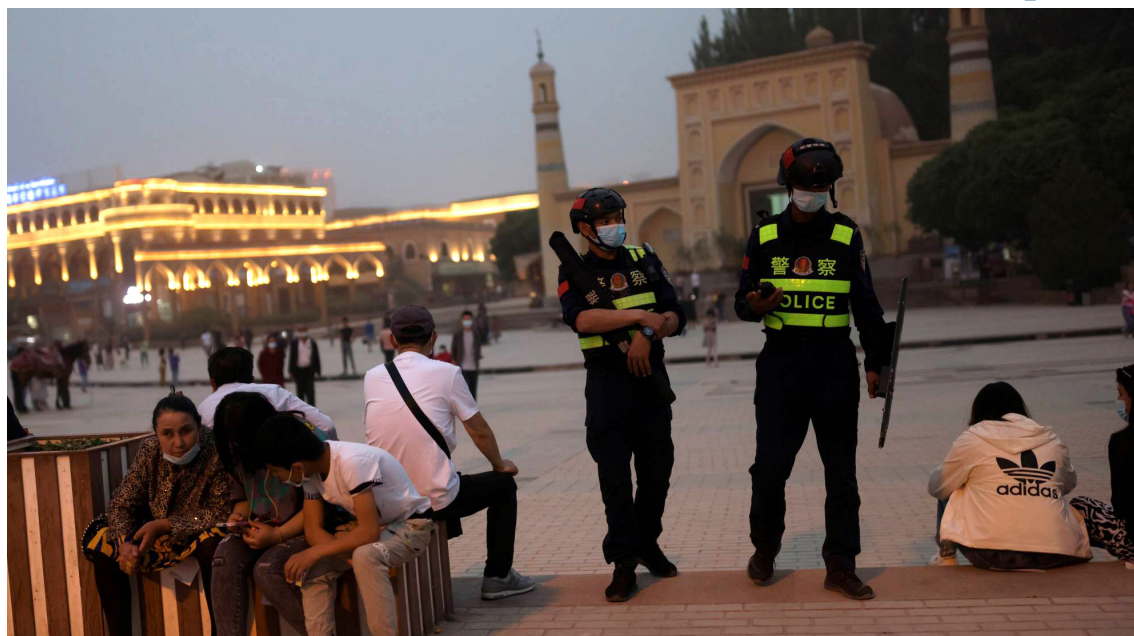


CHINA IS HUNTING UYGHURS AROUND THE WORLD



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئاخبارات ۋە مەدەنىيەت جەمئىيىتى



NO RAMADAN IN EAST TURKISTAN: A MESSAGE FROM UYGHURS

Ramadan, the most precious time of the year when families come together to pray tarawih, break their fast, indulge in the remembrance of Allah, and cherish moments with their loved ones. While we embrace this month, I can't help but feel a heaviness in my heart when I think about our Uyghur brothers and sisters who have had their families broken apart, been denied their rights to practice Islam and punished for participating in Ramadan.

The Chinese government's ruthless clampdown on Uyghur Muslims has resulted in the extreme suppression of Uyghurs' identity. "Break their lineage, break their roots, break their connections" is what a Chinese Religious Affairs official said in 2018. The manifestation of these policies continues to display the gravest human rights abuses under international law.^[1]

Last week I spoke to Uyghur native and activist Abdur-Rashid, who himself had to leave his family in East Turkistan. He recalled:

“After 2015 the local government began investigating streets and villages. They sent Chinese people to live with you to see if you are fasting. Sometimes they would send a policeman or guard to monitor the streets during Suhūr time, and if they saw that the lights were on they would assume you were fasting, and therefore subject you to punishment. Tarawih prayer is banned, many mosques have already been destroyed or closed, you cannot even pray the five daily prayers. We cannot practice our Ramadan.”

[1] <https://uyghurtribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/UT-judgment-version-for-approval-by-GN-07.25-2.pdf>



The destruction and eradication of Islam in public and private life

In 2017, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) further hardened their systematic efforts to completely destroy and eradicate Uyghur culture and religious customs. Under the new ‘de-extremification’ regulations, virtually all religious symbols, activities and discourse became criminalised and punishable by the state.^[2] Religious dressing such as having a beard, wearing a veil or hijab, as well as any adherence to the Muslim faith resulted in lengthy prison sentences.^[3] The Chinese state went as far as criminalising the usage of Arabic origin names, the distribution of religious materials and even advising people towards religious customs such as eating halal. The severity of religious suppression is further manifested through the forced opening of restaurants during Ramadan when they would traditionally be closed during the day.

[2] Roberts, S.R., 2020. *The War on the Uyghurs: China’s campaign against Xinjiang’s Muslims*. Manchester University Press

[3] <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/09/13/48-ways-to-get-sent-to-a-chinese-concentration-camp/>

[4] Roberts, S.R., 2020. *The War on the Uyghurs: China’s campaign against Xinjiang’s Muslims*. Manchester University Press

[5] Roberts, S.R., 2020. *The War on the Uyghurs: China’s campaign against Xinjiang’s Muslims*. Manchester University Press

The demolition of mosques, destruction of graveyards, removal of crescent symbols and minarets are just some of the ways the Chinese authorities have attempted to sever the connection between Uyghurs and their land.^[4]

The horrors of religious suppression not only exist in public life, but the region is clouded by an ‘omnipresent system of surveillance’ which has created an open-air prison. The state

not only has advancements to track the movement and communications of over 12 million Uyghurs outside the home, but it also has the authority to violate the sanctity inside their homes, infringing on their private liberties.^[5] Uyghur activist Abdur-Rashid recounts:

“There was another horrible thing they do before Ramadan...breaking into your home and searching it. They will come during the night in the name of “investigating” and search every corner of the house and interrogate the family members. If they found any books in Arabic or other things related to religion, it would be a problem for the family.”

Furthermore, in a long list of acts criminalised by the Chinese state, Human Rights



Watch reveals that ‘not allowing officials to sleep in your bed, eat your food, and live in your house’ is one such crime that will lead to your detainment.^[6] These are just some of the cruel policies implemented to eradicate Islam in Uyghurs’ private lives.

Breaking families apart

The Chinese Communist Party made sure not to leave any avenue behind when it comes to violating the sanctity of Uyghur families and breaking their roots as well as their spirits. This Ramadan I also think about the families who have been ripped apart; those mothers who have not heard or seen from their children in years, those wives who do not know if their husbands are dead or alive, and those children who will never know when their father will return.

Arbitrary imprisonments are a commonly-known practice implemented by the Chinese state resulting in the destruction of families. What is less known is that Children as young as a few months old are also separated from their families,

and placed in orphanages or state-run boarding schools without the knowledge of their parents, leaving the parents wondering if their children are dead or alive.^[7]

During these precious days when the du‘ā of the fasting believer reaches Allah in the heavens, and the nights when Allah descends to the lowest heavens to answer the du‘ā of his servants, remember your Uyghur brothers and sisters in these du‘ās. We should remember to be grateful to not only be able to live through another Ramadan, but have the immense blessing of being able to participate in the joys of this month to our hearts’ content. This is a reminder to not take even what might be considered the littlest of acts like doing wudu or walking to your family half asleep in the kitchen for suhūr for granted, for even these acts could result in detainment and persecution in East Turkistan. We seek refuge with Allah from trials of persecution for practicing our Dīn.

By Maira Khan

[6] <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/09/13/48-ways-to-get-sent-to-a-chinese-concentration-camp/>

[7] <https://uyghurtribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/UT-judgment-version-for-approval-by-GN-07.25-2.pdf>



U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT SAYS CHINA CONTINUES “GENOCIDE” ON UYGHURS

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that acts of “genocide” have continued against the Muslim Uyghur minority in China’s far-western Xinjiang region, revealing the findings in its latest annual human rights report.

China immediately criticized the United States, saying the report is “full of political lies and ideological prejudice.”

The U.S. report, covering events of last year, also warned of “creeping authoritarianism that threatens both human rights and democracy,” pointing to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as the most notable current example.

On China, the department said in its 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, “Genocide and crimes against humanity occurred during the year against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious

minority groups in Xinjiang.”

The same phrase was used in the 2020 report, which was the first issued during the administration of President Joe Biden. The “genocide” label was initially applied in the final days of the previous administration under Donald Trump.

The latest report added that “these crimes were continuing” and said they included the arbitrary imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than 1 million civilians, forced sterilization, coerced abortions, rape and forced labor.

In Xinjiang, authorities expanded internment camps for Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs and other Muslims, the report said, noting that repurposed schools, factories and prisons were used to hold detainees in some cases.

China has insisted what the United States calls internment camps are vocational training centers established to pre-emptively combat terrorism and religious extremism while urging Washington not to interfere in its “internal affairs.”



On Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China is “strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to” the U.S. report that is designed to “slander” the Asian country.

The United States has used human rights as an “excuse to impose sanctions on other nations as well as to pressure and threaten them,” Zhao told reporters in Beijing, adding it should “do something useful to improve its own human rights situation.”

The report also said “disappearances through multiple means continued at a nationwide, systemic scale” in China, touching on the case of tennis player Peng Shuai, whose welfare became a source of international concern after she made sexual assault allegations on social media against a powerful official.

Peng disappeared from public view for

about three weeks after alleging in the since-deleted Weibo post on Nov. 2 that she was forced into having sex during an extramarital relationship with China’s former Vice Premier Zhang Gaoling.

To highlight Russia’s abuses even before its invasion of Ukraine, the report said the 2014 annexation of Crimea continued to “affect the human rights situation there significantly and negatively.”

On Myanmar, which has been under the control of a military junta following a coup in February last year, the report said that members of the regime’s security forces continued to commit numerous gross violations of human rights, such as arbitrary or unlawful killings of civilians and arbitrary arrests or detention.

In March this year, the United States announced it had determined Myanmar’s military committed genocide against the Rohingya ethnic minority in 2016 and 2017, in an apparent bid to increase pressure on the junta, which has been accused of overthrowing the Southeast Asian country’s democratically elected government, and its ongoing repressive rule.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar does not recognize the Rohingya, most of whom are Muslim, as one of the country’s ethnic groups with rights as citizens. Instead, they are branded as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Under a U.N. convention, genocide includes actions such as killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, or imposing measures to prevent births, committed with “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”

By Kyodo News

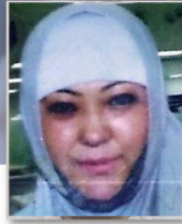
4 Uyghurs are in danger to be extradited from Saudi Arabia to China



Baibure Miremaiti
13 years old

📍 Saudi Arabia

She was arrested in 30 March by Saudi Arabia's authority. She is in danger to being deported to China.



Buheliqiemu Abula

📍 Saudi Arabia

She was arrested in 30 March by Saudi Arabia's authority. She is in danger to being deported to China.



Nuermaimaiti Ruze

📍 Saudi Arabia

He was arrested in 2020 by Saudi Arabia's authority. Now he is threatened by being deported to China.



Aimidula Waili

📍 Saudi Arabia

He was arrested in 2020 by Saudi Arabia's authority. Now he is threatened by being deported to China.

SAUDI ARABIA: UYGHUR GIRL, 13, AMONG FOUR 'FACING DEPORTATION' AND TORTURE IN CHINA

Saudi authorities must immediately release four Uyghurs – including a 13-year-old girl and her mother – who are at grave risk of being taken to repressive internment camps if sent back to China, Amnesty International said today amid fears that deportation plans for the group may already be under way.

Buheliqiemu Abula and her teenage daughter were detained near Mecca on Thursday and told by police they faced deportation to China along with two Uyghur men already held, according to a message received by Abula's friends.

Abula is the former wife of Nuermeiti Ruze, who with Aimidoula Waili has been detained without charge in Saudi Arabia since November 2020.

“Deporting these four people – including a child – to China, where Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are facing a horrific campaign of mass internment, persecu-

tion and torture, would be an outrageous violation of international law,” said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International’s Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

“With time seemingly running out to save the four Uyghurs from this catastrophic extradition, it is crucial that other governments with diplomatic ties to Saudi Arabia step in now to urge the Riyadh authorities to uphold their obligations and stop the deportations.”

Religious scholar Aimidoula Waili and his friend Nuermaimaiti Ruze have been detained in Saudi Arabia since November 2020 without explanation. Family members of the two Uyghur men told Amnesty International last month that Waili and Ruze were transferred from Jeddah to Riyadh and back again on March 16 – a move they believed signalled their imminent extradition to China.



Strategic allies of Saudi Arabia, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, must not stand by while it wilfully ignores human rights law.

Lynn Maalouf

Buheliqiemu Abula had been able to maintain regular contact with her ex-husband Nuermaimaiti Ruze until two weeks ago. The last time Abula received a phone call from Ruze was on 20 March, when Ruze recounted that he had told the Saudi authorities he and Waili “would rather die here than be sent back to China”.

It appears that Abula and her daughter have now also been detained and face the same deportation threat.

Under the customary international law principle of non-refoulement and as a State Party to the UN Convention against Torture, Saudi Arabia is obliged not to return anyone to a country where they would face a real risk of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, persecution and other serious human rights violations.



“The Saudi government must abandon any attempt to extradite the four Uyghurs to China and release them from detention immediately, unless they are charged with an internationally recognizable crime,” Lynn Maalouf said.

“Strategic allies of Saudi Arabia, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, must not stand by while it wilfully ignores human rights law. The international community must do everything it can to prevent the illegal extradition of Uyghurs to China.”

In June 2021, Amnesty International published a report revealing how hundreds of thousands of Muslim men and women in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are being subjected to arbitrary mass detention, indoctrination and torture.

Earlier the same year, another piece of Amnesty research described how the children of internment camp detainees are often sent to state-run “orphan camps” where they face indoctrination and are cut off from their parents.

By Amnesty



SAUDI ARABIA HALTS DEPORTATION OF FOUR UYGHURS TO CHINA

Riyadh: After worldwide protests by human rights groups, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday halted the deportation of four Uyghur individuals to China, which included a woman and her 13-year-old daughter.

Buheliqiemu Abula and her teenage daughter were detained near Mecca in Saudi Arabia on March 31 and told by police that they faced deportation to China along with two Uyghur men already held, according to UK-based human rights organization, Amnesty International.

The planned deportation was scheduled to take place on Wednesday evening, however, the move was eventually halted.

“The deportation of the 4 #Uyghurs didn’t go ahead last night but they are still at imminent risk. It is crucial that govern-

ments with diplomatic ties to Saudi Arabia continue to urge authorities to halt the deportation and allow them to go to a country of their choice,” Amnesty International informed in a tweet.

Abula is the former wife of Nuermeiti Ruze, who with Aimidoula Waili has been detained without charge in Saudi Arabia since November 2020.

Religious scholar Aimidoula Waili and his friend Nuermaimaiti Ruze have been detained in Saudi Arabia since November 2020 without explanation, the human rights group said.

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4 Uyghurs are in danger to be extradited from Saudi Arabia to China



would face a real risk of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, persecution and other serious human rights violations, Amnesty International further said.

“Forcibly returning these four Uyghur people would be an unconscionable violation of Saudi Arabia’s obligations under international law. The Saudi authorities must not even think about sending them to China, where they will be subjected to arbitrary detention, persecution, and possibly to torture,” Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International’s Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa said.



Over the last many years, China has unleashed a heavy crackdown in the ethnic minority-dominated Xinjiang province of the country. The actions of the Chinese government have been widely described as genocide and ethnic cleansing.

At least 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities are believed to have been held in a network of detention camps in Xinjiang since 2017, purportedly to prevent religious extremism and terrorist activities.

Beijing has said that the camps are vocational training centers. The government has denied repeated allegations from multiple sources that it has tortured people in the camps or mistreated other Muslims living in Xinjiang.

The United States and parliaments of several Western countries have declared that China’s repression and maltreatment of the Uyghurs amount to genocide and crimes against humanity, as per Radio Free Asia.

Posted by Sakina Fatima



CHINA IS HUNTING UYGHURS AROUND THE WORLD, WITH HELP FROM SOME SURPRISING COUNTRIES

More than 1,500 Uyghurs have been detained, extradited or rendered, most in the Middle East and North Africa, says a report from the Woodrow Wilson Center.

The Chinese government is not only mistreating Uyghurs within China’s borders, it is hunting them down abroad — with help from countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates — to clamp down on criticism of Beijing’s repression of Muslim minorities.

The scale of the Chinese Ministry of State Security’s efforts to harass, detain and extradite Uyghurs from around the world, and the cooperation it is getting from governments in the Middle East and North Africa, is described in unprecedented detail in a new report, “Great Wall of Steel,” by the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Kissinger Institute on China and the United States.

More than 5,500 Uyghurs outside of China have been targeted by Beijing, hit

with cyberattacks and threats to family members who remain in China, and more than 1,500 Uyghurs have been detained or forced to return to China to face imprisonment and torture in police custody, according to the report.

“It is the first major study to place the Xinjiang humanitarian crisis in a global context, showing the international dimension of Beijing’s campaign to suppress the Uyghurs,” said the report’s author, Bradley Jardine, a Schwartzman fellow at the Wilson Center and director of research at the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs.

The forced repatriations to China are ongoing.

On April 13, Saudi Arabia deported a Uyghur woman and her 13-year-old daughter to China, where they risk being detained in the vast web of “re-education camps” in western China’s Xinjiang Province. The girl’s father and another Uyghur, a Mus-

lim scholar, continue to be detained in the kingdom. It is unclear if any of them were formally charged.

Anthropologist Adrian Zenz, who has studied and documented Beijing's systematic repression of Uyghurs, says Beijing is using economic might and gifts of infrastructure projects — its global Belt and Road initiative — to pressure countries, including those with majority Muslim populations that might be sympathetic to the Uyghurs' plight.

“The Chinese are quite scared of what Muslim populations think of their treatment of the Uyghurs and have exerted particular effort in influencing government and popular opinion in those countries,” said Zenz, who is a senior fellow in China studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, a nonprofit based in Washington.

Camps for Uyghurs

Chinese authorities in Xinjiang began rounding up women and men in 2017 — largely Muslims from the Uyghur, Kazakh and Kyrgyz ethnic minorities — and detaining them in camps designed to rid them of terrorist or extremist leanings.

From 1 million to 2 million Uyghurs and members of other minorities from Xinjiang are believed to be held in the camps, where they are forced to study Marxism, renounce their religion, work in factories and face abuse, according to human rights groups and first-hand accounts. Beijing says these “re-education camps” provide vocational training and are necessary to fight extremism. The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment on this article.

According to the report, what scholars

call “transnational repression,” ranging from online harassment to detention and extradition, has taken place in 44 countries, and Uyghurs have been threatened and intimidated in United States, Japan and across the European Union. More than 1,500 detentions and forced returns to China have occurred since 1997, more than 1,300 of them since 2014.

The report breaks down the repression into three distinct stages. From 1997 to 2007, 89 Uyghurs were detained or deported by local security services primarily in South and Central Asia. In the second phase, from 2008 to 2013, 126 Uyghurs were targeted primarily in Southeast Asia. And in the ongoing third phase, from 2014 to present, 1,364 Uyghurs have been detained, extradited or rendered from 18 countries concentrated in the Middle East and North Africa.

The report is based on a database built by Jardine in partnership with the Uyghur Human Rights Project and the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs called “China’s Transnational Repression of Uyghurs Dataset.” Researchers culled news reports and government documents and conducted interviews with Uyghurs to compile the comprehensive list of documented instances of persecution outside of China. Reporting by Jardine and NBC News indicates that the scale is likely more extensive than is officially reported.

The database includes 424 cases of Uyghurs forcibly returned to China, most since 2014, when the Chinese Communist Party launched its own “War on Terror.”

By Anna Schechter



BMW, VOLKSWAGEN SUPPLIERS FACE SCRUTINY OVER TIES TO XINJIANG

Suppliers to key international car manufacturers were flagged in a fresh study on the potential use of forced labor

Some of the world’s biggest automakers are linked through their suppliers to labor programs in China’s Xinjiang region that experts have flagged as coercive, according to a new report by Horizon Advisory, a U.S.-based consultancy.

The concerns center around the production of aluminum, raising questions for another key industry about alleged human rights abuses in its supply chain.

Suppliers to BMW AG, General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG, as well as to China-based electric vehicle manufacturers including Nio Inc. and BYD Co., are linked to controversial labor programs in Xinjiang, according to the study.

The complexity of modern supply chains — in which raw materials can pass through multiple manufacturers or countries before they’re used in finished products — means it’s difficult to make definitive links between Xinjiang’s plants and major brands. And China has repeat-



edly rejected international criticisms of the work programs, calling allegations of forced labor “the lie of the century” and defending its policies as an effort to reduce poverty and unemployment.

Even so, the U.S. and allies have sanctioned several individuals and entities with ties to Xinjiang and curbed imports of cotton products, tomatoes and solar equipment. From July, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act will ban goods from Xinjiang unless U.S. importers can prove they aren’t made with forced labor.

Volkswagen said it has no evidence of forced labor by its Xinjiang suppliers and is not aware of any aluminum from the region being used in its manufacturing or products. The company said any allegations are immediately investigated and contracts will be terminated if issues can’t be remedied.

BMW said all its direct suppliers are contractually obligated to comply with health and safety standards and verify that sub-suppliers also meet those requirements. The company “continuously monitors compliance” through a “variety of assessments,” a spokesperson said.

A BYD spokesperson said it “enforces rigorous oversight of its entire supply chain” including by conducting regular labor audits. Representatives for GM, Nio, and China’s foreign ministry didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

“There’s going to be a huge challenge to a big swath of industries,” said Nathan Picarsic, a co-founder of Horizon who is scheduled to offer testimony Friday at a hearing of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force. Company supply chains still depend on Chinese industrial policies which make “forced labor part and parcel

of business as usual” for producers in Xinjiang, he said.

Aluminum hasn’t so far been a focus of international attention on Xinjiang, but the region accounted for about 9% of global production. The country as a whole provided about 60% of the world’s aluminum in 2020, and transportation, including the auto industry, was its second-largest consumer.

Horizon’s report cites government and corporate documents that tie metal operations controlled by eight companies to labor transfer programs or to Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps — one of the state-linked organizations that’s been sanctioned by the U.S. government over alleged human-rights abuses.

Though documents alone can’t provide conclusive evidence of involvement in forced labor, the study on the aluminum sector found more indicators of complicity than in any previous case, said Emily de La Bruyere, also a co-founder of Horizon.



The report highlighted Xinjiang Zhonghe, a producer of high-purity aluminum. The company is as a participant in vocational programs for rural migrant workers and in job transfer training which human rights advocates have flagged as key indicators of forced labor.

Xinjiang Zhonghe is a supplier to auto companies including GM and BMW's joint venture firms, according to its website. Beijing WKW Automotive Parts Co. is also a client, according to Bloomberg data, and a supplier of car parts and exterior trims to VW's China venture, BMW, BYD and Nio.

Xinjiang Zhonghe and Beijing WKW didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

In another example, the report identified Shandong-based Xinfu Group, which has a wheel manufacturing unit that supplies heavy duty truck, luxury car and electric bus manufacturers with key sales networks in the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Canada, according to its website. It also owns Xinjiang Sixth Division Aluminum Co., which was established through a 2009 agreement with the XPCC, filings reviewed by Horizon show, and — in one specific example — is documented as having sought 400 workers in 2020 from an employment transfer guidance station at Wugongtai Town, identified by advocacy groups as a coordinator of forced labor programs.

Xinfu didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Human rights groups and a panel of United Nations experts have for years raised concerns that minority groups in Xinjiang have been subject to mass detention. Millions of laborers in the region are transferred each year as part of government-sponsored labor programs, according to a Bloomberg News analysis of official data.

"For decades, the free world has dismissed the Chinese Communist Party's outrageous slave labor practices in order

to take advantage of its cheap manufacturing," said Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who has pushed for tougher action on forced labor. The study on aluminum operations "exposes the pervasive nature of China's forced labor abuses in Xinjiang and shows just how reliant major international companies are on slave labor," he said.

Among the suppliers named by Horizon, only Tianshan Aluminum Group Co. is publicly held. Its Xinjiang-based unit is named in government documents as an employment poverty alleviation base, indicating its role in labor programs, and multiple local reports detail specific transfers, according to Horizon. Recruitment materials also describe the firm's support for the XPCC, the consultancy said. Tianshan didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Most of Tianshan's biggest investors are Chinese, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. But Norges Bank Investment Management took a position in late 2021 that established it as among the company's 50 biggest shareholders, according to Bloomberg data.

"As an investor, we expect companies to respect human rights and take human rights into account in their operations," Norges Bank Investment Management said in a statement, though it declined to comment on individual investments or specifically on Tianshan.

— With assistance by Dan Murtaugh, Martin Ritchie, Monica Raymunt, William Wilkes, Akshat Rathi, David Welch, Lars Erik Taraldsen, and Philip Glamann

By David Stringer



JOE TSAI'S ALIBABA FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED CHINA'S 'CULTURAL GENOCIDE' OF UYGHUR MUSLIMS: REPORT

Alibaba, a company co-founded by Joe Tsai — an adamant advocate of China's communist regime and the owner of the Nets and Liberty — financially supported the Chinese government's human rights violations and “cultural genocide” of its Muslim population, according to a report from ESPN.

Tsai's Alibaba (effectively Amazon in Asia) funded technology used by China to track its citizens, which was “used widely” in the region where over one million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities were forced into barbed-wire camps for “re-education,” the report said.

Alibaba, where Tsai served as executive vice chairman, invested heavily in two government-backed artificial intelligence companies — Megvii and SenseTime — which developed facial recognition used for population surveillance and is “at the core” of China's controlling of Uyghur Muslims, according to ESPN.

China's treatment of Uyghur Muslims has

been characterized by the U.S. as “cultural genocide.” China has forcibly sterilized women in the Muslim community and imprisoned “hundreds of thousands” while destroying mosques and banning religious activities, according to the BBC. China had also banned fasting on Ramadan, a practice of sacrifice and discipline during the Muslim holy month, currently being observed by Nets point guard Kyrie Irving.

China has claimed its “re-education” camps are meant to combat terrorism and separatism.



Alibaba controls 29.4% of Megvii and 7% of SenseTime, according to records obtained by ESPN. Both companies were blacklisted by the U.S. government and labeled “contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests.” Tsai’s company invested in Megvii and SenseTime before they were blacklisted.

Tsai, a 58-year-old Taiwanese billionaire and Yale graduate, became the NBA’s unofficial spokesman for China’s government after former Rockets executive Daryl Morey set off a storm in 2019 by tweeting support for Hong Kong’s continued independence.

As the threat of China cutting off its businesses with the NBA loomed, Tsai condemned Morey in a lengthy social media post while wrongly calling the Hong Kong protesters a “separatist movement.”

The Nets then refunded Morey’s purchased ticket to see his team play at Barclays Center, according to ESPN. Morey reportedly viewed it as being “uninvited.” At least one NBA owner told Morey that

Tsai pushed for his dismissal to appease China, the report added.

The first reaction from star LeBron James was to criticize Morey and the tweet, leaving the impression that money trumped the the human rights issues. The NBA released a statement calling it “regrettable” that Morey offended people in China, which commissioner Adam Silver later clarified as misinterpreted because he supported Morey’s freedom of expression.

Morey, who apologized for his tweet, ultimately left the Rockets and joined the 76ers as team president.

Tsai declined to speak for the ESPN story. The Nets and NBA denied the owner pushed to fire Morey.

More recently, former Knicks center Enes Kanter Freedom alleged he was blackballed by the NBA for calling out China’s human rights violations. Freedom was waived by the Rockets in February and hasn’t signed with another team.

Silver has publicly supported Freedom’s right to express his views.

By Stefan Bondy





UN TEAM IN CHINA AHEAD OF RIGHTS CHIEF VISIT TO XINJIANG

A United Nations team has landed in China ahead of a long-delayed visit by the U.N. human rights chief to Xinjiang, where rights groups and some Western governments allege the Chinese government is committing genocide and serious abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

The U.N. human rights office said Tuesday its staffers arrived in southern China on Monday to prepare for the visit by High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, expected in May.

“The advance team of five is initially spending time in Guangzhou, where they are quarantining in line with COVID-19 travel requirements,” spokeswoman Liz Throssell said.

Bachelet announced in March that her office reached an agreement with China’s government that she could visit Xinjiang in far-western China. The rights chief has long talked about hoping to visit Xinjiang, and her office has also been compiling a long-awaited report into alleged human rights abuses in the region.

Almost 200 rights groups have urged

Bachelet to release her report, which diplomats said has been ready — or very close to it — for months.

The advance team is in China to make sure that Bachelet would gain “meaningful access” to fully understand the human rights situation in China, Throssell said.

Rights groups and researchers accuse China of locking up more than a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in re-education camps, forced labor, forcing women from the region to undergo contraceptive measures and separating children from incarcerated parents.

The U.S. government has declared that Beijing’s policies against the Uyghurs amounted to genocide and crimes against humanity. Legislatures in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada have done the same.

China denies the allegations and maintains its policies were meant to de-radicalize those influenced by jihadi propaganda following years of violent outbursts against Chinese rule in the region.

By Associated Press



CHINA URGES SWEDEN TO ‘RESPECT MUSLIM BELIEFS’ DESPITE ITS GENOCIDE AGAINST UYGHURS

China’s statement comes amid its ongoing repression of Uyghurs in the western part of the country, where Beijing has been accused of committing genocide against the Muslim minority.

China has criticised Sweden over a recent incident in which a far-right politician reportedly burned the Quran, with Beijing urging the Scandinavian state to ‘respect’ Muslim beliefs.



The Chinese foreign ministry’s comments came in response to Danish-Swedish far-right leader Rasmus Paludan’s plans to organise several Quran-burning rallies in Sweden during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The US, France, and other countries recognise China’s repression - which includes mass detention, forced abortions, and torture - as a genocide of Uyghurs.

“Freedom of speech cannot be a reason to incite racial or cultural discrimination and tear society apart,” said Wang Wenbin, a



spokesperson for China’s foreign ministry as reported by Beijing-linked Global Times.

“We hope Sweden can earnestly respect the religious beliefs of minority groups including Muslims,” he added.

The Quran is Islam’s sacred text and is be-

lieved by Muslims to be the literal transcription of the word of God.

China’s statement comes despite its ongoing repression of Uyghur Muslims in the western part of the country, where it is accused of incarcerating over a million Uyghurs in what has been called an attempt to wipe out their religion and culture.

China claims the prisoners are being provided with education, however rights groups have accused the government of committing horrific abuses against the detainees, including torture, rape, and forced sterilisation.

Several leading human rights groups have also formally accused Beijing of committing genocide against the Uyghurs.

By The New Arab Staff





FORMER XINJIANG DETAINEE ARRIVES IN US TO TESTIFY OVER REPEATED TORTURE HE SAYS HE WAS SUBJECTED TO

Ovalbek Turdakun was given special authorization to enter the US after he had been imprisoned in detention camp in China

Turdakun is among the nearly 2 million people who are estimated to have been imprisoned in China’s mass detention camps in the Xinjiang region. On Tuesday, Turdakun, his wife, Zhyldyz Uraalieva, and son Daniyel Ovalbek arrived in the US on a special immigration authorization called significant public benefit parole which grants entry to people who would provide “significant public benefit” such as testifying in a criminal or legal proceeding.

In an interview with the Guardian, Turdakun expressed relief at arriving in the US after months of holding out for approval of their applications. “We were waiting over a hundred days,” Turdakun said through a translator. “So it’s a great feeling to be in America.”

Like many other survivors who have spoken publicly about their experience, Turdakun alleges he was detained without a fair trial and tortured repeatedly in “tiger chairs” – steel chairs with restraints to

Ovalbek Turdakun still doesn’t know what was in the shot the doctors in the Xinjiang detention centre gave him in 2018. He and his 23 cell mates were told it was a vaccine to prevent colds but Turdakun said that after the injection he and his cellmates felt pain in their ears, hands and feet; yellow fluid came out of their ears; some had trouble walking. When he was released after 10 months’ detention, Turdakun still struggled to walk.

keep people in uncomfortable positions.

Unlike many of those who've been detained – the majority of whom are Uyghur and Muslim – Turdakun is ethnically Kyrgyz and Christian, and his case has prompted further concern that China is targeting anyone who is of a different ethnicity and religion.

China has repeatedly disputed all allegations of abuse of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, but the US has accused Beijing of carrying out genocide in Xinjiang.

When Turdakun was detained in February 2018, officials said it was because he overstayed his visa during a visit to Kyrgyzstan. During his interrogations, he was repeatedly asked about his religion as well as his marriage to his wife, who was born in Kyrgyzstan.

After being released in December 2018, Turdakun was placed on house arrest, forced to work without pay and was put under constant surveillance for a year.

Fearing he would be detained again, the family fled to Kyrgyzstan in 2019. There, he was repeatedly contacted by Chinese authorities asking him to return to China, his bank account was frozen, and – after two years – Kyrgyzstan officials refused to renew his visa after two years, putting him and his family at risk of deportation back to China.

Now, international human rights lawyers who are arguing that China has committed crimes against humanity in a case they've submitted to the international criminal court (ICC) say Turdakun could provide supporting evidence that Uyghurs and other Chinese ethnic minorities are being forcibly deported to China from countries like Tajikistan.

Constant surveillance

China is not a member of the ICC, and therefore cannot be tried by the court, but Tajikistan – a country to which Chinese ethnic minorities sometimes flee – is and international human rights lawyers including UK-based Rodney Dixon are



trying to use that to bring China’s crimes against humanity to trial. Dixon is compiling evidence of poor treatment of Xinjiang residents in Tajikistan with the hope that this would convince the ICC that it has jurisdiction over China’s human rights violations and open an investigation. Lawyers believe Turdakun’s case would illustrate a pattern of mistreatment in other countries as well.

In a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, Dixon wrote in support of Turdakun’s application saying that his account of his detention would be important evidence in any future investigation. “You will no doubt be aware of the dangers that he and his family currently face,” the letter reads. “It is crucial to keep them safe and secure ... It is vital that his evidence is available for the ICC and for the international community.”

Every morning for 10 months, Turdakun and his 23 cell mates would wake up in their crowded, windowless but constantly lit cell and have to sing songs praising the Chinese Communist party in order to get their breakfast. Though they were crowded into the same cell together, Turdakun and his cell mates were not allowed to speak with each other and spent their days watching videos about how China was growing and developing under the constant surveillance of a network of cameras, Turdakun said. If they spoke or did anything they weren’t supposed to do, a loud voice over the speakers would tell them to stop and often they would endure physical punishment, he said. If one person in the cell did something wrong, they were all punished.

For the lightest punishment, Turdakun would have to stand on his tip toes while

squatting down and putting his hands on his head. If he tipped over, he would be beaten, he said. While it was hard in the beginning, they had to do it so often that Turdakun said he and his cell mates all eventually became good at it.

The worse punishment involved tiger chairs – of which there were two types, Turdakun said.



The first was in a brightly lit room, with a camera and spotlight. It was in those chairs that he was restrained and interrogated. He was asked about his religion and his marriage to a “Kyrgyz foreigner”, according to a briefing submitted to the state department by Conor Healy, the government director of surveillance research organisation IPVM.

There were no questions when you were in the second type of tiger chair. This kind was made entirely of steel, with steel restraints for his waist, arms and legs. It sat

in a padded room with a thick door for sound proofing. Turdakun was subjected to this chair three times – each time for at least a day.

Every day for the 10 months Turdakun was detained, his wife visited local officials pleading for her husband’s release. Their son was sick, had pain in his knees and was diagnosed with arthritis, Uraalieva said. As a foreigner, she could not work in China and support the family.



Finally, in December 2018, Turdakun was released to house arrest. For a year, he wasn’t able to leave his home except for a few permitted activities such as picking up his son from school. Facial recognition cameras followed him everywhere, he said. In interview footage that Healy shared with the Guardian, Turdakun said Hikvision – one of the world’s largest manufacturers of cameras – was the brand on the camera he saw everywhere.

If the camera detected any activity that was not permitted, police would visit and interrogate him. Afraid that he would be detained again, Turdakun and his family eventually fled to Kyrgyzstan on foot and received a special resident permit. But after two years, Kyrgyz officials refused to renew his visa.

After that, Turdakun said he had to try to fly under the radar. “You had to be careful because [my] family was back together and we didn’t want it separated again.”

With the help of a group of Americans and one Canadian, the family fled to a third country where they waited more than three months for authorization to travel to the US.

‘Under great threat’

While the ICC case focuses on the experiences of Chinese ethnic minorities in Tajikistan and other countries as a stand-in for China’s treatment of these groups, Turdakun’s story shows that it is not just Uyghur Muslims who are targeted. Those detained with Turdakun were largely Kyrgyz, he recalled. He wasn’t sure what religion they practised because they weren’t allowed to speak.

The Kyrgyz were under great threat in China, said Ethan Gutmann, an author and researcher on China studies who first encountered Turdakun and his family as part of his own research. “They’re not a huge ethnic minority in China, but they’re under great threat,” he said. “They’re also Christian. That shows that this is not just an attack on Islam – it’s an attack on anybody with deeply held religious beliefs.”

For now, Turdakun hopes the ICC case will “help bring back together more and more families that have been separated”.

For his family, which is believed to be the only intact family unit who have been brought to the US after fleeing detention camps in China, he says: “My greatest hope is to quickly become an American citizen.”

By Johana Bhuiyan



UYGHUR INTERNMENT CAMP SURVIVORS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE UN OFFICE IN GENEVA

Geneva [Switzerland], April 27 (ANI): Uyghur activists, many of whom are survivors of the internment camps set up by China in the Xinjiang region on Monday demonstrated for a week outside the United Nations compound in Geneva demanding a meeting with the UN human rights chief, a media report said.

The activists also demanded that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet issue an overdue report detailing rights abuses in Xinjiang, Radio Free Asia reported.

Bachelet had announced last month that she had reached an agreement with the Chinese government for a visit in May, including the turbulent western China region.

The Uyghurs want Bachelet to release the human rights report before she visits China. They offered to accompany the

former Chilean president on the trip, the report said.

“I’d be happy to take them to the camps and prisons in Urumqi,” Gulbahar Jelilova, an activist said, referring to Xinjiang’s capital. “If we don’t accompany them, China will play a lot of games not to show them the reality.

That’s why we’re requesting to go on this trip,” she added.

Gulbahar Jelilova further said she could show the U.N. team a location where Uyghurs were executed and a hospital that removed organs from dead prisoners.

Jelilova said that she was detained on accusations of “aiding terrorism” while on a business trip to Urumqi and put into three different camps over a period of 15 months beginning in May 2017, the report said.

She returned to Kazakhstan in September 2018, as a direct result of appeals from her two children in Kazakhstan, who sought diplomatic assistance from the Kazakh government.

Jelilova has since alleged that she witnessed a number of atrocities inside the camps, including the torture and the deaths of innocent people, Radio Free Asia said.

Omir Bekali, an Uyghur of Kazakh descent who said he was tortured by authorities during the nine months he spent in three camps on allegations of terrorist activities, said the demonstration outside U.N.

headquarters was “one of the first solid steps we have taken to end the ongoing genocide of our people and to free them sooner.”

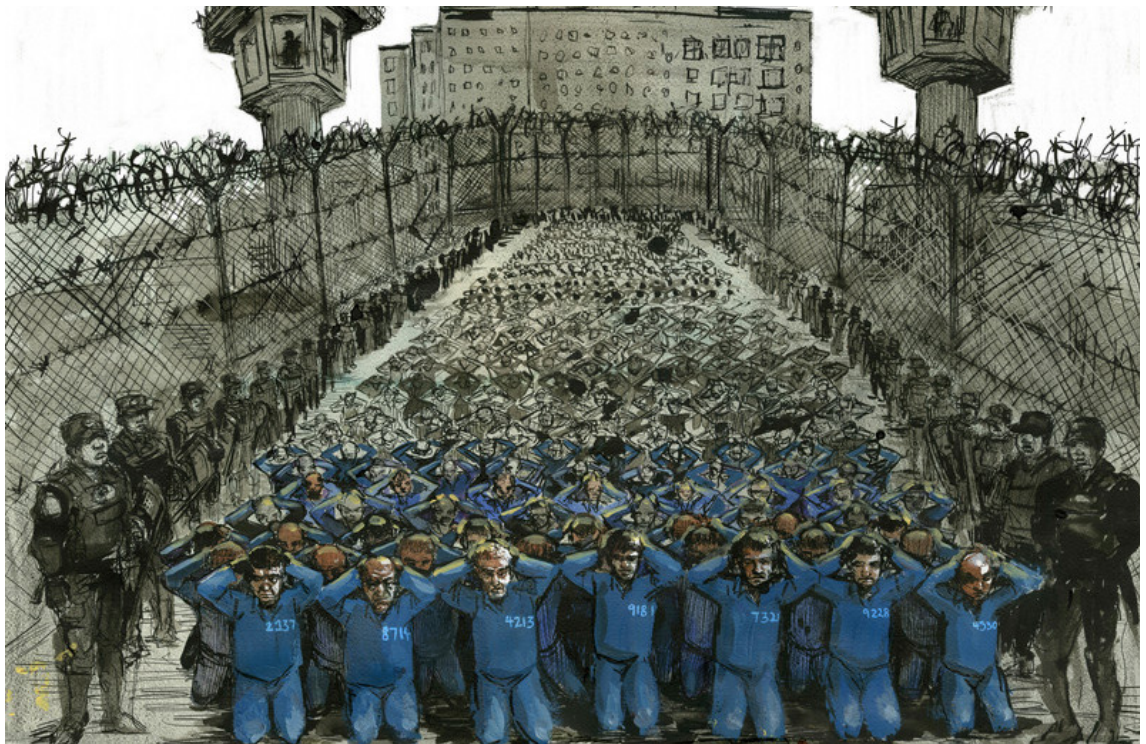
Bachelet’s office has been under pressure from rights activists to issue an overdue report on rights violations by Chinese

authorities targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities in the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Up to 1.8 million Uyghurs and others have been held in a vast network of internment camps operated by the Chinese government under the pretext of preventing religious extremism and terrorism among the mostly Muslim groups, the report said.

The Chinese government has publicly refuted any reports of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, however, China has been rebuked globally for the crackdown on Uyghur Muslims by sending them to mass detention camps, interfering in their religious activities, and sending members of the community to undergo some form of forcible re-education or indoctrination.

(ANI)





China is trying to take away the East Turkistan issue from the global agenda through its propaganda.

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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.

Editor in Chief **Abdulvaris Abdulhalik**

Graphic Design **Orkesh**

Editor **Y. Kurum**

Caricature **Radwa Adl**

Editorial Board **East Turkistan Press And Media Association**

Publication Type **Monthly Journal**

Address **Kartaltepe Mah. Geçit Sok. No: 6 Dükkan 2
Sefaköy K.çekmece İSTANBUL**

info@turkistanmedia.com

www.turkistantimes.com/en

www.istiqlalhaber.com

www.istiqlalmedia.com

+90 212 540 31 15

+90 553 895 19 33

+90 541 797 77 00