



20 February 2024

**Open Letter to the United States Congress:  
Urgent Please to Address China's Ongoing Genocide in East Turkistan**

The Honorable Members of the United States Congress  
United States Congress  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker of the House, Members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party,

We, the undersigned representatives of East Turkistani/Uyghur organizations across the global diaspora, urgently address you regarding the ongoing atrocities perpetrated by the People's Republic of China in Occupied East Turkistan. These are not only genocide and crimes against humanity, but are a direct, manifold challenge to American laws and interests.

We applaud the passage with broad bipartisan support of the Uyghur Policy Act through the House of Representatives, and urge the Senate to follow suit. Such actions demonstrate the continued leadership of the United States in supporting the peoples of East Turkistan, and we call on Congressional leaders to build on that leadership with sustained and increasing actions.

With deep appreciation, we acknowledge the United States Congress's steadfast commitment to upholding the rights and freedoms of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples in our homeland. Your support has been instrumental in raising awareness of the dire situation in East Turkistan and our efforts to hold the Chinese government accountable for its ongoing campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan.

In September 2018, over 109,000 members of the global East Turkistani diaspora submitted a petition to the White House urging the U.S. Government to condemn the ongoing genocide and prevent a 21st-century holocaust-like genocide in East Turkistan. The petition called for sanctions on Chinese officials under the Global Magnitsky Act, trade sanctions, prohibition of the export of DNA sequencers, surveillance technology, weapons, and other items used to perpetrate the atrocity, and pressure on the UN to uphold the UN Genocide Convention and recognize East Turkistan as an Occupied Country.

To date, the U.S. Government has fulfilled many of our requests, including recognizing China's atrocities against the East Turkistani people as genocide and crimes against humanity, sanctioning Chinese officials and entities, and banning goods made from the forced and slave labor of East Turkistanis.

However, the genocide persists relentlessly in 2024. Millions of East Turkistanis endure the horrors of incarceration within concentration camps and prisons, while countless more are ensnared in the chains of forced labor within camps and factories spanning East Turkistan and Chinese provinces. Beyond random mass incarceration, intellectuals, community leaders and religious figures have been specifically targeted and

many are known to have died in the concentration camps and prisons. The conditions of torture and animalistic cruelty prevailing in the camps and prisons are almost certainly a major cause of death.

Nearly a million East Turkistani children suffer the anguish of forced separation from their families, subjected to the coercive grasp of state-sponsored assimilation efforts. Our people's cultural and religious freedoms, along with their very existence, are under siege, slowly and systematically eroded by the Chinese state and the Chinese Communist Party.

We implore the U.S. Congress to take the lead in pushing a reluctant executive branch of the U.S. Government to take meaningful actions to truly end this prolonged humanitarian crisis by addressing the root cause of the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan: Chinese colonization and occupation of East Turkistan. It is imperative to emphasize that East Turkistanis do not assert any territorial claims involving other countries beyond the territories of East Turkistan currently under the occupation of the People's Republic of China.

We urge the U.S. Congress to:

- **Recognize East Turkistan as an Occupied Country:** We ask the U.S. Congress to introduce and adopt a resolution recognizing East Turkistan, like Tibet, in accordance with U.S. policy of respecting the right to external self-determination as well as highlighting the illegitimacy of China's colonial occupation and underscoring that issues related to East Turkistan are not China's so-called "internal affairs."
- **Upgrade the Uyghur Policy Act to the East Turkistan Policy Act:** Updating the title of legislation to encompass the whole of East Turkistan and all of its people, including Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars, and Mongols, etc. This comprehensive approach is essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by the East Turkistani people.
- **Appoint a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani Issues:** Establish a dedicated position within the U.S. State Department to coordinate efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in East Turkistan as well as China's extensive malign activity against U.S. persons of East Turkistani origin, ensuring sustained attention and meaningful action both nationally and internationally.
- **Support East Turkistan's Pursuit of Justice:** We urge the U.S. Congress to support East Turkistan's efforts to obtain justice and accountability by supporting East Turkistan's complaint before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and (or) by referring China's ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The international community must stand together in holding the Chinese state and Communist Party for its crimes.
- **Resist China's Attempts to Erase East Turkistan:** As the U.S. has done for Tibet, we implore the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Government to resist China's attempts to erase East Turkistan's identity by using the correct name for our homeland – East Turkistan – and rejecting the Chinese state's propaganda term "Xinjiang (The Colony / New Territory)," which signifies colonial domination and erasure. If the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Government must use the Chinese state's propaganda term "Xinjiang," we ask that it be done in the following manner: East Turkistan (what Beijing calls "Xinjiang").

In conclusion, we call upon the leadership of the House, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party to

spearhead efforts in confronting China's campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan. The fate of millions and the judgment of history rest upon our collective response to this profound injustice.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue and stand ready to provide further information or assistance to advance justice, human rights, and dignity for the people of East Turkistan.

Sincerely,

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