

Turkey raises Uyghur issue with China as hundreds protest

AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES,
March 25, 2021



*Ethnic Uyghurs and activists attend a protest against the visit of China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to the Turkish capital, Ankara
[Cagla Gurdogan/Reuters]*

Turkey has raised the issue of Uyghur Muslims during talks with China's foreign minister in Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, as hundreds of Uyghurs protested against the treatment of their ethnic kin in China.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Cavusoglu and later President Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday, as about 1,000 protesters gathered in Istanbul, chanting "Dictator China" and "Stop Uighur genocide, close the camps".

Some waved blue-and-white flags of the independence movement of East Turkistan, the name by which the movement refers to Xinjiang.

"We are here to ask about our families. Why can't we get in touch with our families? Are they dead or alive? Where are they? Are they at camps or outside?" said Imam Hasan Ozturk, a Uyghur protester.

Beijing approved an extradition treaty between the two nations in December and with the deal awaiting ratification by the Turkish parliament, activists among some 40,000 Uyghurs living in Turkey have stepped up efforts to highlight their plight, holding regular protests in the capital Ankara and the largest city Istanbul.

Cavusoglu has denied that the extradition agreement between the two countries would lead to Uyghurs being sent back to China, describing it as a routine accord similar to the ones Turkey has with other countries. He said after meeting Wang he had conveyed "our sensitivity and thoughts on Uyghur Turks", adding that Ankara and Beijing would enhance cooperation against the COVID-19 pandemic and on vaccines.

Uyghurs' worries have been fuelled by Ankara's dependence on China for COVID-19 vaccines, having received 15 million doses from Sinovac Biotech and ordered tens of millions more. This week, Turkey received 1.4 million doses of the vaccine developed by Germany's

BioNTech, the first significant batch of non-Chinese vaccines.

Accusations of 'genocide'

UN experts estimate at least a million Uyghurs and other Muslims are held in detention centres in East Turkistan (Xinjiang).

China has previously rejected allegations of any rights abuses in East Turkistan, including that authorities forcibly sterilise women and impose forced labour, saying the camps have been "extremely effective" in reducing "religious extremism" in the region.

The United States government and the Canadian and Dutch parliaments have labelled Beijing's actions against the Uyghurs "genocide", and Washington has imposed sanctions on several Chinese officials over East Turkistan.

China has rejected the genocide charge and warned Western countries not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Chinese TV stars Wang Yibo and Tan Songyun on Thursday said they would end all promotional partnerships with Nike after a company statement was circulated widely on social media noting it was "very concerned" by the allegations of forced labour.

Their move followed a blizzard of outrage on China's tightly controlled social media aimed at Nike over the statement published last year.

A Chinese embassy spokesperson said last month that Uyghurs who have been holding regular protests near China's diplomatic premises in Turkey in recent months were trying to deceive Turkish people and damage relations.







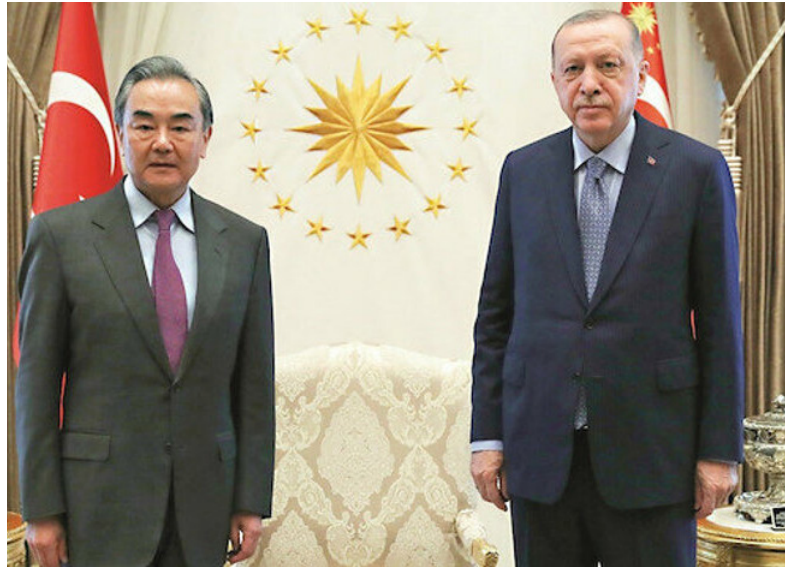


Uyghur message to the Chinese minister

News Center March 26, 2021

President Erdoğan received Chinese Foreign Minister Vang Yi at the Complex. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu was also present at the 1 hour and 10 minute meeting. In his Twitter message, Çavuşoğlu said, “We discussed the potential for economic cooperation. We will advance cooperation in combating the epidemic and vaccination. We conveyed our sensitivity and thoughts about Uyghur Turks”.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan received the Foreign Minister Vang Yi of the People's Republic of China. The meeting, which was closed to the press at the Presidential Complex, lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu was also present at the meeting. Before Erdogan, Vang Yi and Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also met. Cavusoglu, President of China Xi Jinping's visit to Turkey will be pleased that, on this occasion said that they want to take the relationship to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership. Çavuşoğlu said in his Twitter account regarding the meeting, “We discussed the potential of economic cooperation with Chinese Foreign Minister Vang Yi on the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. We



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan received the Foreign Minister Vang Yi of the People's Republic of China.

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U.S. Condemns Chinese Boycotts of Companies Shunning East Turkistan (Xinjiang) Cotton

*By Alex Leary and William Mauldin
March 26, 2021*



Biden administration voices support for firms seeking to ensure products aren't made with forced labor, as Beijing denies abuse allegations

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration on Friday denounced Chinese boycotts against international businesses that have shunned cotton produced in East Turkistan (Xinjiang) region over forced labor concerns.

The action came after Hennes & Mauritz AB's H&M was wiped off China's leading e-commerce, ride-hailing, daily-deals and map applications amid anger by Chinese consumers over the Swedish clothing brand's decision to stop sourcing from East Turkistan.

A State Department spokeswoman said the boycotts had been instigated by China's Communist government.

"The United States condemns the ... state-led social-media campaign and corporate and consumer boycott against companies, including American, European and Japanese businesses" for their decisions to avoid cotton from East Turkistan, State Department spokeswoman Jalina Porter said.

The Commerce Department said the U.S. "has taken strong actions to stop China from profiting off of its human-rights abuses in East Turkistan and to stop imports of products made with forced labor in China."

China Targets Exiled Uyghurs in Internet Hacking, Phishing Attacks

RFA, 2021-03-25



The logos of US social network Facebook and the mobile messaging service WhatsApp are shown in a file photo.

China has been targeting Uyghurs living in exile in attacks on their online communications, sources say, with Facebook announcing in a statement this week it is taking action to counter the threat.

One Chinese hacker group, called Evil Eye, is working hard to lure Facebook users, offering links to subjects or "news items" of special interest to its targets, IT expert Steven Adair told RFA's Uyghur Service in an interview.

These links, which lead to what often appear to be real web sites, allow the hackers to install malware on the targets' devices, and especially on mobile phones, Adair said.

Messages from unfamiliar contacts may suggest "go look at this news link, or take a look at this video," Adair said. "And if you click on that link, there's a chance that your phone will be compromised."

"And once they get the malware on [the phone], that gives the attacker a way to start stealing stuff," Adair said. "So they could start monitoring your Facebook or your Facebook Messenger, or your WhatsApp, or your WeChat or your Telegram—the different applications on your phone."

Hackers can then identify who users are, "where they are, passwords, things that they wrote, things that they said."

Journalists and their sources are especially at risk as targets, Adair said. But anyone trying to protect their communications should be careful and not follow links that on close examination may include elements that just don't look right.

"It's good to be suspicious," Adair said.

Facebook in a statement this week announced it was now taking action to shut down the hacking groups "to disrupt their ability to use their infrastructure to abuse our platform, distribute malware and hack people's accounts across the internet."

"[These groups] targeted activists, journalists and dissidents predominantly among Uyghurs from East Turkistan in China primarily living abroad in Turkey, Kazakhstan, the United States, Syria, Australia, Canada and other countries," Facebook said.

On Facebook, China's online espionage campaign primarily sent links to "malicious websites rather than direct sharing of the malware itself," said the statement by Mike Dvilyanski,

head of Facebook's Cyber Espionage Investigations, and Nathaniel Gleicher, Head of Security Policy.

"We saw this activity slow down at various times, likely in response to our and other companies' actions to disrupt their activity."

'More careful now'

Speaking to RFA, Mustafa Aksu—program coordinator for research and advocacy at the Washington D.C.-based Uyghur Human Rights Project—said he had learned about the Chinese hacking from a Facebook warning.

"Not only my colleagues, but also friends from the U.S., Canada, Europe, Turkey, and Australia told me that they had received the same warnings. This is not the first hacking attempt, nor will it be the last. Such attacks have happened many times in the past," Aksu said.

Aksu said his own Facebook and email accounts had been targeted before, and that he had even received emails purporting to be from Uyghur activists or journalists.

"But now we're more careful and experienced," he said.

Tracked and arrested

Phishing and other hacking attacks are more than mere nuisances for Uyghurs living abroad, whose contacts in East Turkistan can be tracked and arrested. Journalists and rights activists are at particular risk.

Early this month RFA's Uyghur Service editor Eset Sulaiman confirmed that two brothers and at least five of his cousins were detained by authorities in East Turkistan, in what is seen as an intimidation campaign aimed at preventing him from reporting on rights abuses.

RFA learned after interviewing several local officials that the brothers and the cousins went missing after authorities in East Turkistan launched a campaign of mass extralegal

incarceration that has seen up to 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities detained in a vast network of internment camps since early 2017.

Sulaiman's detained relatives joined more than 50 relatives of RFA's Uyghur Service staff who have been confirmed held in some form

of Chinese state detention, alongside the millions either in the camps or sentenced to prison for "crimes" often for activities deemed "religious extremist" by authorities.

Reported by Nuriman Abdurashid and translated by Alim Seytoff for RFA's Uyghur Service. Written in English by Richard Finney.

THE DELEGATE OF GENOCIDE COMMITTERS HAS COME TO TURKEY...



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