



EAST TURKISTAN LOBBY DAY

September 2024 | Washington, DC

2024 Lobby Day Letter to Congress (SENATE)

East Turkistani / Uyghur-Americans and friends of East Turkistan call on the U.S. Congress to build on its bipartisan leadership in supporting the aspirations of the East Turkistani people (Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples) for a better future. We are thankful for your commitment to providing both programmatic and political support for the East Turkistani people, both in East Turkistan and in exile.

This year holds profound significance, as it marks the 20th anniversary of the East Turkistani people's courageous act of self-determination—the establishment of the East Turkistan Government in Exile. Born out of the relentless struggle against Chinese occupation and colonization, this government stands as a beacon of hope and the enduring will of a people who refuse to surrender their right to freedom, justice, and independence.

We respectfully request your support for the Uyghur Policy Act (S.1252) and other critical measures to address China's campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan. The world cannot turn a blind eye to the systematic destruction of Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples' culture, religion, and identity.

SENATE ASK

We urge you to co-sponsor and support the following critical pieces of legislation and actions:

- **Uyghur Policy Act (S.1252) – Including the Creation of a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani / Uyghur Issues.** This act provides a comprehensive framework for U.S. policy in addressing the Chinese government's human rights abuses in East Turkistan. A key element is the establishment of a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani / Uyghur Issues at the U.S. State Department. This position will ensure sustained attention and coordination across all U.S. government efforts to address China's ongoing campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan.
- **Sanctions on Chinese Officials and Entities Involved in Genocide and Forced Labor.** We ask that the Senate strengthen the use of sanctions to target Chinese officials and entities complicit in the genocide and forced labor of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, ensuring that they face international repercussions for their crimes against humanity.
- **Global Human Rights Coordination.** We urge the Senate to lead efforts to collaborate with international partners to impose unified sanctions and human rights measures against China. Global cooperation is vital in stopping the atrocities in East Turkistan.
- **Resolution Recognizing East Turkistan as an Occupied Country like Tibet.** We call on the Senate to introduce or co-sponsor a resolution recognizing East Turkistan as an occupied country, similar to Tibet, in line with the Captive Nations Law. Chinese occupation and colonization are the root causes of the ongoing genocide and suffering of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan. This resolution would reinforce the East Turkistani people's right to self-determination and independence from Chinese occupation, acknowledging the atrocities as a result of decades of colonial subjugation.

WHAT SENATE BILL S.1252 WILL DO

The Uyghur Policy Act (S.1252) will:

- Create a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani / Uyghur Issues at the U.S. State Department, tasked with leading U.S. efforts to address the Uyghur genocide, advocating for the rights of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples, and coordinating with international organizations and governments to apply pressure on China.
- Increase pressure on China to end its genocidal practices, including the mass internment of over 1 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples.
- Foster international collaboration in holding Chinese officials accountable through sanctions and coordinated global actions.
- Preserve the culture and identity of the Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples, which the Chinese government seeks to erase through forced assimilation, indoctrination, and destruction of cultural sites.

THE URGENCY:

The genocide in East Turkistan represents one of the gravest human rights crises of the 21st century. The Chinese government's brutal actions include mass imprisonment, enslavement through forced labor, mass sterilization, forced separation of children from their families, killing Uyghurs for their organs and the destruction of Uyghur, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz culture. These crimes are part of a deliberate effort to eradicate the Turkic peoples of East Turkistan and their identity.

The creation of a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani / Uyghur Issues is vital to ensuring that the U.S. government takes a unified and sustained approach to addressing these atrocities. This role will provide the necessary leadership and oversight to drive forward meaningful actions in defense of the people of East Turkistan.

The Senate's leadership is crucial in amplifying global efforts to stop these atrocities and hold China accountable. Your support of S.1252 and other legislative measures is essential in the fight for freedom, justice and human rights in East Turkistan.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL:

We respectfully urge you to join your colleagues in standing with the East Turkistani people by supporting the Uyghur Policy Act (S.1252), which includes the critical establishment of a Special Coordinator for East Turkistani / Uyghur Issues at the U.S. State Department. This position will be a vital tool in leading global efforts to address the Uyghur genocide and protect all Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

For more information or to discuss co-sponsorship opportunities, please contact the East Turkistan Government in Exile at MFA@East-Turkistan.Net

Thank you in advance for your leadership and for standing up for the people of East Turkistan.