seven teachers from the school had been detained.

When authorities cancelled instruction in the Uyghur language at the school, Rayhan complained that the sudden implementation of the new policy would undermine teaching at the school, Muhtar said.

Her objection to the policy was used as the basis for accusations by authorities that she was a separatist who attempted to "divide the country," he said. The six other school employees detained along with Rayhan had expressed support for her objection.

"Rayhan Amat apparently expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of so-called bilingual education, and for this reason, the Chinese government detained her and locked her up in a camp at some point in 2017," Muhtar said. "News of her death spread only several months later. Her death in interrogation was confirmed, and her corpse was sent out [of the camp]."

Authorities handed over Rayhan's body to her family two months after her detention,



according to the source with knowledge of the situation in Altay, who requested anonymity for safety reasons.

Because Rayhan's body was buried under local police surveillance, she was not "sent off" in accordance with Muslim religious and cultural norms that undergird death and mourning in Uyghur society, the source said. Rayhan's family as well as her gravesite remained under police surveillance for a month following the burial.

A lasting impression

When contacted by RFA, relevant officials in Altay refused to answer questions about the latest news on the seven educators, saying that the cases were very sensitive. Only one of them confirmed that Rayhan had died in detention, but declined to provide further details.

Rayhan made a lasting impression on students and colleagues at the No. 5 Intermediate School in Altay — her alma mater — with her loud voice, decisive temperament, and experience in school management, the source said. She was also known as a relentless researcher who exercised every morning.

They doubted that the principal, who was 50 at the time of her death, had died of a heart attack as authorities said, and suggested that she died of torture while in the camp.

Of the remaining six educators arrested in the first half of 2017, one was sentenced to life in prison and two others received 17-year prison terms, sources in the region said. Three family members of the imprisoned teachers also were sentenced to 17 years in jail.

All six of them were sentenced to long terms without trial for supporting Rayhan's protestation of the bilingual education policy they were told by education authorities to implement, said the source who requested anonymity.

Russian language teacher Akbar and computer teacher Alim were sentenced to 17 years in prison, while geography instructor Rayhan Musa was sentenced to life in prison not only for supporting the principal's objection to the new policy, but also for alleged religious extremism because she encouraged her husband to stop drinking alcohol, Muhtar Abdu-rahman said.

Authorities sentenced Rayhan Musa's husband, Akbar, to 17 years in prison for giving up alcohol as well as for praying, he added.

"As for Rayhan Musa herself, she was sentenced to life in prison," Muhtar said. "It has been made known that her husband was given 17 years in prison."

One of the officials in Altay contacted by RFA declined to comment on the sentencings of the teachers, but a city police officer confirmed the verdicts of the three educators.

Muhtar also told RFA that he learned that Obulqasim Yasin, a businessman and the brother of computer teacher Alim, and Halmurat, Alim's cousin who was the imam of the Dongbazar mosque, also were sentenced to 17-year prison terms.

"I learned concrete details about their situations from a close friend," he told RFA. "Both of them [Akbar and Alim] were core teachers at the school, where they had studied as high schoolers. Verdicts showing that they were sentenced to 17 years in prison were produced."



ced and provided to their families.”

Proper trials unlikely

Authorities have targeted high schools and other educational institutions in the XUAR since the beginning of the mass internment campaign in early 2017, because they are the brains of Uyghur society, Abdureshid Niyaz, an independent Uyghur researcher who is based in Turkey, told RFA last week.

“Education is the most significant means of continuing the traditions of a people, and of [encouraging the] knowledge and preservation of identity,” he said.

Abdureshid surmised that those who received lengthy prison sentences likely did not have proper trials.

During a previous RFA investigation in 2017, a police officer in Peyziwat (Jiashi) county in Kashgar (Kashi) prefecture said that the large number of Uyghur detainees made it impossible to hold trials, and that the detainees were dealt with based upon orders from each county’s politics and law commission.

The police officer also said he had prewritten court verdicts on hand, and that authorities would send people to prison simply by filling their names in the blank spaces on the documents.

Reported by Shohret Hoshur for RFA’s Uyghur Service. Translated by Elise Anderson. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.

EXPOSING ISLAMOPHOBIA – CHINA’S UYGHUR MUSLIMS

RFA, 2021-07-01

Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian-origin journalist won the Pulitzer Prize amongst two other contributors, on exposing the Chinese detention camps for Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province.

She is an international correspondent for BuzzFeed News, a digital news publication and is based in London. The reports are yet another incident of exposing Islamophobia across the globe.

The Uyghurs are native to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Northwest China. They gradually began to Islamize in the 10th century and most were recognized as Muslims in the 16th century. Since then, Islam has played an important role in Uyghur culture and identity.



Megha with her colleagues, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek won the Pulitzer in the International Reporting category, as announced by the Pulitzer board on Friday, 11th June 2021. "I'm in complete shock, I did not expect this," Rajagopalan said according to BuzzFeed.

The Backdrop – Earlier in 2017, being fluent in Mandarin Chinese she visited an internment camp in China. These camps used to hold Uyghur Muslims in the restive Xinjiang province. This was at a time when the Chinese government had denied their existence. Megha belched out of the state shortly thereafter and her application to extend her visa was also denied. They claimed that any reporter, but Megha, is welcome to visit.



Even then, she continued to investigate and report on these camps from London itself. Rajagopalan and her colleagues worked along the lines of forensic analysis of the architecture and satellite images. This strengthened her interviews with former prisoners, of the detention camps where up to a million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities have been interned.



*12 years have passed since the July 5th Urumqi massacre,
and the Chinese regime is still committing
genocide in East Turkistan.*



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