



# THE VOICE OF EAST TURKISTAN

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*International Criminal Court | Photo credit: ICC*

*See page 33 to learn about the East Turkistan Government in Exile's complaint against China at the ICC.*



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# THE VOICE OF EAST TURKISTAN

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Contributions are welcome and may be addressed to the editor of *The Voice of East Turkistan*. The publisher regrets that only contributions that fit standards set by the editor will be selected for publication.

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**May - June 2021**

## Condemning Chinese Supremacist Wei Jinsheng's Racist Attacks Against The Uyghurs

WASHINGTON | 12 May 2021

*The following statement is attributed to the Prime Minister of the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

Recently, Wei Jingshen, of the so-called "Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition," has been making numerous statements online demonizing the Uyghurs. He has been echoing racist propaganda similar to those made by the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, denying China's ongoing genocide of Uyghurs in Occupied East Turkistan and labeling Uyghurs as "extremists" and even "terrorists."

It seems very clear from his recent comments that Mr. Wei Jingshen has not removed the Chinese communist and fascist indoctrination that he received in his youth and during his time as a Communist Red Guard. His recent statements show his true character and ideology, one that is not compatible with democracy and democratic ideals but rather deeply espouses the ideology of communism, ultranationalism, and Chinese chauvinism.

In addressing the racist and false revisionist propaganda that Wei Jinsheng has been spreading, we want to clarify that Genetic and archeological research proves that the modern Uyghurs didn't originate from Mongolia in the 9th century as the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese ultra-nationalists like Wei Jingshen falsely claim.

Genetic research shows that the modern Uyghurs are the direct descendants of the ancient Indo-European and Turkic peoples that have been inhabiting East Turkistan, or what China calls "Xinjiang," meaning "the colony" or "new territory" for over 6,000 years. Genetic research found that the modern Uyghurs are an admixture of the Caucasian Indo-European peoples inhabiting East Turkistan and the Hun (which the Chinese call "Xiongnu")-Turkic tribes of Central Asia. Genetic researchers concluded that the admixture initially occurred around 2,200 to 2,900 years ago.

Contrary to the false narrative put forth by the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese supremacists like Wei

Jingshen, Uyghurs have a very long history of independence and statehood in East Turkistan. Throughout their long history, the Indo-European and Hun-Turkic ancestors of the modern Uyghurs established dozens of empires and states across East Turkistan and Central Asia.

It wasn't until 1759 that our nation began to decline and come under foreign occupation. East Turkistan was invaded by the Manchu Qing Dynasty in 1759, leading to 42 national uprisings against the Qing Dynasty from 1759-1865. The Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan regained their independence in 1865 by establishing the State of East Turkistan, also known as Kashgaria, under Yaqub Beg.

As a result of the Great Power Competition between the British and Russian Empires in the late 19th century, the Manchu Qing Empire tasked the Han Chinese General Zuo Zontang with invading and occupying East Turkistan in 1877, which resulted in the fall of the State of East Turkistan following the death of Yaqub Beg. On November 18, 1884, the Manchus formally incorporated East Turkistan into its empire as "Xinjiang," which was initially translated as "the colony," according to Chinese-English dictionaries from 1884 and is now commonly translated as "the new territory."

The Chinese Communist Party and Chinese ultra-nationalists falsely deny Chinese invasion, colonization, and occupation of East Turkistan. However, historical records and the very term "Xinjiang" (meaning the colony" or the "territory"), which the Chinese use to refer to East Turkistan, clearly shows that East Turkistan was invaded, occupied, and colonized by the Chinese even after the fall of the Manchu Qing Empire in 1912.

In 1921, Chinese leader Sun Yat-sen, who is also known as the "modern founder of China and Chinese Democracy," explicitly wrote in his book "The International Development of China" about the need for the Chinese to colonization Mongolia and East Turkistan (he referred to it as Sinkiang). If East Turkistan was a part of China, as the CCP and Chinese supremacists falsely claim, why would it need to occupy and colonize it?

Moreover, the people of East Turkistan declared independence twice in the 20th century as the East Turkistan Republic in 1933-1934 and from 1944-1949

before being invaded and occupied by the People's Republic of China.

At the time of the Chinese occupation of East Turkistan in December 1949, the Chinese occupation forces and their colonists made up less than 6% of the population. Due to 7 decades of Chinese occupation, colonization, and genocide, the Chinese colonists and occupation forces make up over 40%. Millions of our people have been brutally killed by Chinese occupation forces through various methods from massacres of entire towns to nuclear testings, to forced abortions, to forced sterilization, organ harvesting, torture, and summary executions.

Contrary to the popular misconception, the current systematic colonization, genocide, and occupation of East Turkistan by Chinese occupation forces are not new, as it has been occurring on and off for over 100 years. While the political ideology of various Chinese administrations may seem to have changed, the Chinese desire to occupy, colonize, and eradicate East Turkistan and its people has not changed. Nor is it something unique to only the Chinese Communist Party and the current so-called People's Republic of China.

The conflict between East Turkistan and China is not one over ideology but rather an international conflict between two different nations or states. The nature of the relationship between the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan and the Chinese government and its people is that one of an occupied country versus a foreign occupier or a colonized nation versus a colonial power.

Opposing Chinese occupation and colonization of our country is not only our right but our duty under established international laws; it does not make us "terrorists," "extremists," or "racists" for wanting to be free of foreign Chinese occupation. If we use Wei Jingshen's delusional logic, then one could argue that the Chinese people themselves are "terrorists," "extremists," and "racists" for having opposed Manchu and Japanese occupation.

China and its occupation forces, including its Chinese colonial settlers, have no right to East Turkistan, just like the Japanese forces and Japanese colonial colonists had no right to China during World War II.

The people of East Turkistan do not need nor want the support of so-called "democratic Chinese forces" or any other Chinese forces to achieve human rights. If they want to help, they need to respect our national sovereignty and urge China and its occupation forces and their colonists to end their illegal occupation, colonization, and genocide in East Turkistan.

It is evident from the actions and statements made by the China, its occupation forces, the Chinese communist party, and even Chinese supremacists disguised as so-called "Chinese democracy activists" and "human rights defenders" that restoring East Turkistan's independence is the only way to guarantee and ensure the fundamental human rights, freedoms, and very existence of the Uyghur nation.

We want to make it clear to Wei Jingshen, his so-called "Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition," all Chinese forces which seek to continue Chinese occupation and colonization of East Turkistan, and the whole of the international community that East Turkistan and its people, especially the Uyghur nation, will no longer tolerate Chinese occupation, colonialism, racism, and Chinese chauvinism in any form.

We also call on the European Parliament, the National Endowment for Democracy, and other relevant entities to condemn Wei Jingshen's racist and supremacist attacks against the Uyghur nation facing genocide and rescind the awards given him.

Lastly, while we are grateful that many governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide are speaking out against China's genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan, we call on them to address the root cause of the ongoing genocide and understand the end goal of China's genocide.

China is waging genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan to ensure Chinese supremacy, occupation, and colonization of East Turkistan. We call on the international community to Act against Chinese colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan by recognizing East Turkistan as an occupied country, supporting our case against China at the International Criminal Court, and supporting the fundamental rights of East Turkistan and its people to regain their independence.

## Eid Al Fitr Greeting 2021

EDMONTON | 13 May 2021

*The below statement is attributed to the President's Office of the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

Assalam and Eid Mubarak!

On behalf of the people of East Turkistan, We want to wish all the Muslims across the world a happy end of Ramadan and blessed Eid al Fitr!

As Muslims across the world celebrate eid by attending mosques to pray Salat al-Fitr [Eid prayer], the Muslims of East Turkistan are once again prevented from celebrating Eid and performing their prayers.

For years, China has banned every aspect of Ramadan and Eid in East Turkistan. East Turkistani Muslims have been prevented from praying not only Salat al Fitr but also Salat al-Jummah (Friday prayers) and their five daily prayers.

During the month of Ramadan, East Turkistani Muslims have been forced to eat pork, drink alcohol, and smoke cigarettes to prove they are not fasting.

Millions of East Turkistani Muslims have been sent to concentration camps, prisons, and slave labor camps while the international community, especially the Muslim world, stood silent.

In recent years the Chinese government has destroyed over 16,000 mosques across East Turkistan, while altering remaining mosques into clubs, art galleries, museums, and cafes.

As Muslims, our deen [religion] requires us to help one another and help the oppressed. Thus, we call on all Muslims across the world to at the very least pray for an end to China's ruthless occupation and oppression in East Turkistan.

I ask you to refrain from enabling China's oppression in East Turkistan by boycotting goods Made in China.

We ask all the Muslims across the world to call on your community leaders, religious leaders, and governments to take action to help liberate East Turkistan and its people from Chinese oppression and occupation.

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May Allah protect all the people of the world, including the people of East Turkistan from oppression. May Allah soften the hearts of world leaders and give them strength to stand up against China's oppression in East Turkistan.

May everyone have a blessed Eid al Fitr!

## **East Turkistan Government in Exile Calls on New Zealand to Recognize China's Genocide in East Turkistan**

WASHINGTON | 2 May 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

New Zealand's ACT Party will be asking the New Zealand Parliament to debate a motion and vote on designating China's atrocities against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan (what China calls "Xinjiang") as genocide.

The motion, put forth by ACT Party deputy leader Brooke van Velden, is similar to those that were passed in the Parliaments of Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The motion will ask MPs to vote on whether the human rights atrocities in Chinese Occupied East Turkistan amount to genocide, and whether they should call upon the Government to "act to fulfill its obligation" under United Nations conventions.

"We thank New Zealand's ACT Party and its Deputy Leader Brooke van Velden for introducing this motion," said Vice President Abdulhat Nur of the East Turkistan Government in Exile. "The Uyghur and other Turkic people of East Turkistan are left at mercy of democratic nations across the globe to act to end the genocide; recognition is the first step," he added.

To date, New Zealand has recognized genocide three times in the past including The Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide of the Tutsi, and genocide conducted by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

"There is no doubt that what China is doing to Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan is genocide as defined under the UN Genocide Convention," said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile. "We urge all political parties in the New Zealand, especially the ruling Labour Party to vote yes on this motion and stand with the victims of genocide," he added.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE) and East Turkistanis (Uyghurs and others originating from East Turkistan) worldwide are hopeful that New Zealand will continue its long standing policy of

opposing genocide across the globe, including the genocide currently happening in Occupied East Turkistan.

The ETGE continues to call on other democratic nations across the world, including the EU, Germany, France, Australia, Japan and India, to also recognize the genocide occurring in East Turkistan.

The ETGE is also calling on the governments of New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S. to grant refuge to Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples fleeing genocide in East Turkistan and support East Turkistan's case against China at the International Criminal Court.

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## **East Turkistan Praises Lithuania's Parliament For Recognizing China's Genocide in East Turkistan And Calls On Other Countries to Follow Suit**

WASHINGTON | 20 May 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

On May 20th, 2021 the Parliament of Lithuania passed a resolution designating China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan as genocide.

Lithuania is the third country in Europe after the Netherlands and the United Kingdom whose Parliament has officially declared the horrors China is inflicting on the Uyghurs a "genocide." Outside Europe, similar declarations came from the United States and Canada.

"We thank Lithuania's Parliament for recognizing China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan as genocide," said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile. "We urge all nations in the Free World including all member states of the EU Council to follow suit."

The May 20 vote by the Lithuanian Parliament is important because Lithuania is the first country that is part of the Belt and Road Initiative to take such a brave stand on the Uyghur genocide, showing other countries that Belt and Road memorandums cannot tie the hands of democratic countries when human rights are at stake.

In fact, the resolution, passed in the Seimas, the Lithuanian Parliament, with a vote of 86 to one and seven abstentions, goes beyond East Turkistan and indicts China and its CCP for its massive violations of human rights and religious liberty.

Lithuania, the document says, “strongly condemns China’s massive, systematic and grave human rights violations and crimes against humanity.” It asks “the United Nations to initiate a legal inquiry into the Uyghur genocide in Xinjiang detention camps,” and calls on the European Parliament and the European Commission “to review the EU’s cooperation policy with China and formulate a clear position on China’s massive, systematic, and serious human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and the Uyghur genocide.”

Note: The term “Xinjiang” meaning “the Colony or the New Territory” is used by the Chinese government to refer to East Turkistan.

China, the document says, should “immediately end the illegal practice of organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience, release all prisoners of conscience in China, including members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, end the Uyghur genocide and close re-education camps, and release all detainees and prisoners in detention and forced labor camps,” reports *Bitter Winter*, an online magazine.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile urges the international community to support our ongoing case against China at the International Criminal Court and pressure the International Olympics Committee to relocate the upcoming Winter 2022 Olympics from China to another country not engaged in genocide.

## **East Turkistan Praises Italian Parliament For Condemning China’s Atrocities In East Turkistan And Urges Italy To Recognize The Genocide**

WASHINGTON | 26 May 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

On May 26th, 2021 the Italian Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously adopted a motion issuing the “strongest possible condemnation” of human rights abuses in East Turkistan.

Following months of debate on the issue, Italy’s House of Representatives approved, with no contrary vote, a unified text, condensing different resolutions presented by various Italian MPs including MPs Paolo Formentini, Andrea Delmastro, Lia Quartapelle, Iolanda Di Stasio, and Valentino Valentini, representing a wide bipartisan consensus.

The text of the resolution adopted a strong language focusing on illegal birth control practices, repression of religious freedom, forced labor, internment camps, arbitrary detention, and massive digital surveillance but failed to recognize it as genocide. The adopted Italian Parliamentary motion asks the Italian government to follow with similar condemnations of China at international level, taking seriously testimonies from East Turkistan and helping the victims. It also calls for a ban on trade of goods that may be connected to forced labor. And it asks China to allow free access in the East Turkistan to UNHCR officials as well as independent observers, researchers, and parliamentarians.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile praised Italy’s Chamber of Deputies’ Foreign Affairs Committee to condemning China’s atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan.

“We call on Italy’s Government and its Parliament to join the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, and Lithuania in recognizing China’s ongoing atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as genocide,” said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

## **Evidence of Chinese Operatives In Tajikistan Rounding Up Uyghurs And Deporting Them Submitted To ICC Prosecutors To Establish Jurisdiction**

THE HAGUE | 10 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

- Brand new evidence has been submitted to the ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) establishing that the Court has jurisdiction to open an investigation into the crimes being committed against Uyghurs by Chinese authorities.
- The evidence supports the Complaint which was filed on July 6th 2020 alleging that Chinese authorities are rounding up and forcefully deporting Uyghurs from Tajikistan, an ICC State Party, into China Occupied East Turkistan.
- The evidence shows a marked increase in deportations from 2016-2018 with an over 85% reduction of Uyghurs living in Tajikistan.
- There is also evidence of a newly constructed triple barbed wire Chinese border fence well within Tajik territory.
- The evidence also shows a newly constructed Chinese military base inside Tajikistan.
- The evidence has been submitted following the OTP's announcement that more evidence was needed to establish that the Court has jurisdiction to open an investigation, given that China is not an ICC State Party.
- The evidence was submitted by a team of lawyers led by Rodney Dixon QC on behalf of The East Turkistan Government in Exile, the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement, and Uyghur and other Turkic victims.

This morning, lawyers acting on behalf of The East Turkistan Government in Exile, the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement and Uyghur victims, have submitted a new dossier of evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) establishing that there is jurisdiction to open an investigation into the the Genocide and Crimes against Humanity committed against Uyghur and other Turkic peoples by Chinese authorities.

The evidence has been submitted following the release of the OTP's annual report in December 2020, indicating that more evidence to establish jurisdiction was required. This followed the submission of an Article 15 Complaint on July 6th 2020 requesting that an investigation be opened. It is the first time that evidence of this kind has been gathered and submitted to the ICC.

The evidence shows that Uyghurs have been targeted, rounded up, deported and disappeared from Tajikistan back into occupied East Turkistan (so-called "Xinjiang") by Chinese operatives. It demonstrates that Chinese authorities have directly intervened in Tajikistan. The ICC therefore has jurisdiction over these actions which start in Tajikistan and continue into China Occupied East Turkistan. The OTP is requested to open an ICC investigation without delay.

The evidence gathered to date shows that over the past 10-15 years the number of Uyghurs living in Tajikistan has been reduced from an estimated 3000 to approximately 100. This reduction in the numbers of Uyghurs in Tajikistan largely occurred from 2016 to 2018. This constitutes, an 85- 90% reduction of the Uyghur population in Tajikistan over this time.

It has been discovered that two main methods are used to bring Uyghurs back into Chinese Occupied East Turkistan. The first is through the exploitation of family ties, with Uyghurs receiving increasingly urgent phone calls from family members in China saying that they must return. In some cases they were threatened that the family will be arrested if they do not return. The second method used to bring Uyghurs back into China Occupied East Turkistan is through Chinese operatives working directly in Tajikistan. The Chinese Consulate fully controls all Uyghurs' paperwork in Tajikistan. They purposely delay the granting of visas, work permits etc. and then members of the Chinese Public Security Bureau who are present in Tajikistan direct local Tajik police to carry out raids on the areas where Uyghurs live and work.

Those without the 'correct paperwork' are then deported back into China by Chinese authorities in small groups of up to 10 to avoid international attention. The remaining Uyghurs are completely controlled by the Consulate and have to participate in weekly meetings with informers who report back to the Consulate.

The evidence also shows that the China-Tajik border is heavily controlled by Chinese authorities. There is a newly constructed Chinese border fence made up of three layers of barbed wire in the area of the Kulma pass, which is the main entry point into – and out of – China Occupied East Turkistan. It has cameras, Chinese flags and patrols along it. This fence is well within Tajik territory. There is also evidence of a newly-built Chinese military base around the Rangkul area of Tajikistan in addition to the already existing base in Badakhshan.

Mr. Dixon and his team have submitted that the new evidence shows that Chinese authorities have committed unlawful acts including arrests, enforced disappearances, abductions and deportations in Tajikistan, an ICC State Party. This alone gives the Court jurisdiction. In addition, these actions form the first step of a continuum of alleged criminal conduct amounting to genocide and crimes against humanity which continue within occupied East Turkistan/ Xinjiang. Where there is such continuity between the first element of the crime of genocide and crimes against humanity, and what happens upon return to China Occupied East Turkistan, the Court can exercise jurisdiction over the whole of the crime because part of the criminal conduct occurred in an ICC State Party. The investigation is on-going and more evidence will be presented in the coming months.

Speaking after the new evidence was submitted, Rodney Dixon QC said, “Based on this new dossier of evidence presented to the ICC Prosecutor, showing the actions of Chinese authorities directly in Tajikistan – an ICC State Party – it is clear that the ICC does have jurisdiction to open an investigation. The evidence shows a highly organized and systematic plan by the Chinese authorities to round up Uyghurs living in an ICC State Party and deport them back into China where they are never heard from again.”

“We urge the ICC Prosecutor to act swiftly as the situation is deteriorating daily. Uyghur people have suffered unspeakable crimes for too long. We must use all available legal mechanisms to achieve justice and accountability for them,” Mr. Dixon added.

“Although it is very depressing to see this new evidence, especially the terrifying extent to which Chinese authorities are acting even outside East Turkistan, I feel a sense of hope that the ICC will open

an investigation,” said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

“This will be the first step for ending the atrocities East Turkistan’s people have gone through including many of my own family members. Much more needs to be done to end the genocide of Uyghurs and we have great hope that the ICC will agree that they do have jurisdiction and the ability to investigate and prosecute these crimes. It is now more critical than ever, given that numerous governments and parliaments have already recognized this ongoing genocide,” Prime Minister Hudayar added.

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## **Uyghurs Urge G7 To Address China’s Ongoing Genocide in East Turkistan**

WASHINGTON | 11 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

Earlier today, the leaders of Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States together in Cornwall, UK to convene the 47th G7 Summit. Members of the G7 meet every year for a summit to discuss important issues on the global stage and coordinate policy.

In recent years, China has been engaging in a brutal campaign of genocide and other crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan, what Beijing calls “Xinjiang.” China and its Communist Party’s actions have been designated as genocide by the Government of the United States and the Parliaments of Canada, The Netherlands, the UK, and Lithuania.

Yesterday, lawyers acting on behalf of The East Turkistan Government in Exile and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement filed further evidence to the International Criminal Court to establish jurisdiction regarding their ongoing case to prosecute

China's officials accountable for genocide and other crimes against humanity. There is no doubt that China's ongoing genocide in East Turkistan is one, if not the most, pressing humanitarian crisis across the globe.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile and the global East Turkistani/Uyghur diaspora are calling on the international community, especially the G7 nations, to address the humanitarian crisis in East Turkistan and act to bring a swift end to decades of China's prolonged campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan.

"We again call on the G7 nations to issue a strong unified response to China's ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan," said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile calls on the G7 to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in East Turkistan by doing the following:

1. Jointly condemn and recognize China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as genocide;
2. Expedite existing asylum cases of Uyghurs and grant refuge to Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples fleeing China's genocide in East Turkistan;
3. Support East Turkistan's case against China's officials at the International Criminal Court;
4. Push back against Chinese intelligence operations targeting the East Turkistani/Uyghur organizations and diaspora communities across the globe;
5. Bring East Turkistan issue to the agenda of the UN Security Council;
6. Engage in Diplomatic Boycotts of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics;
7. Call on the UN and its member states to enforce the UN Genocide Convention and Uphold the Responsibility to Protect Commitment;
8. Acknowledge the root of China's ongoing colonization and genocide in East Turkistan by recognizing East Turkistan as an Occupied Country / Captive Nation;
9. Lastly, empower the East Turkistani people to safeguard and ensure their culture, freedom, human rights, and very existence..

## **East Turkistanis Commend Czech Senate For Recognizing China's Genocide Of Uyghurs, Urges Nato To Address Humanitarian Crisis In East Turkistan**

WASHINGTON | 14 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic adopted a resolution recognizing China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as genocide and calling on the Czech Government to engage in a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics over the genocide. The resolution, officially the 228th Resolution, was adopted at the 12th plenary session of the Czech Senate held on 10 June 2021.

The resolution states that the Czech Senate "notes with concern, that there are massive violations of human rights and freedoms, genocide and crimes against humanity, ethnic discrimination, and the suppression of cultural, religious, and political identity in the PRC, in particularly with the Autonomous Regions of Tibet and Xinjiang [East Turkistan]."

The East Turkistan Government in Exile thanks the Czech Republic's Senate for recognizing China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples as genocide, and for calling on the Czech Government to engage in a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter 2022 Olympics.

Also on 10 June 2021, lawyers for the East Turkistan Government in Exile and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement (ETNAM) filed further evidence in their complaint against China at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and is calling on the ICC member states to support its efforts to seek justice for the people of East Turkistan.

"We thank the Republic's Senate for joining the US, Canada, The Netherlands, the UK, and Lithuania by recognizing China's atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as genocide," stated Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

“The UN and NATO must urgently address this ongoing humanitarian crisis in East Turkistan,” he added calling on the NATO summit in Brussels to more openly address the genocide in East Turkistan.

On 14 June 2021, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) convened its 31st formal meeting of heads of state and heads of government in Brussels.

A joint communique was issued by NATO focusing on China, stating that China’s “stated ambitions and assertive behavior present systematic challenges to the rule-based order.” NATO also vaguely warned that it was concerned about China’s “coercive policies” in reference to China’s ongoing genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

There is no doubt that what China’s ongoing systematic attacks against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan constitute genocide as defined under the UN Genocide Convention and is in violation of international laws and norms.

As a result of China’s economic and political influence in the UN, the United Nations has been largely silent and has failed to address the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan.

The East Turkistani diaspora especially the Uyghurs, led by the East Turkistan Government in Exile are calling on NATO to urgently address the most pressing ongoing humanitarian crisis of the 21st century.

Previously, NATO engaged in humanitarian intervention to end Yugoslavia’s bloodshed and ethnic cleansing of Albanians and others in Kosovo. In March 2011, NATO also engaged in humanitarian intervention in Libya to end the mass atrocities committed by Libyan dictator Muammar Qadhafi against Libyan civilians.

## **East Turkistanis Praise Belgian Parliament For Recognizing Uyghur Genocide, Urges Others To Follow Suit**

WASHINGTON | 15 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

The Belgian Parliament voted on Tuesday and passed a motion recognizing China’s atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan as crimes

against humanity and warned of a “serious risk of genocide,” following the Czech Senate’s motion declaring China’s action as genocide.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile praises the Belgian people and their Parliament for recognizing the Chinese Government’s atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan, as genocide and crimes against humanity. Belgium’s Parliament became the sixth Parliament across the globe to declare China’s atrocities in East Turkistan as genocide.

“We thank the Parliament of Belgium for recognizing China’s atrocities against Uyghurs and there Turkic peoples in Occupied East Turkistan (so-called “Xinjiang”) as genocide,” said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile. “We call on the European Parliament and all free nations across the globe to follow suit,” he added.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile is calling on all governments and parliaments to take meaningful actions to bring an end to this ongoing humanitarian crisis by boycotting the Beijing 2022 Olympics, granting refugee to Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples fleeing genocide.

## Uyghurs Welcome Karim Khan Qc As New Chief Prosecutor Of Icc And Urges Him To Investigate Chinese Officials For Genocide

WASHINGTON | 17 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

Yesterday, British barrister Karim Khan QC was sworn in as the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor in The Hague. Khan pledged to reach out to nations that are not members of the court and try to hold trials in countries where crimes are committed.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE) welcomes Karim Khan as the new chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. "We urge him to act swiftly to investigate and prosecute China's officials responsible for the ongoing genocide of the Uyghurs," said President Ghulam Osman Yaghma of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

Last week, on July 10, lawyers for the East Turkistan Government in Exile and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement submitted a dossier of further evidence proving how China continues to capture and persecute Uyghurs who fled to other countries in an attempt to escape genocide and persecution. The new evidence showed that 85% to 90% of the Uyghur population in Tajikistan, a state party to the Rome Statute, were targeted by the Chinese government and forcibly taken back to China-Occupied East Turkistan (Xinjiang).

On behalf of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, the East Turkistan Government in Exile and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement originally submitted a formal complaint last year on July 6, 2020 urging the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate and prosecute Chinese officials responsible for genocide and other crimes against humanity.

In November 2020, the ICC complaint was backed by over 60 Parliamentarians from 16 countries yet the ICC's former Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda announced there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish jurisdiction at the time and had requested further evidence in December of 2020.

"Based on this new dossier of evidence presented to the ICC Prosecutor, showing the actions of Chinese authorities directly in Tajikistan – an ICC State Party – it is clear that the ICC does have jurisdiction to open an investigation," said British Barrister Rodney Dixon, QC

who is representing the East Turkistan Government in Exile at the ICC. "The evidence shows a highly organized and systematic plan by the Chinese authorities to round up Uyghurs living in an ICC State Party and deport them back into China where they are never heard from again," Mr. Dixon added.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile and Uyghurs across the globe call on Karim Khan, the new chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to act quickly and open an investigation against China's officials, including President Xi Jinping, for their role in the ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

"The world needs to act to end China's genocide of Uyghurs. We have great hope that the ICC's new prosecutor, Karim Khan, will agree that they have jurisdiction and can investigate and prosecute these crimes. It is now more critical than ever, given that numerous governments and parliaments have already recognized this ongoing genocide," said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

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## Uyghurs Condemn Silence Of Muslim World, Praise Western World And Urge OIC To Act

WASHINGTON | 24 June 2021

*The following is a Press Release by the East Turkistan Government in Exile*

On Tuesday, June 22, Canada led a statement by more than 40 countries at the United Nations calling on China to allow the U.N. human rights chief immediate access into East Turkistan, to investigate the mass internment, forced labor, and other atrocities against Uyghurs.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE) commends Canada for leading this effort and praises all the freedom-loving nations that value human rights for backing the statement.

“Some 40 countries, including Israel, backed a statement at the U.N. condemning China’s ongoing atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic people in East Turkistan,” said Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of The East Turkistan Government in Exile. “Sadly, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina were the only Muslim countries to support the statement,” he added.

The overwhelming majority of Muslim countries across the globe have been increasingly silent on China’s ongoing genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, who are majority Muslim. Countries like Pakistan and Turkey, which often accuse the west of Islamophobia, continue to turn a blind eye as Chinese investments and loans buy their silence.

A recent report by the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs found that the Islamic World by in large, has been collaborating with China’s ongoing global campaign against the Uyghur in exchange for lucrative economic investments and loans.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) claims to “protect the interests of the Muslim world in a spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people in the world.” Yet, it has failed to condemn China’s wholesale attack against Islam and the ongoing genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in East Turkistan.

“The Islamic World has failed to live up to its promises of Muslim solidarity. It failed to stand by us; instead, they are standing with China who is oppressing East Turkistan and its people,” said Vice President Abdulahat Nur of the East Turkistan Government in Exile.

“We condemn the silence and the hypocrisy of the Muslim world on China’s ongoing genocide against East Turkistan and its people,” stated Prime Minister Hudayar.

Does the Muslim world not see Uyghurs and other East Turkistanis as Muslims? Or is the temporary wealth they receive from China more valuable than Islam and their very responsibility towards humanity?” Prime Minister Hudayar asked

The East Turkistan Government in Exile is calling on the Islamic world, especially Muslim governments and organizations like the OIC, to rectify their mistakes and come to the aid of the oppressed, majority Muslim, people of Occupied East Turkistan.

## Opinion: Corporations Should Think Twice Before Sponsoring The ‘Genocide Olympics’



Photo credit: Aly Song/Reuters

WASHINGTON POST | 6 May 2021

*The below Opinion was published by the Editorial Board of the Washington Post,*

Notwithstanding their ringing declarations on human rights, some of the world's biggest corporations are silent and scampering for cover under scrutiny for their sponsorship of next year's Olympic Winter Games in a country engaged in genocide.

That country, of course, is China, which has undertaken a ghastly campaign of forcible sterilization, rape, torture, imprisonment, forced labor and so-called reeducation on a mass scale against millions among its Uyghur Muslim minority. As Beijing prepares to host the XXIV Winter Games, it is crushing dissent on the mainland and in Hong Kong, running a network of concentration camps and intensifying a campaign of intimidation and terror that has targeted lawyers, journalists and anyone else who dares to criticize the rising tide of tyranny overseen by President Xi Jinping.

The Games' major corporate backers might imagine that by plowing more than \$1 billion into sponsorship deals for the 2022 Games they will associate their brands and logos with the pageantry, pizzazz and athletic prodigies that will be beamed around the globe. They ought to reconsider how those brands and logos will fare, along with their profits, in an event orchestrated and overshadowed by a regime dedicated to human rights abuses on a grand scale.

Because even as the world's gaze is concentrated on the sporting events and arenas in and around Beijing, coverage of the Games will also train a spotlight of unprecedented intensity on the violence and repression 2,000 miles to the west in China's Xinjiang region.

That means it's time for a rethink by Coca-Cola, Visa and Airbnb. You too, Panasonic, Toyota and others. They are among the multinational firms that have ignored letters from a coalition of some 200 human rights groups, and were silent when the Financial Times newspaper asked whether they were reviewing their sponsorship plans in light of the campaign against the Uyghurs, to say nothing of Beijing's aggressive campaign to snuff out democracy, freedom of expression, human rights and any shred of autonomy in Hong Kong.

The question has gained urgency since late March, when the State Department formally declared Beijing guilty of genocide against China's 12 million-strong Uyghur community.

What's more, it's fair to hold those companies to the standards many have set publicly for themselves. For instance, is Visa serious that it values "respect for human rights into the expectations of our partnerships and sponsorships," as it proclaims? Is Toyota really a firm that "practices the philosophy of 'Respect for People,'" as it asserts?

Coca-Cola gravely declares: "Where we have identified adverse human rights impacts resulting from or caused by our business activities, we are committed to provide for, or cooperate in, their fair and equitable remediation."

If so, how exactly would Coca-Cola go about remediating the Uyghurs for the unquantifiable harm that may fall upon them if, as Beijing clearly hopes, its regime is legitimized and its image airbrushed by the Winter Games and their major sponsors?

The XXIV Games will forever be regarded as the Genocide Olympics. Sponsors cannot indefinitely duck the questions, or their responsibility.

## Opinion: China's Repression of Uyghurs Is Not Only Cultural, But Also Physical, A New Report Shows



Uyghurs, Tibetans, and supporters demonstrate in London urging the U.K. to recognize China's atrocities as genocide | Photo credit: Peter Nichols/ Reuters

WASHINGTON POST | 16 May 2021

*The below Opinion was published by the Editorial Board of the Washington Post*

AFTER THE Holocaust, the U.N. General Assembly meeting in Paris on Dec. 9, 1948, approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It defined genocide as, among other things, “imposing measures intended to prevent births” within a population and said genocide is a crime under international law, whether in peace or war, to be prevented and punished. The promise was “never again.”

But it is happening again in China, a signatory to the treaty, as part of China's crackdown since 2016 on ethnic minority Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region in the far northwest. At first, reports suggested that China was brainwashing the Uyghurs and others, who were forced into concentration camps and coerced to drop their language and traditions. China claimed the camps were for vocational education, but eyewitnesses described an archipelago of austere penitentiaries and brutal reeducation routines intended to wipe out the Uyghur identity and culture.

Evidence is emerging that China's repression is not only cultural but also physical. In a report last year by researcher Adrian Zenz for the Jamestown Foundation, and in a new report this month by Nathan Ruser and James Leibold for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, both based on China's own government data, a precipitous drop in Uyghur birthrates is evident in areas of southern Xinjiang. This appears to be the result of a drive by China at mass sterilization, coerced birth control and punitive family policies.

Mr. Zenz showed how Uyghur birthrates had soared in the years before the crackdown, then nosedived. He reported that Uyghurs before 2015 commonly exceeded state limits on the number of children, resulting only in fines, but policies changed drastically starting in 2017, with widespread punishments for those who broke the limits.

The new report echoes Mr. Zenz. It found China put in place “a more coercive and intrusive policing of reproduction processes” against the Uyghurs, with hefty fines, disciplinary punishment and extrajudicial internment or the threat of it for any “illegal births.”

As a result, it says, in areas where Uyghurs are concentrated, birthrates plunged on average by 43.7 percent between 2017 and 2018. The authors say that, overall, Uyghurs have suffered “proportionally the most extreme” birthrate decline over a two-year period globally since 1950. Despite differences, they add, “this decline in birth-rate is more than double the rate of decline in Cambodia at the height of the Khmer Rouge genocide (1975-79).”

In 2020 in Maralbeshi County, which is 94 percent Uyghur, the government set a birthrate target of 4.15 per 1,000 people, down from 51.53 in 2017. That target is less than half of China's national birthrate of 10.48 per 1,000 in 2019. Ironically, this crushing blow against the Uyghur population came as China faces a nationwide demographic crisis and has begun to ease restrictions on births by Han families.

All the multinational companies supporting China's 2022 Winter Olympics — Airbnb, Bridgestone, Intel, Coca-Cola, P&G, Samsung, Toyota, Visa, Panasonic and others — should take note. Either you believe in “never again,” or you contribute to “once again.”

## 'They're Waiting For Us': Uyghurs Plead With Biden To Fight The Genocide Of Their Kin in East Turkistan



Uyghurs led by ETNAM demonstrate in front of the White House | Photo credit: The Federalist

WASHINGTON | 10 June 2021

*The below article was published by The Federalist*

***'We have faith, in God and the mercy of democratic, freedom-loving nations like the United States, that the world will come to liberate them from the camps ... and ensure our survival.'***

A 3-year-old boy skips in front of the White House, playfully poking bystanders, giggling as they shy away from his blue and white flag. Three-thousand miles away in East Turkistan, hundreds of his relatives are being murdered, sterilized, and silenced in concentration camps run by the Chinese Communist Party.

"Since China occupied East Turkistan in late 1949, the Chinese government has executed a brutal persecution campaign against the Uyghur and other Turkish populations in East Turkistan," said Salih Hudayar, founder of the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement (ETNAM), at a march against China's genocide in East Turkistan on Friday.

"In recent years, China's colonization and occupation has exacerbated what is, without doubt, genocide as defined under international law."

Hudayar, a Uyghur American, political refugee, and prime minister of the East Turkistan Government in Exile, was born in East Turkistan. His great-grandfather was killed when China re-annexed East Turkistan in 1949, capturing the area now known as Xinjiang.

Uyghur Muslims have a more than 4,000-year heritage in East Turkistan, and historically, East Turkistan is a part of Central Asia, not China. Friday marked the second time Hudayar's activist organization has protested in front of the White House.

About 12 million Turkic-speaking Muslims, mostly Uyghurs reside in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. With such an extensive lineage, Uyghur Muslims, whom Hudayar said used to occupy more than 90 percent of East Turkistan and now make up less than 40 percent of the region's population, are calling on the United States for support — specifically for a boycott of the 2022 Olympics, which will be held in Beijing.

"We ask the G7 nations, especially the United States, led by President Joe Biden, to set a moral example by leading the globe in boycotting the Beijing 2022 Olympics," Hudayar said. "We should not empower China by allowing it to host the Winter Olympics while it is engaged in genocide and other crimes against humanity."

On his final day in office, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared the situation in Xinjiang an "ongoing genocide." Pompeo accused China of committing crimes against humanity, calling on "all appropriate multilateral and relevant juridical bodies to join the United States in our effort to promote accountability for those responsible for these atrocities." Australia and New Zealand have formally declared China's activity in Xinjiang genocide as well.

Despite current Secretary of State Antony Blinken's classification of China's acts as genocide during his Senate confirmation hearing in January, the Biden administration has advanced few concrete actions against the Communist regime. China, of course, denies that this is a genocide. Its foreign ministry said it "firmly opposed" the classification, arguing that the State Department's declaration "grossly interfered in China's internal affairs."

“The leaders of Australia and New Zealand, with irresponsible remarks on China’s internal affairs relating to Hong Kong and Xinjiang as well as the South China Sea issue, have made groundless accusations against China, grossly interfered in China’s internal affairs and seriously violated the international law and basic norms governing international relations,” said Wang Wenbin, China’s foreign ministry spokesman, in a statement released June 1.

According to a report released in March by the Washington, D.C. think-tank Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy, the Chinese government has violated “each and every” provision in the United Nations’ Genocide Convention.

Various violations include forcibly transferring children away from their homes, forced birth control, creating conditions that cause physical destruction, causing bodily or mental harm, and issuing long-term prison sentences and executions. Along with physical destruction, the Chinese government has launched attacks against cultural, domestic, and religious norms in the Uyghur community, demolishing about 16,000 mosques and various sites of mass pilgrimage in the region since its occupation.

Evidence from sources inside the camp, refugees, and surveillance footage show the atrocities committed in East Turkistan. Allegations of daily gang rape, sexual torture, human trafficking, mandatory birth control and sterilizations, and separating children from families are only the tip of the iceberg.

Although intense surveillance makes hard evidence of such atrocities rare, the Chinese Communist Party formally confirmed a birth prevention campaign in the region. In January, China’s U.S. Embassy tweeted a study showing that “in the process of eradicating extremism, the minds of Uygur women in Xinjiang were emancipated and gender equality and reproductive health were promoted, making them no longer baby-making machines.”

The tweet has since been removed for violating Twitter rules, though Twitter did not explain what rule was violated.

Since 2017, numerous “re-education” camps have been introduced into the region. Hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs have been thrown into prison or “vocational

schools,” and many more Uyghur children have been separated from their families and forced into boarding schools. Although China has disputed the purposes of these camps, it does not dispute the existence and expansion of them.

One Uyghur concentration camp survivor, Tursunay Ziyawudun, who testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in May, was physically tortured for a year.

“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,” Ziyawudun said.

“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.” Hudayar, who last spoke to his Uyghur relatives in 2017, said he spends sleepless nights worrying about the nightmarish conditions his people experience in East Turkistan.

“Every time I hear about more women being raped, or children trying to commit suicide by drinking detergent because they’re deprived from their families and sent to state-run boarding schools, that drives me to continue fighting,” Hudayar said. “No matter what we do, we could be out here for hours, days, years. All of our activism won’t even amount to 30 seconds of the torture they’re going through.”

Amannissa Mukhlis, ETNAM’s women’s and family outreach director, is a Uyghur Muslim from Kazakhstan and says she is the great-granddaughter to a former major general of the East Turkistan Republic’s National Army and the grand-niece to the founder of the United Revolutionary Front of East Turkistan. Mukhlis and her family have experienced loss and grief, but she said she can imagine no greater pain than what families face in East Turkistan.

“Chinese attack women by harvesting their organs, forcibly sterilizing them, and raping them every day. Once I became a mother I understood the pain of the mother, being separated from their child,” Mukhlis said.

“But I cannot imagine the pain of the woman in Eastern Turkistan. Each of us have families, mothers,

wives, children — so can you imagine being separated from your kids, or being abused by some random man? Uyghurs are not different. They want the best for their families.”

Considering China’s deep ties in U.S. imports and trade, Hudayar noted, the U.S. is in a sticky situation — but in a genocide he likened to the Holocaust, Hudayar said the U.S. can’t stand idly by.

“We have faith, in God and the mercy of democratic, freedom-loving nations like the United States, that the world will come to liberate them from the camps, to liberate them from the prisons, and to essentially liberate our country as a whole and ensure our survival,” Hudayar said. “And that’s what they’re waiting for inside [East Turkistan], as well. They’re waiting for us.”

The United States should act against the Chinese Communist Party for their own interests as well, Hudayar added.

“The Coronavirus was manufactured deliberately by the Chinese government, and they spread it out across the world. If they’re doing this to the world today, God knows what else they will want to do tomorrow,” Hudayar said.

“We have to stop them before it’s too late. It’s not about an attack against the Uyghurs or East Turkistan — we’re just the gateway. Once they’re finished with us, they’ll move westward, all the way to Europe, and they’ve already infiltrated various institutions in the United States. Not a lot of people are aware of the threat and danger that China poses to the very existence of the United States itself.”

The Geneva Convention promised that a genocide would “never again” happen. With an estimated 1 million Uyghur Muslims in detention camps, Hudayar said, it’s time the U.S. renews that vow.

## Safe In The Bay Area, A Uyghur Fears For His Family At Home



Uyghurs led by ETNAM hold a demonstration in front of the White House | Photo credit: ETGE

SAN FRANCISCO | 28 May 2021

*The below article was published by The Jewish News of Northern California*

In 2016, Weli cut ties with everyone back home. “I deleted all of my contacts — my dad, my siblings, everyone,” he told J.

He’d been in the United States since 2009, with plans to return to Xinjiang, a Chinese autonomous region of deserts and mountains that is the home of the Uyghurs, a predominately Muslim ethnic minority who have long been persecuted by the Chinese government. But by 2016, the situation for Uyghurs in their homeland was worsening, and the few reports leaking out pointed to an active genocide.

Weli, a Uyghur in the Bay Area with a degree in mechanical engineering, asked J. not to use his full name for fear of retaliation against family members back in China. Paranoia, perhaps justified, is a familiar feeling for him. As a regular attendee of protests in the Bay Area, he fears for his own safety and the safety of his relatives.

“Families back home can get convicted for many years if we get involved with protests. We can’t even tell the world about what’s happening,” he said.

He estimates there are about 500 Uyghurs in the Bay Area. “It could be more, but some are afraid [and stay hidden]. The Chinese spy network is very wide, and we

don't even know if some people in our community may be part of it," he said. "Plus, San Francisco is a heavily Chinese area. There has to be some spies."

When Weli was entering high school in Xinjiang — or East Turkistan, as advocates for Uyghur independence prefer — he was selected for a supposedly elite program for Uyghur students.

"They sent us to Chinese cities like Beijing and Shanghai, densely populated Han Chinese areas," he recalled. (Han Chinese are the dominant ethnic group in the country.)

Taking the children of ethnic minorities and sending them to schools far from home with no access to their own culture is a recognized aspect of some genocides, in which the goal is not necessarily the extinction of the targeted group but the eradication of their culture.

The United States, for example, once had an official government policy of sending Native American children to residential boarding schools that attempted to strip them of their indigenous culture — to "civilize" and "Christianize" them.

After he received his undergraduate degree in 2009, Weli went home to Xinjiang for a few weeks before heading to the United States for grad school. That was the last time he was home.

"Since before I came [to the U.S. in 2009], there were people who have been protesting" at the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco, he said. And now he's one of them.

"It's like a tradition. We have [annual] protests to commemorate the Ghulja Massacre," he said, referring to an incident in which 200 Uyghurs were executed for their participation in a 1997 protest.

In 2009, another tragedy was added to the protesters' repertoire: the July 5 massacre, also known as the Ürümqi riots, in which thousands of Uyghurs were detained or killed following a protest that turned violent.

Weli is involved with the East Turkistan independence movement, which is represented on the international stage by the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile. (These groups advocate for the complete independence of

the Xinjiang region, while another global Uyghur movement, the World Uyghur Congress, advocates for reform and greater autonomy under continued Chinese rule.)

In an interview with J., Salih Hudayar, prime minister of the government-in-exile, said that Jewish communities, particularly in Europe, have started to become active on the issue. "We've had Jewish people all across the world, especially in the U.K. and Europe, and some here in the U.S. now, become involved," he said.

Hudayar, 28, lives in the Washington, D.C., area, where he has spoken at a number of synagogues. "We're truly grateful the Jewish communities have been helpful, despite the fact that we're majority Muslim."

Hudayar said the best way Jews can help is to raise awareness and spread the word about what's happening in East Turkistan. "Hold events, hold a webinar, have a speaking engagement, have victims of the camps and survivors explain what's going on," he said. "Once we have the people, once they're aware of it, then that increases pressure on governments to act."

In the U.K., for example, Jewish activists played an important role in getting Parliament to officially recognize the ongoing atrocities as a genocide. (The Trump administration made the same official recognition on its final day in office, and the Biden administration has identified the situation in Xinjiang as a genocide as well.)

For Hudayar, who came to the U.S. as a child in 2000 as a political refugee, staying silent or hiding his identity is not an option. "I have over 100 relatives that have been taken into the camps or killed," he said. "If I am silent, if we all remain silent, and we are all afraid, then no one is going to speak out, nothing will get done, and the Chinese government will have won."

Despite Hudayar's determination, the mood is bleak in the Uyghur diaspora. Bay Area Uyghurs rarely get together for holidays and celebrations, Weli said.

"Recently, this kind of entertainment-style celebration and gatherings stopped because no one is in the mood for entertainment in our community nowadays," Weli said. "But protests are ongoing as the situation permits."

## Japanese Firms Plan To Boycott Chinese Partners Forcing Uyghurs To Work



TOKYO | 1 May 2021

*The below article was published by Japan Forward*

Global criticism of the forced labor of Uyghurs is growing, but China's retaliation against companies standing up against human rights abuses is causing new anxiety for Japanese companies.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) for the January-to-March 2021 quarter grew by a whopping 18.3% over the corresponding period in 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) announced on April 16. The pickup in China's economy has been a tailwind for Japanese companies that export to China or have manufacturing bases there.

However, a new risk has emerged revolving around the abuse of human rights in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Japanese companies say they will take a firm stance in suspending business relations with business partners that are found to be forcing Uyghurs to work. On the other hand, there has been concern over Chinese threats to retaliate with boycotts against Japanese goods, which has put the companies in a tough position.

### The Risk Is One Of Human Rights

The improvement in China's economy has been assisted by the containment of COVID-19's reemergence in the country in early 2021. Investment in factories and AI manufacturing, among other categories, has increased by more than 20%. The index

for March also suggests that consumption has grown by more than 30%.

This has also boosted the recovery of Japanese companies, particularly those in Western Japan which export a large share of their goods to China.

"There has been an acceleration of investments in infrastructure in China and in the import of construction machinery and related items in particular" (citing a machinery manufacturer in Kobe), the Bank of Japan noted in its most recent quarterly Report on Regional Economies (Sakura Report), which was released on April 15.

A major electronic components company, Murata Manufacturing, has indicated that led by China-driven earnings, it expects to report record profits of ¥ 290 billion JPY (\$2.662 billion USD) for the fiscal year ending March 21. However, a new risk is emerging in the oppression of Uyghur minorities. Japanese companies are subject to criticism if their Chinese partners use the forced labor of Uyghurs at any stage in the supply chain.

### Over 80 Companies Worldwide?

According to a report published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in February 2020, over 80 of the world's leading companies have done business with Chinese factories involved in the forced labor of Uyghurs. The Japan Uyghur Association, a group made up of Uyghurs in Japan, and Human Rights Now, an international human rights organization, has investigated the corporate position on forced labor of 14 Japanese companies whose names were raised in the ASPI report, and announced their findings.

Thirteen companies, excluding Panasonic, responded. Each one either denied having direct dealings with the indicated suppliers suspected of using Uyghur forced labor, or claimed that they could not confirm that suppliers were using forced labor. Moreover, most responded that they would cease to do business with any business partner found to be engaged in human rights violations.

Panasonic did not respond before the investigation's deadline, and attempts to reach the company by phone yielded only statements that the question would be "passed on to the department in charge".

Panasonic also did not respond to a request for comment by The Sankei Shimbun on April 15. On the other hand, Sharp Corporation, which responded to the survey, told the The Sankei Shimbun on April 15 that: "In our investigation so far we have been unable to confirm the fact of forced human labor on the part of our suppliers." The company went on to add: "Our company policy does not tolerate human rights violations such as forced labor. If such facts are later found to be true, we will insist that our supplier correct the situation. If that fails, we will consider measures such as terminating our business dealings."

The problem is that the threat of a Chinese boycott of Japanese companies looms in cases where business relationships are terminated because of human rights violations found in the Chinese supply chain. In a recent case, major Swedish clothing retailer Hennes and Mauritz (H&M) expressed concern about the Uyghur issue and declared that it would no longer buy high quality Uyghur-produced Xinjiang cotton. In response, the Communist Youth League of China, a subsidiary of the Chinese Communist Party, initiated a social network campaign calling for a boycott of all H&M products, which spread quickly.

Japanese companies too could find themselves in the same situation if they take firm action.

### **Between A Rock And A Hard Place**

However, if the companies take a passive course of action on human rights violations in order to avoid a Chinese boycott, then it is inevitable that Japanese consumers and the rest of the world — other than China — would turn their backs. Indeed, the Japanese companies are sitting between a rock and a hard place.

Hideyuki Araki, chief researcher at Resona Group, says that "Japanese companies are faced with a difficult choice on their course of action. If they terminate business relationships with their Chinese suppliers, depending on the scale of the business, it could take time to find new locations for production or other tasks."

Moreover, he adds, "In the first place, it is very difficult to verify what information is correct, and (on whether

there is forced labor) [the companies] have no choice but to rely on China for the facts." Yet, if it later comes to light that Japanese companies have failed to grasp the facts, their delayed response will leave them vulnerable to increased criticism.

When doing business in China, "There are the U.S.-China trade disputes, and COVID-19, as well as the issues over the South China Sea and Taiwan," Araki says. Japanese companies are "reliant on China," Araki says. But the many risks are now putting them in a precarious position.

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### **How China Used Award-Winning iPhone Hack To Spy On Uyghur Muslims Detailed In Report**

BEIJING | 6 May 2021

*The below article was published by Newsweek*

The Chinese government used an award-winning iPhone hack first discovered three years ago at a Beijing hacking competition in order to spy on the phones of Uyghur Muslims, according to a new report. The report, published Thursday by MIT Technology Review, detailed how the government was able to successfully tap into the phones of Uyghur Muslims in 2018 using a sophisticated technique.

The U.S. government and several large technology companies have known for years that China has been targeting the ethnic minority through an aggressive campaign that attacks social media, phones and other technologies. The campaign has also targeted journalists and impersonated Uyghur news media. In the country's Xinjiang region, China has placed more than 1 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities into detainment camps, where they force people to work against their will. The Chinese have been accused of committing systemic abuse and rape.

In January, the U.S. government declared that China's actions against the Uyghurs are genocide. In Thursday's

report, MIT Technology Review detailed how China was able to successfully spy on Uyghur iPhones using a hacking vulnerability that was discovered during the Beijing competition.

The hacking competition, known as the Tianfu Cup, was kick-started in China in November 2018 as a way for Chinese hackers to find flaws in popular tech software. The competition was modeled after an international event known as Pwn2Own, which invites hackers from around the world to demonstrate tech vulnerabilities so companies can find and fix flaws in their products, according to the report.

But China's Tianfu Cup was created as a means for Chinese hackers to demonstrate such flaws without publicizing them to the international community. That way, the Chinese government would be able to use certain hacking techniques discovered at the event for their own purposes, according to the report.

"The original decision to not allow the hackers to go abroad to competitions seems to be motivated by a desire to keep discovered vulnerabilities inside of China," Adam Segal, an expert on Chinese cybersecurity policy at the Council for Foreign Relations, said in the report.

In that 2018 competition, a Chinese hacker discovered a weakness in the core of Apple's iPhone operating system that allowed him to hack into any phone that visited a webpage encrypted with a malicious code. The hacker, Qixun Zhao, dubbed the technique "chaos" because of its disruptive nature.

Just two months later, Apple issued a quick update to fix the targeted flaw in January 2019. However, in the nearly overnight period between when the hack was discovered and when the problem was solved, China was able to use the vulnerability to specifically target Uyghurs.

"The incident is stark. One of China's elite hacked an iPhone, and won public acclaim and a large amount of money for doing so. Virtually overnight, Chinese intelligence used it as a weapon against a besieged minority ethnic group, striking before Apple could fix the problem," the report states.

Later in 2019, Apple issued a statement confirming that the attack took place over that two-month period and

that hackers were largely targeting the Uyghur community.

"The attack affected fewer than a dozen websites that focus on content related to the Uyghur community. Regardless of the scale of the attack, we take the safety and security of all users extremely seriously," the statement said.

"Our product security teams around the world are constantly iterating to introduce new protections and patch vulnerabilities as soon as they're found. We will never stop our tireless work to keep our users safe," the company added.

Apple is not the only company to be targeted by Chinese hackers for the purpose of spying on the Uyghur community. In March, Facebook discovered that Chinese hackers used fake Facebook profiles to spy on Uyghur activists, journalists and dissidents from Xinjiang.

In some cases, the hackers created look-alike websites and accounts that were almost identical to legitimate news sites popular with Uyghur Muslims across Xinjiang. Those fake accounts contained malicious links that infected computers and smartphones if clicked, which would then allow the hackers to gain access and spy on devices.

"They tried to create these personas, build trust in the community and use that as a way to trick people into clicking on these links to expose their devices," Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, told reporters in March.

Newsweek contacted Apple for a response, but it declined to comment beyond the 2019 press release and original report.

Related

## China Tries to Kibosh Wednesday UN Event on Uyghur Genocide

WASHINGTON | 11 May 2021

*The below article was published by The Taiwan Times*

China has urged United Nations member states not to attend an event planned this week by Germany, the United States, and Britain on the repression of Uyghur Muslims and other peoples in East Turkistan (renamed Xinjiang), according to a note seen by Reuters on May 7th. The ambassadors of the United States, Germany, and Britain are due to address the virtual U.N. event on Wednesday.

Salih Hudayar, a political refugee, Uyghur American, and the Prime Minister of the East Turkistan Government in Exile, is available for comment. He is also the founder of the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement in Washington, DC.

“The UN must not appease China by canceling this much-needed meeting on the genocide of Uyghurs. UN member states need to fulfill their obligations under the UN Genocide Convention and the Responsibility to Protect Commitment,” Mr. Hudayar said. “We urge the UN and its member states to take strong actions to end China’s ongoing genocide in East Turkistan.”

Prime Minister Hudayar recently spoke with Grant Stinchfield on the genocide of the Uyghurs in an exclusive interview on Newsmax TV.

The East Turkistan Government in Exile is urging the UN Security Council to bring the East Turkistan issue to its agenda and work to bring an end to China’s decades-long systematic campaign of colonization, genocide, and occupation in East Turkistan.

“We also urge UN member states to support our case against China at the International Criminal Court and grant refugee status to Uyghurs and others fleeing genocide in East Turkistan” Hudayar said.

“It is a politically-motivated event,” China’s U.N. mission wrote in the note, dated May 6th. “We request your mission NOT to participate in this anti-China event.” The Chinese mission to the United Nations confirmed the note and China’s opposition to the event.

## China Uses Coercive Policies in East Turkistan To Drive Down Uyghur Birth Rates, Think Tank Says

CANBERRA | 13 May 2021

*The below article was published by Reuters,*

Coercive policies in China’s far western region of Xinjiang have led to a sharp decline in birth rates for Uyghurs and other minorities, which could add to evidence of genocide, an Australian think tank said in a report released on Wednesday.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) report, citing official Chinese data, said that there has been an “unprecedented and precipitous drop in official birth-rates in Xinjiang since 2017,” when China began a campaign to control birth rates in the region. Xinjiang’s birth rate dropped by nearly half from 2017 to 2019, and counties where the population was predominately Uyghur or another minority group saw much sharper declines than other counties, the government-funded institute said in the report.

China maintains that changes in birth rates are linked to improved health and economic policy and it strongly rejects accusations of genocide.

ASPI “fabricates data and distorts facts,” Hua Chunying, China’s foreign ministry spokeswoman, told a daily news briefing in Beijing on Thursday. Xinjiang’s Uyghur population grew faster than that of the Han between 2010 and 2018, and Xinjiang’s birth control policies do not target any single ethnic minority group, she said.

The ASPI analysis is based on Chinese government data, including regional population figures released in March. “Our analysis builds on previous work and provides compelling evidence that Chinese government policies in Xinjiang may constitute an act of genocide,” it said.

The ASPI report said birth rates in counties with a 90 percent or greater indigenous population declined by an average of 56.5 percent from 2017 to 2018, far more than other regions in Xinjiang and China during the same period.

Fines, internment, or the threat of internment, were among the methods used by authorities to discourage births, it said. There have been growing calls among some western states for an investigation into whether Beijing's actions in Xinjiang amount to genocide.

The United States government and parliaments in countries including Britain and Canada have described China's policies in Xinjiang as genocide. According to the 1948 U.N. Genocide Convention, there would need to be proof of intent by Beijing to destroy an ethnic population in part to meet that determination.

Rights groups, researchers, former residents and some western lawmakers say Xinjiang authorities have arbitrarily detained around a million Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim minorities in a network of camps since 2016. Beijing initially denied the camps existed but has since said they are vocational training centres designed to combat religious extremism, and that all people in the centres have "graduated".

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## Forced Labour From Uyghurs 'Behind Global Supply of Solar Panels'

LONDON | 15 May 2021

*The below article was published by METRO,*

A huge chunk of the world's solar panels production depends on forced labour from China's Uyghur Muslims, according to new research.

An investigation by Sheffield Hallam University estimates almost half of global supplies of polysilicon are produced by Uyghurs under conditions 'tantamount to enslavement' in their home province of Xinjiang. Some 95 per cent of all solar panels need polysilicon, used to make cells which convert light into electricity. More than 90 per cent of all polysilicon ends up being used for this purpose. The other 10 per cent is used to make semiconductors – key components in smartphones, laptops, and various other devices using electrical circuits.

China has come under intense international scrutiny for its treatment of Uyghurs, notably in mass 're-education' camps where former detainees claim to have experienced a system of mass torture, rape and forced sterilisation of women. Officials deny human rights abuses and say the programmes are designed to 'rehabilitate' offenders linked to 'terrorism' in the province. The government freely admits to the 'placement' of 2.6 million 'minoritised' citizens in various factory and farm jobs in Xinjiang and other provinces, but insists they are all taking part in voluntary 'labour transfer' schemes.

The researchers pieced together dozens of documents issued by Chinese authorities and companies. They said 'labour transfers are deployed in the Uighur Region within an environment of unprecedented coercion, undergirded by the constant threat of re-education and internment.' Accepting jobs in factories hundreds of miles away from home was often the only way for Uyghurs to leave the camps, the report added. The ruling Chinese Communist Party has warned that Uyghurs who 'refuse to improve their vocational skills [and] economic conditions' are effectively allying themselves with the ideas of 'terrorists, separatists and religious extremists'.

The researchers concluded: 'Many indigenous workers are unable to refuse or walk away from these jobs, and thus the programmes are tantamount to forcible transfer of populations and enslavement.'

Approximately 45 per cent of all polysilicon comes from manufacturers in the Uighur region, all of which admit to participating in the 'labour transfer' schemes or use suppliers that do, according to the report. It was produced by an academic who has advised the UK and Australian governments on the Uighur region along with a supply chain analyst specialising in Chinese exporting businesses.

The authors, who between them have lived in Xinjiang for 24 years, said they had 'investigated the entire solar module supply chain from quartz to panel'. In March, the UK, US, Canada and the European Union sanctioned Chinese officials deemed to be responsible for human rights abuses in the Uighur region. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called the situation in Xinjiang 'one of the worst human rights crises of our time' and said the international community 'cannot simply look the other way'.

## House Bill Wants Biden Plan on China's Uyghur Genocide



U.S. Capitol Building | Photo credit: Saul Loeb / AFP via Getty Images

WASHINGTON | 19 May 2021

*The below article was published by NewsMax*

The House of Representatives introduced a bipartisan bill Wednesday that requires President Joe Biden to come up with a plan to address potential genocide of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China, Axios reported.

The bill, HR 3306, was introduced by Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo., and co-sponsored by Rep. Thomas Suozzi, D-N.Y., and now goes to the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary committees for consideration, according to the congress.gov website.

The text of the proposed bill was not available on the site.

The Uyghurs make up about 12 million people who live in the XUAR in the northwestern part of China and are mostly Muslim, speaking their own language and being more culturally and ethnically close to central Asian nations, according to a BBC report.

In January, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called out the Chinese Communist Party's use of internment camps, forced labor, and forced sterilization of more than 1 million Muslim minorities, including the

Uyghurs, in the XUAR as "genocide" and "crimes against humanity."

"After careful examination of the available facts, I have determined that since at least March 2017, the People's Republic of China (PRC), under the direction and control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has committed crimes against humanity against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other members of ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang," Pompeo said in an Axios article Jan. 19.

A March Congressional-Executive Commission on China report documented many of the abuses Pompeo described.

"In the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), the Chinese Communist Party has implemented a campaign of repression and control that, according to scholars and rights groups, constitutes crimes against humanity," the report said. "Experts have documented a large network of mass internment camps in the XUAR

in which authorities are said to have arbitrarily detained up to 1.8 million individuals from predominantly Muslim ethnic minority groups including Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and Hui."

China has denied the allegations but did assert that crackdowns against Muslims were warranted to "prevent terrorism" and to seek out extremists. It is the Uyghurs, they say, that are "waging a violent campaign for an independent state by plotting bombings, sabotage, and civic unrest."

As far as the reports of detainment camps and the sterilization of Uyghur women to suppress the population, the Chinese government calls the claims "baseless" and "fabricated," according to the BBC article.

### **Lithuanian Parliament Latest To Call China's Treatment Of Uyghurs 'Genocide'**

VILNIUS | 20 May 2021

*The below article was published by Reuters,*

Lithuania's parliament on Thursday became the latest to describe China's treatment of its Uyghur minority as "genocide", voting to call for a U.N. investigation of internment camps and to ask the European Commission to review relations with Beijing.

The Biden administration in the United States has used the term genocide to describe China's actions towards the Uyghurs, as have countries including Britain and Canada. Beijing denies abusing minorities and has condemned countries for using the term.

The non-binding resolution, supported by three-fifths of Lithuanian parliament members, also called on China to abolish a national security law in Hong Kong, and to let observers into Tibet and begin talks with its spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Neither Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte nor Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis participated in the vote, despite being present in the parliament. "We support democracy, as we will never forget the cruel lesson of living under occupation by a Communist regime for 50 years", said Dovile Sakaliene, a lawmaker blacklisted by China and who sponsored the resolution.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a briefing on Friday that Beijing firmly opposed the move and urged Lithuania to correct its mistakes to avoid harming relations.

Lithuania, which suffered repression under Soviet rule from 1940-1991, is now a member of the EU and NATO, and has often taken a prominent role in pushing for tougher Western diplomatic lines towards Russia and Communist countries such as China.

Rights groups, researchers, former residents and some Western lawmakers say authorities in China's Xinjiang province have arbitrarily detained around a million Uyghurs and members of other primarily Muslim minorities in camps since 2016.

Beijing initially denied the camps existed but has since said they are training centres designed to combat religious extremism.

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### **AI Emotion-Detection Software Tested On Uyghurs**

LONDON | 25 May 2021

*The below article was published by the BBC*

A camera system that uses AI and facial recognition intended to reveal states of emotion has been tested on Uyghurs in Xinjiang, the BBC has been told.

A software engineer claimed to have installed such systems in police stations in the province. A human rights advocate who was shown the evidence described it as shocking.

The Chinese embassy in London has not responded directly to the claims but says political and social rights in all ethnic groups are guaranteed. Xinjiang is home to 12 million ethnic minority Uyghurs, most of whom are Muslim.

Citizens in the province are under daily surveillance. The area is also home to highly controversial "re-education centres", called high security detention camps by human rights groups, where it is estimated that more than a million people have been held. Beijing has always argued that surveillance is necessary in the region because it says separatists who want to set up their own state have killed hundreds of people in terror attacks.

The software engineer agreed to talk to the BBC's Panorama programme under condition of anonymity, because he fears for his safety. The company he worked for is also not being revealed.

But he showed Panorama five photographs of Uyghur detainees who he claimed had had the emotion recognition system tested on them.

“The Chinese government use Uyghurs as test subjects for various experiments just like rats are used in laboratories,” he said.

And he outlined his role in installing the cameras in police stations in the province: “We placed the emotion detection camera 3m from the subject. It is similar to a lie detector but far more advanced technology.” He said officers used “restraint chairs” which are widely installed in police stations across China.

“Your wrists are locked in place by metal restraints, and [the] same applies to your ankles.” He provided evidence of how the AI system is trained to detect and analyse even minute changes in facial expressions and skin pores.

According to his claims, the software creates a pie chart, with the red segment representing a negative or anxious state of mind.

He claimed the software was intended for “pre-judgement without any credible evidence”. The Chinese embassy in London did not respond to questions about the use of emotional recognition software in the province but said: “The political, economic, and social rights and freedom of religious belief in all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are fully guaranteed.

“People live in harmony regardless of their ethnic backgrounds and enjoy a stable and peaceful life with no restriction to personal freedom.”

The evidence was shown to Sophie Richardson, China director of Human Rights Watch.

“It is shocking material. It’s not just that people are being reduced to a pie chart, it’s people who are in highly coercive circumstances, under enormous pressure, being understandably nervous and that’s taken as an indication of guilt, and I think, that’s deeply problematic.”

### **Suspicious Behaviour**

According to Darren Byler, from the University of Colorado, Uyghurs routinely have to provide DNA samples to local officials, undergo digital scans and most have to download a government phone app,

which gathers data including contact lists and text messages.

“Uyghur life is now about generating data,” he said. “Everyone knows that the smartphone is something you have to carry with you, and if you don’t carry it you can be detained, they know that you’re being tracked by it. And they feel like there’s no escape,” he said. Most of the data is fed into a computer system called the Integrated Joint Operations Platform, which Human Rights Watch claims flags up supposedly suspicious behaviour.

“The system is gathering information about dozens of different kinds of perfectly legal behaviours including things like whether people were going out the back door instead of the front door, whether they were putting gas in a car that didn’t belong to them,” said Ms Richardson.

“Authorities now place QR codes outside the doors of people’s homes so that they can easily know who’s supposed to be there and who’s not.”

### **Orwellian?**

There has long been debate about how closely tied Chinese technology firms are to the state. US-based research group IPVM claims to have uncovered evidence in patents filed by such companies that suggest facial recognition products were specifically designed to identify Uyghur people.

A patent filed in July 2018 by Huawei and the China Academy of Sciences describes a face recognition product that is capable of identifying people on the basis of their ethnicity.

Huawei said in response that it did “not condone the use of technology to discriminate or oppress members of any community” and that it was “independent of government” wherever it operated.

The group has also found a document which appears to suggest the firm was developing technology for a so-called One Person, One File system.

“For each person the government would store their personal information, their political activities, relationships... anything that might give you insight

into how that person would behave and what kind of a threat they might pose,” said IPVM’s Conor Healy.

“It makes any kind of dissidence potentially impossible and creates true predictability for the government in the behaviour of their citizens. I don’t think that [George] Orwell would ever have imagined that a government could be capable of this kind of analysis.”

Huawei did not specifically address questions about its involvement in developing technology for the One Person, One File system but said: “Huawei opposes discrimination of all types, including the use of technology to carry out ethnic discrimination. “As a privately-held company, Huawei is independent of government wherever we operate. We do not condone the use of technology to discriminate against or oppress members of any community.”

The Chinese embassy in London said it had “no knowledge” of these programmes.

IPVM also claimed to have found marketing material from Chinese firm Hikvision advertising a Uyghur-detecting AI camera, and a patent for software developed by Dahua, another tech giant, which could also identify Uyghurs.

Dahua said its patent referred to all 56 recognised ethnicities in China and did not deliberately target any one of them.

It added that it provided “products and services that aim to help keep people safe” and complied “with the laws and regulations of every market” in which it operates, including the UK.

Hikvision said the details on its website were incorrect and “uploaded online without appropriate review”, adding that it did not sell or have in its product range “a minority recognition function or analytics technology”.

Dr Lan Xue, chairman of China’s National committee on AI governance, said he was not aware of the patents. “Outside China there are a lot of those sorts of charges. Many are not accurate and not true,” he told the BBC.

“I think that the Xinjiang local government had the responsibility to really protect the Xinjiang people... if

technology is used in those contexts, that’s quite understandable,” he said.

The UK’s Chinese embassy had a more robust defence, telling the BBC: “There is no so-called facial recognition technology featuring Uyghur analytics whatsoever.”

### **Daily Surveillance**

China is estimated to be home to half of the world’s almost 800 million surveillance cameras. It also has a large number of smart cities, such as Chongqing, where AI is built into the foundations of the urban environment.

Chongqing-based investigative journalist Hu Liu told Panorama of his own experience: “Once you leave home and step into the lift, you are captured by a camera. There are cameras everywhere.”

“When I leave home to go somewhere, I call a taxi, the taxi company uploads the data to the government. I may then go to a cafe to meet a few friends and the authorities know my location through the camera in the cafe.

“There have been occasions when I have met some friends and soon after someone from the government contacts me. They warned me, ‘Don’t see that person, don’t do this and that.’

“With artificial intelligence we have nowhere to hide,” he said.

## Beijing Olympics Offer ‘Rare Opportunity’ To Secure Uyghur Canadian’s Release From Chinese Prison



Huseyin Celil holds a Canadian flag at a Canadian Citizenship ceremony - 2005 | Photo credit: Global News

OTTOWA | 27 May 2021

The below article was published by Global News

Huseyin Celil, his pregnant wife, Kamila, and their three sons were on vacation in Uzbekistan in 2006 when they heard a knock at the door.

The Canadians from Burlington, Ont., were visiting Kamila’s parents who lived in the Uzbek capital city of Tashkent. Kamila’s mother was ill and wanted to see her grandchildren.

They opened the door to find an Uzbek police officer standing in the doorway.

“They came to my parents’ house and then they were questioning us about my husband. And we didn’t have any idea, you know, what’s going on or what they are talking about,” Kamila recalled. “And then the Uzbek authorities took our passports.”

Kamila said the family was told they could collect their Canadian passports from a government office. When the time came, Kamila said a quick goodbye to her husband as he left the house. She had no idea she wouldn’t see him again.

“I cry every day, three or four times, when I think about this case, when I think about my husband,” a sobbing Kamila told Global News.

In Episode 2 of China Rising, Where’s Huseyin?, we’ll investigate the story of Huseyin Celil, a Chinese-Canadian who has been imprisoned in China for 15 years. During that time, he hasn’t received a single consular visit from Canadian officials and his family in Canada has had no contact with him. While the Trudeau government works to secure the release of the ‘Two Michaels,’ Canadians Spavor and Kovrig, detained in China since 2018, Celil’s case rarely receives a mention.

“I think Huseyin Celil’s case is absolutely one of the most egregious — if not right now, the most egregious — instance of long term imprisonment of a Canadian citizen on completely unjust grounds,” said Alex Neve, the former Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, who has been fighting to free Celil since his arrest in Uzbekistan in 2006.

Celil is a Uyghur Muslim. He was born in China in 1969 in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, which has long been home to China’s Uyghur Muslim minority. Relations between China’s 12 million Uyghurs and the government in Beijing have been tense for a long time. Occasionally, the conflict has erupted into violence.

In the early 1990s, there was a renewed push for independence by some Uyghur activists. Chinese authorities responded by cracking down on Muslim leaders in Xinjiang, to maintain control of the restive region.

In 1994, Celil was a young Imam, who used a megaphone to amplify the call to prayer at his mosque — standard practice in most Muslim countries, but in China it earned him 48 days in prison.

Soon after that, Celil fled the country. He was eventually granted refugee status by the United Nations and, in 2001, he and his wife Kamila started a new life in Canada. In 2005, they became Canadian citizens. But Kamila said her husband never stopped speaking out for the Uyghur people.

“He was speaking everywhere. He was not scared, you know, when he was talking about protecting his people’s rights. And then he was attending the protests in front of the Chinese consulate (in Toronto).”

Celil had long been on the radar of Chinese authorities and his family’s trip to Uzbekistan in 2006 provided an

opportunity to apprehend him. A few years earlier, in 2001, Uzbekistan joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, along with Russia, China and a few other former-Soviet states. The organization's goal was to work together to fight "terrorism, separatism and extremism" in member countries.

The Chinese government claimed Celil was a Uyghur separatist and a terrorist. He was arrested, extradited to China and sentenced to life in prison. Human rights groups say the Chinese government has a long history of labelling Uyghur activists as separatists and terrorists.

Beijing doesn't recognize Celil's dual nationality and considers his case to be an internal Chinese matter. As a result, Celil's wife, Kamila has had no contact with him in 15 years.

"He served 15 years for nothing. He was innocent!" Kamila said. "He didn't hurt anyone, any Chinese or any human being, he just had strong speech." For a time, Kamila was able to receive updates on his condition from Celil's relatives in China, who were occasionally permitted to visit him in prison. But since 2015, despite repeated calls, none of Celil's Uyghur family members in China has answered their phones.

Their whereabouts are unknown and Kamila fears they've become caught in the Chinese government's alleged crackdown on its Muslim minority.

In recent years, Beijing has been accused by a long list of human rights groups, journalists, academics and governments of accelerating its crackdown on its Uyghur population, by corralling more than a million Chinese Muslims into prisons and labour camps, separating children from their families and even forcibly sterilizing Uyghur women.

Chinese officials describe the facilities as "vocational schools" and part of a highly successful de-radicalization program for religious extremists. "I think that the Uyghur population is, for me, one of the worst mass atrocities of our time," said Irwin Cotler, a former Canadian justice minister and attorney general who now leads the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights in Montreal.

Cotler was one of 50 global experts in international

law and Chinese affairs who published a report in March, which contained first-hand accounts and testimony from dozens of Uyghur survivors — people who made it out of China's alleged labour camps.

"Survivors have testified to forced enslavement, torture, rape, disappearance and murder," Cotler said. The report argues the Chinese government's alleged actions in Xinjiang have violated every single provision in the United Nations' Convention on Genocide.

"One cannot ignore that the Uyghurs at this point are the most targeted minority since the Jews were targeted in the Holocaust in terms of what I would call mass atrocities that, taken together, are acts constituted of genocide."

China criticizes U.K. parliament for motion to declare genocide in Xinjiang  
China criticizes U.K. parliament for motion to declare genocide in Xinjiang – Apr 24, 2021

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson recently described the allegations that a genocide exists in Xinjiang as "the lie of the century made up by extremely anti-China forces."

Chinese officials say the so-called labour camps in Xinjiang are needed to prevent terrorism and root out Islamist extremism.

In February, a majority of Canadian MPs voted to condemn China's alleged mistreatment of Uyghurs as a genocide. But Prime Minister Trudeau and his cabinet abstained from the vote.

Trudeau said the word genocide is "extremely loaded" and he is not prepared to use it at this point.

Celil's lawyer, Chris MacLeod, worries about the Trudeau government's apparent unwillingness to take a stand against Beijing, which he believes is needed to secure Celil's release.

"You need to be loud, you need to be vocal, and you need to call out wrongs when they occur — period. Full stop. There is no quiet diplomacy to bullies, whether they're in the schoolyard or they're on the international stage. And when they've taken one of our own, in this case, three of our own — two Michaels and Huseyin — we've got three Canadians; those are three

good reasons to do whatever it takes to secure their release and return.”

MacLeod and Celil’s family believe the coming months could offer a rare opportunity. The ongoing imprisonment of the ‘Two Michaels’ has shone a spotlight on China’s detention of Canadians and its use of so-called ‘hostage diplomacy’. And a growing number of Western countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, are now openly accusing China of genocide over its treatment of Uyghurs. At the same time, Beijing is preparing to host the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, amid calls for a boycott from some governments and human rights groups.

“China’s hosting the Olympics, it’s a moment in time where China could do the right thing and release and return (Celil) on compassionate grounds,” said MacLeod.

“You’ve now got two other Canadians detained that are very high profile. You have a spotlight placed on a tragic situation. And if we can bring everyone into the fold who’s caught up in wrongful detentions in China, the goal is release and return of all three. No one left behind. No one.”

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## China Policies Could Cut Millions Of Uyghur Births In East Turkistan

WASHINGTON | 6 June 2021

*The below article was published by Reuters*

Chinese birth control policies could cut between 2.6 to 4.5 million births of the Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in southern Xinjiang within 20 years, up to a third of the region’s projected minority population, according to a new analysis by a German researcher.

The report, shared exclusively with Reuters ahead of publication, also includes a previously unreported cache of research produced by Chinese academics and officials on Beijing’s intent behind the birth control policies in Xinjiang, where official data shows

birth-rates have already dropped by 48.7% between 2017 and 2019.

Adrian Zenz’s research comes amid growing calls among some western countries for an investigation into whether China’s actions in Xinjiang amount to genocide, a charge Beijing vehemently denies. The research by Zenz is the first such peer reviewed analysis of the long-term population impact of Beijing’s multi-year crackdown in the western region. Rights groups, researchers and some residents say the policies include newly enforced birth limits on Uyghur and other mainly Muslim ethnic minorities, the transfers of workers to other regions and the internment of an estimated one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in a network of camps.

“This (research and analysis) really shows the intent behind the Chinese government’s long-term plan for the Uyghur population,” Zenz told Reuters.

The Chinese government has not made public any official target for reducing the proportion of Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. But based on analysis of official birth data, demographic projections and ethnic ratios proposed by Chinese academics and officials, Zenz estimates Beijing’s policies could increase the predominant Han Chinese population in southern Xinjiang to around 25% from 8.4% currently. “This goal is only achievable if they do what they have been doing, which is drastically suppressing (Uyghur) birth rates,” Zenz said.

China has previously said the current drop in ethnic minority birth rates is due to the full implementation of the region’s existing birth quotas as well as development factors, including an increase in per capita income and wider access to family planning services.

“The so-called ‘genocide’ in Xinjiang is pure nonsense,” China’s Foreign Ministry told Reuters in a statement. “It is a manifestation of the ulterior motives of anti-China forces in the United States and the West and the manifestation of those who suffer from Sinophobia.”

Official data showing the decrease in Xinjiang birth rates between 2017 and 2019 “does not reflect the true situation” and Uyghur birth rates remain higher than Han ethnic people in Xinjiang, the ministry added.

The new research compares a population projection done by Xinjiang-based researchers for the government-run Chinese Academy of Sciences based on data predating the crackdown, to official data on birth-rates and what Beijing describes as “population optimization” measures for Xinjiang’s ethnic minorities introduced since 2017.

It found the population of ethnic minorities in Uyghur-dominated southern Xinjiang would reach between 8.6-10.5 million by 2040 under the new birth prevention policies. That compares to 13.14 million projected by Chinese researchers using data pre-dating the implemented birth policies and a current population of around 9.47 million. Report ad Zenz, an independent researcher with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, a bipartisan non-profit based in Washington, D.C., has previously been

condemned by Beijing for his research which has been critical of China’s policies on detaining Uyghurs, mass labour transfers and birth reduction in Xinjiang. China’s foreign ministry has accused Zenz of “misleading” people with data and, in response to Reuters’ questions, said “his lies aren’t worth refuting.” Zenz’s research was accepted for publication by the Central Asian Survey, a quarterly academic journal, after peer review on June 3.

Reuters shared the research and methodology with more than a dozen experts in population analysis, birth prevention policies and international human rights law, who said the analysis and conclusions were sound.

Some of the experts cautioned that demographic projections over a period of decades can be affected by unforeseen factors. The Xinjiang government has not publicly set official ethnic quota or population size goals for ethnic populations in Southern Xinjiang, and quotas used in the analysis are based on proposed figures from Chinese officials and academics.

### **‘END UYGHUR DOMINANCE’**

The move to prevent births among Uyghur and other minorities is in sharp contrast with China’s wider birth policies.

Last week, Beijing announced married couples can have three children, up from two, the largest

such policy shift since the one child policy was scrapped in 2016 in response to China’s rapidly ageing population. The announcement contained no reference to any specific ethnic groups.

Before then, measures officially limited the country’s majority Han ethnic group and minority groups including Uyghur to two children – three in rural areas. However, Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities had historically been partially excluded from those birth limits as part of preferential policies designed to benefit the minority communities.

Some residents, researchers and rights groups say the newly enforced rules now disproportionately impact Islamic minorities, who face detention for exceeding birth quotas, rather than fines as elsewhere in China. In a Communist Party record leaked in 2020, also reported by Zenz, a re-education camp in southern Xinjiang’s Karakax county listed birth violations as the reason for internment in 149 cases out of 484 detailed in the list. China has called the list a “fabrication”. Birth quotas for ethnic minorities have become strictly enforced in Xinjiang since 2017, including though the separation of married couples, and the use of sterilisation procedures, intrauterine devices (IUDs) and abortions, three Uyghur people and one health official inside Xinjiang told Reuters.

Two of the Uyghur people said they had direct family members who were detained for having too many children. Reuters could not independently verify the detentions.

“It is not up to choice,” said the official, based in southern Xinjiang, who asked not to be named because they fear reprisals from the local government. “All Uyghurs must comply... it is an urgent task.” The Xinjiang government did not respond to a request for comment about whether birth limits are more strictly enforced against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. Xinjiang officials have previously said all procedures are voluntary.

Still, in Xinjiang counties where Uyghurs are the majority ethnic group, birth rates dropped 50.1% in 2019, for example, compared to a 19.7% drop in majority ethnic Han counties, according to official data compiled by Zenz. Zenz’s report says analyses published by state funded academics and officials between 2014 and 2020 show the strict implementation of the policies are driven by national

security concerns, and are motivated by a desire to dilute the Uyghur population, increase Han migration and boost loyalty to the ruling Communist Party.

For example, 15 documents created by state funded academics and officials showcased in the Zenz report include comments from Xinjiang officials and state-affiliated academics referencing the need to increase the proportion of Han residents and decrease the ratio of Uyghurs or described the high concentration of Uyghurs as a threat to social stability.

“The problem in southern Xinjiang is mainly the unbalanced population structure ... the proportion of the Han population is too low,” Liu Yilei, an academic and the deputy secretary general of the Communist Party committee of the Xinjiang Production and

Construction Corps, a government body with administrative authority in the region, told a July 2020 symposium, published on the Xinjiang University website. Xinjiang must “end the dominance of the Uyghur group”, said Liao Zhaoyu, dean of the institute of frontier history and geography at Xinjiang’s Tarim University at an academic event in 2015, shortly before the birth policies and broader internment programme were enforced in full.

Liao did not respond to a request for comment. Liu could not be reached for comment. The foreign ministry did not comment on their remarks, or on the intent behind the policies.

### **INTENT TO DESTROY?**

Zenz and other experts point to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which lists birth prevention targeting an ethnic group as one act that could qualify as genocide. The United States government and parliaments in countries including Britain and Canada have described China’s birth prevention and mass detention policies in Xinjiang as genocide.

However, some academics and politicians say there is insufficient evidence of intent by Beijing to destroy an ethnic population in part or full to meet the threshold for a genocide determination.

No such formal criminal charges have been laid against Chinese or Xinjiang officials because of a lack

of available evidence on and insight into the policies in the region. Prosecuting officials would also be complex and require a high bar of proof.

Additionally, China is not party to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the top international court that prosecutes genocide and other serious crimes, and which can only bring action against states within its jurisdiction.

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### **China Accused of Seizing Uyghurs Who Fled Abroad**

LONDON | 10 June 2021

*The below article was published by The Sunday Times*

Thousands of Uighurs fleeing atrocities in China have been forcibly returned in a campaign of abductions waged by Chinese agents, the International Criminal Court will be told today.

Lawyers for Uighur exiles will file new evidence of forced disappearances and returns to the ICC as part of an effort to hold President Xi accountable on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. Because China is not a state party to the ICC, the court does not have jurisdiction to investigate crimes perpetrated in Xinjiang, where more than one million Muslim Uighurs have been incarcerated and subjected to torture, starvation, rape and enslavement.

Instead lawyers are focusing on the actions of Chinese operatives pursuing Uighur exiles in countries where the ICC has jurisdiction, such as Tajikistan, which neighbours Xinjiang. A dossier of evidence submitted to the Hague today documents the shrinking of the Uighur community in Tajikistan from 3,000 to 100 people due to the campaign of abductions.

“The evidence shows a highly organised and systematic plan by the Chinese authorities to round up Uighurs living in an ICC state party and deport [them] back into China where they are never heard from again,” Rodney Dixon QC, the British barrister

leading the complaint, said. “Based on this new dossier of evidence presented to the ICC prosecutor, showing the actions of the Chinese authorities directly in Tajikistan, it is clear that the ICC does have jurisdiction to open an investigation.”

China has become increasingly concerned by the role of Uighur exiles abroad in revealing atrocities in Xinjiang, which the Uighurs call East Turkistan, and has redoubled efforts to silence, intimidate and forcibly return them to the province. Some are never seen again. The complaint was lodged by an international team led by Dixon on behalf of two Uighur exile groups, the East Turkistan Government in Exile and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement.

The evidence documents how officials at the Chinese consulate in Tajikistan spearheaded the campaign to identify and return Uighur exiles at the same time as Chinese security forces fortified the border to prevent more people fleeing Xinjiang.

The dossier registers a “drastic and notable reduction in the number of Uighurs in Tajikistan” from 3,000 to 100 over the past decade, mostly between 2016 and 2018.

“Chinese authorities are responsible for this reduction in Uighur numbers as part of their campaign to target, round up, detain and deport Uighurs,” the dossier says. China’s consulate in Tajikistan exploits its “complete control over the Uighurs’ paperwork and purposely delays the granting of visas, work permits and other documentation that the Uighurs need to live in Tajikistan”.

It adds: “The Chinese Public Security Bureau operatives who are in Tajikistan then direct the carrying out of raids, especially on the bazaars where the Uighurs work, and direct local Tajik police to detain all the Uighurs who do not have the ‘correct’ paperwork.” It cites a case when “an entire bazaar was raided and blocked off until all the Uighurs working there had been seized. The Uighurs then get deported by Chinese officials back to China in groups of about ten. The deportation groups are kept small to avoid attention.” Many of those sent back are immediately incarcerated in re-education camps. Others have disappeared, and have not been seen since. Beijing is able to secure Tajik co-operation through economic dependence,

including on Chinese loans that the government has yet to begin repaying.

Similar abductions have taken place in other countries to which Uighur exiles have fled but investigators are focused on the situation in Tajikistan to satisfy the ICC’s request for evidence it could assert under its jurisdiction.

The dossier says: “Uighur victims have been unlawfully deported into Xinjiang from Tajikistan and Cambodia and then subjected to crimes together with many other Uighurs detained there, including murder, forced imprisonment, torture, forced birth control and sterilisation, rape and forced marriages.”

The Biden administration has said that crimes carried out against Muslim minorities in Xinjiang amount to genocide, a position endorsed by the British, Dutch and Canadian parliaments. China vehemently denies the charge of genocide, calling it “ludicrous”. Japan and Australia expressed “serious concerns” about Beijing’s abuses against Uighur Muslims in a joint declaration before the G7 summit in Cornwall, which begins tomorrow.

Lawyers have asked the ICC to draw on a precedent set in 2018 that allowed the court to investigate Myanmar’s ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims, despite Myanmar not being a member of the court, since they had been deported to Bangladesh, which is a member state.

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## **Uyghur groups want to take China to the International Criminal Court**

WASHINGTON | 10 June 2021

*The below article was published by The Economist*

### **Lawyers think they’ve found a way around China’s refusal to join the ICC**

WHEN SALIH HUDAYAR visited Tajikistan in 2014, he remembers there being “thousands” of fellow Uyghurs in Dushanbe, the capital. Many of them came from the same city as him, Artush, in western Xinjiang. But since

then the number of Uyghurs in the country has dwindled. Mr Hudayar is now an American citizen and the head of a group called the East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE), founded in Washington in 2004, claiming to represent the interests of Uyghurs in Xinjiang (or East Turkistan, as some Uyghurs call the region).

According to evidence submitted on June 10th to the International Criminal Court (ICC), on behalf of the ETGE and the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement, another Washington-based group, China has been working with Tajikistan to round up and deport Uyghurs since at least 2016. The Chinese Public

Security Bureau worked with the Tajikistan police to identify any Uyghurs, and then “directly intervened” to deport them back to China. “I knew central Asia wasn’t safe,” Mr Hudayar remembers. “No matter where you go, you have to be careful.”

The lawyers for the two Uyghur groups are asking the ICC’s prosecutor to open an investigation into Chinese officials. They allege that through threats, intimidation and physical force, nearly 3,000 Uyghurs—85-90% of the total population in Tajikistan—have been compelled to return to China, where they are likely to end up in detention camps. The complaint argues that “these arrests, enforced disappearances, abductions and deportations form the first step of a continuum of alleged criminal conduct amounting to genocide and crimes against humanity”.

There is no evidence of mass killings of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, but there are credible reports of extrajudicial detentions, torture, sterilisations, forced labour and many other horrors that could constitute crimes against humanity. Uyghur activists will see benefit if the complaint simply serves to discomfit China and draw international attention to its abuses in Xinjiang. But they are hoping for more. If the ICC’s prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, agrees that there is enough evidence of abuses happening in Tajikistan, rather than China, she may then apply to the court’s judges to open an investigation. But even that step would be a long way from actually convicting any officials in China.

The problem for those trying to bring China to book for its abuses of Uyghurs and other minorities is that China, like America and Russia, is not a member of the ICC. Last year the court declined to open an

investigation into China’s alleged crimes because it does not have jurisdiction over non-members. Now the lawyers say that they have gathered enough evidence of crimes in Tajikistan, which is an ICC member, to merit opening an investigation. The approach is a fairly novel one.

The precedent was established only in 2019, when the ICC agreed to open an investigation into Myanmar, which is not a member, over allegations of crimes against humanity, because some of the effects of the atrocities were felt by Rohingyas in Bangladesh. As well as Tajikistan, the lawyers for the Uyghurs are gathering evidence of deportations from Cambodia and other ICC members to try and strengthen their case.

Chinese officials involved in repressing Uyghurs will not be losing any sleep over the complaint, but the government will be displeased. Even the opening of an investigation would be significant, although the prosecutor will probably take months to come to a decision (last year’s request to investigate China was filed in July, and rejected in December). Since the court was founded in 2002, it has opened a mere 14 investigations, and secured only eight convictions, all of them of Africans. It is inconceivable that China would ever hand over its citizens to the ICC, although the court can issue arrest warrants that would in theory entrap suspects should they step foot in an ICC member state. But the government does not like to be criticised in international forums.

When a tribunal in the Hague ruled in 2016 that China had “no legal basis” to claim disputed areas of the South China Sea, the government was furious. It has dismissed the ruling, but continues to argue that its claim on the waters is legitimate. “They don’t give a fuck, except that they do give a fuck, which is what’s interesting,” says Philippe Sands QC, who represented the Philippines in the South China Sea case.

China is not alone in being hard to prosecute at the ICC. Some argue that the court infringes countries’ sovereignty, and America is loth to support an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan, which the ICC launched last year. Ms Bensouda’s original request to open an investigation in Afghanistan was rejected in 2019 on the grounds “the relevant national authorities”, ie, America and Afghanistan, were unco-operative—a problem that would also apply to the China and Tajikistan case. But the ICC’s top judges overturned that

decision in March 2020, setting a precedent that the court may be willing to proceed without the co-operation of the relevant countries. Should the Uyghur case ever reach a courtroom, the ICC will not try people in absentia; 13 people subject to its arrest warrants are still at large.

But China's influence in Tajikistan will make this a hard case to pursue. It is Tajikistan's biggest creditor, and has taken control of much of the country's border with Afghanistan. The importance of keeping that border secure means that Western aid is also likely to keep flowing to Tajikistan, notes Niva Yau of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think-tank. Between 2005 and 2019 America invested more than \$100m in strengthening Tajikistan's border security, and is increasingly concerned about the border ahead of the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. The last thing that America wants is jihadists or Taliban loyalists spilling over from northern Afghanistan into Tajikistan and then into the rest of the world. Tajikistan knows this, and won't fear consequences from the West if it doesn't co-operate with the ICC.

Under the Rome Statute, the ICC's founding treaty, Tajikistan is obliged to co-operate with any investigation. But there have been reports of Uyghurs being detained there at China's behest for at least a decade. It is unlikely to turn on its big brother, and as a Persian country, feels less solidarity with Uyghurs than other central Asian countries with Turkic populations, such as Kyrgyzstan, adds Ms Yau. Other countries in which the lawyers allege that Uyghurs were abused, such as Cambodia, have similarly cosy relationships with China.

Uyghurs are well aware of the scale of the challenge. No one thinks that legal processes alone are the answer to China's abuses. But an ICC investigation, if it happens, could strengthen the case for further economic and diplomatic responses, as well as giving victims their day in court. Some Chinese officials have already been hit with Western sanctions, and foreign companies are going to greater lengths to distance themselves from Xinjiang.

For its part, the ICC has been irritating some powerful countries. Since its founding it has been accused of anti-African bias. But in recent years, it has been setting its sights elsewhere. In March this year, it opened an

investigation into the situation in Palestine, much to the chagrin of Israel. The investigation in Afghanistan has

annoyed the Americans. Going after China would give it another powerful enemy.

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### **Tajikistan Accused Of Helping China In Campaign Against Uyghurs**

DUSHANBE | 15 June 2021

*The below article was published by Radio Free Europe/ Radio Free Liberty*

Lawyers for Uyghur groups have given new evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) that allegedly shows the Tajik government is cooperating with Beijing to send Uyghurs to China, where they face detention and often much worse.

Tajikistan is not the only country targeted in the complaint submitted to the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor. Cambodia is reported to be another country that allegedly succumbed to Chinese pressure to detain and illegally extradite Uyghurs.

Numerous reports have claimed that the Chinese authorities have put more than 1 million Uyghurs and thousands of other mostly Muslim indigenous minorities in so-called reeducation camps, located mainly in the Uyghurs' traditional homeland in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in western China. The Chinese say the camps are for vocational training and deny mistreatment of its occupants, despite testimony of detainees and other evidence suggesting otherwise.

Some rights groups say the involuntary incarceration and other more sinister acts against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and ethnic Chinese Hui are part of a campaign to eradicate Islam and the cultures of these ethnic minorities from Chinese society.

Tajikistan and Cambodia are included in the official complaint because they are members of the ICC.

China is not an ICC member and so is outside the ICC's jurisdiction. "China is not a signed-up member of the ICC... [and believes it] cannot be investigated for what

is happening," says Rodney Dixon, one of the lawyers handling the legal process for the Uyghur groups. "The fact is that we are now in a position where there is a very clear legal pathway to allow for the ICC to commence its investigations."

One of the places this investigation could begin is in Tajikistan.

According to a press release from the East Turkistan Government in Exile, one of the Uyghur groups trying to bring the case before the ICC, "Chinese authorities have committed unlawful acts including arrests, enforced disappearances, abductions, and deportations in Tajikistan, an ICC State Party."

The evidence that legal consul for the East Turkistan Government in Exile, the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement, and individual Uyghur victims handed to the ICC prosecutor on June 10 purports that "members of the Chinese Public Security Bureau who are present in Tajikistan direct local Tajik police to carry out raids on the areas where Uyghurs live and work." It adds that those Uyghurs who did not have "correct paperwork" were "then deported back into China by Chinese authorities in small groups of up to 10 to avoid international attention."

The press release also provides a shocking figure, stating that "evidence gathered to date shows that over the past 10-15 years the number of Uyghurs living in Tajikistan has been reduced from an estimated 3,000 to approximately 100" and that most of these Uyghurs left Tajikistan "from 2016 to 2018."

There is also evidence that Tajikistan has played a role in facilitating the extraordinary rendition of Uyghurs from Turkey.

Radio Free Asia reported in August 2019 that "at least three ethnic Uyghurs have recently been deported to China from Turkey via Tajikistan."

Those three were Zinnetgul Tursun "and her two toddler daughters," all of whom were detained in Izmir, Turkey, and put on a July 31, 2019, flight from Istanbul to Dushanbe. Two Tajik passengers on that same flight

said they saw how Tursun and her young children were taken into custody by Chinese police at the Dushanbe airport. And they were not alone. The Tajik passengers said they saw five other people on the flight — four

women and a man — who appeared to be Uyghurs on the flight.

Tursun's family in China later confirmed Zinnetgul and her children had been brought to China.

The identities and the fate of the other five people on the plane from Istanbul to Dushanbe, whom the Tajik passengers said looked to be Uyghurs, is unknown. RFE/RL's Tajik Service, known locally as Ozodi, sent a request for information to Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry and Prosecutor-General's Office about the accusations that Uyghurs were being brought from Turkey and handed over to Chinese security officials in Dushanbe, but did not receive a reply.

The legal team for the Uyghur groups originally submitted their complaint to the ICC prosecutor in July 2020, but it said it required further evidence to initiate an investigation.

According to the East Turkistan Government in Exile's website, the new evidence handed over on June 10 establishes "that the court has jurisdiction to open an investigation into the crimes being committed against Uyghurs by Chinese authorities."

Dixon said after handing over the new evidence that it "shows a highly organized and systematic plan by the Chinese authorities to round up Uyghurs living in an ICC State Party and deport them back into China, where they are never heard from again."





The East Turkistan Government-in-Exile (ETGE) is the democratically elected body which represents the interests of East Turkistan and its people. Therefore, it is the voice of East Turkistan and its people.

*The Voice of East Turkistan* is the official bi-monthly journal of the East Turkistan Government-in- Exile, which seeks to inform governments across the globe world along with organizations, think tanks, researchers, and the public masses about the truth regarding the situation in East Turkistan. *The Voice of East Turkistan* seeks to provide the best information regarding East Turkistan, the activities of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, and the East Turkistani diaspora.

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