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# CHINA'S GENOCIDE IN EAST TURKISTAN

The Genocide of Uyghurs by Definition  
of the United Nations Convention on  
Genocide Prevention

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CAMPAIGN FOR UYGHURS



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## About Campaign for Uyghurs

Campaign for Uyghurs works to promote and advocate for the human rights and democratic freedoms for the Uyghurs and other Turkic people in East Turkistan (referred to in China as “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region”). It mobilizes individuals and the international community and builds bridges to take action on behalf of and to raise public awareness of the Uyghur issue with a special focus on Uyghur women and youth, and to activate persons and entities to work together to stop the systematic human rights abuses against the people of East Turkistan.

This report was put together by the Campaign for Uyghurs team.

## Cover Image

Photograph posted on a WeChat account of the East Turkistan Judicial Administration. Uyghur detainees are forced to listen to a 'de-radicalization' speech at a Hotan prefecture's Lop county concentration camp, April 2017. (RFA)



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# A. INTRODUCTION

East Turkistan, officially called the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by the People's Republic of China, has in recent years become a place with the most widespread human rights violations. The Chinese Communist Party is exerting increasing pressure and tyranny towards Muslim communities, especially Uyghur Turks, as a result of economic, political and geopolitical interests in those regions. Since 2014 in particular, Uyghurs have been forced to systematically assimilate with the objective of eradicating their ethnic identity and the population. In recent years, the events taking place in East Turkistan have met the definition of genocide listed in the 'Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide' signed in 1948. The region has hundreds of examples of acts which constitute a genocide, including, "killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions for life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." The objective of the so-called 'educational centers' which are reminiscent of camps the Nazis set up to eradicate the Jewish people, are set up to destroy the Uyghur people along with their language, religion and culture.

*Events taking place in East Turkistan have come in line with the definition of genocide listed in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide signed in 1948.*

Dr. Adrian Zenz, a China expert, a senior Fellow at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and leading scholar on the People's Republic of China's policies in East Turkistan recently released a [report](#) in which he highlights China's brutal interference in the reproductive autonomy of Uyghur women. The data gathered in his report is factual and credible. The information is gathered from official Chinese government documents which were leaked in an effort to expose China's demographic campaign of genocide per the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

# B. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT EAST TURKISTAN

East Turkistan is located in the north western part of China, bordering Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan; it is a land of about 1.8 million square kilometers. The Uyghur population is over 20 million, however, the demographics of the population have shifted due to the systematic settlement of Han Chinese in the region; settlement policies encouraged by the Chinese Communist Party.

*Uyghurs never gave up their efforts, and as a result of this they once again established the independent Republic of East Turkistan in 1944.*

Previously, the Han Chinese population made up 5% of the entire East Turkistan population but has now grown to 40-45%. It is erroneous to view East Turkistan as just China's 'internal issue'. In 1949, with Russia's support, the Chinese Communist Party declared all these occupied territories as part of its own region. However, before 1949, Uyghurs, who led the establishment of the Karahan State in the East Turkistan territory in 880 remained there until 1218 under the rule of the Great Uyghur Han and were later ruled by the Turkish-Mongolian empire until the first occupation by the Chinese in 1750.

Uyghurs who were fond of their independence never accepted the Chinese occupation in 1750 and at every opportunity revolted against China, even defeating the occupying forces and succeeding in establishing an independent state on three separate occasions. The state, the first of which was founded in 1863 by Mehmet Yakup Bey, was short-lived and the region was re-occupied by China after his death. The Manchu Dynasty, which occupied East Turkistan once more in 1876 changed the name of the region to "Xinjiang," meaning "New Territory."<sup>[1]</sup> The attempt to establish an independent state a second time became real with the resistance which started in Kumul city in 1932 against the occupation; the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan was once again established in Kashgar in 1933. In this period, despite Russia's political interest being at odds with China, it indirectly supported the annexation of East Turkistan as it set an example and message to other Turkic communities in the lands Russia itself occupied.

The Uyghurs, however, never gave up their efforts, and as a result of this they once again established the independent Republic of East Turkistan in 1944. After World War Two, leaders of Russia, America and Britain came together in Yalta to create the new world order after the war. At the meeting held in February of 1945, the basis of the decisions which would affect both the situation in Europe and the fate of the geographic distributions of Central Asian countries, dubbed 'Russia's backyard' would be determined. It was decided that Russia would fight against the Japanese in the Pacific. Subsequently, Chinese and Russian leaders came together in Moscow in June and signed the China-Soviet agreement. With the agreement, Russia ceased support for Uyghurs, who struggled for their independence in East Turkistan, as the price of their concessions from America at the Yalta Conference.<sup>[2]</sup> Nevertheless, the Eastern Republic of Turkistan survived until its brutal occupation by Mao Zedong in 1949.

[1] Abdurasulov, Abdujalil. (2019, February 12). Uighur Crackdown: I spent seven days of hell in Chinese Camps. BBC. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47157111>

[2] Hao, Shiyuan (2020), China's Solution to Its Ethno-National Issues. Springer, Singapore

East Turkistan came under occupation by the Chinese Communist Republic in 1949. Since then, Uyghur Turks and other Muslim communities have been systematically assimilated and forced to abandon the religion of Islam that they belong to.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Chinese government developed a new narrative and increased its pressure on the Uyghurs, branding their persecution of Uyghurs a 'war on terror,' and consequently tried to influence public opinion to believe that false presentation. The Beijing Administration justifies today's 'no mercy' campaign based on the incidents which took place in 2009 and 2014. The impetus for the Chinese Communist Party to increase pressures in East Turkistan is both economic and geopolitical. East Turkistan is a geopolitically strategic location for the 'Belt and Road Initiative' which the Chinese government announced in 2013. As a result, it continues to disregard the Uyghurs demands for independence and commits extensive human rights violations in the region.

## **C. GENOCIDE CRIME IN THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT AGREEMENT OF GENOCIDE**

### **C.1. The Origin of the Term "Genocide"**

The term 'genocide' started to be used after 1944. This term was proposed for the agenda in 1944 by a Polish-Jew, Raphael Lemkin who later fought hard in the United Nations. Lemkin, by combining the words 'geno', which means 'race' or 'tribe' in Greek and 'kill' in Latin, created the word 'genocide', meaning 'soykirim' in Turkish. While constructing this word, Lemkin acted within the framework of "signify[ing] a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves". The International Military Court held in Nuremberg, Germany in 1945, judged Nazi officers on the grounds of 'crimes against humanity'. In these trials, 'genocide' was recorded as a descriptive term, not a legal one.[3]

### **C.2. Signing of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide**

At the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris on December 9th, 1948, with the resolution 260 (III), the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" was adopted.

[3] Genocide. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>

The 19-article contract became valid on January 12th, 1951. Turkey approved the contract on March 23rd, 1950 and the People's Republic of China also signed the contract on July 29th, 1949 and approved it in 1983.[4]

### C.3. Definition and Elements of Genocide

In preparation for this decision, which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly, it was taken into account that genocide has caused great losses for humanity in all periods of history, and it was set out as necessary for this international cooperation to save humanity from this egregious misfortune.

The definition of the crime of genocide is made in article 2, following article 1, which confirms that this act is a crime under international law; whether the states that signed the contract are committed in time of peace or during war. According to this article, any of the following acts committed partially or completely to eliminate a national, ethnic, racial or religious group constitutes as a crime of genocide.

*The actions in question are listed as follows:*

- killing member of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of like calculated to bring about physical destruction in whole or in part;
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.[5]

The following pages will demonstrate that almost all of the crimes in question have been committed by the Chinese Communist Party and are still being committed. Carrying out genocide, conspiring to commit a genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide and complicity to genocide is underlined in Article III in the agreement as punishable.

Article IV emphasizes that there are no exceptions to who can be identified as a perpetrator of a genocide; being a legal authority or public official gives no impunity. While the obligation to address legal arrangements for the state is in Article V, it is within the scope of Article VI which dictates that the trial will take place at a local authority or an international criminal court, when necessary.

[4] TBMM İnsan Haklarını İnceleme Komisyonu. Soykırım Suçunun Önlenmesine ve Cezalandırılmasına Dair Sözleşme. Kamu Denetçiliği Kurumu. Retrieved from: <https://www.ombudsman.gov.tr/contents/files/32702-Soykirim-Sucunun-Onlenmesine-Ve-Cezalandirilmasina-Dair-Sozlesme.pdf>

[5] TBMM İnsan Haklarını İnceleme Komisyonu.

The condition that the perpetrators will be granted extradition, regardless of country, and not being accepted as a political crime is stated in Article VII. It is also guaranteed in the other articles of the contract that the signatory States can ask the U.N. for help if necessary, and in case of need, the matter is brought to the International Court of Justice with the request of one of the parties.[6]



The Chinese government ordered for the burning of the holy Qur'an, prayer rugs and all religious materials (Freedoms Herald)

When looking at the articles of the convention, it should be stated firstly that there is no measure by which to determine the victim groups. The scope of this has been shaped as a result of international cases; "national, ethnic, racial and religious" traits are important and provide association with permanent membership determined by birth and enable the formation of fixed qualified communities. Political and cultural structures are not included in the convention.[7] In this regard, being Muslim and Uyghur Turk (people of East Turkistan) is within the scope of definition of 'victim' which broadly defines the victims as a target persecuted because of their national, ethnic, racial and religious attributes.

The second point that needs to be emphasized here is the partial or complete elimination of the mentioned groups which makes the crime happen in accordance with the contract. It is required that an action should be committed towards groups rather than individuals.

[6] TBMM İnsan Haklarını İnceleme Komisyonu.

[7] Özarıslan, B. Bahandır (2014). Soykırım Suçunun Önlenmesi ve Cezalandırılması Sözleşmesi Açısından Hocalı Katliamı. Hacettepe Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi. Retrieved from: <http://www.hukukdergi.hacettepe.edu.tr/dergi/C4S1makale9.pdf>



Withal, China targets millions of Uyghurs, eliminating them and holding them in concentration camps and prisons in the 21st century. One of the most striking aspects of the convention is that the destruction of a part of the group as a victim, not all of it, is sufficient to commit the crime. At that point, when the targeted group has been determined, it is necessary to consider both the qualities and quantities. Qualitatively, the elimination of the majority of the group, that is, the comparison between already targeted number and the number of survivors is considered as a benchmark. If a reasonable rate is achieved, this will be considered sufficient to qualify as a genocide. The quality refers to the type of people targeted; group leaders, prominent individuals and important figures.[8] The majority of the people targeted and sent to camps in East Turkistan are poets, professors, academics, writers and leading figures. Meaning, the list of acts which constitute genocide in the convention are done 'in whole or in part' in East Turkistan.



A concentration camp with a watch tower with fencing and barbed wire where Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Turkic Muslims are arbitrarily detained. This camp is located on the outskirts of Hotan, East Turkistan. (©Greg Baker/AFP Getty Images)

[8] Özarlan, B. Bahandır.

## D. EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN EAST TURKISTAN WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CRIMES OF GENOCIDE

It is important to once again remember that Muslim Uyghur Turks are forced to assimilate and are being eliminated by the Chinese Communist Party. Since 1949, Uyghurs have been the victims of the Beijing Administration's imperialist goals by means of different methods and systems at various periods in time. A plan for the mass murder of the Uyghur people has not yet been implemented, so we do not have enough data on the "killing of the members of the group" in the "a" clause of the second article of the Genocide Prevention Convention. However, 4 articles of the same contract define the processing of any of the acts mentioned above as genocide and demand that those who commit should be punished. Based on this factor, the genocide attempts to which the Uyghur people are exposed are as follows.

### D.I. Causing Serious Bodily or Mental Harm to Members of This Group

There are hundreds of examples of *clause 'b' Article 2* of the U.N convention crime committed in East Turkistan. This is sufficient to define the acts perpetrated against Uyghurs as genocide. Especially when one considers the things told by former detainees of concentration camps which were established in 2014 and those who got out of prisons. An example is Mihrigül Tursun, who testified about this issue before the United States Congress.

Tursun, who was detained and arrested three times, was later sent to a concentration camp. "I wanted to die during the tortures. I begged them to kill me," said Tursun, who was interrogated for days without sleep during her detention. She was injected with unknown drugs and had a device attached to her head which would electrocute her until she foamed at the mouth. Tursun was told that the reason she was being tortured was because she is Uyghur.[9] Kazakh citizen Gulzira Awulkan stated that all of China's concentration camps are equipped with cameras and every move is monitored, she added that, "if you stay in the toilet for more than two minutes, they hit you over the head with an electric baton."

*"I wanted to die during the tortures. I begged them to kill me," said Tursun, who was interrogated for days without sleep during her detention.*

[9] Cockburn, Harry. (2018, November 28). Muslim woman describes torture and beatings in China detention camp: 'I begged them to kill me'. Independent. Retrieved from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/uyghur-muslim-china-mihrigul-tursun-torture-reeducation-camps-a8656396.html>



Mihrigul Tursun, an ethnically Uyghur woman who was detained in China's concentration camps. (©Yenisafak)



Former concentration camp detainee, Kairat Samarkand (Associated Press/ Daily Mail UK)

She stated that she was punished on two separate occasions by being forced to sit in a chair for 24 hours.[10] Another survivor of the camp, Orynbek Koksybek stated that he was kept in a pit for 7 days with his hands and feet handcuffed. He lost consciousness after a certain period of time and was constantly shouted at and called a traitor.[11]

Kairat Samarkand said he was in a concentration camp where they kept him in an iron suit for a day because he did not make his bed properly. It was done in an effort to break his spirits.[12] These examples constitute only a part of the occurrences Uyghur Turks and other Muslim community members in the 1,200 camps across East Turkistan experience. Other tortures which were not listed also take place and are consistent with the action of 'causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group' by the Chinese Communist Party.



Former concentration camp detainee, Orynbek Koksybek who says he was thrown in a pit by the Chinese Communist Party (©BBC)

[10] PBS Frontline. (2020, April 7). China Undercover. PBS Frontline. Retrieved from: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/>

[11] Abdurasulov, Abdujalil. (2019, February 12). Uighur Crackdown: I spent seven days of hell in Chinese Camps. BBC. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47157111>

[12] Schmitz, Rob. (2018, November 13). Ex-Detainee Describes Torture In China's Xinjiang Re-Education Camp. NPR. Retrieved from: <https://www.npr.org/2018/11/13/666287509/ex-detainee-describes-torture-in-chinas-xinjiang-re-education-camp>



Former camp detainee, Gulzire Awulkan ©Reddit

## D.2. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions which bring about physical destruction in whole or in part

The documentary "China Undercover" prepared by Frontline, an investigative journalism program of the American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), gives important clues regarding the crimes covered in this article. In the documentary, a Chinese official makes a statement, "what violation of human rights? They have no rights, so there is no violation," which summarizes everything.[13] It was underlined in the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which was approved by the U.S. Senate on December 3rd, 2019, that basic human rights are being violated in East Turkistan by the Chinese government mechanisms including high-tech surveillance systems, limiting communications, following every move of the Uyghur people, filtering the internet and social media, and establishing face, voice and eye scanning systems.[14] As a result, Uyghurs are not allowed to follow their religion, culture and belief system. Uyghurs can no longer go to Mosques.

The people, who when asked before said that they were Muslim, not express that they believe in the Chinese Communist Party. The advanced technological systems established in the region observe every moment of life and as a result, people have come to fear talking.

*In the documentary, a Chinese official makes a statement about Uyghurs, "what violation of human rights? They have no rights, therefore there is no violation"*

[13] PBS Frontline. (2020, April 7). China Undercover. PBS Frontline. Retrieved from: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/>

[14] Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019, S.178, 116th Cong. (2019). Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/178>

In the Frontline documentary, Sadyrzhan stated that he received news that his wife left the camp. However, he was shocked and heartbroken to see photos on Chinese-based social media accounts of his wife, Müyeser with her head uncovered. His wife, Müyeser had covered her head in accordance with her religious beliefs before entering the camp. "This shows how much pressure she was under by the communist regime," said Sadyrzhan. He continues, "she was under so much pressure that she was asked to forget about love of motherhood and even her children." [15] The Karakaş documents revealed the extent of the persecution Uyghur Turks and other Muslims in East Turkistan are suffering at the hands of the Beijing government, and it also give clues to the genocidal methods used to commit these crimes. In these documents, those kept in the camps are classified according to their alleged crimes. Some of these crimes are as follows; "his wife is wearing a headscarf, wearing a skullcap, beard, practicing religion, traveling abroad, applying for a passport and not going abroad, having a relative abroad." [16]

"I was hoping to see you all... Take good care of the children and yourself."

A message to her husband from MUYESER, a Uyghur Muslim, who never returned home from a visit to China



FRONTLINE

Muyeser, her husband Sadyrzhan and their child prior to her abduction. The photograph is taken from the PBS Frontline documentary, "China Undercover".

[15] PBS Frontline. (2020, April 7). China Undercover. PBS Frontline. Retrieved from: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/>

[16] UHRP. (2019, February). "Ideological Transformation": Records of Mass Detention From Qaraqash, Hotan. Retrieved from: [https://docs.uhrp.org/pdf/UHRP\\_QaraqashDocument.pdf](https://docs.uhrp.org/pdf/UHRP_QaraqashDocument.pdf)

## D.2.I. Forcefully Staying Inside Uyghur Homes

The Chinese government sent 1.1 million Han Chinese cadres to East Turkistan to control the daily life of Uyghurs. Their job is to stay in Uyghur homes, share the same bed with them if necessary, and to control all aspects of their daily lives. With the 'Double Relative Program' initiated by the Beijing government, Han Chinese cadres make visits at least once every two months and stay for about a week. During the stay, while constantly spreading Chinese Communist Party propaganda, they also spy on them. During these visits, they encourage drinking of alcohol and eat pork, all of which are forbidden in Islam. If a Uyghur requests 'halal meat' from the market and if they do not drink, they are declared a suspect and sent to the camps.

### "Government Sponsored Mass Rape"

The most dangerous aspect of this double relative program is that women, whose husbands are in the camps have to share the same bed with the Chinese men.

The Campaign for Uyghurs Executive Director, Rushan Abbas points out that this situation has led to 'government sponsored mass rape.'<sup>[17]</sup>



Han Chinese (cadres) are sent to live in Uyghur homes, leaving them victim to mental, physical and sexual abuse. (Freedoms Herald)

[17] Kang, Dake and Wang, Yanan. (2018, November 29). China Sends 1.1 Million Party Members to share Uighurs' Homes. Bloomberg. Retrieved from: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-30/urgent-uninvited-guests-keep-watch-for-china-inside-uyghur-homes>

## D.2.2. Forcing Uyghur Girls to Marry Han Chinese

Having young Uyghur girls forced to marry Han Chinese men is a step towards changing the demographics in East Turkistan, in particular, as a result of the Chinese who come to stay in Uyghur houses as permanent guests and marry the young girls living there. Parents are unable to object to the marriage because if they do, they are sent to the camps. In order to disrupt the Uyghur family structure, the Beijing administration offers the Han Chinese money, jobs, and free homes for these arranged marriages. The Communist Party successfully spreads propaganda through films and advertisements and other broadcasting organs in order to recruit candidates for the forced marriages.[18] The government goes a step further and employs social security officers for the weddings. The purpose of the officers is to guide the Han Chinese men during the wedding and to 'persuade' the meeting of the Uyghur girls and their families. Uyghur men are constantly broadcasted as 'terrorists' by the Chinese Communist Party through heavy propaganda methods. On the other hand, Uyghur women are advertised as 'sexual items.' This is another method of forcibly changing the family dynamic and the living conditions in the region.[19]



Uyghur woman forced to marry a Han Chinese man.  
(©Talk to East Turkistan Facebook)



Uyghur kadınları, ÇKP'nin gözetiminde Han Çinlisi erkeklerle grup törenlerinde evlenmek zorunda bırakıldı ve ÇKP bu törenleri güvenlik görevlileriyle gözetledi.

[18] Hartman, Leight. (2020, February 7). Çin, Uyghur kadınlarını istenmeyen evliliklere zorluyor. Share America. Retrieved from: <https://share.america.gov/tr/cin-uyghur-kadınlarını-istenmeyen-evliliklere-zorluyor/>

[19] Byler, Darren. (2019, August 7). Uyghur love in a time of interethnic marriage. SupChina. Retrieved from: <https://supchina.com/2019/08/07/uyghur-love-in-a-time-of-interethnic-marriage/>



### D.2.3. Forced Labor

Another crime committed by the Chinese Communist party is their forced transfer of people of East Turkistan into China proper to work in forced labor facilities. Just as the Nazis forced Jews to work, Uyghurs are sent to work in factories with uniform clothing similar to prisoners. The 'Uyghurs for Sale' report prepared by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute contains striking information. In the report, it was revealed that more than 80 thousand Uyghurs were taken from the camps and sent to factories to produce goods for globally renowned Western companies, such as Nike, GAP and Apple.[20] The unconfirmed statistic puts that number to over 500 companies. This is another tool used to force a demographic shift in East Turkistan. The Chinese Communist Party established a system that completely changes the living conditions of the people in East Turkistan. This also constitutes as a crime of genocide.



Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Turkic Muslims waiting to be transferred out of East Turkistan into mainland China to work as slave laborers in forced labor facilities. (Left picture: From Uyghur Bulletin, Twitter, Right picture: From doguturkistan.org)

[20] Xu, Cave, Leibold, Munro & Ruser. (2020, June 5). Uyghurs for Sale: 'Reeducation', forced labour and surveillance beyond Xinjiang. Retrieved from: <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2020-06/Uyghurs%20for%20sale-05JUN20.pdf>  
gLSFgI8LmxiW\_bfX8GZjgtHpA9dcK30



The Chinese government transporting Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic Muslim youth out of East Turkistan to work in factories in China proper.([source](#))

#### D.2.4. Settling in Uyghur Homes

In an effort to change the demographic structure of East Turkistan, the Chinese government sends Uyghurs to work in forced labor facilities in mainland China.



A visiting Han civil servant asks a Uyghur villager if he smokes or drinks liquor, and the two drink together. This image was posted on social media platform Meipian by the Han civil servant in a diary article about his homestay experience.



Two sent-down “relatives” share a bed with their Uyghur host. The image was posted by the Xinjiang Communist Youth League on the social media platform WeChat.



Han Chinese are given monetary incentives to move into the homes of Uyghurs and monitor their daily lives. Han Chinese men occupy homes of women who live alone because their husbands have been placed in concentration camps and forced labor facilities. (©Freedoms Herald)

The government started to make it mandatory for the Han Chinese to migrate to the region, as they send Uyghurs to work in China proper. This is to eliminate the Uyghur people and force them to forget their identities amidst the Chinese population of over 3 billion. In order to keep the economic power of the region afloat, Han Chinese are given Uyghur homes as incentive, while Uyghurs are forced to migrate out of East Turkistan.

### **D.3. Imposing Measures Intended to Prevent Births Within the Group**

For the Chinese Government, the main priority in East Turkistan is to destroy both the religious and national identities of the Uyghur Turks living there. One of the long-term objectives is to reduce the birth rate of Uyghurs and eliminate future generations. Particularly in recent years, there has been a drop in birth rates among Uyghurs. This serves one of the most important indicators of these acts being in the scope of crimes of genocide.

#### **D.3.1. Forced Abortions**

A 37-year-old Uyghur woman who married a Kazakh citizen and lived in Kazakhstan for a while (her name is undisclosed for security purposes) was caught by the Chinese Police after she returned to her homeland, East Turkistan. In July 2018, she left her two children in Kazakhstan and came to visit her motherland.

After her arrest, the Chinese police forced her to bring her children from Kazakhstan. When she refused, they threatened that her brother would suffer the consequences. She said that she couldn't bring her kids because they were in school. However, after the schools were closed, she took her children and returned to her hometown. As soon as they returned, their passports were canceled. Their phones were confiscated, and they were told that the WhatsApp application is forbidden

Almost every night she was called by the police to go to the police station to give her statement. Midnight on December 28th, 2018, her home was raided by the police. Instead of taking her to the police station this time, the police took her to the hospital. At the hospital, she was informed that must have an abortion. When she objected, she was told that she already had 2 children and that they were not going to allow a third one. After that, the police arrested her brother, she was told that if she did not have an abortion her brother would be punished.

She terminated her third pregnancy in order to save her brother.[21] Gulzira Mogdyn, 38, was arrested after returning from Kazakhstan in December 2017, because she had WhatsApp downloaded on her phone. When she was taken to the doctor after being detained, she learned that she was 10 weeks pregnant. They told her that having a third child is forbidden and the pregnancy was then forcefully terminated without anesthesia. Ruqiye Perhat, who was arrested by Chinese authorities in 2009 and imprisoned for 4 years, and she also had her pregnancy terminated.

*Instead of taking her to the police station, this time the police took her to the hospital. At the hospital, she was informed that she must have an abortion.*



Gulzira Mogdyn speaks the forced abortion of her fourth child in 2018 by the Chinese government following her return from Kazakhstan (©Joel van Houdt/For The Washington Post)

[21] Schmitz, Rob. (2018, November 13). 'They Ordered Me To Get An Abortion': A Chinese Woman's Ordeal In Xinjiang. NPR. Retrieved from: <https://www.npr.org/2018/11/23/669203831/they-ordered-me-to-get-an-abortion-a-chinese-womans-ordeal-in-xinjiang>

### D.3.2. Periodic Drug Administration and Rape Incidents of Women in the Camps.

Mihrigül Tursun, who survived the camps, made the following statement, "female prisoners and I were given unfamiliar pills and liquid medicine. As a result, there was constant dizziness. In this time, many women stopped having their menstrual cycles." Tursun also stated that nine women died in the ward.[22] When speaking to a French news channel, Gülbahar Celilova stated that she was repeatedly injected by Chinese doctors in the concentration camp, where she stayed for more than a year. When speaking on the sterilization process, she said, "we had to stretch our arms out of the small window," continuing, "We realized that we were no longer menstrual after the forced injections."

*"Female prisoners and I were given unfamiliar pills and liquid medicine. As a result, there was constant dizziness. In this time, many women stopped having their menstrual cycle."*

The details given by Celilova exposes the Chinese governments torture techniques towards the Uyghurs, "I am a businesswoman who traded between China and Kazakhstan. When I last visited East Turkistan (2017), the Chinese police took me from the hotel where I stayed. I was taken to prison after being arrested. On the first day in prison, I was totally naked. They questioned me without giving me water. I was taken to another prison after the interrogation. I spent 1 year, 3 months and 10 days in that prison. On the first day, they undressed me and checked my entire body. They made an x-ray and blood test to see if I was pregnant. Later, I learned that pregnant women were imprisoned and forced to abort."

"All of the women in the ward had handcuffs and chains on their feet. They put handcuffs on my hands as well as feet. The chains on my feet weighed 5 kilos. That's how I stayed in prison for 16 months. They would sit us on bare concrete once a week. They were giving us unknown drugs. We were given an injection every 10 days. After all that, we began to feel nothing, and we started to forget everything. Since we stayed in unsanitary conditions without bathing, our body hair was infested with lice. They would take us to interrogation by putting a black bag on our head. Sometimes they tortured us for 24 hours to 48 hours without interruption. Those who were interrogated had their nails removed, their body was bruised from beating, they had whip marks, electric shock marks and blood stains all over the body." [23] The concentration camp where Kazakh woman, Tursunay Ziyawudun stayed for, for 10 months was surrounded by cameras.

[22] Cockburn, Harry. (2018, November 28). Muslim woman describes torture and beatings in China detention camp: 'I begged them to kill me'. Independent. Retrieved from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/uighur-muslim-china-mihrigul-tursun-torture-reeducation-camps-a8656396.html>

[23] Bag, Mustafa. (2019, August 14). Doğu Türkistanlı kadınlar: Çin, toplama kampında verdiği ilaç ve iğnelerle bizi kısırlaştırdı. Euronews. Retrieved from: <https://tr.euronews.com/2019/08/14/dogu-turkistanli-kadinlar-cin-toplama-kampinda-verdigi-ilac-ve-ignelerle-biz-kisirlastirdi>

"All movement was followed. Some evenings, young girls disappeared in the camp and were later returned. Those who sat in dark corners of the room, cried quietly and said nothing to nobody. This was because nobody could mention rape in the camps," Ziyawudun stated.[24] These few examples presented reflect only a small part of the torture the Chinese government inflicts on Muslim women in East Turkistan which constitute genocide. Due to the persecution of the Beijing administration, many victims are unable to disclose their experiences.



Tursunay Ziyawudun interviewed at the Office of the Atajurt Kazakh Human Rights Organization, October 15th, 2019. She was held in a concentration camp (dubbed euphemistically as a "vocational training center.") for a month after hers and her husbands passports were taken away by Chinese local authorities. ©Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia

## **D.4. Forcibly Transferring Children of the Group**

After the camps were established in East Turkistan in 2014, millions of people, especially opinion leaders, were deported there. In this process, children became the biggest victims. The Chinese government places Uyghur children in orphanages in China proper and separates them from their families. It is estimated that over 500 thousand children have been taken from East Turkistan. This act is within scope of Article 2 of the U.N. convention which continues it as an act of genocide.

### **D.4.I. Mothers and Fathers in Camps and Children in Orphanages**

[24] Rajagopalan, Megha. (2020, February 15). She Escaped One of China's Brutal Internment Camps for Muslims. Now she Could Be Sent Back. BuzzFeed News. Retrieved from: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/meghara/china-uyghur-xinjiang-kazakhstan>

Videos on social media which show children torn away from their mothers as infants unable to recognize them as children shows that China's project was successful. What happened in Koday city in the Kashgar region is another example of this. Chinese officials working in this area said, "there is a considerable increase in the number of Uyghur children brought recently. There are also 6-month-old breastfeeding babies, among the 12-year-olds." A Uyghur, who served there said, "even the parents are not allowed to find out the fate of the children."

They stay in closed buildings that even birds cannot enter.[25] According to the Human Rights Watch report, China's objective is to place all Uyghur children in state run orphanages by 2020. There are children whose parents were sent to the concentration camps and the Human Rights Watch China Director, Sophie Richardson stated, "the Chinese government's forced separation of children is perhaps the cruelest element of its oppression in Xinjiang"[26]

#### D.4.2. Cultural Engineering of Children

German researcher Adrian Zenz stated "boarding schools provide the ideal environment for cultural engineering of minorities" revealing the purpose of the Chinese government establishing these institutions.[27]



Uyghur children indoctrinated in Chinese state-run orphanages. These kids are taken from their parents who are alive, but have been placed in concentration camps and/or forced labor facilities (@Freedoms Herald)



China is placing Uyghur children in Chinese state-run orphanages even if their parents are alive. The schools are equipped with barbed wires, watch towers and armed guards. @Independent

[25] UYHAM. (2017, October 18). Çin Uyghur Ana-Babalari Hapsediyor, Çocuklarını İse, Çin'e Götürerek Assimile Ediyor. World Uyghur Congress. Retrieved From: <https://www.uyghurcongress.org/tr/cinuyghur-ana-babalari-hapsediyorcocuklarini-iscesine-goturerek-assimile-ediyor/>

[26] Aytekin, Emre. (2018, October 17). HRW'den yetim Uyghur çocuklar uyarısı. AA. Retrieved From: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/hrwden-yetim-uyghur-cocuklar-uyarisi/1284699>

[27] Aytekin, Emre. (2018, October 17). HRW'den yetim Uyghur çocuklar uyarısı. AA. Retrieved From: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/hrwden-yetim-uyghur-cocuklar-uyarisi/1284699>

In order to raise Uyghur children like Chinese children, The Communist Party administration teaches them to forget their own language, religious and cultural values and raises them with the philosophy of communist education.

Despite the Chinese not wearing their traditional Chinese clothing for hundreds of years, Uyghur children are dressed in those clothes. At this impressionable age, the Chinese culture is being imposed, religious information taught by their own parents is described as a 'harmful virus' and brainwashing techniques are used against the children.

## E. RECOMMENDATIONS

The facts listed above are based on statements of witnesses of these crimes and they reveal that the atrocities committed against Muslim Uyghur Turks in East Turkistan are what constitutes as genocide as per the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Chinese Communist Party systematically continues to pressure and torture Uyghurs to force them to assimilate and then destroys them. The Beijing Administration breached the "Prevention of Genocide" contract which was signed and approved by them before the international community. As such, the president of the People Republic of China, Xi Jinping and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region secretary, Chen Quanguo and other executives are all responsible and accountable for these crimes.

The necessary steps that must be taken are as follows; in order to monitor China's policies in the region, it is necessary to create an international commission which would take the necessary measures to effectively observe China's actions in the region. The genocide committed against the Arakanese Muslims who fled Myanmar (also an Asian country), was moved to the International Court of Justice by Gambia. This case was filed by Gambia (Muslim majority), on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation should act on the crimes of genocide committed in East Turkistan.

In light of these conclusions, we would recommend that the following policy actions be initiated by the relevant government and non-governmental organizations and legislative bodies:



## **The United Nations:**

- The United Nations should move to immediately strip China of its participatory status on the U.N. Human Rights Council Panel.
- The United Nations should demand immediate, unfiltered access to the entire region of East Turkistan in order to perform independent, unescorted investigations of the concentration camps and factories suspected of using Uyghur forced labor.
- In order to facilitate identification of genocidal acts, the United Nations should establish a commission under the joint leadership of the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and relevant international human rights organizations. The resultant report should be transferred to the International Court of Justice without delay, wherein a country should be assigned on behalf of the United Nations or the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- During the aforementioned commissioner investigation, China should be prohibited from using its economic ties in other countries to influence proceedings by the enforcement of relevant sanctions.
- The United Nations must stop Beijing from taking Uyghur children from their families and sending them to orphanages. Moreover, children already taken should be reunited with their families.
- The advanced technology surveillance system established by the Chinese Communist regime in East Turkistan should be abolished and complicit technology firms sanctioned as in violation of human rights.
- The implementation of Han Chinese immigration into East Turkistan and intrusion into Uyghur home should cease.
- The United Nations should formally recognize the present events as genocide.
- The United Nations should recognize East Turkistan as an occupied territory, as was acknowledged in United States Senate Joint Resolution 111 of 1959, in which it is referenced as a subjugated nation.

## **European Parliament**

- The European Parliament should enact legislation akin to the U.S. Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, as well as the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

- The European Parliament should Immediately develop and enact Magnitsky sanctions against all Chinese government officials involved in the implementation, enforcement, and defense of the concentration camps, as well as any individual employees of companies relevantly connected or blacklisted as a result of relevant corporate sanctions.
- The European Parliament should decline to participate in the 2022 Winter Olympics hosted by Beijing.
- The European Parliament should recognize East Turkistan as an occupied territory, as was acknowledged in United States Senate Joint Resolution 111 of 1959, in which it is referenced as a subjugated nation.

### **All Relevant Democratic Governments**

- The respective governments of all democratic countries should move to establish missions or consulates in East Turkistan, referred to by the Chinese government as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.
- The respective governments of all democratic countries should accept Uyghur refugees and accept financial support for Uyghurs fleeing the Chinese Communist Regime

### **Educational Institutions**

- Universities and other entities should work to establish scholarship funds and/or grants for Uyghur students to attend university.
- Academic institutions must seek immediate closure of Confucius Institutes, recently renamed as centres for “language exchange and cooperation” as they are outlets directly controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

### **NGOs**

- All relevant nongovernmental organizations should adjust organizational terminology to reflect genocide rather than more watered-down terms.

### **Other Entities**

- The Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should recognize East Turkistan as an occupied territory.

- The Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should withdraw the relevant section in regards to China from their resolution they passed in 2019 in Abu Dhabi and unequivocally condemn China's war on Islam (RESOLUTION NO.1/46-MM in which they praised China for providing care to its Muslim citizens).

## **Corporations**

- Corporations should seek for the Immediate development of corporate policies regarding ensurement of no Uyghur labor in supply chains.
- Corporations must conduct corporate education sessions in partnership with U.S. governmental or non-governmental organizations in order to develop better corporate responsibility to the realities of potential complicity in genocide.

## **Individuals**

- Individuals should boycott goods produced in China and particularly those with reported ties to slave labor in East Turkistan, and write to inform relevant board members of the concerns with purchasing their products.
- Individuals should seek to keep in constant contact with legislators about sponsoring/supporting relevant legislation and/or potentially authoring further legislations regarding the genocide.
- Individuals should lobby relevant contacts for involvement and financial support for Uyghur causes.
- Individuals and groups must take action to provide an environment of freedom for the Uyghur people to practice religion, pursue livelihoods, meet needs, and enjoy their own language and culture.

## F. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

The whole world mobilized all of its mechanisms to defeat the Covid-19 virus, which came out of China in 2020 and rapidly spread due to the lack of necessary measures taken by the Beijing administration. Despite the pandemic, the Chinese government continues its oppression and persecution of Uyghur Turks and other Muslim communities for its own political and economic interests, as usual. It is impossible to determine exactly what is happening in East Turkistan today. Therefore, as we tried to express above, the global public opinion will unfortunately not know the extent of the genocide taking place there. The Chinese government systematically denies the news. However, At the end of the day, China will be held accountable for all the human rights violations they committed, especially in the concentration camps. The virus gives a crucial insight on how China manipulates the world, and many countries are beginning to question acts taken by the Beijing administration. Unfortunately, on our watch, Uyghurs share a similar fate with the occupied people of Palestine. This is an international case. All countries, especially the Islamic world should act before it is too late. It is important that the United Nations and other international organizations take the necessary measures to put pressure on China and take actions to investigate the acts of genocide perpetrated against the Uyghurs. These crimes must be brought forward by an International Commission and their perpetrators must be prosecuted in the International Court of Justice. Otherwise, as the memory of the late Isa Yusuf Alptekin, one of the Uyghur Leaders, "my people face a great danger of destruction. If my people cannot escape the danger of destruction, they will perish." [28]

[28] Alptekin, Y. İsa (1985), Esir Doğu Türkistan İçin İsa Yusuf Alptekin'in Mücadele Hatıraları. İstanbul, Turkey.

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