

Uyghurs Around The World Mark Anniversary of Violent 2009 Crackdown

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Leaders of Uyghur organizations, members of the Uyghur diaspora, and their Turkish supporters hold a protest marking a violent crackdown on Uyghurs by Chinese authorities 12 years ago, in front of Chinese Consulate in Istanbul, July 5, 2021.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has videoconference with Uyghurs previously detained in internment camps.

Uyghur groups around the world have held demonstrations commemorating a violent crackdown on Uyghurs by Chinese authorities 12 years ago in the capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), while the top U.S. diplomat has discussed the deepening repression of the largely Muslim ethnic minority group in northwestern China.

More than 200 Uyghurs, including many young people who came to the U.S. as children, held an anti-China protest in Washington, D.C., marking the anniversary of the violent unrest in Urumqi (in Chinese, Wulumuqi). Demonstrators in the U.S. capital held both American flags and the light blue flags of East Turkestan, the Uyghur name for China's Xinjiang region.

Some 200 people died and 1,700 were injured

in the three-day rampage of violence that began on July 5, 2009, between ethnic minority Uyghurs and Han Chinese in Urumqi, according to China's official figures, although Uyghur rights groups say the numbers are much higher.

The Uyghur Japanese Association held a protest in Shinjuku, a central ward in Tokyo, with the participation of not only Uyghurs living in Japan, but also Japanese citizens, Mongolians, and Hong Kongers.

The Germany-based World Uyghur Congress held a protest on July 5 in London, where Uyghur community members, Tibetans, and representatives from Hong Kong also participated in the event.

The Uyghur community in Switzerland held a protest in Bern, while Uyghurs based in Turkey commemorated the 2009 incident by holding 10 events in Istanbul, Ankara, Konya,



Leaders of Uyghur organizations, members of the Uyghur diaspora, and their Turkish supporters hold a protest marking a violent crackdown on Uyghurs by Chinese authorities 12 years ago, in front of Chinese Consulate in Istanbul, July 5, 2021.

and other cities.

Leaders of Uyghur organizations, members of the Uyghur diaspora, and Turkish supporters held a protest and press conference in front of Chinese Consulate in Istanbul on July 5, attended by thousands of people.

Uyghurs in Munich and Amsterdam also organized demonstrations in front of the Chinese embassies in these cities.

Uyghurs in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan gathered in mosques, halls, and cafés because they were not allowed to demonstrate, while diaspora members in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, held a meeting to commemorate the 12-year anniversary of July 5 unrest.

Only about 50 Uyghurs were allowed to attend the meeting organized by the Uyghur Association "Ittipaq" of Kyrgyzstan because of COVID-19 safety protocols limiting the number of people who can gather in public.

Blinken holds roundtable

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met via videoconference with seven Uyghur internment camp survivors, advoca-

tes, and relatives of people detained in the XUAR to hear directly from them about abuses against the minority group.

The camps are believed by experts to have handled as many as 1.8 million people – roughly one-sixth of the XUAR's 12 million Uyghurs – since 2017.

China says the camps are vocational training facilities set up to combat religious extremism and terrorism. But many teachers, intellectuals and prominent businessmen have been incarcerated in the system.

Blinken told the Uyghurs that that U.S. was committed to working with allies and partners in calling for an end to China's ongoing crimes against humanity and genocide, according to a statement issued by State Department spokesman Ned Price.

"The United States will continue to place human rights at the forefront of our China policy and will always support the voices of activists, survivors, and family members of victims who courageously speak out against these atrocities," the statement said.

Anders Corr, publisher of the Journal of Po-



litical Risk and principal at the political risk mitigation firm Corr Analytics Inc., said that Blinken's meeting with former internment camp detainees was an encouraging sign.

"It means that he is taking the genocide increasingly seriously," he said. "Let's hope he next brings these meetings and the suffering of the Uyghurs into the public to demonstrate yet greater American commitment to their liberation."

Sophie Richardson, China director of Human Rights Watch, said Blinken's decision to meet with the group of Uyghurs was "an incredibly important thing to do."

Hearing their stories and soliciting their idea were "not just an important gesture of support for those individuals and their community, but also a very powerful way of putting China on notice that the U.S. government has no intention of dialing back its concerns about this issue," she said.

Richardson also stressed the importance of putting in place mechanisms for investigations and accountability for Chinese government officials responsible for crimes against humanity to deter China from similar action in the future.

The U.S. State Department determined in January that the Chinese government is perpetrating genocide against Uyghurs in the XUAR, citing internment camps that have held some 1.8 million people, some of whom have been tortured or subjected to other abuse.

The U.S. and several other countries have imposed sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for abuses against Uyghurs, as well as on Chinese government agencies and companies suspected of using Uyghur forced labor to make products such as cotton, wigs, tomatoes, and polysilicon for solar panels. In Beijing on Wednesday, China's Foreign

Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the chief issue in the XUAR is combating terrorism, when asked about Blinken's meeting with Uyghurs previously detained in the camps.

"As we've stressed time and again, issues relating to Xinjiang are not about ethnicity, religion or human rights, but about fighting violent terrorism, extremism and separatism," he told a news conference. "The crimes of 'abuse,' 'atrocities,' or 'genocide' can never be attributed to China."

"U.S. lies and rumors have been exposed by the fact and truth that Xinjiang enjoys stability and prosperity and residents there are leading happy and fulfilling lives," Weng said, repeating Beijing's stock response since the well-documented internment camp system came to light in 2017.

"The U.S. attempt to use human rights as a cover to mess up Xinjiang and contain China's development will never succeed."

Reported and translated by RFA's Uyghur Service. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.



US Blacklists More Chinese Companies Over Human Rights Abuses in Xinjiang

RFA, 2021-07-09

The U.S. Commerce Department on Friday added 14 Chinese companies to its Entity List, for direct involvement in human rights abuses in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), saying they have "enabled Beijing's campaign of repression, mass detention, and high-technology surveillance" against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and members of other Muslim minority groups.

The action restricts the export, re-export, or in-country transfer of commodities, software, and technology subject to U.S. export regulations in cases in which the entities are a party to the transactions. "The Department of Commerce remains firmly committed to taking strong, decisive action to target entities that are enabling human rights abuses in Xinjiang or that use U.S. technology to fuel China's destabilizing military modernization efforts," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in a statement. Rushan Abbas, founder and executive director of the nonprofit Campaign for Uyghurs, welcomed the move by the Biden administration to blacklist more Chinese companies.



A worker unloads cotton picked in East Turkistan Region at a railway station in Jiujiang in central Jiangxi province, March 26, 2021.

"We welcome the U.S. government's sanctions on 14 companies involved in the genocide of the Uyghurs," she told RFA.

"We hope that such measures will be taken by the European Union and other governments in the future, and call on the international community to be aware of the trade relations that are enabled by the enormous plight of Uyghurs in East Turkestan," Abbas said using the Uyghur name for the XUAR. The Commerce Department previously blacklisted dozens of Chinese government or commercial entities that it said were connected to human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the XUAR.

When asked about the addition of Chinese companies to the U.S. Entity List at a press conference in Beijing on Friday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the government opposed the measure, calling the list "a tool for suppressing specific companies and industries in China under the pretext of human rights" and a means for the U.S. "to destabilize Xinjiang and contain China."

"China will take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies and foil U.S. attempts to interfere in China's internal affairs," he said.

The U.S. government in January designated abuses in the XUAR as part of a campaign of genocide, and in response has ramped up punishments against China, including targeting Chinese firms that manufacture solar-panel material, wigs, electronics, tomatoes, and cotton with suspected forced Uyghur labor.

'A good step'

Rayhan Asat, international human rights lawyer and nonresident senior fellow at Atlantic Council said the latest sanctions will prevent Americans and U.S.-listed companies from contributing to genocide and from implicating unwitting consumers in crimes against humanity.

"Entities aiding and abetting genocide and crimes against humanity cannot continue to benefit from the U.S. financial market," she said. "The U.S. has laws and regulations which businesses must follow. These standards exist to protect human rights and must be applied without exception."

William Nee, research and advocacy coordinator at Chinese Human Rights Defenders, called the move by the U.S. "a good step."

"Given the unprecedented human rights abuses occurring in the Uyghur region, it's highly appropriate for governments to take action

— including sanctioning companies that participate in and even facilitate such abuse," he told RFA. "From that point of view, this is a good step."

But Nee said that Washington's actions would probably have received greater buy-in from the international community if officials provided detailed and specific evidence of the abuses and tied it to the U.N.'s Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the normative framework for assessing business and human rights compliance.

The framework requires that businesses conduct human rights due diligence to show how they identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for human rights impacts.

"So, if the U.S. government's criticism, and ultimately sanctions, were tied to this process, it would be more beneficial in producing a multiplying effect — especially since many European jurisdictions are developing human rights due diligence laws," Nee said.

Chinese authorities have conducted a campaign of mass incarceration in the XUAR since 2017 during which an estimated 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been locked up in a vast network of internment camps.

Beijing has denied all allegations of abuse of the Uyghurs, saying that the facilities are vocational training centers set up to prevent religious radicalization and protect the country from terrorism.



But reports by RFA, other media outlets, rights groups, and independent researchers indicate that the detainees are being held against their will and are subjected to political indoctrination and maltreatment.

EU Parliament's resolution

The addition of new Chinese companies to the U.S. Entity List came a day after the European Parliament passed a nonbinding resolution on Thursday calling on the EU to boycott the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unless China improves the human rights situations in Hong Kong, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), home to predominantly Muslim Uyghur minority.

The 28-point resolution mainly condemned China's recent actions in Hong Kong and the erosion of freedoms there, including the forced closure last week of the independent newspaper Apple Daily, the arrests of journalists, the silencing of pro-democracy activists, and the rapid deterioration of the hu-

man rights situation.

The resolution also noted "the importance of the EU continuing to raise the issue of human rights violations in China, in particular the case of minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, at every political and human rights dialogue with Chinese authorities and in line with the EU's commitment to project a strong, clear and unified voice in its approach to China."

The resolution repeated a call for the EU and its member states to work towards the "holding of a special session or urgent debate on China at the U.N. Human Rights Council and the launching of an independent UN investigation on China."

The resolution passed with 578 votes in favor, 29 against, and 73 abstentions.

When asked about the move at the Chinese Foreign Ministry's press conference, a spokesman said the matter was "not worth any attention."

**Reported by Adila for RFA's Uyghur Service.
Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.**



EU votes for diplomats to boycott China Winter Olympics over rights abuses

Helen Davidson in Taipei, 9 Jul 2021

Non-binding resolution also calls for governments to impose further sanctions on China as tensions rise

The European parliament has overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on diplomatic officials to boycott the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in response to continuing human rights abuses by the Chinese government. In escalating tensions between the EU and China, the non-binding resolution also called for governments to impose further sanctions, provide emergency visas to Hong Kong journalists and further support Hongkongers to move to Europe.

It was passed with 578 votes in favour to 29 against, with 73 abstentions, and was supported by all of Europe's mainstream political groups, including the centre-right European People's party (EPP) group of the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, and the centrists of France's Emmanuel Macron.

The 28-point resolution called for EU officials and member states to decline all government and diplomatic invitations to the 2022 Winter Olympics "unless the Chinese government



The non-binding resolution also called for further sanctions, emergency visas for Hong Kong journalists and further support for Hongkongers to move abroad. Photograph: Mark Schiefelbein/AP

demonstrates a verifiable improvement in the human rights situation in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur region, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and elsewhere in China". The resolution had a focus on the Hong Kong crackdown and cited numerous specific instances of concern, including "notably" the shutdown of the pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily and prosecution of staff and owners, the introduction and use of the national security law and a dob-in community hotline, and changes to education, the courts, and elections. "The promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the longstanding relationship between the EU and China, in line with the EU's commitment to

upholding these values in its external action and China's expressed interest in adhering to them in its own development and international cooperation," it said.

Beijing has so far resisted calls for it to improve its human rights record in the face of an Olympics boycott movement, instead denying any wrongdoing and accusing countries of interfering in internal affairs.

In response to separate boycott calls by the UK's Labour party, China's ministry of foreign affairs said on Thursday it accused some people of attempting to disrupt or sabotage the Olympics "out of political motivation".

"China firmly opposes the politicisation of sports, and the interference in other countries' internal affairs by using human rights issues as a pretext," said the ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin.

The EU resolution is the latest flashpoint between the EU and China over the latter's human rights issues, with recent tit-for-tat sanctions prompting the freezing of a trade

deal before it was even ratified. The resolution said the deal would stay blocked until China lifted sanctions on EU parliamentarians and scholars.

China's nationalistic state-owned tabloid, the Global Times, decried the resolution as the act of "a collection of the most radical and extreme ideologies in western society, providing a stage for various political vices attempting to draw wide attention".

"At the [European parliament], regardless of facts, responsibility and consequences, those anti-China forces just attempt to achieve the loudest voice and biggest impact," it said, advising the body to "restrain themselves". "Beijing will not exchange China's core interests for some European forces' support of the Winter Olympic Games."

However, the editorial said the "destructive" effect of the EU parliament could not be underestimated, noting the blocked trade deal. "This proves that their efforts are not that futile," it said.

U.S. Secretary of State meets Uyghurs in video and expresses birthday wishes to Dalai Lama

VOA, July 7, 2021

U.S. Secretary of State Blincoln met with Uyghur Muslims who had been imprisoned in Xinjiang, China on Tuesday (July 6), to listen to their stories, and to discuss how to put

pressure on China in the most effective way. Suppress advisory opinions. US State Department officials warned that the United States may impose new sanctions. On the same day, Brinken also wished birthday to the exiled

Tibetan spiritual Dalai Lama.

According to the Associated Press, the U.S. State Department said Blinken wanted to hear directly from the seven former detainees, relatives and advocates of other detainees about their situation and the situation facing the wider Uyghur community. .

“The Secretary of State believes that it is important to meet with these people to hear their experiences first-hand, to hear their impressions of the atrocities taking place in Xinjiang and the detention of one million Uyghurs in a first-hand way. “State Department spokesman Price said. “In addition, this is also an opportunity for these participants to make any suggestions they may have.”

China has received severe international criticism and sanctions for detaining more than one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities for political re-education.

Although there are big differences between the Biden administration and the Trump administration, Price said that this meeting shows the continuity of US government policies.

Both governments referred to the Chinese go-

vernment's actions in Xinjiang as “genocide” and sanctioned China for violating human rights. Former Secretary of State Pompeo, as the U.S. chief diplomat, met with Uyghurs who had been detained several times during his tenure.

“The United States has made a very clear and consistent voice regarding these troubling acts, atrocities, and the ongoing genocide in Xinjiang,” Price said. “Moreover, when we deem it appropriate, I think we will use additional tools in the future to hold those officials responsible for what happened there.” Since the Trump administration, the United States has steadily increased its pressure on China in a range of areas, especially China's suppression of Xinjiang and its suppression of Hong Kong's political dissent and human rights. The actions taken by the United States include travel bans, financial sanctions, and commercial restrictions on Chinese products exported to the United States.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Brinken also said on his Twitter that he expressed his birthday wishes to the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet.



Secretary Antony Blinken @SecBlinken
United States government official



Delighted to extend His Holiness the @DalaiLama warm wishes on his birthday. He inspires us all to live each day with humility, compassion, and understanding. Here's to many more years.

3:26 AM · Jul 7, 2021



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