

US, UK, Germany **clash with China at UN** over treatment of Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan

Reuters, United Nations, May 13, 2021



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At a virtual event hosted, US Ambassador to the UN said they will keep standing up and speaking out until China's government stops its crimes against humanity.

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The United States, Germany and Britain clashed with China at the United Nations on Wednesday over the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan, angering Beijing by hosting a virtual event that China had lobbied UN member states to stay away from.

"We will keep standing up and speaking out until China's government stops its crimes against humanity and the genocide of Uyghurs and other minorities in East Turkistan," US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the event, which organisers said was attended by about 50 countries.

Western states and rights groups accuse East Turkistan authorities of detaining and torturing Uyghurs and other minorities in camps. Beijing denies the accusations and describes the camps as vocational training facilities to combat religious extremism.

"In East Turkistan, people are being tortured. Women are being forcibly sterilized," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Amnesty International secretary general Agnes Callamard told the event there were an estimated 1 million Uyghurs and predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities arbitrarily detained.

In a note to UN member states last week, China's UN mission rejected the accusations as "lies and false allegations" and accused the organisers of being "obsessed with provoking confrontation with China."

While China urged countries "NOT to participate in this anti-China event," a Chinese diplomat addressed the event.

"China has nothing to hide on East Turkistan. East Turkistan is always open," said Chinese diplomat Guo Jiakun. "We welcome everyone to visit East Turkistan, but we oppose any kind of investigation based on lies and with the presumption of guilt."

The event was organized by Germany, the United States and Britain and co-sponsored by Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several other European nations. Germany's U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen said count-



ries who sponsored the event faced “massive Chinese threats,” but did not elaborate.

British U.N. Ambassador Barbara Woodward described the situation in East Turkistan as “one of the worst human rights crises of our time,” adding: “The evidence ... points to a program of repression of specific ethnic groups.”

She called for China to allow “immediate, meaningful and unfettered access” to U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet.

Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth called out Bachelet for not joining the event.

“I’m sure she’s busy. You know we all are. But I have a similar global mandate to defend hu-

man rights and I couldn’t think of anything more important to do than to join you here today,” Roth told the event.

Ravina Shamdasani, deputy spokesperson for the U.N. Human Rights office, said Bachelet - who has expressed serious concerns about the human rights situation in East Turkistan and is seeking access - was unable to participate.

“The High Commissioner continues to engage with the Chinese authorities on the modalities for such a visit,” she said, adding that Bachelet’s office “continues to gather and analyze relevant information and follow the situation closely.”

Chinese authorities forced Uyghurs to perform Eid prayers for the show to deceive the international community.

At a mosque in the city of Urumqi in East Turkistan, Chinese authorities forced Uyghurs to perform Eid prayers for the show to deceive the international community.

The Chinese national anthem replaced the call for prayer, and a ceremony was held to raise the Chinese flag.

It was remarkable that there weren’t Young Uyghurs among the worshippers, as prayer and all Islamic worship and related acts are prohibited in East Turkistan.



Drop in **East Turkistan birthrate** largest in recent history: Report

AP | Beijing, May 12, 2021

East Turkistan in far western China had the sharpest known decline in birthrates between 2017 and 2019 of any territory in recent history, according to a new analysis by an Australian think tank



(Bloomberg)

East Turkistan in far western China had the sharpest known decline in birthrates between 2017 and 2019 of any territory in recent history, according to a new analysis by an Australian think tank.

The report from the Australian Strategy Policy Institute, obtained exclusively ahead of publication by The Associated Press, showed the 48.74 per cent decline was concentrated in areas with many Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other largely Muslim ethnic minorities, based on Chinese government statistics over nearly a decade.

Birthrates in largely minority counties fell 43.7 per cent between 2017 and 2018 alone, with over 160,000 fewer babies born. That compares to a slight increase in births in counties populated mostly by China's Han majority.

Such an extreme drop in birthrates is unprecedented in the 71 years since the United Nations began collecting global fertility statistics, beating out even declines during the Syrian civil war and the genocides in Rwanda and Cambodia, said Nathan Ruser, an ASPI researcher and co-author of the report.

As far as it's possible to find out, it is by far the largest drop there is, Ruser said.

It makes you realise the scale of these family planning policies and the scale of this crackdown, the scale of societal control that authorities are looking for.

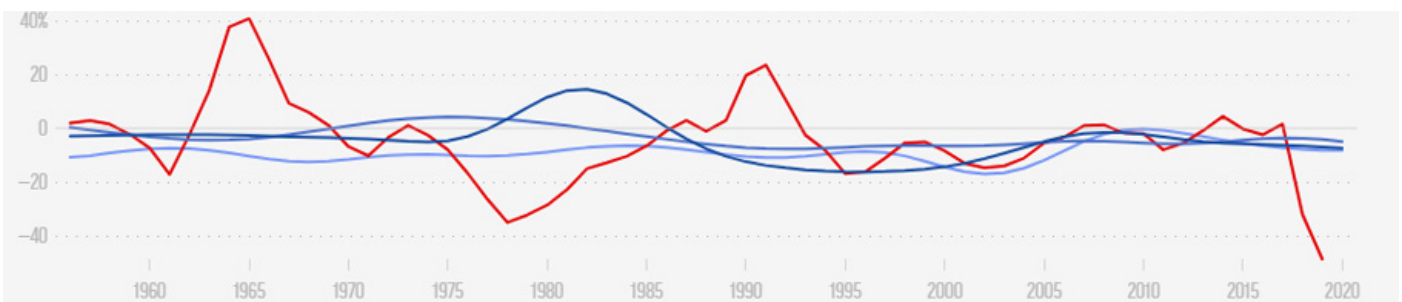
The ASPI report corroborates an AP story and a report by German researcher Adrian Zenz last year that found the Chinese government was systemically slashing Uyghur birthrates with sterilizations, abortions and intrauterine devices, and fining and detaining people with three or more children.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Xinjiang government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

However, Zenz and ASPI have come under increasing attack from Beijing, which points to their funding from the governments of the US and other Western countries to discredit them. The AP confirmed many of the figures were based on Chinese government statistics. Over the past four years, the Chinese authorities have carried out a brutal campaign of forced assimilation targeting the Uyghurs, an ethnic Turkic minority native to East Turkistan. Officials cracked down after a series of bombings and knife attacks by separatist Uyghurs, sweeping a million or more people into a network of newly built camps and prisons. The crackdown has triggered sanctions from the West, and on Wednesday a group of Western countries are slated to hold a UN event on China's repression of the Uyghurs.

Eysa Imin, a Uyghur from Korla in the center of East Turkistan, recalled eight people in his neighborhood detained for having too many children. When he himself was thrown in a detention center in 2017, he ended up sharing a cell with an old schoolmate who had been arrested, tortured, and interrogated for having four children.

When they arrested him, they said it was a sign of extremism, Imin said. The government



East Turkistan birthrate drops by almost half in two years

East Turkistan has seen a precipitous drop in official birthrates since 2017, falling by nearly 50 percent in the two years between 2017 and 2019. Below, changes in East Turkistan's birthrate is compared to countries that have experienced wars or past pogroms, like Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda.

Percentage change in birthrate over 2 years

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Cambodia - Rwanda - East Turkistan, Source: United Nations and Chinese government data, analyzed by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute

started connecting having many children with Islamic extremism. ... It feels like they want to eliminate us.

Experts note that the tightening birth control measures must be understood in the broader context of fear that's pervasive among East Turkistan's minorities.

Just for self-survival, you're going to be publicly compliant, for fear that you or your family might be detained, said Timothy Grose, a professor specializing in East Turkistan at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. Any sign of resistance could get you sent to reeducation.

For decades, China had one of the most extensive systems of minority preferential treatment in the world, including hiring quotas and extra points on college entrance exams. The government also allowed ethnic minorities two or three children, even as it restricted its Han majority to just one child.

Such benefits have been rolled back and even reversed under President Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in decades. State-backed scholars began calling on the government to crack down on large religious minority families, calling them breeding grounds for terrorism and extremism.

In April 2017, East Turkistan's top official called for the effective containment of illegal births specifically in southern East Turkistan, where most Uyghurs live.

In the eyes of Chinese officials, the current measures taken are simply correcting lax birth controls for minorities. The government has repeatedly said that abortions, sterilizations and IUD insertions in East Turkistan are voluntary, and on paper, both Han Chinese and Uyghurs can have two children.

However, in practice, minorities appear to be singled out and targeted for especially draconian birth control measures, the report said.

Birthrates in heavily minority counties fell by nearly two thirds since the new measures were implemented, the analysis shows, while Han Chinese counties saw much milder declines in line with the rest of China. Han-majority districts in East Turkistan's capital, Urumqi, even saw booming birthrates. The recent two-year decline in birthrates in East Turkistan is far larger than that of China over the entire 36-year length of the one child' policy, under which Han Chinese were subject to stricter birth restrictions, Ruser noted.

ASPI also unearthed government notices showing that East Turkistan officials are being given quotas to lower birthrates, with punishments meted out to those who failed to meet family planning targets.

A target set in one heavily Uyghur county is lower than the birthrate of South Korea, the lowest in the world.

The crackdown comes even as Chinese officials mull lifting restrictions on births nationwide. On Tuesday, officials announced that China's population has barely grown over the past decade, fueling fears that the country



A target set in one heavily Uyghur county is lower than the birthrate of South Korea, the lowest in the world.

faces a demographic time bomb.

The report also found that about half of Xinjiang's 106 county-level administrative units have not published birthrate figures for 2019, though they should have been publis-

hed last year.

These statistics have become politically problematic, Ruser said. It's easier to simply not publish the data.

'When I walked the streets, cameras would recognize me, police would come running' **Uyghur camp survivor testifies**

Tim Hinchliffe , 2021-05-10



Tursunay Ziyawudun

Uyghur homes have a QR code on their doors, so officials can track and trace all activity — job history, religious practices, past writings, family, friends, etc.

A Uyghur survivor of the Chinese Communist Party's concentration camp system in East Turkistan tells Congress how she faced horrendous torture for almost a year, and how iris scans in city cameras alerted the police wherever she went after her release.

Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday, Uyghur concentration camp survivor Tursunay Ziyawudun recalled the graphic horrors she and

other women suffered at the hands of the CCP for over 10 months, and how the Chinese government continued to track her every move once she was out.

"All the women had to be sterilized, or fitted with an IUD. Many young women were crying, screaming when they were told they would be sterilized and could never have children" — Tursunay Ziyawudun, camp survivor

Rape, forced sterilizations, genital electrocution, and other barbaric crimes against humanity occurred regularly in these camps in the East Turkistan region of China, according to her testimony.

Between March and December of 2018, "We were given injections of unknown medications. Every day, we had to endlessly swear loyalty to the Chinese government and reject our faith," Ziyawudun testified through a translator.

"I was tortured with an electric stick..." — Tursunay Ziyawudun, camp survivor

She added, "Girls would be taken away and only brought back days later. I saw girls lose their sanity because of it. Then, I myself, was taken, along with another woman.

"I was tortured with an electric stick pushed inside my genital tract. I could hear the other woman's screams in the next room. I knew the guards were raping her. After that, she never stopped crying.

"One time an order came. All the women had to be sterilized, or fitted with an IUD. Many young women were crying, screaming when they were told they would be sterilized and could never have children.

"I left the camp in December, 2018. Before my release, the officials warned me — if I spoke about my experience, there would be heavy consequences."

"When I walked out on the streets, there were cameras that would recognize me just by my eyes, and then police officers would come out running" — Tursunay Ziyawudun, camp survivor

After having suffered through immense physical and psychological torture for almost an

entire year, Ziyawudun, who now lives in the US, recalled how even after she left the camp, she "still did not feel free."

"The world should not allow genocide to continue in the 21st Century" — Tursunay Ziyawudun, camp survivor

The CCP keeps tabs on the entire Uyghur population through its authoritarian surveillance systems that leverage facial recognition, DNA phenotyping, iris scanning, and more to track and trace its citizens wherever they go. Ziyawudun experienced this first hand when she visited a city only to be recognized by the cameras, which prompted the police to show up.

"When I walked out on the streets, there were cameras that would recognize me just by my eyes, and then police officers would come out running up to me and saying, 'You're somebody who has been in a camp before,' and would ask to see my ID card and so forth."

Ziyawudun was physically tortured for almost a year, and the CCP's psychological abuse continues to this day, even though she was able to escape the country.

"The end goal of this [CCP] policy is the destruction of Uyghur culture, traditions, langu-



Nury Turkel

age, and faith” — Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project

Testifying in the same hearing, Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) Chairman Nury Turkel went into greater detail on the CCP’s authoritarian use of technology to terrorize concentration camp survivors.

“In China, initially, they started with collecting voice samples, iris scans, DNA samples to build this giant biometric data for the Uyghurs, and that paved the way for using integrated joint operating platforms that Human Rights Watch documented,” said Turkel.

“Now, if you go to any Uyghur homes, they have a QR code on the door, so the officials can scan and find out who lives there, what kind of relatives [are] at home in China and abroad, what kind of profession that they have, the past writings, the job history, everything — even the way that they engage in religious practices.

“And here at home [the US], based on the report that UHRP published in 2019, they’re using telephone messages, video chat to threaten the Uyghur Americans in the homeland here,” he added.

“If you go to any Uyghur homes, they have a QR code on the door, so the officials can scan and find out who lives there, what kind of relatives [are] at home in China and abroad, what kind of profession that they have, the past writings, the job history, everything — even the way that they engage in religious practices” — Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project

The UHRP chairman added that the end goal of the Chinese State was to destroy Uyghur culture entirely, and it was accomplishing this through a “21st Century high-tech genocide” that Silicon Valley, and the world at large, continues to turn a blind eye to.

“UHRP has warned for more than three years that the end goal of this policy is the destruc-

tion of Uyghur culture, traditions, language, and faith,” said Turkel.

“Simply put, the Chinese State has criminalized being Uyghur. The Chinese State has spent the last four years crushing our culture, language, civilizational accomplishments in poetry, literature, the arts, and theology, architecture, and scholarship.”

“Very soon, anything that can be described as Uyghur in our homeland will be an empty shell, a Potemkin show,” he added.

“This is already a reality given the lackluster international response to this staggering 21st Century high-tech genocide.”

“The United States can and should do more to prevent Silicon Valley and the US universities from cooperating with the CCP or CCP-funded companies selling the so-called ‘Muslim tracking’ facial recognition system being used in this high-tech genocide” — Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project

Turkel warned that American tech companies and universities were aiding the CCP’s techno-totalitarian regime through their partnerships and business practices that benefit the Communist regime.

“The United States can and should do more to prevent Silicon Valley and the US universities from cooperating with the CCP or CCP-funded companies selling the so-called ‘Muslim tracking’ facial recognition system being used in this high-tech genocide,” Turkel testified.



testified.

According to Turkel, Silicon Valley in particular is aiding the CCP's "high-tech genocide." "I don't think that Silicon Valley has wakened up to this brutality even in the face of the ongoing genocide. Based on various reports, the Silicon Valley companies are still providing technology — transferring technology," he said.

"They're using telephone messages, video chat to threaten the Uyghur Americans in the homeland" — Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project

"Silicon Valley needs to step up to the plate. They haven't really publicly at least, recognized the seriousness of the issue.

"Previously, when they came to testify in Congress, most of the CEOs from the Silicon Valley companies — high-tech companies — dodge the question about, at least, the forced labor aspect of their business practices in China."

"The Chinese use the Uyghur body, soul, their cities, homes for testing this technology

that is now metastasizing" — Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project

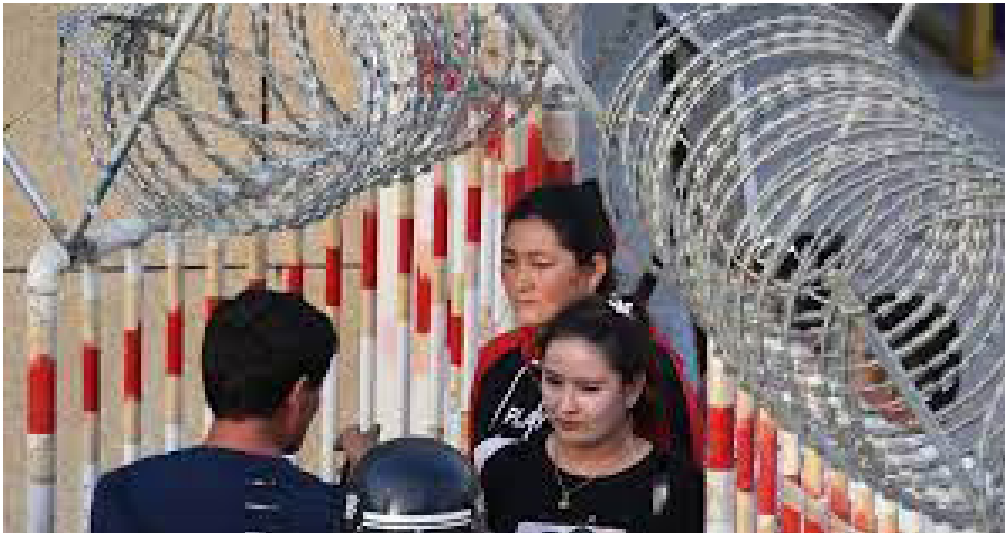
Turkel echoed the concerns of other witnesses, who had previously testified before Congress, that China was exporting its surveillance technology that it tested on the Uyghurs to other countries.

"What the Chinese have done is to test and use this technology and expanding it, so the Chinese surveillance technology is metastasizing," said Turkel.

"Reportedly, over 80 countries have either adopted, or are in the process of adopting, Chinese surveillance.

"What does that mean? That is a threat against civil liberty, threat against democracy, threat against international rules-based systems, so this is significantly a dangerous trend that everyone should be literally screaming from the rooftop.

"The Chinese use the Uyghur body, soul, their cities, homes for testing this technology that is now metastasizing," the Uyghur Human Rights Project chairman added.



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