

LEAKED DOCUMENTS

LINK TOP CHINESE LEADERS TO
UYGHUR CRACKDOWN



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NEW EVIDENCE PROVES CHINA'S GENOCIDE OF UYGHURS: US HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

The U.S. Holocaust Museum said Tuesday that new evidence has revealed that China may be committing genocide against the Uyghur minority, one of the latest accusations that Beijing is carrying out the most serious of crimes.

The United States has already declared that actions against the mostly Muslim group and other Turkic people in China's western region of Xinjiang amount to genocide, an assertion rejected by Beijing.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum, which last year said that crimes against humanity have been committed, in a new report pointed to accounts of forced birth control of Uyghurs as well as forced transfer to labor in other parts of China.

"Additional recently surfaced information signals that the Chinese government's

conduct has escalated beyond a policy of forced assimilation," the report said.

"The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is gravely concerned that the Chinese government may be committing genocide against the Uyghurs," it said.

"The seriousness of the assault on the Uyghur population demands the immediate response of the international community to protect the victims."

The report, however, noted that previous determinations of genocide have often been based on findings of efforts to kill off a community.

"Given the limited reports of Uyghur deaths in detention, there is insufficient



evidence at this time of the intent of the Chinese government to systematically kill living Uyghurs,” it said.

But the report said that forced sterilizations and forced contraception raise “legitimate questions about the existence of the intent to biologically destroy the group, in whole or in substantial part.”

It said that there was not enough verifiable data, which was a deliberate decision by China to limit information.

“ Quoting previous accounts, the report estimated that anywhere between 1 million and 3 million people, mostly Uyghurs, are detained in Xinjiang in a policy to forcibly assimilate them into China’s majority Han culture and prevent Islamic practices.

China rejects the allegations and says it is offering vocational training aimed at reducing the allure of so-called Islamic extremism following attacks attributed to Uyghur militants.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a staunch critic of China, announced the determination of genocide on his final day in office in January.

His successor Antony Blinken has said he agrees with the finding, and the parliaments in a number of Western countries – Belgium, Britain, Canada, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and The Netherlands – have since passed motions declaring that China is committing genocide.

By French Press Agency



LEAKED PAPERS LINK XINJIANG CRACKDOWN WITH CHINA LEADERSHIP

Secret documents urge population control, mass round-ups and punishment of Uyghurs

Excerpts from previously unpublished documents directly linking China's crackdown on Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in Xinjiang province to speeches by the Chinese leadership in 2014 have been put online.

“ The documents – including three speeches by Chinese president Xi Jinping in April 2014 – cover security, population control and the need to punish the Uyghur population. Some are marked top secret. They were leaked to the Uyghur Tribunal – an independent people's tribunal based in the UK.

In the documents, the highest levels of the Chinese Communist party (CCP) leadership call for Uyghur re-education and relocation to rectify an imbalance in the

Uyghur and Han population in Xinjiang.

Dr Adrian Zenz, the German academic who was asked by the tribunal to authenticate the documents, said the top secret and confidential papers are significant because they show multiple links between the demands of the Chinese leadership of 2014 and what subsequently happened in Xinjiang, including mass internment in re-education camps, coercive labour transfers and optimising the ethnic population by increasing Han population shares.

Zenz alleges that the documents show the leadership's long-term intent to commit cultural genocide with the specific purpose of safeguarding the rule of the CCP.

The documents were handed in full in digital form to the tribunal in September, but have not been published in full in order to protect the source of the leak.

Instead transcripts from some of the documents, lengthy quotations, summary



and analysis have been published. The original documents were peer reviewed by Dr James Millward, professor of inter-societal history at Georgetown University Washington, and Dr David Tobin, lecturer in east Asian studies at the University of Sheffield. Some have been redacted to remove reception stamps. The leak covers 11 documents and 300 unique pages. They range from April 2014 to May 2018.

Zenz said some of the documents were drawn upon by the New York Times in a report in 2019, but that the leak also comprises previously unseen information.

In late 2016, just before the implementation of a set of unprecedented measures in Xinjiang, the leaders' statements were handed to Xinjiang's cadres as crucial study material, preparing them to implement the measures.

In one 2014 speech covered by the leak, Xi argues that the belt and road initiative, his signature foreign policy project, requires a stable domestic security environment. He asserts that the entire country's national security and the achievement of China's major goals in the 21st century will be in jeopardy if the situation in southern Xinjiang is not brought under control.

The speech was delivered weeks after Xi called for "all-out efforts" to bring to justice assailants who murdered 31 people and wounded more than 140 with

knives and machetes in a bloody killing in the south-western city of Kunming on 1 March. Beijing blamed Xinjiang separatists for the attack.

In the speech Xi demands that the region engage in an all-out battle to "prevent Xinjiang's violent terrorist activities from spreading to the rest of China", argues that "stability across Xinjiang and even across the whole country depends on southern Xinjiang", and calls for "a crushing blow to buy us time".

He notes that since violent acts had already spread to other regions of China, "therefore we propose that Xinjiang is currently in ... a painful period of interventionary treatment". Religious extremists, he says, are "devils who will kill without blinking an eye".

He also warns religious extremism is "a powerful psychedelic drug", and calls for reform through education, as opposed to a practice of arrest and release – a reference to re-education and detention camps.

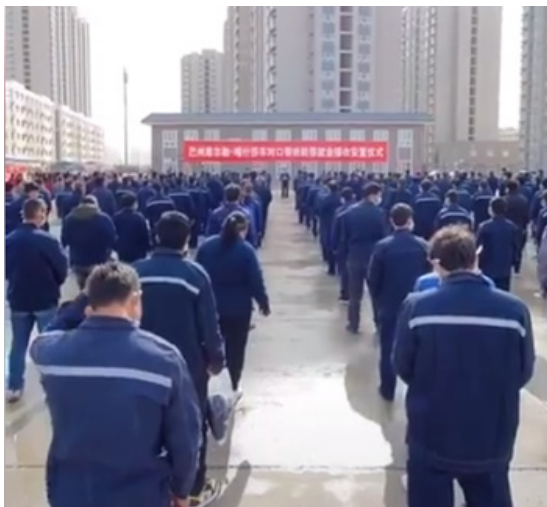
“ In another document, Xinjiang's party secretary, Chen Quanguo, personally commands officials to “round up all who should be rounded up” and says the region's vocational re-education facilities should be “unswervingly operated for a long time”.





Other classified documents lament “severe imbalances in the distribution of the ethnic population” and a “severely mono-ethnic” population structure (an over-concentration of Uyghurs) in southern Xinjiang. They mandate that by 2022, 300,000 settlers (mostly Han from eastern China) are to be moved to regions in southern Xinjiang administered by the Xinjiang Construction and Production Corps, also known as “bingtuan”, a paramilitary entity, with the explicitly stated aim of increasing Han population shares in the region.

Xi himself ordered the abolishment of preferential birth control policies for ethnic groups in southern Xinjiang that had previously allowed them to have more children than the Han. He demanded that birth control policies in the Uyghur heartland were to be made “equal for all ethnic groups”.



The fresh leak was first mentioned at a special session of the UK-based tribunal on Saturday.

Government reports indicate that in February 2017, just weeks prior to the start of an internment campaign, leading cadres in prefectures and counties were subjected to an intensified study schedule of two of Xi’s speeches for at least two hours every week.

Zenz has been denounced by defenders of Beijing as a Christian fundamentalist determined to destroy Chinese communism. The Chinese government has imposed sanctions against him. It has always maintained that political, economic and religious freedoms in the Xinjiang region are “fully guaranteed”.

Zenz claims the new material shows that top Chinese leaders viewed the achievement of “stability maintenance” and related goals such as religious “de-extremification” in Xinjiang to be a matter of China’s national security, crucial to achieving primary long-term political goals.

“ This article was amended on 30 November 2021 to clarify that the documents were leaked to the Uyghur Tribunal, which asked Dr Adrian Zenz to authenticate them; also Dr James Millward and Dr David Tobin peer reviewed the original documents, not the transcripts as an earlier version said. A reference to sanctions against Zenz was clarified.

By Patrick Wintour



REPORT: BEIJING'S REPRESSION OF UYGHURS SPANS GLOBE

Two Washington-based advocacy groups have documented what they say is a major expansion of Chinese surveillance, intimidation and harassment of members of the Uyghur Muslim minority living outside China in democratic societies.

In a joint report released Wednesday, the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) and The Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs said the Chinese government's assault on the rights of Uyghurs living in the democratic world expanded dramatically in 2017 and has continued since.

UHRP says on its website it is dedicated to promoting the rights of the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim peoples in China's western Xinjiang region through research-based advocacy. The Oxus Society describes itself as dedicated to fostering academic exchange between Central Asia and the rest of the world.

According to the report "Your Family Will Suffer": How China Is Hacking, Surveillance, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies," China's authoritarianism extends far outside its borders while "the party-state co-opts other countries and their corporations into its campaign of violence and intimidation against Uyghurs."

The report says China has been trying to coerce and control Uyghurs living abroad since 2002.

As a result, the report said, "members of the Uyghur diaspora have experienced the long reach of China's authoritarian

state in the form of relentless harassment, intimidation, and coercion.”

For example, according to the report, in a survey of 72 members of Uyghur diaspora communities in the United States, Australia, Europe and Japan, nearly 74% reported experiencing “digital risks, threats, or forms of surveillance.”

According to Politico, Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington, said in a written response that the UHRP report allegations were “not worth refuting (and) completely groundless.”

Both the United States and the European Union accuse Beijing of human rights abuses against Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China. More than 1 million people were being detained in internment camps in 2018, a United Nations human rights committee found.

Beijing has denied the accusations, saying that the rights of Uyghurs are pro-

tected under Chinese law and that those complexes are not internment camps but “vocational training schools” where Uyghurs learn new skills.

According to Bradley Jardine, director of research at The Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs, the latest report on China’s reach abroad draws from an expansive dataset of 5,530 reported instances of transnational repression against members of the Uyghur diaspora residing in democratic countries.

“Unlike previous reports in this series, which focused on detentions and renditions in countries with close security ties to China, namely, Pakistan, the Central Asian republics and the countries of the Middle East,” Jardine told VOA, “(t)his report explores the ways in which China infiltrates liberal democracies to exert pressure on activists.”

According to the report, Beijing’s methods are growing in technological sophistication, with hacking groups creating fake





Uyghur language news sites and apps to embed malware on computers.

“They have even been using Facebook, Microsoft and other tech giants’ platforms to disseminate this malware,” Jardine said.

The report builds on the findings of 2017 and 2019 reports, highlighting the harassment of diaspora Uyghurs.

“The scale of China’s transnational repression of Uyghurs is breathtaking. From the rendition of individuals to the everyday online threats, there is no peace for Uyghurs living overseas,” said Omer Kanat, UHRP executive director, on the UHRP website.

UHRP and the Oxus Society urge the private sector, governments and intergovernmental groups to better protect Uyghurs overseas from China’s threat.

“Refugee resettlement agencies and NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) can start to train Uyghurs on digital hygiene and security best practices,” Natalie Hall, an Oxus Society researcher, told VOA. “However, this leaves Uyghurs

entirely responsible for their own protection, so there are more things that other actors can do.”

Hall said tech companies have a responsibility to monitor content on their digital platforms.

“This report, which examines Uyghur cybersecurity in aggregate across platforms over the last 19 years, helps make it clear what gaps still remain in their security measures and what they can be doing better and doing differently to help protect vulnerable communities from attack,” Hall told VOA.

Hall suggested the U.S. should start to engage its partners on these issues.

“Biden has already started to speak about transnational repression more often — an important first step — but further engagement on the subject, including digital rights as well as democratic digital governance, is needed,” she said.

By Asim Kashgarian



XINJIANG FOOTAGE SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON UYGHUR DETENTION CAMPS

A YouTube video of Xinjiang detention facilities has rekindled concern over China's crackdown on ethnic minorities. Researchers say the videos offer new evidence, but many fear for the vlogger's safety.

A 20-minute video featuring more than a dozen detention facilities in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has offered fresh evidence and renewed the discussion around China's large-scale crackdown on ethnic minorities in the region.

The video was filmed by a Chinese man named Guanguan, who went to Xinjiang after reading a series of articles from US news outlet BuzzFeed News, indicating the locations of several detention centers in the region.

His video, which was originally posted to YouTube in October, has attracted the attention of researchers and academics who have been focusing on China's large-scale crackdown on ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. Alison Killing, an architect who

worked with BuzzFeed News to create a map of satellite images of the camps, said the new information from the video confirms what they believe to be happening in Xinjiang.

"When you are working with satellite images, you are always relying on other sources of information to corroborate what you are looking at," she told DW. "It can be on-the-ground videos, which is what we see here."

Other forms of corroboration that researchers like Killing rely on include interviews with former detainees and information from journalists who visit the detention facilities. She added that Guanguan's video helps to confirm whether many facilities are prisons or detention centers.

Rayhan Asat, a Uyghur human rights lawyer and senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Strategic Litigation Project, said the unfiltered video footage adds to the ongoing documentation of the crackdown that is taking place in Xinjiang and "defeats

the state propaganda and disinformation of ‘Happy Uyghurs.’”

“I hope more Chinese people like this gentleman will stand up for their fellow citizens,” Asat told DW.

Several detention sites filmed for YouTube

“I visited Xinjiang once in 2019 on a bike trip, but the purpose of my visit this time is completely different,” said Guanguan in the video. “I read a story on BuzzFeed News, in which the reporters identified the locations of many detention centers in Xinjiang through cross-comparing satellite imagery.”

He followed the Mapbox satellite map created by the news outlet, along with satellite images from China’s Baidu Maps service to film 18 detention facilities across eight cities in Xinjiang. While the video was uploaded to his YouTube channel last month, it is believed that he went to Xinjiang and filmed those facilities in 2020, based on his tweets.

“Due to the Chinese government’s regulations, it is now very difficult for foreign journalists to gain access to Xinjiang to conduct interviews. I was thinking, while



foreign journalists can’t go to Xinjiang, I can still go there,” he said in the video.

Guanguan began his trip in the eastern city of Hami, where he drove by the Hami Compulsory Isolated Drug Rehabilitation Center. The building wasn’t shown on Baidu Maps, and the bars on the window as well as the barbed wire fencing led him to suspect that the center could be a detention facility.

Next, he went to the Mori Kazakh Autonomous County in Xinjiang, where he captured footage of a detention center with watchtowers and surrounded by surveillance cameras. He later drove by the Mori County Detention Center. Neither of the facilities were marked on the Baidu map.

When he arrived at Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, he drove by several facilities with watchtowers and high barbed-wire fences, which are all typical features of detention facilities in Xinjiang. Slogans like “reform through labor and cultural transformation” were also written on the walls of some of the buildings.

Complexes that can hold ‘thousands’

In July, the Associated Press (AP) visited a cell in the Urumqi No. 3 Detention Center in Xinjiang’s Dabancheng, describing the facility as “the largest in the country and possibly the world, with a complex that sprawls over 220 acres.”

The AP estimated that “the center could hold roughly 10,000 people and many more if crowded, based on satellite imagery and the cells and benches seen during the tour.”

Over the last few years, the Chinese government has described the mass deten-



tion of roughly a million or more ethnic minorities in Xinjiang as a “war against terror.” Uyghurs have reportedly been put into internment camps across Xinjiang and female survivors of the camps have accused the Chinese government of systematically raping or sexually abusing Uyghur women in the camps.

Guangan also mentioned in the video that during his first trip to Xinjiang, some local Han Chinese people told him that a large number of Uyghurs had been moved to other regions as cheap laborers.

Since Guangan revealed his face in the Xinjiang video, many people have expressed concerns over his safety. In a new video uploaded to his YouTube channel on Friday, Guangan said he hopes that the footage of the detention facilities can be passed on as evidence. “I don’t have the ability to directly challenge the Chinese government, but this is what I can do within the limits of my power,” he said.

China defends its Xinjiang policies

Last Wednesday, Xu Guixiang, the spokesperson of the Xinjiang regional government, said that the region has taken “firm, resolute and effective” measures to counter terrorism and made achievements.

Even though there are different voices on Xinjiang’s policies on countering terrorism and deradicalization, history will justify them, Xu was quoted as saying by the Chinese state-run Global Times newspaper.

For those who want to use topics on Xinjiang to interfere in China’s domestic affairs, their attempts are doomed to fail, he added.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry also issued a statement the following day.

“I want to stress that Xinjiang-related issues are in essence about countering violent terrorism, radicalization and separatism, not about human rights or religion,” the ministry’s spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

“In the face of the grave and complex counterterrorism situation, Xinjiang has taken a host of decisive, robust and effective deradicalization measures. As a result, Xinjiang has seen no violent terrorist case for five years in a row.”

Edited by: Leah Carter



BIDEN MULLS US DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF BEIJING OLYMPICS

US President Joe Biden has said that he is weighing a US diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic games due to be held in Beijing, China.

“That is something we are considering,” he told reporters ahead of talks with the leaders of Mexico and Canada.

“ A diplomatic boycott would mean that no US officials are sent to attend the games. The decision comes amid rising tension in the US-China relationship.

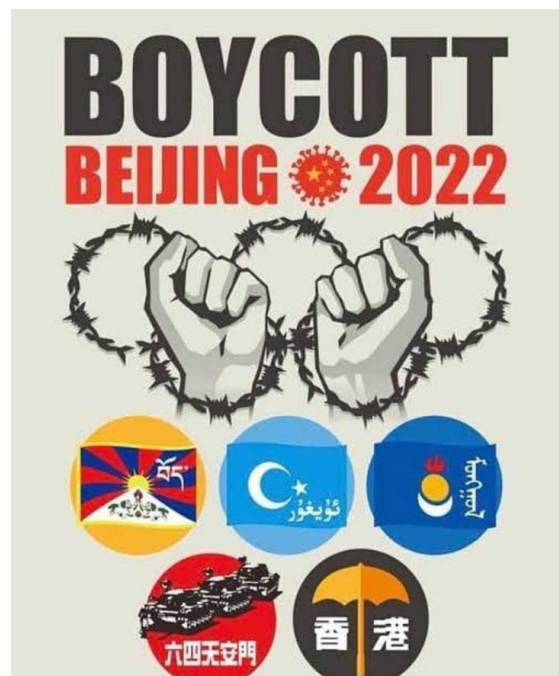
On Monday, Mr Biden held his first direct talks with China’s Xi Jinping.

At the White House, Biden spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that the US and China leaders did not discuss the Olympics during their three-hour virtual meeting on Monday.

Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have called for a diplomatic boy-

cott as a means to protest against Chinese human rights abuses.

A diplomatic boycott would not affect athletes, but Ms Psaki said the US is still finalising “what our presence will be” at the games, which are due to begin on 4 February.





The US has accused China of genocide towards the Uyghurs - a Muslim minority group which lives mostly in the autonomous region of Xinjiang.

Tensions have also risen over the way China has acted to repress political freedoms in Hong Kong.

Mr Biden's comment came as he was hosting Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for formal talks at the White House.

The talks, dubbed the Three Amigos Summit, are expected to focus on border issues, tax subsidies for electric vehicles, Covid precautions and other issues.

“ Human rights groups call for China Olympic boycott

“ What Biden and Xi want from each other

Last month, US senators proposed a draft amendment to a bill that would ban the

US State Department from spending government funds to “support or facilitate” the attendance of US diplomats at the Games.

Nancy Pelosi, the most senior Democrat in Congress, has called for a boycott, saying that US leaders who attend would lose their “moral authority”.

Republican Senator Tom Cotton said on Thursday that diplomatic boycott of the “genocide Olympics” would be “too little, too late” and called for a total boycott of all athletes, officials and US corporate sponsors.

Nikki Haley, the former US representative to the UN under Donald Trump, has also called for a complete boycott.

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GLOBAL COMMODITY PRICES SURGING DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS, SAYS ERDOĞAN

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan addresses OIC standing committee on variety of issues, from economy to Afghanistan, Syria

The world is facing a wave of inflation triggered by extraordinary developments in global commodity prices, Turkey's president said on Wednesday.

"As humanity, we've felt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic very deeply in every area of our lives," Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said in a video message to the 37th Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Imbalances between demand and supply on a global scale led to the surging commodity prices, Erdoğan told the meeting being held in Istanbul, Turkey, noting that the UN Food and Agriculture Organiza-

tion's Food Prices Index saw the 10-year-high increasing by 31.5% in October.

The IMF's All Commodity Price Index increased by 74% in October, while energy prices jumped by 175% and non-energy commodity prices by 20.5%, he added.

Erdoğan underlined that natural resource wastage had jeopardized food production and food security and noted that the 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, also hosted by Turkey last month, had hosted talks on related issues, including on the agricultural sector, rural development, food waste and reserves, water management, and an OIC strategic products action plan.

"We need to create permanent solutions for issues such as poverty, migration, and climate change that threaten our future. We need to utilize the platforms we have



in the most effective way and develop joint policies and programs,” he added.

Erdogan highlighted that plans for a preferential trade system to be in force as of July next year were at the top of COMCEC’s trade agenda.

“With the participation of the states that are not yet a party to the system, we will carry intra-organizational trade to a much higher level. Our goal is to increase the share of our mutual trade to 25% in our total trade,” he said.

Product development efforts under the 50 Shariah Index are also bearing fruit, exemplified by the creation of the index’s stock fund by the Turkish Ziraat Portfolio as a concrete investment tool, said the Turkish leader.

The 50 Shariah Index was designed in 2012 by COMCEC to provide a Shariah-compliant benchmark.

Erdogan stressed that this year’s ministerial session would discuss the role of Islamic finance in supporting micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses against COVID-19.

He added: “In the meetings held on technical issues, I attach great importance to the sharing of knowledge, experience, and knowledge-based policy activities by our experts.

“It’s also crucial to implement the concrete policy recommendations developed by the working group.”

- ‘OIC should prioritize continued humanitarian aid to Afghanistan’

Erdogan noted that COMCEC had agreed on 42 projects across 20 countries, emphasizing the importance of training young people in the field of management across the Muslim world.

Muslim countries are struggling with the effects of a variety of issues from the coronavirus pandemic to terrorism, poverty, internal conflicts, and migration, he said.

“As members of the OIC, we need to strengthen our economic cooperation on the one hand, we need to provide the necessary political, humanitarian, financial, and legal support to our brotherly countries on the other.”

Erdogan underscored the need for solidarity with Afghanistan, adding that maintaining humanitarian aid to the country facing “serious crisis under winter conditions,” should be a priority.

On Aug. 17, two days after the Taliban seized control of Kabul, the US government froze about \$9.5 billion of Afghanistan’s central bank assets. Many donors and international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have stopped making payments to the interim Taliban regime.

The UN forecasts that around 22.8 million people, or over half of Afghanistan’s population, will face severe food problems, with the Human Rights Watch warning earlier this month that the country was facing famine.

The watchdog urged the UN and international financial institutions to urgently adjust existing restrictions and sanctions affecting Afghanistan's economy and banking sector.

- 'Two-state solution key to lasting peace, stability in Palestine'

President Erdogan further expressed support for the Palestinian cause and added: "As the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, we must refrain from any action that could weaken the Palestinian cause."

"We must put an end to Israel's policies of illegal resettlement, destruction, forced displacement, confiscation, and evacuation in East Jerusalem and the West Bank," said Erdogan, noting that establishing a two-state solution within international parameters would be key to "lasting peace and stability."

Since 2006, the Gaza Strip has groaned under a crippling Israeli blockade that has deprived its roughly 2 million inhabitants of vital commodities, including food, fuel, and medicine.

Jewish settlers in occupied Palestinian territories also frequently cut down or set fire to olive trees, the main source of in-

come for Palestinian farmers in the West Bank.

Settlers attack farmers, especially during the olive harvest season.

There are more than 250 illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which Israel occupied in 1967.

Nearly 450,000 settlers living in those areas make life more difficult for Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank.

According to international law, all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are considered illegal.

- Issues facing OIC across world

Drawing attention to increasing Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racist rhetoric in many countries, especially in Europe, in recent years, Erdogan stressed that the OIC must act together and boost cooperation to combat such issues.

He also took note of the ongoing humanitarian crisis that Rohingya people are suffering, saying: "It isn't possible to reach a solution and peace in Arakan (Rakhine) without the safe, voluntary, and honorable return of the Rohingya to Myanmar."

Around 1.2 million Rohingya who fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State live in the world's largest



refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

On Syria, Erdogan said the international community has yet to end the atrocities there and added that a permanent solution that protects the country's territorial integrity and provides for the safe return of civilians was necessary.

Turkey's fight against terror groups such as Daesh/ISIS and the PKK/YPG, which pose threats to Syria's territorial integrity and national security, will "continue with determination," he affirmed.

Syria has been locked in a vicious civil war since early 2011 when the Bashar al-Assad regime cracked down on pro-democracy protests.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and more than 10 million displaced, according to UN figures.

Erdogan also expressed Turkey's continuing support for establishing permanent stability, peace, and prosperity in Libya. He further said his country was monitoring the "situation of Uyghur Turks and other Muslim minorities in China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region with great sensitivity."

"On this occasion, I once again underline our (Turkey's) expectation that our organization will show sensitivity in this regard (Uyghurs) in line with its founding purposes," he added.

China has been accused by several countries of ethnic cleansing of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, but denies any wrongdoing, dismissing the allegations as "lies and (a) political virus."

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CHINA'S NOMINEE WINS INTERPOL SEAT DESPITE CONCERNS OF HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

The candidacy of Hu Binchen, an official in the Chinese public security ministry, was also opposed by alliance of lawmakers from 20 countries

Election helps China use global policing body for repressive policies, endangering Hongkonger, Uyghur, Tibetan, Taiwanese and Chinese dissidents, alliance says

A Chinese government official has been elected to an oversight role at global crime-fighting body Interpol despite opposition from rights groups and lawmakers from 20 countries.

Hu Binchen, deputy director general of the Chinese public security ministry's international coordination department, on Thursday won one of two seats representing Asia on the body's executive committee, Interpol said.

The incoming president was also elected during Interpol's general assembly this week, with United Arab Emirates' Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi winning the role, the glob-

al agency said. Praveen Sinha of India won the other Asia seat.

The elections of Hu and al-Raisi have disappointed human rights groups and lawmakers who campaigned against their candidacies because of alleged human rights abuses by their respective countries.

"It is sad to see Interpol's member states putting a fox in charge of watching the sheep," said Peter Dahlin, co-founder and director of human rights NGO Safeguard Defenders.

Dahlin said that Hu represented a Chinese ministry that was committing crimes against humanity through systematic use of disappearances, and worked specifically in the department responsible for chasing down alleged fugitives and repatriating them to China.

"He has no place at the table and China's [candidate's] election will strengthen its ability to misuse Interpol and erode trust in the organisation itself," Dahlin said.



Hu's election comes three years after former Interpol president Meng Hongwei – who was also a colleague of Hu's at the ministry – disappeared on a visit to China in 2018, halfway through his term heading the global body.

It later emerged that Meng had been detained, and after being investigated for corruption by the Communist Party's disciplinary watchdog, he was sentenced to 13½ years in jail. During his detention, Interpol received Meng's resignation, under mysterious circumstances.

China's foreign ministry said that Meng's prosecution was entirely fair and unrelated to political persecution. By nominating Hu, China was playing its part in supporting Interpol, it said, adding that multilateral crime-fighting efforts should not be affected by politics.

China and Russia are among countries accused of repatriating dissidents through misuse of Interpol's red notice system, which sends alerts to 195 member states. Although it does not amount to an official arrest warrant, countries often detain individuals for whom a red notice has been issued.

Idris Hasan, also known as Yidiyesi Aishan, is a Uyghur activist who lives in Turkey and was detained in Morocco in July on the basis of a now-cancelled red notice requested by Beijing.

Interpol cancelled the notice within a month of his detention, saying new information had come to light. It did not give details, but the speed of the withdrawal drew accusations that it had failed to protect against Beijing's misuse of the system. Hasan remained in detention while a Moroccan court considered an extradition request from China.



The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), which ran a campaign to oppose Hu's nomination, said it was deeply concerned by his election and reiterated its call for all governments to revoke extradition treaties with mainland China and Hong Kong.

"Hu's election gives the [Chinese] government a green light to continue using Interpol as a vehicle for its repressive policies globally, and places thousands of Hongkonger, Uyghur, Tibetan, Taiwanese and Chinese dissidents living abroad at even graver risk," IPAC said.

Interpol secretary general Jurgen Stock on Wednesday defended the red notice system, saying his organisation respected human rights and had a task force to review every request to ensure compliance with its rules – but added that it was also reliant on those requesting the alerts.

"Member countries also have a role to play, because they have a responsibility for the data they provide to us," Stock said.

BY Linda Lew



CANADA HALTS IMPORT OF GOODS LINKED TO FORCED LABOUR FROM CHINA, MALAYSIA

Clothing from China ‘intercepted’ at border, while \$200M federal PPE contract put on hold

The federal government has stopped two separate shipments of goods linked to forced labour from entering Canada — a move that has some advocates pleased but still pushing for more.

“ A shipment of women’s and children’s clothing from China was intercepted in Quebec and held by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) sometime between Oct. 11 and Nov. 3.

The clothing was held under a trade tariff that prohibits goods “mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced labour” from entering Canada.

It marked the first time the federal government has implemented this tariff, which

was brought into effect on July 1, 2020, after the ratification of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

In another move, a major supplier of nitrile gloves to the Canadian government was asked by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) to cease shipments until the company proves there is no forced labour in its supply chain.

“It’s about time,” Independent Sen. Julie Miville-Dechéne said of the halted shipments.

She has been fighting for tougher Canadian laws against forced labour and modern slavery for years, introducing transparency legislation around the issue in the Senate.

‘Transparency problems’

CBSA would not provide information about which company imported the cloth-

ing nor details about the Chinese manufacturer.

“We have to name those companies. We don’t know where this merchandise was going to go, and for me, that’s a transparency problem,” said Miville-Dechêne.

“ A recent CBC Marketplace investigation found Canadian retailers had brought hundreds of shipments of clothing into Canada from a Chinese factory suspected of secretly using North Korean forced labour.

Malaysian subsidiary has \$220M PPE contract

Meanwhile, Supermax Healthcare Canada — a subsidiary of Malaysian glove manufacturer Supermax Corporation — was asked by the federal government to withhold all deliveries until it had passed a social responsibility audit proving that the company doesn’t use forced labour.

The audit is already underway and the results are expected in mid-November, said PSPC.



Supermax has come under fire in recent months after a BBC investigation in February revealed many forced labour indicators were present at their Malaysian factories.

In October, U.S. Customs and Border Protection stopped all disposable gloves produced by Supermax Corporation and its subsidiaries from entering that country.

Supermax Healthcare Canada currently has a contract with the federal government valued at more than \$222 million to provide Canada nitrile gloves amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“That’s a big contract,” said Andy Hall, a workers’ rights advocate based in Asia, who has spoken out for years on the issues migrant glove workers face in Malaysia.





“These purchasing practices are contributing to modern slavery practices in Malaysia.”

While Ottawa has paused the shipments that fall under its contract, nitrile gloves from Supermax are still permitted to enter Canada.

Since February, shipping records show that Supermax Healthcare Canada imported more than 370,000 kilograms of nitrile gloves from another company subsidiary, Supermax Global Ltd. (HK) into Canada. The most recent shipment — on Nov. 5 — was for 47,434 kilograms of gloves.

Not doing enough, advocate says

In a statement, Supermax Healthcare Canada said if the audit substantiates the recent allegations of forced labour, the company will “explore all possible options to address the situation and take swift action to ensure that workers’ rights are respected in its supply chain.”

Last January, a CBC Marketplace investigation found that several Canadian companies with millions of dollars worth of federal contracts for personal protective equipment (PPE) were connected to imported goods from Malaysian manufacturers with allegations of forced labour in their factories.

Despite these two actions, Hall said the Canadian government should be doing more.

“I see companies that have systemic forced labour issues that are still exporting to Canada,” he said

“This has been highlighted to [the Canadian government] and they are not addressing the issue, so I think definitely they are not doing enough.”

By Caitlin Taylor, Katie Pedersen, Eric Szeto



JAPANESE APPAREL MAKERS JOIN BOYCOTT OF CHINA'S XINJIANG COTTON

Sanyo Shokai, TSI among those responding to allegations of forced labor

“ Japanese apparel makers are part of a growing international trend to shun cotton from China’s western Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, as reports of forced labor and human rights abuses mount in the region, which produces some of the world’s highest grade cotton.

Japanese clothing makers, including Sanyo Shokai and TSI Holdings, have decided to stop using Xinjiang cotton, following in the footsteps of Mizuno, a major sports equipment and sportswear company, and others. The moves of Japanese clothing names with clout within the industry could create a ripple effect for the entire textile supply chain.

Sanyo Shokai, which sells clothing under the Paul Stuart, Epoca and Mackintosh Philosophy brands, will stop using Xinjiang cotton, starting in the 2022 spring-summer season. Sanyo Shokai President Shinji Oe has told Nikkei that the company has gathered information on human rights issues in Xinjiang, but has been unable to pin down the facts. “As long as there is doubt, we have no choice but to stop” using Xinjiang cotton, Oe said.

TSI, which has a raft of apparel brands, including Nano Universe, has learned that cotton sourced from the region was used in some of its products. It has eliminated Xinjiang cotton from its products for this autumn-winter season. “We will not use [Xinjiang cotton] until the human rights issues are resolved,” said TSI President Tsuyoshi Shimoji. King, known for its Pinore a women’s clothing brand, has followed suit.

Sanyo Shokai is influential in the Japanese apparel industry because of its business partnerships with a number of large retailers, mainly department stores. TSI, which also sells popular Margaret Howell brand clothes, had 134 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) of sales in the year ended in February.

Besides Mizuno, Gunze, a major underwear maker, has also stopped sourcing cotton from Xinjiang. Sanyo Shokai and TSI use a wide variety of fabrics for their small-lot production of a broad array of products. The decision was difficult for these manufacturers because it creates challenges for their supply chain management and product development. But they have been forced to take the step amid a growing consumer backlash over allegations that members of the mostly Muslim Uyghur minority group are being used as forced labor in China.

China is the world's second-largest cotton grower, with Xinjiang accounting for 80% to 90% of the country's production. Many industry executives say it is impossible to eliminate Xinjiang cotton entirely from the global supply chain. Some Japanese clothing manufacturers, including women's underwear maker Charle, are responding by reducing the amount they use.

This issue is a sensitive, if familiar, one for foreign brands. They have a challenge in



trying to sell to China's vast market while satisfying global customers' growing demands that they do business ethically.

H&M, a Swedish fast-fashion brand, has seen sales in China nosedive as nationalistic consumers have called for a boycott of its products over the company's comments on alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Some big industry players are opting to take no action. Muji brand operator Ryo-hin Keikaku has decided to continue using Xinjiang cotton in the same volumes as before. "We have been unable to confirm the problem [of forced labor], as far as our investigation is concerned," the company says. It also pointed to concerns about the likely impact of halting the use of Xinjiang cotton on the local economy. Yamato International, an Osaka-based apparel maker, has decided to continue using only Xinjiang cotton that is "properly managed."





Some Japanese clothing brands are also stepping up their efforts to ensure socially responsible conduct by suppliers.

Fast Retailing, which operates the Uniqlo casual clothing brand, has established a system to directly monitor production of the materials it uses, including cotton, for possible human rights abuses and other ethical violations. Tadashi Yanai, the company's chairman and CEO, has pledged to "secure high levels of traceability" throughout the supply chain, down to cotton farmers, to ensure ethical production.



United Arrows next year will start demanding confirmation that no human rights abuses or other ethical problems are occurring in its supply chain, including at sewing factories and other suppliers.

The growing international movement to rethink the use of Xinjiang cotton reflects a global movement that places greater importance on companies' environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) standards. Global ESG investment last year totaled \$35.3 trillion, an increase of 15% compared with 2018, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance. It is becoming increasingly difficult for companies to attract investors unless they show a strong commitment to socially responsible management.

Nikkei staff writers



The Chinese regime has been organizing propaganda conference in various countries to cover up its crimes in East Turkistan.

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What is happening in East Turkistan?

What is true and what is false?

The “ISTIQLAL” journal uses reliable sources, evidence and witnesses to reveal China’s crimes against humanity and shine a light on the oppression in East Turkistan as well as exposing China’s fake news propaganda.

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