

## 100 ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS: STOP THE GENOCIDE NOW



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## HOW CHINA IS USING EID HOLIDAYS TO COUNTER PROPAGANDA ABOUT UYGHUR MUSLIMS

◆ **Washington:** The authorities in Xinjiang sent local cadres to celebrate an Islamic holiday with Uyghurs in China's far-western region amid ongoing repression of the predominantly Muslim minority group, in what Uyghur rights leaders said was a further effort to cover up the real situation there, RFA reported.

Known as the Feast of Sacrifice, Eid al-Adha (Qurban Eid) is a major Islamic holiday that marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

China's state media reported about work teams of local cadres who "visited" Uyghurs with gifts of food and helped them work in their fields in celebration of the holiday.

The state media also released a video of Uyghurs dancing in what some observers said were staged performances, RFA reported.

A report on Tengritagh (Tianshan), the official website of the XUAR government,

told how visitors spent the holiday celebrating with Uyghurs and delivering gifts of rice, noodles, cooking oil, and milk.

China's attempts to deceive the international community by portraying happy Uyghurs' as part of its propaganda are becoming "evermore naked", said Ilshat Hassan Kokbore, a political analyst based in the US, who's also the vice-chairman of the executive committee of the World Uyghur Congress, RFA reported.

"It's clear from its latest propaganda blitz featuring Uyghurs happily' celebrating the Qurban Eid under the watch of fang huiju officials," he said, referring to the cadres dispatched by the regional



government to monitor Uyghurs in their homes and report their activities to the authorities.

“Their job is to surveil, manipulate and even threaten the Uyghurs by forcing them to smile, look happy and perform for the state media to deceive the world,” Kokbore told RFA, adding, “In fact, this is an intensive form of state repression that we’re witnessing. This inhuman treatment of Uyghurs is more than shocking, but pure evil.”

Rushan Abbas, executive director of the US-based Campaign for Uyghurs, said that “China’s manipulation and orchestration of Uyghur happiness during the Eid” would not fool anyone.

“The international community is fully aware that China has been committing an ongoing genocide against the Uyghur people and rooting out Uyghur people’s belief in Islam for the past six years,” she told RFA.

**“No amount of Chinese propaganda and manufactured happiness of Uyghurs will change the fact that China is actively destroying the very foundation of Uyghur people’s religious beliefs and practices,” she added.**

*by Monitor News Desk*





## UYGHURS IN EXILE MARK ANNIVERSARY OF DEADLY 2009 URUMQI UNREST

Protestors call on governments to pressure China to end its persecution of Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslims.

**Uyghur exile groups around the world on Tuesday demanded that China end its persecution of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang in a series of protests marking the 13th anniversary of deadly ethnic violence in the region's capital.**

Uyghurs demonstrated in the capital cities of European Union countries, Turkey, Australia, Japan, and Canada, and in New York and Washington, D.C., to commemorate the crackdown in Urumqi, which became a catalyst for the Chinese government's efforts to repress Uyghur culture, language and religion through a mass surveillance and internment campaign.

"We gathered here to commemorate

the massacre that occurred on July 5 in Urumqi and to remember the ongoing genocide taking place in East Turkistan today," said Hidayetulla Oghuzhan, chairman of East Turkistan Organizational Alliance in Istanbul, using Uyghurs' preferred name for the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

"We call upon the international community to not to remain silent and to take action against this genocide," he said.

In Paris, one protester told RFA that he lost many of his friends in the July 5 clash and that remembering that day was very important for him.

Smaller demonstrations were held in other cities.

About 15 members of the Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association protested outside a mall in Adelaide to mark the anniversary of the massacre and demand that the Australian govern-





ment ban the importation of goods made with Uyghur forced labor in the XUAR, according to India's The Print online news service.

Muslims in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka and in Narayanganj district, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) southeast of the city, also staged protests against the Chinese government's oppression of Uyghurs, according to the same news source.

About 200 people died and 1,700 were injured in three days of violence between ethnic minority Uyghurs and Han Chinese that began on July 5, 2009, in Xinjiang's largest city, Urumqi (in Chinese, Wulumuqi), according to China's official figures. Uyghur rights groups say the numbers of dead and injured were much higher, however.

The unrest was set off by a clash between Uyghur and Han Chinese toy factory workers in southern China's Guangdong province in late June that year that left two Uyghurs dead. News of the deaths reached Uyghurs in Urumqi, sparking a

peaceful protest the spiraled into beatings and killings of Chinese, with deaths occurring on both sides. Chinese mobs later staged revenge attacks on Uyghurs in the city's streets with sticks and metal bars.

### 'We mourn the past'

Dolkun Isa, president of Germany-based World Uyghur Congress (WUC), called July 5 a day of mourning.

"We have to remember that day," he told RFA on Tuesday. "That day is the turning point in from China's ethnic segregation and discrimination policy to the begin-





ning of the genocidal ethnic policy. 2009 is the starting point of the ongoing ethnic genocide since 2016.”

In late 2016 and 2017, authorities ramped up their clampdown on Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities in the XUAR through abductions and arbitrary arrests and detentions in what China called “re-education” camps or prisons.



An estimated 1.8 million members of these groups have been held in internment camps, where detainees who were later freed reported widespread maltreatment, including severe human rights abuses, torture, rape and forced labor.

The U.S. and the parliaments of the EU have said the repression of Uyghurs in the XUAR is a genocide and crime against humanity.

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), based in Washington D.C., demanded the protection of Uyghur refugees and asylum seekers residing abroad.

“Saving Uyghur refugees is the least that the world can do for Uyghurs, as we experience the 6th year of an ongoing genocide,” UHRP Executive Director Omer Kanat said in a statement. “It is urgent that all countries recognize the threat posed to Uyghurs abroad, and develop their own resettlement programs on an emergency basis.”

Because China has sought the forcible return of some Uyghurs living abroad, UHRP said governments should immediately implement resettlement programs for those at risk of refoulement — forcing refugees to return to a country where they will likely face persecution.

UHRP called on the U.S. Congress to pass the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act, which would make Uyghurs and other persecuted Turkic peoples eligible for priority refugee processing by the U.N., designating them as “Priority 2” refugees of special humanitarian concern.

The Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Uyghurs said the Urumqi Massacre was a reminder of the brutality of the Chinese government and the loss that Uyghurs have experienced in their fight for equality.

**“The world no longer believes China’s whitewashed tales stating the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] is innocent and a victim in the Urumqi massacre,” Rushan Abbas, the group’s executive director, said in a statement. “While we mourn the past, we continue to fight for the living, fight for the future of this free and democratic world. Justice is on our side reclaiming this correct history.”**

“We labor ensuring those who perished in 2009 will not have sacrificed their lives in vain,” she said. “With courage and hard work, justice shall prevail.”

*By Mamatjan Juma for RFA Uyghur*





## CHINA'S XI JINPING MAKES RARE VISIT TO XINJIANG

President shown surrounded by smiling and clapping Uyghur residents on first visit in eight years

China's president, Xi Jinping, has paid his first visit to Xinjiang in eight years, as western nations continue to accuse Beijing of genocide against the region's mostly Muslim Uyghur population.

State media reported on Friday that the visit from Tuesday to Thursday included stops at a university and a trade zone in the regional capital, Urumqi. A photo from the official Xinhua news agency showed a maskless Xi surrounded by smiling and clapping residents, many of them apparently Uyghurs wearing traditional costumes and Muslim prayer caps.

It comes after a trip to the region in May by the UN rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, who has been accused by activists of colluding with Beijing in glossing over

China's human rights abuses. Western nations have urged the UN to publish a long-awaited report on Xinjiang.

The UN said in 2018 Beijing had put 1 million Uyghurs into "massive internment camps" set up for political indoctrination.

China has repeatedly denied any mistreatment of Uyghurs, calling the reports of mass detention "fake news". Beijing initially denied the existence of any camps, then said it had set up "vocational train-





ing centres” with dormitories where people could “voluntarily” check themselves in to learn about law, Chinese language and vocational skills. It said in 2019 that all trainees had “graduated”.

Chinese commentators are keen to point out that Xinjiang has not reported any violent attacks since the establishment of the centres. But critics have described the crackdown as cultural genocide. The US and others have placed officials under visa bans for their part in extra-legal detentions, separation of families and incarcerating people for studying abroad or having foreign contacts.

During his visit this week, Xi met leaders of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a supra-governmental body that operates its own courts, schools and health system under the military system imposed on the region after the Communist party’s rise to power in 1949. Xi “learned about the history of the XPCC in cultivating and guarding the frontier areas,” Xinhua reported.



**Li Mingjiang, an associate professor at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said: “The point of Xi’s Xinjiang trip is to see the results of the policies he has put in**

**place in recent years to stabilise Xinjiang and to conclude that his approach and strategy for Xinjiang had been successful.”**

It was Xi’s first public appearance since he visited Hong Kong for events on 1 July to mark 25 years of Chinese rule over the former British colony, another territory where Beijing has dramatically tightened its control after sometimes violent pro-democracy and anti-China protests.

Xi’s last reported visit to Xinjiang was in 2014, when he called for an all-out “struggle against terrorism, infiltration and separatism”, according to leaked papers reported by the New York Times. Local authorities later stepped up efforts to track, control and re-educate Uyghurs.

Xi has also clamped down on the Tibet Autonomous Region, and last year made the first visit to the region by a Chinese leader in three decades.



Last December, Chen Quanguo, the Communist party official widely associated with the security crackdown targeting ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang, stood down from the post. Ma Xingrui, a former governor of the coastal economic powerhouse Guangdong province, is now in charge.

*By Vincent Ni and agencies*



**CHINA SEEKS TO STOP UN RIGHTS CHIEF FROM RELEASING XINJIANG REPORT - DOCUMENT**

**GENEVA, July 19 (Reuters) - China is asking the United Nations human rights chief to bury a highly-anticipated report on human rights violations in Xinjiang, according to a Chinese letter seen by Reuters and confirmed by diplomats from three countries who received it.**

United Nations High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet has faced severe criticism from civil society for being too soft on China during a May visit and has since said she will refrain from seeking a second term for personal reasons.

But before she leaves at the end of August, she has pledged to publish a report into the western Chinese region of Xinjiang. Rights groups accuse Beijing of abuses against Xinjiang’s Uyghur inhabitants, including the mass use of forced labour in internment camps. China has vigorously denied the allegations.

The letter authored by China expressed “grave concern” about the Xinjiang report and aims to halt its release, said four sources - the three diplomats and a rights expert who all spoke on condition of anonymity. They said China began circulating it among diplomatic missions in Geneva from late June and asked countries to sign it to show their support.

“The assessment (on Xinjiang), if published, will intensify politicisation and bloc confrontation in the area of human rights, undermine the credibility of the OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Hu-



man Rights), and harm the cooperation between OHCHR and member states,” the letter said, referring to Bachelet’s office.

“We strongly urge Madame High Commissioner not to publish such an assessment.”

Liu Yuyin, a spokesperson for China’s diplomatic mission in Geneva, did not say whether the letter had been sent or respond to questions about its contents.

Liu said that nearly 100 countries had recently expressed their support to China on Xinjiang-related issues “and their objection to interference in China’s internal affairs under the pretext of human rights”.

This support was voiced through public statements at the last U.N. Human Rights Council session, which ended on July 8, and through the “joint letter”, Liu added, using a term denoting China and the other signatories.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson told Reuters that Bachelet would have witnessed a “real Xinjiang with a safe and stable society” when she visited the region during her May trip to China.

The spokesperson said attempts by some countries to “smear China’s image” using the Xinjiang issue would not succeed.

It was not clear whether Bachelet had received the letter, and an OHCHR spokesperson declined to comment on the matter.

The Xinjiang report is being finalised prior to public release, he added, saying this includes the standard practice of sharing a copy with China for its comments.

The report is set to address China’s treatment of its Uyghur minority. A team of rights experts began gathering evidence for it more than three years ago but its

release has been delayed for months for unclear reasons.

Reuters was not able to establish how many signatures the letter received. One of the four sources, a Geneva-based diplomat, replied to the letter positively giving his country’s support.

Another version of the letter also seen by Reuters was more critical of Bachelet’s actions, saying that the Xinjiang report was done “without mandate and in serious breach of OHCHR duties”, and would undermine her personal credibility.

It was not clear who edited it or why. The diplomat who signed the letter said the softer version was the final one.

## **DIRECT LOBBYING**

China, like other countries, sometimes seeks to drum up support for its political statements within the Geneva-based rights council through diplomatic memos which others are asked to support.

These can sometimes influence decisions at the 47-member Council, whose actions are not legally binding but can authorise investigations into suspected violations.

Two of the Geneva diplomats said China’s letter represents a rare example of evidence of Beijing seeking to lobby Bachelet directly. Sometimes, they say, countries find it hard to say no to China on human rights issues, given close economic ties.

The memo comes at a critical juncture for the U.N. rights body in the last few weeks of Bachelet’s term, with no successor yet nominated. Bachelet, 70, is due to leave office on Aug. 31.

*By Emma Farge*



## THREE UYGHURS ESCAPE FROM DETENTION CENTRE IN THAILAND

Thai police are still searching for three Uyghur men who escaped from an immigration detention centre in Prachuap Khiri Khan province, 200 miles south of Bangkok, on Monday.

The trio – 25 year old Ali, 30 year old Abdulla and 29 year old Abdullah – broke out of their cell on Monday morning by using a sharp tool to cut through the metal bars and escaped.

“We are searching for them, and I’m awaiting reports from the ground. The search is a bit slow because of the public holidays lately,” said Pol. Col. Rattapong Tiasud, an investigator at the immigration bureau.

The men are three of about 50 Uyghurs currently being held at detention centres across Thailand.

The Uyghurs are a Muslim minority ethnic group residing in Xinjiang province in northwestern China. As documented by

numerous human rights groups, the Uyghurs have long endured persecution and repression by the Chinese government.

An exodus of Uyghurs fled Xinjiang in 2013 and 2014, with around 475 Uyghurs in total fleeing to Thailand in those years. In 2017, the Chinese government began “reeducating” Uyghurs by detaining them in camps, causing several more waves of Uyghurs to seek asylum in other countries, including Thailand.

Rights activists have said that many Uyghurs who are caught and detained in Thailand are often trying to enter Malaysia, a Muslim country, via Thailand. Many are caught and detained by Thai authorities near the southern border in Songkhla province.

Uyghurs often end up in Thai immigration detention centres for years on end because China wants them back while Thailand hasn’t decided what to do with them,





according to the Director of People's Empowerment Foundation Chalida Tajaroen-suk. The foundation is a Thai NGO which assists Uyghur refugees in the country.

“[Some Uyghurs in Thailand] have been detained for nearly 10 years. So the government should consider releasing them and finding them a good place to live... and never, ever send them back to China because that means sending them to death,” said Chalida.

“Also, we would be very grateful if the Thai government allowed them to leave for third-country asylum. But it has hit a deadlock due to the Chinese government's pressure on Thailand.”

**In 2015, Thailand sent around 100 detained Uyghurs back to China. At the same time, Thailand sent 170 Uyghurs back to Turkey after identifying them as Turkish citizens.**

Last week, the World Uyghur Congress announced it was one of 52 international organisations calling for an end to the detention of Uyghurs in Thailand.

In June, more than a dozen Thai and international organisations handed a petition to parliament's foreign affairs committee to urge the Thai government not to send detained Uyghurs back to China. The foreign affairs committee have acknowledged the petition and has assured it will be addressed.

In 2017, 25 Uyghurs used broken tiles to break out of a Thai detention centre, having been detained in 2014.

*By Leah*



## CHINA'S INFORMATION OPERATIONS ARE SILENCING AND INFLUENCING GLOBAL AUDIENCES ON XINJIANG



The Chinese Communist Party is using social media and disinformation campaigns to project its preferred narratives about Xinjiang and influence unwitting audiences around the globe. Instead of improving its treatment of Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities, the CCP is responding to critiques of its human rights record by coordinating its state propaganda apparatus, security agencies and public relations industry to influence and even silence governments, businesses and civil society at home and abroad.



For our new ASPI report, Assessing the impact of CCP information operations related to Xinjiang, we collected and analysed a vast amount of multi-language data, including Chinese government documents and speeches, government statements made to the UN Human Rights Council, corporate responses to Chinese state-affiliated consumer backlashes (re-

garding Xinjiang-related forced labour), 613,301 Facebook posts, 6,780,809 tweets and retweets, and 494,710 media articles.

The findings come on the back of President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Xinjiang—his first since 2014. Despite almost a decade of repressive and discriminatory policies, including the arbitrary detention, mass



sterilisation and cultural degradation of minorities in Xinjiang, reporting from Xi's visit showed Uyghurs and other Muslim minority residents apparently waving and cheering the draconian policies they have been forced to live under.

Our research reveals that CCP information operations are successfully silencing governments, businesses and civil society organisations globally and deterring them from criticising the CCP's human rights record and actions. CCP online information operations deny, distract and deter voices critical of CCP policies by flooding social media with positive depictions of Xinjiang and whitewashing evidence of human rights abuses. These activities are coordinated with other coercive tactics such as state-affiliated trolling campaigns, cyber surveillance operations and offline harassment.



**“Xinjiang-focused CCP propaganda and information operations were more effective on Facebook than on other platforms such as Twitter. For example, of the top 400 Facebook posts with the most interactions (including reactions and shares), 60.3% were posted by Chinese state media and diplomats. Of the top 1,000 tweets with the most interactions (including likes and retweets), only 5.5% were post-**

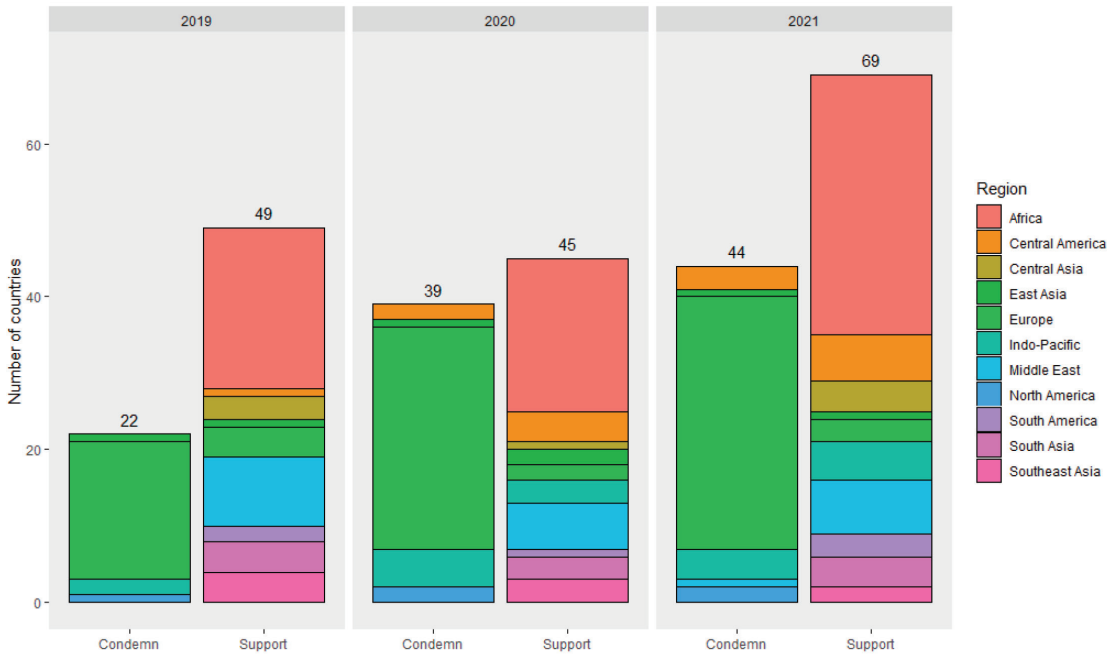
**ed by Chinese state media and diplomats, and 4% were from accounts suspended by Twitter for platform manipulation.**

Social media data collected in this report also confirmed that the CCP and state-affiliated entities are likely deploying coordinated inauthentic accounts to amplify their online public diplomacy and disseminate disinformation. In the top 400 Facebook posts mentioning Xinjiang, there was a statistically significant difference in the number of comments posted by non-CCP Facebook accounts compared to posts from CCP-affiliated accounts with similar numbers of total interactions. Facebook posts by CCP-affiliated accounts tended to have fewer comments than posts by other accounts with a similar number of interactions. One explanation for this could be that CCP-affiliated accounts (such as those of Chinese diplomats and state media) are being inauthentically amplified.

News articles in different languages varied significantly in the tone of their reporting about Xinjiang and reflected differences in global public opinion about the CCP's policies in the region. Of 494,710 articles analysed in more than 65 languages, Chinese-language articles were more likely to convey positive assessments of Chinese state policy and action in Xinjiang. Statistically similar results came from analyses of articles published in Urdu, Japanese, Thai and Turkish.

Our analysis of government statements at UNHRC sessions that found most countries that have supported CCP policies were based in Africa or the Middle East, which are emerging markets for US-based social media companies, while countries that have condemned CCP pol-

Countries supporting or condemning CCP human rights abuses in Xinjiang at UNHRC sessions, 2019 to 2021



icies were mostly democratic nations in Europe and elsewhere. Most notable is the silence of governments in Muslim-majority and non-Western countries. Of the 57 member states forming the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, only Albania and, more recently, Turkey have condemned the CCP for its policies in Xinjiang.

The impact of these operations isn't widely understood, and the international community—including governments and social media platforms—have failed to adequately respond to the global challenges posed by the CCP's rapidly evolving propaganda and disinformation operations. The CCP's public diplomacy is bolstered by covert and coercive campaigns that impose costs and seek to constrain international entities—be they states, corporations or individuals—from offering evidence-based critiques of the party-state's record on human rights in Xinjiang and Hong Kong and other sensitive issues.

CCP information operations—including

those targeting Xinjiang narratives and human rights abuses—should be countered now to mitigate the party's global campaign of transnational repression and information warfare. Achieving that will require governments and civil society to work more closely with social media platforms and broadcasters to deter and expose propaganda organisations and operatives.

Governments must lead this policymaking process in coordination with allies and partners with shared interests. We recommend expanding economic sanctions regimes that target the perpetrators of serious human rights violations and abuses to include the distributors of disinformation and foreign propaganda who silence, intimidate and continue the abuse.

*By Albert Zhang and Tilla Hoja*





## MOROCCO: UYGHUR ACTIVIST AT RISK OF EXTRADITION

### “Risk of Torture if Returned to China”

(Tunis) – One year after his arrest at Casablanca airport, Yidiresi Aishan, also known as Idris Hasan, a Uyghur activist, remains under threat of extradition from Morocco to China, where there are substantial grounds to believe that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture, 45 human rights organizations said today.

After arriving in Morocco on a flight from Turkey, where he had been living with his family since 2012, Aishan was arrested on the night of July 19-20, 2021 on the basis of what is known as a red notice issued by Interpol at China’s request, “for belonging to a terrorist organization.” In recent years, China has increasingly used the Interpol red notice system to stifle dissent.

On July 20, 2021, Aishan was brought before the prosecutor at the Court of First Instance in Casablanca, who ordered that he be remanded in custody in Tiflet pris-

on, pending the decision of the Court of Cassation. Since then, he has remained detained in that same prison.

On December 15, 2021, the Court of Cassation in Rabat issued a favorable opinion on the extradition request, despite Interpol’s August 2021 cancellation of the red notice issued against Aishan, on the grounds that it violated its statutes and Aishan’s filing of an application for refugee status with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Since that decision, the issuance of an extradition decree by the Moroccan prime minister is the only step separating Aishan from extradition.

The issuance of such a decree would contradict Morocco’s international obligations, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which

states in article 3 that “no State Party shall expel, return (“refouler”) or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.”

When living in Turkey, Aishan reportedly provided translation assistance to other Uyghurs in exile and helped collect testimonies on human rights violations in Xinjiang. As a member of the Uyghur community and given his activism, Aishan would face real risks of torture and other ill-treatment as well as prolonged arbitrary detention if forcibly returned to China.

Uyghurs are increasingly experiencing persecution and large-scale human rights violations in Xinjiang. Members of the diaspora who are not firmly settled in third countries are facing a real risk of detention and refoulement.

Multiple international bodies have thus called on Morocco not to extradite Aishan to China in accordance with the fundamental principle of nonrefoulement.

On August 11, 2021, several UN Special Procedures mandate holders sent an urgent appeal to Morocco, recalling the absolute and non-derogable prohibition against returning a person to a place where they would be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

The experts reiterated their call in a statement on December 16, 2021, highlighting the risk of “serious human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, or torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment” that Aishan could face if returned to China.



**At the request of MENA Rights Group and Safeguard Defenders, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) sent a request for interim measures to the Moroccan authorities on December 20, 2021. In order to prevent irreparable harm to Aishan, the Moroccan authorities were instructed “not to extradite the complainant [Aishan] to China while his request is under consideration by the Committee.” Aishan’s case remains pending before the Committee, which has yet to issue a final decision.**

In light of the above, Moroccan authorities should cancel the extradition proceedings against Aishan and release him from his year-long detention, which, in the absence of periodic judicial review, individual assessment, and credible grounds, may amount to arbitrary detention, the groups said.

HRW





## THAILAND DENY UYGHURS DEPORTATION TO CHINA

Fears Thailand is in the process of deporting asylum-seeking Uyghurs back to China have been denied by the government.

News broke yesterday that dozens of Uyghurs from all around Thailand had been rounded up and impounded in a detention facility in Bangkok, raising fears among non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that the government plans to deport them back to China.

It sparked a sharp response from Thailand's Islamic council, and seven local NGOs, who released a joint statement questioning the Uyghur detainees' transfer to Bangkok.

“This action raised concerns among the civil society network monitoring the Uyghur situation that the Thai government will force the Uyghurs to return to their country of origin at the request of the Chinese government.”

Chalida Tajaroensuk, director of the People's Empowerment Foundation, a Thai NGO that assists Uyghur refugees in the country believes the Uyghurs' relocation to the capital is because three Uyghur men escaped from an immigration detention centre in central Thailand on July 11. The whereabouts of the three men are still unknown.

**“Our sources have told us that Uyghurs were brought from different detention centres across the country and are now all held together at the Suan Plu Immigration Detention Centre. We fear they could be sent back under China's pressure. So far, they are still here, as far as we know.”**

Chalida made it known that about 56 Uyghurs have been left in limbo in Thailand after entering the country illegally while



fleeing from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Northwest China in 2014.

The NGOs believe the Uyghurs are being held in detention centres because Thailand is under pressure to send them back to China and does not know what to do with them. But Thailand denies this.

Panitan Wattanayagorn, the chief security adviser to Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, yesterday said the Uyghurs were moved to a detention centre in Bangkok for safety reasons.

Panitan, who refused to answer whether the Thai government would send the Uyghurs back to China, said...

“For a broad overview of solving the troubles, we can say that they escaped death to stay with us. We have to handle them according to international standards and obligations.

“We won’t breach their basic rights. That is there is no separation of the families. But the problem is more convoluted than that, and we try to solve it bit by bit.”

Chalida insists national human rights commissioners should be informed of the Uyghurs’ relocation and be allowed to visit to monitor their health.

The NGOs, and Muslim council, also told the government to be mindful of an incident in 2015 when it deported 109 Uyghurs to China. The fates of those are still unknown.

“Thailand must not make the same mistake twice. There is no reasonable reason for the Chinese government to ask the Thai government to force these Uyghurs to return to China where they will face persecution.”

The Uyghur people are a Muslim minority who have endured repression by the Chinese government for a number of years after several terrorist attacks on the mainland were carried out by extremists. The last of which was believed to be in 2017.

*By Bob Scott*





## REPORT: XINJIANG PARAMILITARY GROUP HAS “CENTRAL ROLE” IN GENOCIDE

A Chinese state-run paramilitary group in Xinjiang is more deeply involved in the regional government’s repressive policies towards Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities than previously understood, a new report found.

**Why it matters:** The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) manages large swaths of the region’s agriculture and industry and holds shares in thousands of companies — meaning its products are connected to supply chains throughout the world.

The group is already sanctioned by the U.S. government.

**What they found:** The report lays out how the XPCC is responsible for systematic forced migration, forced labor, mass internment, land expropriation, repressive policing and religious persecution targeting Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

“The XPCC has operationalized these programs in the last five years to create a

reign of terror,” says the report, published Tuesday by the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University in the U.K.

The group was “dispatched by the top levels of the party-state to act as a military and industrial force to suppress Uyghur dissent” and “plays a critical and central role” in the genocide now underway in Xinjiang.

Here’s how the group enables the repression, per the report:

**Land expropriation:** XPCC officials pressure rural Uyghur landowners to transfer their land ownership to others, and instead work in factories or other industries. In one village, the report found, 70% of the land had been transferred from Uyghur owners.

This serves two purposes: destroying traditional Uyghur culture and communities tied to their ancestral land, and enriching the XPCC or others who receive the land

and then use it for industrial or agricultural development.

**Diluting Uyghur population:** The Chinese Communist Party tasked the XPCC with “expand[ing] the proportion of the population” that is Han Chinese, the majority ethnic group in China, the report states.

In 2018, the XPCC began offering special employment and housing opportunities for Han Chinese workers in other parts of China to settle in Xinjiang’s majority-Uyghur south, where the Uyghur population has been most affected by mass internment.

**Mass internment:** The XPCC has always operated prisons. But around 2016, under orders from the government, the XPCC began filling those prisons with Uyghurs and building new prisons to accommodate even more detainees.

Many farms and factories operated by the XPCC have historically used prison labor. The newly expanded system of internment and indoctrination facilities also include factories built inside prison walls or right next door, according to the report.

**By the numbers:** The XPCC has corporate holdings that may be linked to up to 862,000 entities around the globe, according to business intelligence firm Saryari Labs.

The XPCC also holds a majority stake in at least 2,873 companies, according to research organization C4ADS.

The organization manages a quarter of Xinjiang’s arable land.

**What they’re saying:** “The explicit mission of the XPCC is the repression of the Indigenous people and cultures of the Uyghur Region,” said Laura Murphy, co-author of the report and professor of human rights and contemporary slavery at Sheffield

Hallam University.

“It is clearer than ever that governments need to ban the import of goods made by the XPCC or any of its subsidiaries,” Murphy told Axios.

The Chinese embassy in Washington, D.C., did not respond to a request for comment.

**The backstory:** The Chinese government created the XPCC in the 1950s, a few years after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, to establish control over Xinjiang, the homeland of the Uyghur people.

The XPCC is organized into regiments and divisions, which often govern the settlements, land, assets and in some cases universities where they are located.

**What to watch:** The report calls for governments around the world to publicly disclose customs data and to share lists of XPCC-owned companies.

It also calls on development banks to stop all dealings with XPCC companies.

“The whole architecture of repression in Xinjiang should be enough for other countries to sanction the XPCC too,” said Luke de Pulford, director and co-founder of Arise, a non-profit that combats slavery and co-funded the report. “But they haven’t.”

**Go deeper:** U.S. sanctions China’s paramilitary in Xinjiang

**Editor’s note:** This story has been corrected to note that the report was co-funded by Arise, not co-commissioned.

*By Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian*





## US HITS OUT AT RUSSIA, CHINA IN ANNUAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

State Department cites Russia amongst worst offenders in human trafficking, criticises China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The United States has hit out against Russia and China, accusing the two countries of enabling human trafficking in a US Department of State annual report on the subject.

The 634-page document, released on Tuesday, covers policies on human trafficking around the world, including in the United States. Both Russia and China are mentioned throughout the report as two of the worst offenders.

Russia is listed as one of 11 countries with a "policy or pattern" of human trafficking, trafficking in government-funded programs, forced labor in government-affiliated medical services or other sectors, sexual slavery in government camps, or the employment or recruitment of child soldiers".

Other countries on the list include Af-

ghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan and Yemen.

Russia had appeared on the same list in last year's report. But this year, there was an added emphasis on the invasion of Ukraine on making Ukrainians vulnerable to human trafficking.

"Russia's senseless continued invasion of Ukraine and its devastating attacks across that country have inflicted unfathomable pain and suffering and forced millions of Ukrainian citizens and others to flee seeking safety," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in the preface of the report.

"We are deeply concerned about the risks of human trafficking faced by individuals internally displaced by the war, as well as those fleeing Ukraine, an estimated 90 percent of whom are women and children. The food insecurity and other broader effects of Russia's war exacerbate trafficking risks around the globe."

The document also names Kateryna Cherepakha, the head of La Strada Ukraine, an NGO established in 1997 that set up a hotline to assist victims, as one of six “heroes” combatting trafficking.

“Since the start of Russia’s war against Ukraine, the telephone and online hotline has seen a manifold increase in calls for assistance,” Tuesday’s report reads. “It has remained open under her leadership and as a result, thousands of Ukrainians have been able to access crucial information, advice, and assistance to keep themselves safe from trafficking and exploitation.”

The Russian embassy in Washington did not immediately return Al Jazeera’s request for comment.

**“Another country that features frequently in the report is China. The annual document accuses Beijing of “government policy or pattern of widespread forced labor, including through the continued mass arbitrary detention of Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Kyrgyz, and members of other Turkic and/or Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang”.**

Washington has accused Beijing of carrying out a “genocide” in Xinjiang, a charge that China has vehemently rejected.

This year’s Department of State report on human trafficking has an entire section dedicated to the Chinese-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of infrastructure projects around the world.



“PRC [People’s Republic of China] and host country nationals employed in some BRI construction projects, mining operations, and factories in African, European, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific, Latin American, and Caribbean countries experience deceptive recruitment into debt bondage, arbitrary wage garnishing or withholding, contract irregularities, confiscation of travel and identity documentation, forced overtime, and resignation penalties,” the report said.

Workers also faced “intimidation and threats, physical violence, denial of access to urgent medical care, poor working and living conditions, restricted freedom of movement and communication, and retaliation for reported abuses”, it added.

A spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington rejected the report as a US attempt to “make unwarranted accusations against other countries”.

“The Chinese government has achieved universally recognized progress in combating human trafficking while the US has a notorious record on this issue,” Liu Pengyu told Al Jazeera in an email.

“If the US wants to call out countries that engage in human trafficking, it should firstly point fingers at itself,” he added.

*From aljazeera*





## JOE BIDEN NEVER MENTIONED GENOCIDE, SLAVERY IN XI JINPING CALL, CHINA SAYS

China's Foreign Ministry accused the White House of lying on Friday when it claimed President Biden discussed the genocide and enslavement of Uyghur Muslims with his Beijing counterpart, Xi Jinping, on Thursday.

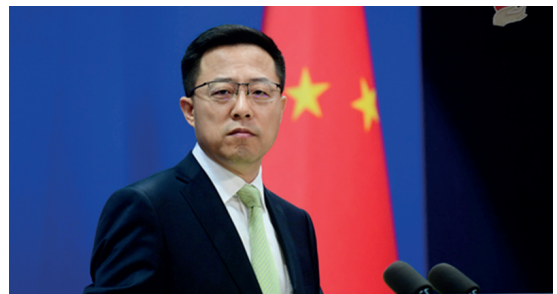
Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters hours after the call that Biden had "raised genocide and forced labor practices by the [People's Republic of China]."

"That is something that he raised about human rights, as he always does," she said. "This is, as we've said, that anytime the president has an opportunity, he raises that when he meets with another leader, and called on [the] PRC to cease its ongoing human rights abuses across China."

When asked how Xi had responded, the press secretary said: "They would have to respond on their own. I cannot speak for President Xi."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijan responded by blasting the administration in a Friday press conference.

"I can tell you that allegations of 'genocide' and 'forced labor' in Xinjiang are pure lies," Zhao said. "You said the White House press secretary claimed that 'genocide' and 'forced labor' came up in last night's call. That is disinformation."



Neither country's official readout of the call mentioned the Uyghurs, with the US statement saying only that the two leaders "discussed a range of issues important to the bilateral relationship and other regional and global issues."



“I’m not going to get into a back and forth with a PRC government spokesperson,” a National Security Council spokesman told The Post Friday. “The president raised concerns about human rights with President Xi, as he always does. He was crystal clear about his concerns. He also raised the need to resolve the cases of American citizens who are wrongfully detained or subject to exit bans in China.”

China has long been accused of human rights abuses in the northwestern Xinjiang region, where Uyghurs are held under horrendous conditions while undergoing systematic torture and forced sterilizations.

The US formally slapped the Asian superpower with sanctions in March 2021 and led a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games earlier this year.

**In December of last year, Biden signed off on the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which pro-**

**hibits the importation of goods from the Xinjiang region unless the importer can prove they were not manufactured using forced labor.**

Biden chose not to sign the bill on camera. However, then-White House press secretary Jen Psaki insisted the move wasn’t to spare China embarrassment.

“He signs bills on camera. Off camera sometimes, sometimes on camera,” Psaki said. “We support the bill and obviously we’ve been leading the effort in the world to call out human rights abuses.”

*By Callie Patteson*





## ACTIVIST ARRESTED OVER FAKE ‘BOMB THREAT’ AFTER LONDON PRO-UYGHUR PROTEST

**Drew Pavlou says he was held without a lawyer or consular access after Chinese embassy claimed to have received bomb threat**

An Australian human rights activist protesting against the oppression of Uyghur Muslims in China was arrested in London after authorities were sent a false bomb threat that had allegedly been delivered to the Chinese embassy in the city.

Drew Pavlou held a protest outside Beijing’s embassy in the British capital, displaying a Uyghur flag to highlight the plight of Turkic Muslim minority communities in China’s Xinjiang region.

Pavlou was arrested just minutes into the protest, after officers alleged that he had emailed a bomb threat to the embassy. He has since been released.

The fake email allegedly said: “This is Drew Pavlou, you have until 12pm to stop the Uyghur genocide or I blow up the em-

bassy with a bomb. Regards, Drew.”

The 23-year-old activist strongly denied sending the email, describing the allegation as “shocking”.

“The UK police arrested me. They said the Chinese embassy had reported me as a terrorist, as a bomb threat. I was so shocked, I’ve always been a peaceful protester,” he said in a video posted to Twitter.

“They’ve made up this email claiming that I sent in the bomb threat. It’s just absolute insanity. Why would I throw away my life like that? I’m a peaceful protester. It’s just so, so shocking.”

### ‘Denied consular access’

In a thread posted on Twitter, Pavlou said



that he had been detained by London’s Metropolitan police incommunicado for 23 hours, with no access to a lawyer.

He claimed that his phone had been seized and that he was pressured into handing over his password. He added that he was denied access to Australian consular officials.

Australia’s foreign affairs ministry confirmed the arrest in a statement.

“The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has offered consular assistance to Drew Pavlou, an Australian who was arrested, and subsequently released, in the United Kingdom,” it said.

The ministry added that it would raise Pavlou’s claims of being denied consular access whilst being detained with UK authorities.

A Metropolitan Police spokesperson said that it does not confirm or comment on the identity of anyone arrested who has not been charged with a criminal offence.

“Anyone who wishes to complain about their treatment by the Metropolitan Police can contact the Met’s Directorate of

Professional Standards or the UK Independent Office for Police Conduct.”

Pavlou has a long history of protesting against human rights abuses by China, including interrupting a speech by China’s ambassador in Sydney earlier this year to denounce Beijing’s treatment of Muslims.

**The Chinese government is accused of detaining more than one million Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in the western Xinjiang region, and subjecting the community to abuses that some have labelled a “genocide”. China denies the allegations of abuse.**

Last month, Pavlou held up a sign during the Wimbledon final with the words “Where is Peng Shuai?,” referring to a Chinese tennis player who briefly disappeared after alleging that she had been sexually assaulted by a senior official in the Chinese communist party.

*By MEE staff*





**THIS SUNDAY: WE MAKE HISTORY INSHA'ALLAH**

On Sunday the 31st July the Stand4Uyghurs coalition of over 100 grassroots Muslim organisations nationally and globally will (inshā'Allāh) be rallying outside Chinese embassies and consulates in multiple cities to stand in solidarity with Uyghurs and other groups facing genocide in occupied East Turkistan.

Late last year, the People's Uyghur Tribunal in London, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, lead prosecutor of the former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic,

concluded that the Chinese government is committing a genocide against Uyghurs.

Communities will be mobilising nationally in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and globally in Washington DC, Toronto CA, Istanbul TR, Johannesburg SA, Auckland NZ, and Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne AUS, inshāAllāh.







The diverse coalition consists of major regional mosques such as East London Mosque (est. 1982), Green Lane Masjid in Birmingham (est. 1970s), representative bodies such as Waltham Forest Council of Mosques (WFCOM), Muslim Association of Britain and Muslim Council of Wales, student organisations such as the Federation of Students’ Islamic Societies – FOSIS (est. 1963), as well as scholarly bodies such as Wifaqul Ulama and Islamic Council of Europe, thinktanks such as The Cordoba Foundation, media organisations such as 5Pillars News and ilmfeed, advocacy groups such as CAGE, Grant Liberty, MPACUK and Mend, and professional bodies such as the Association of Muslim Lawyers. Also involved are Uyghur diaspora groups, including Campaign for Uyghurs and the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations. (A full list of UK-based coalition partners is in the notes below.)



They will be calling out the Chinese Government to end their religious and cultural persecution of Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslims and ‘Stop The Genocide Now’.

**Members of the coalition made the following statements:**



Abduresid Eminhaci, ethnic Uyghur residing in Turkey and activist at the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations and S4U representative in Istanbul, Turkiye:

“As it is an already known fact for all, the East Turkistani people including Uyghurs, Kazaks, Kyrgyz, and other ethnic groups are enduring genocide and other crimes against humanity by the Chinese authority. East Turkistani people are suffering from assimilation, massacre, genocide, and other human rights violations for more than 70 years under Chinese autocracy. Islamophobia and racism

are the ideological roots of the genocide which is taking place in East Turkistan. Concentration camps, Islam ban, and demographic change are the main methods of genocide. China is doing that, it is going to secure the new silk road, the global economic project, and East Turkistan is its starting point. In this manner, forced labour is an important base of the project and genocide.

We call on all Muslim and non-Muslim communities who respect humanity and justice to gather and come together to stand against China and its genocide, boycott forced labour productions, condemn Chinese crimes, urge others, and de-legitimize China on the international stage. We call on governments and international human rights organizations to bring out the emergency acts to stop genocide.”



Arslan Hidayat, ethnic Uyghur and activist, Project Manager at Campaign for Uyghurs and Stand4Uyghurs representative in Washington DC, USA:

“There has been very little to no “Muslim” advocacy when it comes to the Uyghur genocide, therefore the Stand4Uyghurs campaign at least provides a starting point for Muslims wanting to get involved in raising awareness about the Uyghur Muslims’ plight. Western advocacy for the Uyghurs has had a positive but also an almost equal negative effect. China uses the lack of Muslim voices for the Uyghurs as a reason/excuse to propagate the reality

of the Uyghur genocide, saying, if human rights violations did exist then why aren’t Muslims up in arms about it”.

Moazzam Begg, former Guantanamo Bay detainee and outreach director at CAGE:

“Few would consider China an active participant in the US-led War on Terror. After all, it’s supposed to be a bastion of “anti-imperialism” and viewed with suspicion by the West. However, China’s has its own “People’s War on Terror” and its targets are the Muslim Uyghurs of East Turkistan.



In truth, China’s version of Islamophobia against the Uyghurs is far worse because it’s carried out on an industrial scale.

Over a million Uyghurs have been placed in “re-education” camps in the name of preventing terrorism. There are numerous allegations of systematic rape, torture and extrajudicial killing at these centres. Meanwhile, their children are sent to orphanages called “welfare centres” where they learn Mandarin language and Chinese values in place of their own.

China has used the language of the US War on Terror as cover for its atrocities against the Uyghurs. That is why CAGE and I have joined the struggle to Stand4Uyghurs. We hope you will too.”

Lindsay Taylor, Scotland Regional Manager at MEND:

“MEND will be joining a range of organisations and individuals to





Stand4Uyghurs on the 31st of July around the UK. Standing in solidarity with Uyghur Muslims against the brutality of the systematic Islamophobia, persecution, detention, torture and death that they face in their home country of Chinese-occupied East Turkistan. We must all come together to bring an end to such horrendous acts of hate that are being carried out by the Chinese authorities.

It is important that all stand against hate no matter where it occurs. We must all raise our voices and say enough is enough. That is why MEND encourage all to join in the rallies around the UK to Stand4Uyghurs on the 31st.”



Dr Salman Butt, Chief Editor at Islam21c:  
 “The Uyghurs asked us to stand with them on this day and that’s what we’re doing. We have been pleasantly surprised with the outpouring of support from so many diverse organisations and people wanting to stand in solidarity with the Uyghurs

and other oppressed groups—and this has given the Uyghurs that we know a much needed and overdue boost in moral support.

When I went to visit some Uyghur leaders and organisations it was embarrassing for me how well they treated us – they were extremely grateful for what little we have done so far for their plight. They have been told by their tormentors for decades that the Muslims don’t care about them, that Islam is a foreign disease they should abandon. If we have an opportunity to give solidarity and moral support to just one of the millions of suffering brothers and sisters that is reason enough.”



Dilly Hussain, Journalist and Broadcaster at 5Pillars News:

“China’s persecution of Uyghur Muslims and the occupation of its lands is a matter that has increasingly become present in the minds of millions of Muslims around the world.

The life and honour of Uyghur Muslims is no different to the life and honour of Palestinians, Kashmiris, Rohingya, Syrians, Afghans and Yemenis.



If the silence of Muslim majority governments has been bought by Chinese investments, then the world, especially China, should know that Muslims around the world will stand in solidarity with their Uyghur brethren until genocide and injustice ends.”

Raghad Altikriti, Muslim Association of Britain Chair:

“The Muslim Association of Britain will be standing in solidarity with our Uyghur brothers and sisters, outside the Chinese embassy, demanding an end to China’s genocide campaign.

We will be standing to say, that despite the efforts of the CCP to erase the culture, the religion, and the people of the Uyghurs, they have failed. We will not stop demanding accountability for the Urumchi massacre or the million Uyghurs locked up in China’s concentration camps.”



Anas Altikriti, CEO and Founder of The Cordoba Foundation:

“There have been many positive statements issued condemning the gross breaches committed by China against the people of East Turkistan, but virtually none of those statements have been followed up with real steps to curtail and punish the culprits of this monumental crime. We continue to see the world trading with Beijing and open borders to Chinese expansionist projects, with human rights continuing to take second place

after trade and commercial interests. This must stop, and it must stop immediately.

The lives and human rights of the Uyghurs must take precedence and this act of genocide unfolding daily before the eyes of the world, brought to an end.”

Ibteeda Masud, Stand4Uyghurs Sydney Australia Representative:

“Our hearts have been burning silently as we hear about the oppression of our Uyghur brothers and sisters every day, praying for some change. We refuse to sit idly by any longer as their cries become louder and louder. JazakAllahu khayr to Stand4Uyghurs UK who took the initiative, inspiring hearts all over Australia to take a firm, unwavering stand.

I hope that the cohesion of our communities will send a very clear message to the CCP that this will not be tolerated. Wherever they try to go, they will hear our cries. Wherever they may seek empathy for their oppressive regime, they will receive nothing but utter rejection.



**Raise your voices! Scream until our brothers and sisters hear us and know we haven’t abandoned them. Scream until the oppressors cannot hear themselves think. And in Allah we place all of our trust and hope.”**

*By Maira Khan*



**13 years ago the Chinese regime brutally massacred the people of East Turkistan who against the opposition.**

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# istiqlal

**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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