

East Turkistan

NOVEMBER 12
IS A SPECIAL DAY FOR THOSE
WHO'S HEART BEATS FOR
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Independence *Day*

Pompeo says China treatment of Uyghurs gravest threat to religious freedom

WION Web Team Jakarta, Indonesia Oct 29, 2020



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pompeo said China had brutalised its Uighur minority in Xinjiang province, corralling them in huge detention centres and forcing some to eat pork during the Islamic holy month.

China is the “gravest threat” to the future of religious freedom, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, in his latest verbal assault on Beijing during a whirlwind Asian tour.

Pompeo has made attacks against China the focus of his trip this week which kicked off in India and included visits to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia, and, later Friday, Vietnam.

Pompeo said China had brutalised its Uighur minority in Xinjiang province, corralling them in huge detention

centres and forcing some to eat pork during the Islamic holy month.

In his address to the youth wing of Indonesia’s largest Muslim group, he also accused China of separating Uighur children from their parents and imposing sterilisations.

China denies mistreating Uighurs and says the camps are vocational training centres that are needed to tackle extremism and promote development.

“The gravest threat to the future of religious freedom is

the Chinese Communist Party's war against people of all faiths: Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and Falun Gong practitioners alike," Pompeo said in a speech Thursday to major Muslim organisation the Nahdlatul Ulama.

"The atheist Chinese communist party has tried to convince the world that its brutalisation of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang is necessary as counter-terrorism or poverty alleviation," he added.

Rights groups say that more than one million Uighurs languish in camps in the northwest Xinjiang region as Beijing attempts to forcibly integrate the community and root out its Islamic heritage.

China has denied the numbers and describes the camps as vocational centres that teach skills to prevent the allure of Islamic radicalism following a series of attacks.

"But we know that there is no counter-terrorism justifi-

cation in forcing Uighur Muslims to eat pork during Ramadan, or destroying a Muslim cemetery," Pompeo said. "There is no poverty-alleviation justification for forced sterilisations, or taking children away from their parents to be re-educated in state-run boarding schools."

Pompeo rejected what he called Beijing's "fantastic tales of happy Uighurs".

"The Chinese Communist Party has tried to convince Indonesians to look away from the torments your fellow Muslims are suffering... Search your hearts. Look at the facts," he said.

"Think about what you know of how an authoritarian government treats those who resist its rule."

China is Indonesia's biggest trading partner and criticism in the Southeast Asian country of Beijing's treatment of Uighurs has been muted.

Mike Pompeo removed the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement" from its list of terrorist organizations.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that he had removed the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement" from the "terrorist organizations" list. Where Mike Pompeo signed the decision on the twenty-second of last October. According to the law, the decision document appears in the Federal Registration Authority.

After September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States needed to support China in the war against terrorism. Therefo-

re, with a joint decision among countries such as the United States, China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, then US President George Bush announced that the so-called "East Turkistan Islamic Movement" was a movement Terrorist.

As a result of the decision, China used the decision



as a pretext to suppress the Uyghurs through brutal and genocidal policies "openly" against the people of East Turkistan under the pretext of fighting terrorism and religious extremism.

Mike Pompeo's move is critical to the future political prospects of the Uyghurs.

ICC Uighur genocide

Patrick Wintour Diplomatic

Editor - Mon 9 Nov 2020

complaint backed by parliamentarians around world

Chance should not be squandered' to bring Chinese government to justice, letter states'

The chief prosecutor of the international criminal court has been urged by an international alliance of parliamentarians to accept a complaint alleging genocide by China against its Uighur Muslim minority.

The complaint, backed by more than 60 parliamentarians from 16 countries, says the Chinese government may be committing crimes amounting to genocide and other crimes against humanity against the Uighur and other Turkic peoples.

The People's Republic of China is not a signatory to the ICC, but the claim says the court has previously ruled that crimes started on the territory of an ICC state party fall within its jurisdiction. This precedent was established in a case involving crimes against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar in 2019. The letter claims mass deportation of Uighurs has occurred in Tajikistan and Cambodia, both signatories to the



ICC, into China.

The claim, sent to the chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, is seen as an early test case of the human rights climate since Joe Biden became president-elect.

It has wide cross-party support in a number of countries, including from the former UK Conservative party leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the Australian Labor senator Kimberley Kitching and Margarete Ba-use of the German Green party. The claim has been organised the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC).

The letter states: "The ICC has a unique ability to adjudicate on alleged genocide and crimes against humanity internationally. We call on the ICC to play its part in ensuring that the perpetrators of the most egregious human rights abuses are held accountable and pre-

vented from acting with impunity.”

The Labour peer Helena Kennedy QC, the IPAC co-chair and director of the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute, said: “Mounting evidence points to the most horrific abuses against Uighurs and other minorities in the Xinjiang region. The international criminal court must fully examine the allegations brought before it and, if warranted, make every effort to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.”

Rodney Dixon, the barrister leading on the detailed legalities of the claim, said: “The support for our complaint shown by the IPAC parliamentarians is very significant. The prosecutor should feel encouraged that so many parliamentarians from other ICC member states believe she should open an investigation into officials of the Chinese government for the atrocities being committed against the Uighur and other Turkic people.

“For too long, nothing of substance has been done to bring justice to those who are suffering on a daily basis at the hands of the Chinese government. This is a breakthrough and momen-

tous opportunity which we urge the ICC prosecutor to pursue without delay. This chance should not be squandered.”

The case is an early test for the ICC in the new international human rights climate established by Donald Trump’s defeat.

Trump imposed sanctions on the ICC’s chief prosecutor and another senior official in response to the court’s investigation of US actions in Afghanistan as well consideration of Israeli actions in Palestine.

The ICC found there was a preliminary case to hear concerning allegations that US troops had committed torture at secret detention sites in Afghanistan.

Biden’s advisers opposed the US sanctions on ICC staff, however it is likely he would continue to oppose ICC investigations into US citizens.

William Barr, the outgoing US attorney general, said the US government had reason to doubt the honesty of the ICC and described it as “little more than a political tool employed by unaccountable international elites”.

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Created by a UN treaty in 2002, the ICC investigates and brings to justice those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, intervening when national authorities cannot or will not prosecute.





Biden's 'liberal' credentials will be tested on Uyghur issue

Gaurie Dwivedi

November 7, 2020

There is a good chance that when you read this, the US elections may still have not been officially called, but as things stand now, Joe Biden is all set to be the next American President. Trump would be only the fourth US President since 1906 not to have won a second term (after Herbert Hoover, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush). As Democrat Joe Biden wades through a divided nation and polity, many in India are wondering how a “liberal” US administration will view the present India-China tensions and the internal administrative decisions taken by the Narendra Modi government in the erstwhile state of Jammu

and Kashmir.

Both Pakistan and China were caught off-guard by India's decision to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories and abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to the state. China has, on three separate occasions, tried to raise these issues at the UNSC—partly because of its support to Pakistan's incessant war mongering on Kashmir and partly because it felt impacted by Ladakh's change of administrative status. The Trump administration—which made an offer of mediation between India and Pakistan—had accepted New Delhi's position on J&K's

administrative changes and its stated position of no third-party mediation.

While these decisions are solely the prerogative of the Indian government, a Democratic regime in Washington may take a sharper view on Kashmir. A “progressive” Biden administration may need to prove its liberal credentials to its home constituency and may raise the issue of Kashmir—with a sharper tone. After all, Senator Kamala Harris has done so on in the past and in all probability will do so again. India must be prepared for this rhetoric.

But Biden’s real test as a liberal and a progressive leader of the free world will be his ability to take on China. With the presidential campaign raising several allegations about his son Hunter Biden’s alleged dealings in China, there will be pressure on Biden to act. This, even as China has increased its aggression and hegemonic tendencies after facing global backlash for its failure to control a pandemic that it should have.

Biden’s actions against China have to be on three fronts—military, trade and human rights violations. On the issue of tackling China’s economic heft as the world’s second largest economy, there is expectation that the new regime may find ways to collaborate with it. Biden has stated that there will be a reversal of some trade policies of the Trump administration and the trade war may end. While this will be good news for Chinese exporters, it remains to be seen how it benefits America. On the issue of military deterrence, it is likely that there will be no reversal on the progress made by the Quad. There seems to be bipartisan consensus on building greater deterrence against a rising and aggressive China and Quad plays a pivotal role in this deterrence.

The new administration will also have to penalise China for its brutal suppression of Uyghur Muslims and Hong Kong dissidents. While the Trump administration stripped Hong Kong of its special status, this

has clearly not been enough to deter Beijing from its continued crackdown on dissenters. What more will Biden do? If he fails to speak up, will he continue to be a beacon of liberal, progressive and democratic values? Likewise, it will be incumbent on Biden to stop the persecution of Uyghur Muslims or accept his administration’s failure to deal with an authoritarian regime which has complete disregard for human rights. Will he try to reform the United Nations at least to ensure Beijing does not sit on UNHRC committees making a mockery of the institution and eroding its significance? Again, Biden’s liberal credentials will be put to test.

If Biden is not able to stop the mass human rights violations in China, it will expose not just his inability to do so but also open the door for criticism on grounds that he chooses not to do so.

This rhetoric—which will spill over to CAA and NRC—is on expected lines and New Delhi can plan for this via deft diplomacy. It needs to start a global action plan against Beijing’s large scale human rights violations and ensure that world powers join in. New Delhi needs to reach out to both Asian and European world leaders to ensure a narrative builds up, forcing Biden to act. There is no EU-wide consensus on China’s pathetic track record on human rights due to their deep economic dependence on Beijing; but there is agreement amongst the major European powers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should build on his rapport with his British, French and German counterparts to start this campaign.

The post 2020 world order is seeing a more isolated China. India needs to take the lead to make it accountable for its acts of gross injustice. Mr Biden will not be able to get away by lecturing a thriving and robust democracy. The real challenge will be to make Xi Jinping accountable for his actions against his fellow countrymen.



Subhi Mevlan in an undated photo.



Authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have detained a young amateur singer from Ghulja (in Chinese, Yining) city for viewing a Turkish television series, according to officials, who said dozens of others are also in custody for the same reason



Xinjiang Authorities Detain Vocalist, Dozens of Others For Watching Turkish TV Series

Reported by Shohret Hoshur for RFA's Uyghur Service.

Translated by the Uyghur Service. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

A Central Asia-based source claiming knowledge of the situation told RFA's Uyghur service that Subhi Mevlan was detained in early March after authorities found a copy of the historical fiction series "Magnificent Century" at his home. Ghulja, a county-level city of 550,000 people, is the seat of Ili Kazakh (Yili Ha-sake) Autonomous Prefecture and the XUAR's third largest city.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing fear of reprisal, said Mevlan had watched the series, based on the life and court of the 16th Century Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, with friends several days before his disappearance. When one of the viewers of the series was caught and interrogated for something else, the friend confessed to having watched it at Mevlan's house, which led to the police search.

Police raided the home in the Ghulja's Su Derwazisi neighborhood in the middle of the night and, after discovering the series, took Mevlan and his mother, Arzugul, away in handcuffs. Mevlan's sister was also

brought to Ghulja from the XUAR capital Urumqi, where she had been doing business, and detained. While Mevlan's mother and sister were released 15 days later, authorities provided no update on his situation, the source said. Six months after he was detained, police showed up at the family home to gather some of Mevlan's clothing, which led his relatives to believe that he had been sentenced and transferred to prison.

Eight months after his detention, Mevlan's family still has yet to receive any information about his whereabouts and dares not inquire about his fate.

"They haven't been able to get any information about him since March, so they're very worried," the source said of the vocalist who used to moonlight singing at weddings. "They still don't know where he is."

Dozens detained

RFA called police in Ghulja to verify the source's information and learned that Mevlan, whose father passed away when the young man was a child, was running a cosmetics shop at the city's Bailin Mall on Yashlar Road with his mother and sister.

An officer from the police station in Su Derwazisi told RFA he was new to the area and was unaware of the case, while an officer from the station at the Bailin Mall also claimed not to know about it.

However, a second officer from the Bailin Mall confirmed that Mevlan had been detained, although he

refused to provide any further information.

"We can't tell you because we haven't determined exactly who you are," the officer said.

RFA also spoke with an officer at the Ghulja City Police Station who not only confirmed that Mevlan was detained for watching "Magnificent Century," but said dozens of other residents had been as well.

"According to what I heard, around 50 or 60 people [throughout] the city," said the officer.

When asked if they had all been detained around the same time, he said, "it appears so."

'Cultural and kinship connections'

Previous investigations by RFA have found many cases of individuals detained in the XUAR for visiting Turkey, educating their children there, or for consuming Turkish media.

Blacklisted for travel to Turkey by Xinjiang authorities due to a perceived risk of exposure to "religious extremism," the Uyghurs make up the fifth largest group of Turkic peoples in the world, with linguistic and cultural links across Central Asia. References to the Ottoman Empire are associated in Beijing with ideas of "separatism" and opposition to its rule in the region. Many of those detained on various charges end up in the XUAR's vast network of internment camps, where authorities are believed to have held up to 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities since early 2017.



Abdureshid Niyaz, a member of the Uyghur diaspora who now lives in Turkey, said that in light of the current situation, it is not surprising to him that China has detained Uyghurs for viewing shows like “Magnificent Century.”

China’s primary goal in recent years has been to weaken or eliminate religious, political, and historical consciousness among the Uyghurs, he said.

“Sultan Suleiman was the tenth ruler of the Ottoman Empire ... In the West he was known as Suleiman the Magnificent, while in the East he was known as Suleiman the Lawgiver,” said Niyaz, formerly an editor for Maybulaq magazine in the XUAR’s prefectural-level city of Karamay (Kelemayi).

“He was called by these nicknames for having ruled so justly. It’s natural that people in our homeland would be detained for watching this show.”

Niyaz said Chinese authorities are reluctant to let Uyghurs watch the show because doing so might strengthen their historical consciousness, create a sense of pride in their national identity, and further alienate the Uyghurs from the “Chinese family” ideal promoted by China as part of its campaign to assimilate the ethnic group.

“Because there are cultural and kinship connections [between Uyghurs and this history], China understands that Uyghurs would see it in a positive light,” he said.



*Uyghurs, their
unique culture can
still be felt in their
home East Turkistan.
Gomaa Mubarak*



*Gomaa
Mubarak*

EAST TURKISTAN
NEWS AGENCY

*November 12, 1933
(Silam Republic of East Turkistan)*



**ONE DAY, WE WILL CELEBRATE NOVEMBER 12
INDEPENDENCE DAY IN OUR HOMELAND EAST TURKISTAN!**



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*November 12, 1944
(Republic of East
Turkestan) is a day
when independent Re-
publicans were estab-
lished twice in Eastern
Turkistan. The day is
the day of establish-
.ment*



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