

Belgian Parliament passes motion recognising genocide against Uyghurs in hurs in China's Xinjiang

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Brussels [Belgium], June 15 (ANI): The Belgian Parliament on Tuesday passed a joint motion recognising 'crimes against humanity' and a 'serious risk of genocide' being perpetrated against the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, becoming the sixth parliament to acknowledge the genocide against Uyghurs.

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The motion also calls upon the Belgian Government to terminate its bilateral extradition treaty with China and to block the ratification of the now frozen EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI).

Welcoming the nearly unanimous move, the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) said in a press release that the decision of the Belgian Parliament to recognize the serious risk of a genocide of the Uyghurs is another important step towards widespread recognition of the Uyghur genocide.

“It is imperative that other countries in the European Union, as well as the EU institutions themselves, follow suit and



take a firm stance against China's atrocities and recognize them for what they are: a genocide,” said WUC President Dolkun Isa.

The adopted motion in the Belgian Parliament came shortly after a hearing on the question of an Uyghur genocide was held in the Belgian Parliament's

External Affairs Commission. Former camp teacher Qelbinur Sidik described the horrific conditions inside the camps, highlighting systematic rape, torture, sexual abuse, and other forms of severe maltreatment.

WUC's EU Policy Coordinator, Koen Stoop, in his statement, firmly called upon the Belgian Parliament to recognise the Uyghur genocide in light of the available evidence.

According to WUC, in addition to the recognition of crimes against humanity and a serious risk of genocide, today's resolution further cites evidence of the dramatic decline in Uyghur birth rates as a result of mass sterilisation and forced abortions of Uyghur women, as well as the transfer of large numbers of children into state orphanages.

Over the past four months, the Canadian, Dutch, British, Lithuanian, and Czech parliaments adopted motions recognising the Uyghur crisis as genocide.

The WUC also extended its heartfelt gratitude to all those in the Belgian Parliament, in particular to Ecolo-Groen MP Samuel Cogoalati, who has advocated extensively for the recognition for the Uyghur genocide.

"The WUC will continue calling on the European Union, its member states, and other national governments worldwide to follow the example of the by now five parliaments and recognize the Uyghur genocide," it said in the release.



Earlier, the Czech Senate has voted unanimously on a motion labelling the Chinese government's treatment of Uyghurs Muslim and other ethnic and religious minorities as amounting to "genocide and crimes against humanity".

The motion, approved by 38 votes to 0 last Thursday, noted with concern the "massive violations of human rights and freedoms, genocide and crimes against humanity, ethnic discrimination, and the suppression of cultural, religious and political identity in the PRC," with particular reference to the Xinjiang region.

The supporters of the motion claim that this would require the Belgian Government to act to prevent these abuses in accordance with its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

Samuel Cogoalati, Belgian MP and Co-Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China said: "The world is slowly waking up to the horrific abuses committed by the Chinese Government against the Uyghurs and other minorities. The Czech vote is further proof of this. Tomorrow the Belgian Parliament has an opportunity to signal to the world that we too will not stand idly by while this suffering continues."

China has been globally rebuked for cracking down on Uyghur Muslims by sending them to mass detention camps, interfering in their religious activities, and sending members of the community to undergo some form of forcible re-education or indoctrination.

After years of denying the existence of the internment camps in Beijing, China in 2019 described the facilities as residential training centres that provide vocational training for Uyghurs, discourage radicalisation and help protect the country from terrorism.

However, several media reports and former detainees have said that those in the camps

are detained against their will and subjected to political indoctrination, routinely face rough treatment at the hands of their overseers

and endure poor diets and unhygienic conditions in the often overcrowded facilities. (ANI)

China: Draconian repression of Muslims in Xinjiang amounts to crimes against humanity

BBC, 9 June 2021



G7 leaders held a three-day meeting in Cornwall

China has accused the G7 of “political manipulation” after it criticised Beijing over a range of issues.

In a joint statement at the end of a three-day summit, leaders of the G7 countries urged China to “respect human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

Issues highlighted included abuses against the Uyghur Muslim minority group and the crackdown on Hong Kong pro-democracy activists.

China’s embassy in the UK accused the G7 of “baseless accusations”.

“Stop slandering China, stop interfering in China’s internal affairs, and stop harming China’s interests,” a spokesman said on Monday.

The statement by the G7 - the world’s seven largest so-called advanced economies - included pledges on a number of issues, such as ending the coronavirus pandemic and steps to tackle climate change, as well as references to China.

The group, made up of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, called on China to respect human rights in Xinjiang, a north-western region that is home to the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

Experts generally agree that China has detained as many as a million Uyghurs and other Muslims and imprisoned hundreds of thousands more in its crackdown in East Turkistan, which began in 2017. There have been widespread reports of physical and psychological torture inside prisons and detention camps in the region. China denies the allegations.

They put the four women I had travelled with and me into four different rooms, at almost the same time. In all rooms, there was one bed inside. It was there the abortion was carried out. They gave me a tablet. Then 2 hours later they injected my stomach. A further 2

hours later the dead baby came out. I was not allowed to leave the room until the baby came out. I passed out from the pain and I stayed there another half an hour after the abortion.

The G7 statement also called for rights and freedoms to be respected in Hong Kong, where a new security law passed by China last year has made it easier to punish protesters. The leaders said Hong Kong should retain a “high degree of autonomy”, as established under agreements when it was handed back to China in 1997.

The statement underscored the “importance of peace and stability” across the Taiwan Strait - a heavily-policed waterway that separates China and Taiwan. China sees democratic Taiwan as a breakaway province, but Taiwan sees itself as a sovereign state.

It also demanded a new investigation in China into the origins of Covid-19.

US President Joe Biden said he was “satisfied” with the statement’s language on China.

But the Chinese embassy in the UK opposed the mentions of East Turkistan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which it said distorted the facts and exposed the “sinister intentions of a few countries such as the United States”.

A stronger message on China is expected to be issued by leaders of the Nato military alliance at a meeting on Monday.



Internment camps in East Turkistan

"We know that China does not share our values... we need to respond together as an alliance," Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said as he arrived at the one-day summit in Brussels.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the country would feature in Nato's communique "in a more robust way than we've ever seen before".

Uyghur Billionaire Jailed For 20 Years Over Charitable Donations

RFA, 2021-06-14

Iminjan Rahmitulla had built major shopping bazaars and opened markets in Central Asia.

A Uyghur entrepreneur in Xinjiang was jailed for 20 years for "supporting terrorists" for donations he gave to the wives and children of Uyghur prisoners, sources inside and outside the region told RFA.

Iminjan Rahmitulla founder of a shopping mall and one of the founders of the famous Grand Bazaar in Kashgar (in Chinese, Kashi) city, was one of four ethnic Uyghur billionaires tried and sentenced in Atush (Atushi) in April, the Norway-based "Uyghuryar" Foundation told RFA.

The other three billionaires — Rehmutulla Semet, Abdusopur Semet, Musajan Imam — were sentenced for engaging in separatist activities, with the two Semet brothers receiving 20-year jail terms, and Musjan jailed for 17 years.

Iminjan was reported detained in late 2018, and after a two-year investigation, he was



Uyghur businessman Musajan Imam in an undated photo.

tried and sentenced, said Uyghuryar founder Abduweli Ayup.

Iminjan's sister, Nurgul Rahmitulla, and his daughter also were detained with him, according to Abduweli and an official who works in politics and law in Atush, the main city of Xinjiang's Kizilsu Kirghiz (Kazileisu Keerkezi) Autonomous Prefecture.

The official, who declined to be named, confirmed that Iminjan was one of four promi-

nent entrepreneurs tried in April and said that he owned two buildings under the name of Bughra Commercial Market, which were in operation up to the time he was tried.

The official also said that Iminjan had been sentenced to 20 years in prison, but he was unable to provide any details about his sister and daughter.

Iminjan confessed to a number of “crimes” in exchange for his daughter’s release, Abudweli said.

“Initially, under duress from torture, Iminjan said that if they let his daughter go, he would agree to sign [a confession for crimes],” he told RFA. “However, there is information suggesting that even after he signed and admitted to all these “crimes,” his daughter was ... sentenced to prison herself.”

Officials at the Atush Intermediate People’s Court and the Kizilsu Provincial Intermediate People’s Court said they were aware of Iminjan’s trial and sentence, but declined further comment.

Born in 1962, Iminjan Rahmitulla graduated from Xinjiang Finance University and later started a career in the fruit business, according to Abudweli.

“After that, he worked for the government for a period, and then he began engaging in business,” he said.

Iminjan invested 50 million yuan (U.S. \$7.8 million) to establish the Fujiang Fruit Company, Abudweli told RFA. He also founded other companies, including Bughra Agricultural Products and Bughra Real Estate Company.

Bughra Agricultural Products had a market by the same name in Atush. He also built the Grand Bazaar in Kashgar, similar to the bazaar in Xinjiang’s capital Urumqi, and the Bughra shopping mall in Atush.

In all, Iminjan owned nine companies,

which created job opportunities for residents of local Uyghur communities, Abudweli said. In addition to working in several different fields, he played a leading role in introducing agricultural and other products from the southern Xinjiang to markets in Central Asia.

“Bughra Agricultural Products was recognized as a leading company among companies in Xinjiang,” Abudweli said.

“He made commodities out of the things used by Uyghur farmers and got them into external markets in Central Asia, and brought great profit to Uyghurs,” he said. “In addition to this, the bazaars he built in Kashgar and Atush created jobs for many young Uyghurs.”

Like other Uyghur business people in the XUAR, Iminjan was arrested because of his charity work, Abudweli Ayup said. Chinese authorities tried him on charges of “supporting terrorists” and “preparing for terrorism” because he had donated money to the wives and children of Uyghur prisoners, though Iminjan did so as a form of paying zakat, or a tithe, on his property.

“We heard from his friends and acquaintances about how he helped others, particularly about how grateful his neighbors and members of Uyghur society were for the help he had given to the sick, to people who couldn’t pay for their own medicine, and to orphans,” Abudweli said.

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



CAIR calls on Hilton hotels to drop Xinjiang project

By Radmilla Suleymanova, 15 Jun 2021

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is urging Hilton hotels to drop plans to build a hotel on a site where a mosque once stood.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is urging Hilton Worldwide Holdings to drop plans to build a hotel in Xinjiang region on the site where Chinese officials bulldozed and desecrated a mosque.

“The notion that a corporation would do business in the same location of an ongoing genocide is unbelievable,” CAIR’s National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell told Al Jazeera.

The United Nations and the administration of United States President Joe Biden have accused China of committing genocide against Muslim Uyghurs.

A recent Amnesty International report called the situation on the ground in East Turkistan a “dystopian hellscape”, detailing how minority groups have been forced to abandon their religious traditions, language and culture.

“We say ‘never again’ but we never actually mean it. Hilton can either build a hotel and be complicit in genocide, or it can cancel the hotel and help stop a genocide,” Mitchell said. China is planning to build a new commercial centre that includes a Hilton hotel on a plot of land where a mosque once stood, British newspaper The Telegraph reported on Sunday.

The Virginia-based Hilton Worldwide Holdings



did not immediately respond to Al Jazeera’s request for comment.

In its report entitled “‘Like We Were Enemies in a War’: China’s Mass Internment, Torture, and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang”, Amnesty International detailed the human rights abuses committed against Uyghurs.

Amnesty found that hundreds of thousands of Muslim men and women have been sent to prisons or internment camps where they have been subjected to “physical and psychological torture” and that China has subjected Muslims to systemised mass surveillance to make them perhaps “the most closely surveilled population in the world”.

Muslim ethnic groups are forced to abandon their religious traditions, cultural practices and local languages, according to Amnesty International, which also shared the testimony of 50 former camp detainees.

"The Chinese authorities have created a dystopian hellscape on a staggering scale in Xinjiang. Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim minorities face crimes against humanity and other serious human rights violations," Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary general, said in a statement.

CAIR, which is the US's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation, has also lauded Biden's tougher stance on human rights abuses in Xinjiang region.

In April, Biden's secretary of state, Antony Blinken, condemned China for acts of genocide against Muslim Uyghurs and its human rights violations. He also urged US corporations to refuse to do business in the region.

"Hilton is based in the United States but se-

ems to be ignoring the US government's formal recognition of China committing genocide against Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic minorities," Robert S McCaw, CAIR's director of government affairs, told Al Jazeera.

The Biden administration also raised the issue of human rights in China during last week's Group of Seven (G7) talks with other world leaders. Mitchell said that businesses also have an important role to play in taking a stand.

"China is such a superpower – and no one is going to go to war over human rights," Mitchell said. "The only people who can do something about this are the United States and major corporations. Corporations have a major role to play in stopping this genocide."

China Policies Could Reduce Millions of Uyghur Births in Xinjiang : Researcher

RFA, By By Roseanne Gerin, 2021-06-18

Analysis of Chinese research shows policies are drive by intention to dilute the Uyghur population of Xinjiang.

China appears to be taking measures to sharply reduce ethnic minority population growth in Xinjiang under "population optimization" policies amid its crackdown on Uyghurs and other Muslims, according to a new report by a German researcher.

Adrian Zenz's report indicates that Chinese

birth control and population transfer policies could result in a large drop in births among Uyghurs of 2.6 million to 4.5 million by 2040, based on population projections by Chinese researchers. There are about 12 million Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

Official Chinese data presented in the 28-page report titled "End the Dominance of the Uyghur Ethnic Group: An Analysis of Beijing's Population Optimization Strategy in Southern Xinjiang," indicate that birth rates in the south-

thern East Turkistan have dropped by 48.7 percent between 2017 and 2019, writes Zenz, an independent researcher with the Washington-based non-profit Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

The report on China's policy to reduce population growth in the Uyghur heartland comes at a time when Western nations and rights groups have called for a probe into Beijing's policies in Xinjiang — internment camps, forced labor, and coercive birth control — to determine whether they constitute genocide. China angrily denies it is committing atrocities or genocide in Xinjiang.

The peer-reviewed report includes research by Chinese officials and academics that show that policies in Xinjiang, such as mass sterilization of women, are driven by the view that the Uyghur population's size, concentration, and rapid growth are a national security threat that must be addressed.

Based on official birth data, demographic projections, and ethnic ratios proposed by Chinese academics and officials, Zenz estimates that the policies could increase the Han population in the southern Xinjiang to about 25 percent from its current 8.4 percent.

Zenz has published previous reports on abortions in Xinjiang, forced labor, and the internment of an estimated one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in a network of camps.

His work has been cited as evidence that the Uyghurs are being destroyed as a people by those making the case of genocide under the United Nations legal framework.

Zenz and others note that the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide lists birth prevention targeting an ethnic group as an act that could qualify as genocide.



Uyghur teacher Qelbinur Sidik holds up a photograph of the hospital where she says she underwent a forced sterilization procedure on the first day of hearings at the "Uyghur Tribunal," a panel of UK-based lawyers and rights experts investigating alleged abuses against Uyghurs in China, in London, June 4, 2021.

China slams report

Chinese officials have slammed Zenz's recent findings, as they have his other research on the mass detention of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities within Xinjiang re-education camps, transfers of Muslim laborers to other regions, and birth reductions in East Turkistan.

In an op-ed published on June 10, the state-run TV outlet CGTN said Zenz was driven by "spiritual beliefs" to portray a slowdown in population growth in Xinjiang as evidence of deliberate policies to reduce the Uyghur population.

"No genocide is taking place in Xinjiang. Instead, a media-savvy mix of separatists and religious zealots are being used by frightened geopolitical rivals to distract China, isolate it diplomatically, and slow down its rise," it said.

"And Adrian Zenz's latest paper shows the desperation of the people manufacturing these lies laboring mightily yet futilely to sustain them," said CGTN.

More than 30 witnesses and experts, inclu-

ding Zenz, provided testimony to a “Uyghur Tribunal” held in London on June 4-7 that aimed to gather evidence on whether the Chinese government’s alleged human rights abuses in East Turkistan constitute genocide. The nine members of the panel, which has no state backing, will hold a second round of hearings in September and are expected to issue a non-binding verdict in December.

“Beijing’s strategy in Xinjiang is not one of population destruction, but population control,” Zenz said when discussing his findings at a June 10 hearing on the atrocities in East Turkistan held by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “It’s a mass atrocity without mass slaughter, one with human rights violations of historic proportions, but leading to a loss of millions of lives potentially.”

China has held up to 1.8 million Uyghurs in a network of detention camps since 2017. Beijing has said that the camps are vocational training centers or re-education centers and smaller numbers of Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, fellow Turkic speaking people, have also been incarcerated in the camp system.

The democratic parliaments of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Lithuania have passed motions determining that China’s policies in the XUAR constitute genocide.

The U.S. government in January designated abuses in the region as part of a campaign of genocide, and the German parliament is conducting an inquiry into the allegations.

Census data shows slower Uyghur population growth and a discrepancy

The ethnic Han population in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region soared by 2.17 million, or 24.8 percent, while the Uyghur population increased by only 1.62 million, or 16.2 percent. Additionally, according to researcher Adrian Zenz, the sharp drop in the Uyghur population from 2018 to 2020 indicates the Chinese government reported about 1.04 million Han residents as Uyghurs in 2018 and then reported them as Han in 2020.

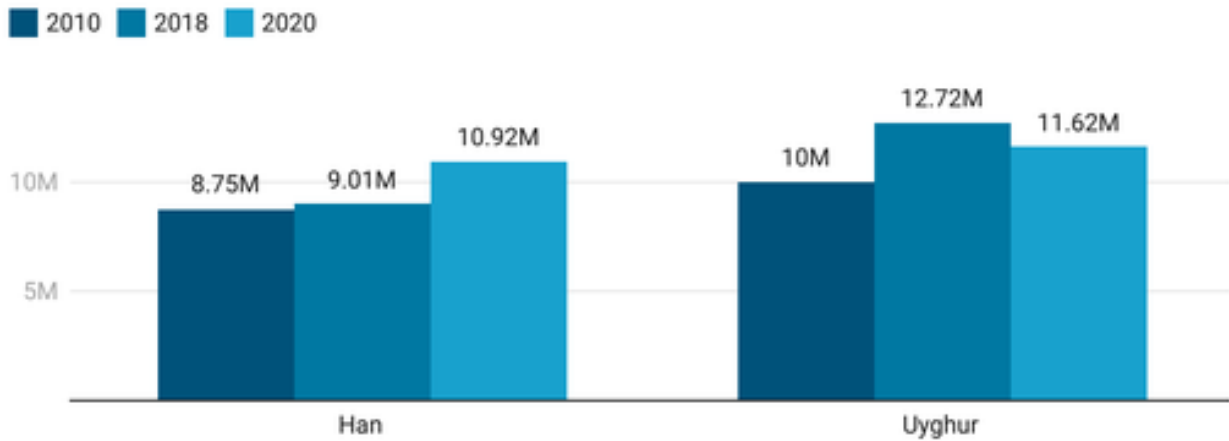


Chart: RFA • Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China • Created with Datawrapper



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