



CANADA AMONG 50 COUNTRIES URGING CHINA TO RELEASE DETAINED UYGHURS



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EAST TURKISTAN

New York, 31-10-2022

I have the honor of delivering this cross-regional joint statement on behalf of the following 50 countries: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and my own

country Canada.

We are gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China, especially the ongoing human rights violations of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in East Turkistan.

The release of the recent UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Assessment of human rights concerns in East Turkistan, People's Republic of China, corroborates these concerns in an impartial and objective manner. The assessment finds that the scale of the arbitrary and discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in East

Joint statement on behalf of 50 countries in the UN General Assembly Third Committee on the human rights situation in Xinjiang, China

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Turkistan “may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity”.

As an independent, authoritative assessment that relies extensively on China’s own records, it makes an important contribution to the existing evidence of serious and systematic human rights violations in China. This includes evidence of large-scale arbitrary detention and systematic use of invasive surveillance on the basis of religion and ethnicity; severe and undue restrictions to legitimate cultural and religious practices, identity and expression, including reports of destruction of mosques, shrines and cemeteries; torture, ill-treatment and sexual and gender-based violence, including forced abortion and sterilization; enforced disappearances and family separations; and forced labour. Such severe and systematic violations of

human rights cannot be justified on the basis of counter-terrorism.

In view of the gravity of the OHCHR assessment, we are concerned that China has so far refused to discuss its findings. In that context, we urge the Government of China to uphold its international human rights obligations and to fully implement the recommendations of the OHCHR assessment. This includes taking prompt steps to release all individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in East Turkistan, and to urgently clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing family members and facilitate safe contact and reunion. We believe that addressing human rights violations, engaging in meaningful dialogue, and working together as partners are foundational to creating more inclusive societies where all can fully enjoy their human rights. We encourage all to adopt this approach.

CANADA AMONG 50 COUNTRIES URGING CHINA TO RELEASE DETAINED UYGHURS

Fifty mainly Western countries urged China on Monday to fully implement all recommendations in a U.N. report accusing the country of possible “crimes against humanity” against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups, including taking prompt steps to release all those “arbitrarily deprived of their liberty” in East Turkistan.

Canada’s U.N. Ambassador Bob Rae read the statement at a meeting of the General Assembly’s human rights committee expressing grave concern at the human rights situation in China, and Beijing’s failure so far to discuss the report’s

findings on the ongoing violations against the Uyghurs and other Muslim groups.

Human rights groups have accused China of sweeping a million or more people from the minority groups into detention camps where many have said they were



tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion. The camps were just one part of what the rights organizations have called a ruthless campaign against extremism in East Turkistan that also included draconian birth control policies and all-encompassing restrictions on people's movement.

The assessment from the Geneva-based U.N. human rights office was released in the final minutes of High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet's four-year term on Aug. 31. It largely corroborated earlier reporting by researchers, advocacy groups and the news media.

The report concluded that China has committed serious human rights violations under its anti-terrorism and anti-extremism policies and called for "urgent attention" from the U.N., the world community and China itself to address

them.

The statement from the 50 countries calls the report "an independent, authoritative assessment that relies extensively on China's own records" and "makes an important contribution to the existing evidence of serious and systematic human rights violations in China."

In light of "the gravity" of the report's assessment, the countries expressed concern "that China has so far refused to discuss its findings" and urged the government "to fully implement the recommendations."

In addition to calling for fulfillment of the recommendation to release of all those arbitrarily detained the 50 countries urged China to clarify "the fate and whereabouts of missing family members" and arrange safe contacts and reunions.

In response to the statement, the Uyghur Human Rights Project tweeted that "A

growing number of UN member states are pushing back on China's treatment of Uyghurs."

Britain's Foreign Minister James Cleverly tweeted that the statement "supported by a record 50 countries across 6 continents, demonstrates growing breadth of international concern."

The 50 countries that signed on to the statement were: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

Last week, the U.S., UK and others organized a meeting following up on the former high commissioner's report that included U.N. ambassadors, Uyghur human rights advocates, the U.N. special investigator on minority rights and Human Rights Watch.

China's U.N. Mission sent a letter to all U.N. member states expressing its "resolute opposition" to the meeting and strongly recommending that they boycott "this anti-China event."

"It is a politically motivated event," said the letter, obtained by The Associated Press. "The co-sponsors use human rights issues as a political tool to interfere in China's internal affairs like East Turkistan, to create division and turbulence and disrupt China's development."

Calling the event "disinformation propaganda," the letter accused the sponsors of violating "the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and norms of international relations."



CANADIAN PARLIAMENT URGES GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT 10,000 UYGHUR REFUGEES

WASHINGTON — Members of the Canadian Parliament have urged the government to expedite the resettlement to Canada of Uyghur refugees now living in third countries.

The Parliament voted Tuesday on a motion from Conservative MP Garnett Genuis to reaffirm its recognition of the Uyghur genocide in China and to call for special immigration measures to assist Uyghur refugees at risk of deportation to China from third countries.

“House of Commons thankfully endorsed that motion,” Genuis told VOA.

Almost 50,000 Uyghur refugees are living in Turkey, and smaller numbers of Uyghurs who fled China are in countries such as Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, from where Uyghurs were deported to China in recent years.

Another motion, debated Wednesday in Parliament, calls on Ottawa to expedite the entry of Uyghur refugees.

“[My motion] calls on Canada to welcome 10,000 Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities over two years starting in 2024,” Sameer Zuberi, chair of Parliament’s Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international human rights, told VOA. “It builds on the House of Commons’ formal recognition in February 2021 that a genocide has been taking place against the Uyghur people.”

Genocide designation

Canada became the second country to

recognize China’s treatment of Uyghurs as genocide in February 2021. The U.S. was the first country to designate human rights violations against Uyghurs in China as genocide in January of the same year. Other legislative bodies in Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Ireland have made similar determinations since.

The government of Canada has sanctioned four individuals and one entity for their roles in human rights violations in East Turkistan.

A report by the Canadian Parliament’s Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international human rights published in October 2020 contained recommendations calling on Canada to uphold basic human rights of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples of East Turkistan.

“One of the recommendations of this report is for the department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to expedite the entry into Canada of Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities,” Zuberi said. “If passed by the House of Commons, my motion will give life to this recommendation.”

According to Mehmet Tohti, executive director of Ottawa-based Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, most Uyghur refugees

who live in third countries are in danger of being sent back to China.

“Uyghurs who fled to countries like Turkey are vulnerable for being repatriated to China,” Tohti told VOA. “Countries like Turkey where most Uyghur refugees live depend on China economically and that can influence those countries’ decision on how to deal with Uyghur refugees, like intimidating them to return to China.”

Detention, deportation

According to a report released in June 2021 by the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs and Uyghur Human Rights Project, there were 1,546 cases of detention and deportation of Uyghurs in at least 28 countries between 1997 and March 2021.

“[M]ost notably in much of the Middle East and North Africa with 647 cases, and in South Asia with 665 cases,” the report said. “The dataset contains 1,151 cases of Uyghurs being detained in their host country and 395 cases of Uyghurs being deported, extradited or rendered back to China.”

“Uyghurs’ futures in those countries are far from certain. They do not have safe refuge,” Zuberi said. “In the spirit of Canada’s proud humanitarian tradition, where Yazidis, Syrians, Afghans and recently Ukrainians have been welcomed, I am hoping that Canada can again step up and resettle vulnerable Uyghurs.”

According to Zuberi, after Wednesday’s hour of debate of his motion at Parliament, there will be a second hour of debate in

December, followed by a vote in mid-December or early February.

If endorsed, the bill requires that within 120 days following the adoption of the motion, a report must be completed on how the refugee resettlement plan would be implemented.

Human rights

Canada’s Immigration Ministry spokesperson, Remi Lariviere, said Canada is “deeply concerned about the serious human rights violations in East Turkistan affecting Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities, as outlined in a recent U.N. report.

“The Government of Canada remains committed to providing protection to vulnerable individuals in need of resettlement,” Lariviere told VOA in an email. “Our resettlement programs are available to those most in need of protection around the world, including Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities who have fled persecution in China.”

In August, the U.N. Human Rights Office asserted in a report on human rights in East Turkistan that China “may have committed crimes against humanity” against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups, including arbitrary detention, credible allegations of torture, forced labor, forced sterilization, sexual violence and adverse conditions of detention.

China claimed the U.N. report was based on “disinformation and draws erroneous

conclusions” about human rights in East Turkistan.

According to Lariviere, Canada relies on referrals from the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), other designated referral organizations and private sponsorship groups to identify refugees in need of

resettlement.

“Our first priority is the safety of Uyghur refugees. We therefore cannot provide any details on our efforts or plans since it could put this vulnerable population at risk,” Lariviere said.

20TH CONGRESS: WHY DID XI JINPING NOT EVEN MENTION THE UYGHURS?

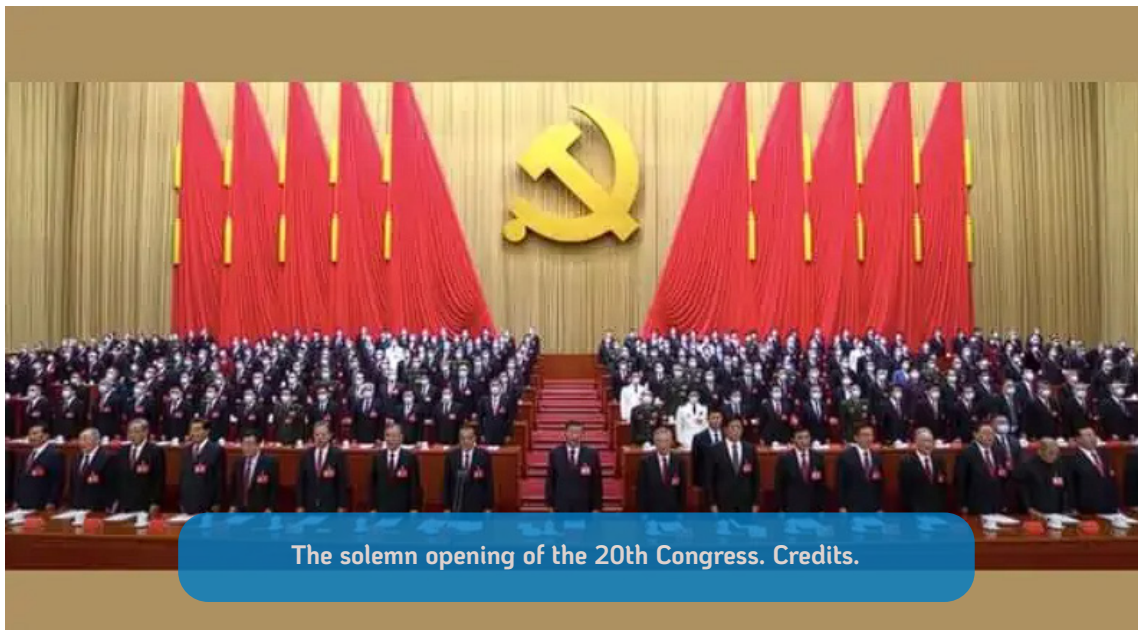
It was not a sign that the Uyghur issue is not in Xi’s mind. Rather, it confirmed that the Uyghur genocide continues, and Xi fears accountability.

Xi Jinping did not mention the name of the Uyghurs in his 2-hour report during the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. This is odd, considering that it can be argued that China’s most consistently implemented policy under Xi Jinping has been the Uyghur genocide. The most serious criticism China has faced over

the past five years has been about its Uyghur policy. Xi Jinping has uniquely contributed to the Chinese nation being called a genocidal state in the 21st century.

Has Xi Jinping forgotten the Uyghurs?

At a huge financial cost, the Chinese



The solemn opening of the 20th Congress. Credits.

government established 380+ camps in East Turkistan (Xinjiang to China) and sent more than three million Uyghurs to these camps. China also built the world's largest prison—Dabancheng—near the capital Urumqi. However, this enormous construction project completed by Xi Jinping was not mentioned in his report.

All countries in the UN that have the ability to think independently, including three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, have recognized China's Uyghur policy as genocide and have expressed their opposition. Xi Jinping has activated all his partners and client states around the world to justify his actions. Clearly, what has bothered and tired Xi Jinping the most has been having to hide the camps and deny the Uyghur genocide!

Xi Jinping mentioned “security” fifty times in his report, but there was, deliberately, not a single mention of the

Uyghurs.

Why? Because it is impossible to justify genocide. If you try to cover blood, it will seep out. It will spread everywhere if you attempt to wash it, and if it is seen, people will focus on it. When some see blood, they are either scared or frozen in place, or moved to stop it.

Therefore, hiding the scene and story of a murder from the eyes of the world is the only way for the murderer to escape punishment. Delaying former Commissioner Bachelet's visit to China, changing its goal to an exchange of views instead of an independent investigation, and forcing her not to release the Uyghur report until the last minute of her tenure were nothing more than attempts to hide the Uyghur genocide from the eyes of the world. The most recent example of this is China's effort at the United Nations Human Rights Council that led to reject the plan to discuss the Uyghur massacre.



A propaganda image of Xi Jinping with Uyghur during a visit to East Turkistan.

This was an acknowledgment that, should the Uyghur situation have been discussed, China would have been severely criticized.

A murderer is only strong in the field of murder, not in the field of debate.

Although it has been six years since the Uyghur genocide was revealed, it has been seventy years since it began. Clearly, hiding the Uyghur genocide is part of a certain historical process.

In 1997, when then-US secretary of state Madeleine Albright first raised the Uyghur issue at the UN, she began by saying: “There is a people called Uyghur in China.” Clearly, that Uyghurs existed needed to be explained. The weakness of the world’s cognitive ability corresponded to the superiority of China’s policy of concealment and their skills and experience in propaganda.

In 2001, just a few days after the September 11 terror incident in New York, the Chinese announced that they were also victims of terrorism and needed international assistance. This was the first time that China admitted to having a

problem called the “Uyghur separatism,” claiming that it had suffered more than 200 terrorist attacks in the previous 10 years. Until then, almost no one had spoken about such events, which were contrary to the propaganda insisting that all nationalities in the region were living in harmony and peace. In the end, the opportunity they expected from the era after September 11 may not have worked for China, so they closed the subject again.

Between 2008 and 2014, the vast majority of the protests and incidents that took place in the region were covered only by Washington-based Radio Free Asia’s (RFA) Uyghur service. The most notable reports of RFA identified more than 100 Uyghurs who had disappeared during the July 5, 2009, incident. Based on this information, Uyghur scholar, Prof. Ilham Tohti asked the National People’s Congress of China to provide information on the missing persons or the bodies of the dead to their families. China has yet to respond. The request was one of the “crimes” that led to Ilham Tohti receiving



a life sentence.

On September 18, 2015, RFA reported a deadly attack on a coal mine field in Bay County, Aksu. On November 14th, 56 days after the incident and one day after a terrorist attack occurred in Paris, France, China saw another opportunity and released a brief report about the September 18 incident. However, they did not reveal the details, including that the death toll surpassed 50.

In the report, Chinese officials proudly announced victory after Chinese soldiers launched an attack by using flamethrowers against a cave where the suspects were hiding. They burned 17 people to death, but they named only the 10 attackers. They did not mention the seven women and children dead in the cave.

In 2017, China established a 21st-century system of concentration camps detaining more than three million people. This did not warrant a single mention in the Chinese news or in their official reports for that year. After independent researchers revealed the location of the camps through satellite images, China acknowledged the existence of the camps but disguised them as vocational training centers.

On the international stage, China's silence on the Uyghur situation is a necessary lie, and contradictory statements are made when it is impossible to remain silent.

This does not occur due to the power of the Uyghurs or international pressure. It is the power of truth.

The truth does not leave its enemies alone. When attacked, it glows, flashes, and sometimes explodes and destroys its opponents. It is for this reason that Xi Jinping did not mention the Uyghurs in his report.

Xi Jinping did not forget about the Uyghurs. As a political leader, he will never forget the people who are the original owners of one sixth of the current national territory. As a murderer who ordered "no mercy" for the Uyghurs and commanded the genocide, he will live with the guilt of his crimes against humanity forever. He cannot be free for one minute from the threat of retaliation and from the tears of parents and children in families that have been broken up for six years.

It is for these reasons that Xi Jinping did not mention the Uyghur genocide or even the name "Uyghur" in his 20th Congress report. This is not a sign that there is no Uyghur issue on his mind. It is instead a sign that the Uyghur genocide continues, and Xi Jinping fears accountability.

It is inevitable that Xi Jinping, who did not mention the Uyghurs today with cunning and fake arrogance, will confess his crime tomorrow when he will face the punishment of history.

FORGOTTEN UYGHURS LOCKED UP IN THAILAND FACE ‘HELL ON EARTH’

Bangkok (AFP) – Almost a decade after fleeing China, more than 50 Uyghurs are languishing in Thai detention facilities, living in constant fear of being sent back.

China has been accused of grave human rights abuses in East Turkistan against the Uyghurs dating back to at least the 1990s, with the United States branding Beijing’s treatment of the mostly Muslim minority a “genocide”.

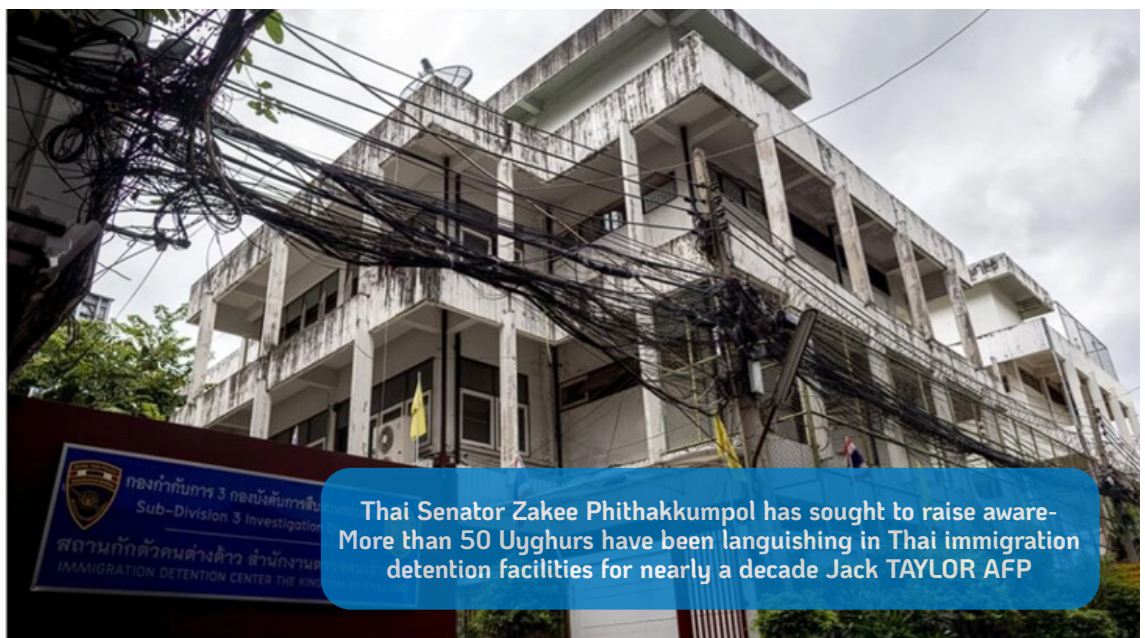
A damning UN report released in August detailed violations including torture and forced labour and “large-scale” arbitrary detention in what Beijing calls vocational training centres.

The group of Uyghurs, arrested in 2013 and 2014, are currently being held in immigration centres around Thailand while authorities ponder their fate.

Neither their precise location nor their exact number is clear -- a group of Thai rights organisations says there are 52, but a senator working on the case says 59.

Immigration authorities have not responded to AFP requests for information.

Abdullah Sami, a 35-year-old Uyghur from East Turkistan who fled China through Thailand and now lives in Austria, has been in contact with some of the detainees. “The situation is terrible,” he told AFP. “They live with the fear that if they are ever sent back to China, they



would suffer persecution there.

"It is not an idle fear -- in 2015 the Thai government forcibly deported 109 Uyghurs to China, in defiance of US pleas to protect them.

That move drew stern condemnation from Washington and the UN, which said it was a violation of international law.

It also sparked violent protests in Turkey -- where nationalist hardliners see Uyghurs as part of a global Turkic-speaking family -- forcing the temporary closure of Thailand's embassy and consulate.

A month later, a bomb attack at a Bangkok shrine killed 20 people, most of them ethnic Chinese tourists. The trial of two Chinese Uyghur men accused of the attack resumes next week after long delays.

- 'Security risk' -

Around the same time, in mid-2015, Thailand sent a further 170 Uyghur women and children to Turkey.

But some Uyghurs remained, and in July three men made headlines in Thai media after they escaped from a southern immigration centre, with one believed to still be at large.

But details about those still in detention remain murky, with no concrete information available on who they are.

"It is clear that the Uyghurs are considered a special security issue," said Chalida Tajaroenk, head of human rights association People's Empowerment Foundation, which has led recent calls to

free the detainees.

The group are believed to have been shuffled from immigration centre to immigration centre for the past eight years.

"Nobody has an answer on how long they will stay there," Chalida said.

- Diplomatic balance -

"What's a life, in this kind of prison cell for almost 10 years?" asked Thai senator Zakee Phithakkumpol, one of the leaders of the Islamic Central Council, which represents the kingdom's eight million Muslims.

Support for the detainees has stepped up in recent months, with eight Thai human rights organisations urging authorities in July not to send them to China.

The renewed attention comes as Thailand prepares to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit next month, with China and the United States both increasingly vying for influence in Southeast Asia.

Thailand's junta cosied up to Beijing after seizing power in 2014, but in recent years it has sought to tread a path between China and the United States, the kingdom's oldest ally.

"Lately, Bangkok has been rebalancing its relations between Washington and Beijing, rather moving closer to the United States," political professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak at Chulalongkorn University told AFP.

The massive diplomatic and security



fallout from the 2015 deportation may also contribute to the government's hesitancy, but it is keeping mum about its next moves.

Contacted by AFP, a ministry of foreign affairs spokesperson said the position of the kingdom "remained the same", without giving further details.

Sami, who was in communication with a number of the men held, says their fears will not have changed.

Every time they spoke, he said, "I tell them with sorrow that there is no news, there is

nothing about them."

Phil Robertson, Asia deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said the Uyghurs' treatment was "absolutely shocking" and Thailand should release them immediately.

"Thai Immigration is acting like it will hold these men indefinitely, for the rest of their lives if need be, to avoid offending China," Robertson told AFP.

"If there is a hell on earth, Thailand has created it for these Uyghur detainees."

CHINESE OVERSEAS POLICE STATION IN DUBLIN ORDERED TO SHUT

Department of Foreign Affairs told Chinese embassy to close ‘police service station’ in Dublin city.

The Department of Foreign Affairs ordered a Chinese “police service station” operating in Dublin city centre to close, following scrutiny over the activities of the overseas offices.

The Fuzhou Police Overseas Service Station opened earlier this year in an office building on Capel Street, which it shared with other Chinese organisations.

The presence of the station, which the Chinese embassy said only offered Chinese nationals administrative assistance such as helping with drivers’ licence renewals, had come under increased scrutiny in recent months.

A report from human rights group Safeguard Defenders said the station is part of a worldwide network of overseas



Chinese law enforcement offices, some of which have been known to “persuade” Chinese emigrants to return home, sometimes to face criminal charges.

The Dutch government recently announced it would investigate two stations operating in the Netherlands, following allegations they had been used to monitor Chinese dissidents living abroad.

The Chinese embassy in Dublin has insisted the Capel Street office was not involved in any law enforcement activity. There is no evidence it was involved in “persuasion” activities .

However, following media reports, the operation of the station in Ireland had been the subject of discussion among Government departments.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said neither Chinese authorities nor officials from the Fujian province or Fuzhou city sought permission from the department to set up the station in Dublin.

As a result, department officials raised the presence of the police service station with the Chinese embassy in recent weeks.

“The Department noted that actions of all

foreign states on Irish territory must be in compliance with international law and domestic law requirements,” a spokesman said. “On this basis, the Department informed the Embassy that the office on Capel Street should close and cease operations.”

The Chinese embassy had confirmed “that the activities of the office have ceased,” the spokesman said.

In a statement, the Chinese embassy said the station had been set up to help citizens from Fujian province renew driving licenses that had expired during the Covid-19 pandemic. “ Now the Fujian Provincial authorities have announced that the driving licenses can be renewed online by mobile, so the activities carried by the facility were terminated,” it said.

A significant proportion of the Chinese community in Ireland are believed to come from Fuzhou, a city of eight million people in the Fujian province on China’s southeast coast.

At the start of this month signage for the station was removed from the front of the Capel Street building, but the embassy would not respond to queries about whether the station had ceased operating.

CHINA ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL POLICE STATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Chinese government has been accused of establishing at least two undeclared “police stations” in the Netherlands.

Dutch media found evidence that the “overseas service stations”, which promise to provide diplomatic services, are being used to try to silence Chinese dissidents in Europe.

A spokeswoman for the Dutch foreign ministry said the existence of the unofficial police outposts was illegal.

The Chinese foreign ministry has rejected the Dutch allegations.

The investigation was sparked by a report entitled Chinese Transnational Policing Gone Wild, by the Spain-based NGO Safeguard Defenders.

According to the organisation, the public security bureaus from two Chinese

provinces had established 54 “overseas police service centres” across five continents and 21 countries. Most of them are in Europe, including nine in Spain and four in Italy. In the UK, it found two in London and one in Glasgow.

The units were ostensibly created to tackle transnational crime and conduct administrative duties, such as the renewal of Chinese drivers’ licences. But, according to Safeguard Defenders, in reality they carry out “persuasion operations”, aimed at coercing those suspected of speaking out against the Chinese regime to return home.

RTL News and the investigative journalism



platform Follow the Money shared the story of Wang Jingyu, a Chinese dissident who said he was being pursued by Chinese police in the Netherlands.

Speaking in English, Wang told Dutch journalists he received a phone call earlier this year from someone claiming to be from one such station. During the conversation, he said he was urged to return to China to “sort out my problems. And to think about my parents”.

Since then, he described a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation, which he believes is being orchestrated by Chinese government agents.

In response to the revelations, the Chinese embassy told RTL News it was not aware of the existence of such police stations.

Dutch foreign ministry spokeswoman Maxime Hovenkamp told the BBC: “The Dutch government wasn’t made aware of these operations through the diplomatic channels with the Chinese government. That is illegal.”

She said it would have to investigate and decide the appropriate response. “It is very worrying a Chinese national has apparently been subjected to intimidation and harassment here in the Netherlands. Police are looking into options to offer him protection,” she added.

Services such as passport renewals or visa requests are usually handled by an embassy or consulate. Diplomatic rules apply in these locations, as laid out in the Vienna Convention, of which both the Netherlands and China are signatories.

Policing outposts like the ones China is accused of running could violate the territorial integrity of a host country by circumventing national jurisdictions and the protections afforded under domestic law.

Chinese Foreign affairs spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday that what had been described as police stations overseas “are actually service stations for Chinese citizens abroad”, and China fully respected other countries’ judicial sovereignty.

Many Chinese had been unable to return to China because of coronavirus, he told reporters: “To help them overcome difficulties, relevant local governments have opened online service platforms. Such services are mainly targeted at physical examinations and changing drivers’ licences.”

Safeguard Defenders said China’s policing tactics were “problematic” as they targeted suspects without firmly establishing links to crime or adhering to due process in host countries.

This is primarily done by coercing or making threats against the family members of alleged fugitives, as a method to “persuade” them to return home, the organisation said.

On 2 September, a national Anti-Telecom and Online Fraud Law was adopted in China, establishing a claim of extraterritorial jurisdiction over all Chinese nationals worldwide suspected of these types of fraud.

In theory, the new legislation - in tandem with Chinese police units on foreign soil - leaves dissidents with nowhere to hide.

The pressure is now on the Dutch government to ensure critics of the Chinese government who are granted asylum can be protected, and that in the Netherlands, Dutch law prevails.

The presence of the station, which the Chinese embassy said only offered Chinese nationals administrative assistance such as helping with drivers' licence renewals, had come under increased scrutiny in recent months.

A report from human rights group

'ARCHITECT' OF HORRIFIC UYGHUR CRACKDOWN 'OUSTED' FROM CHINA'S TOP LEADERSHIP BODY

Chen Quanguo, widely regarded as the man responsible for overseeing the abuses against the Uyghur Muslim minority, has been left out of China's top leadership body.

Chen Quanguo, the former party secretary in charge of East Turkistan, has been reportedly ousted from China's newly elected top leadership body.

Chen's name was missing from the 205 members of the Central Committee, the command centre of China, following the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Congress last week.

He is widely regarded as the man responsible for executing draconian laws against the country's Uyghur Muslim minority, in a crackdown described by the US and others as a genocide.

He has been accused of being behind the forced disappearances, mass surveillance, and brutal incarnation of the hundreds of thousands of Uyghur Muslims.

The units were ostensibly created to tackle transnational crime and conduct administrative duties, such as the renewal

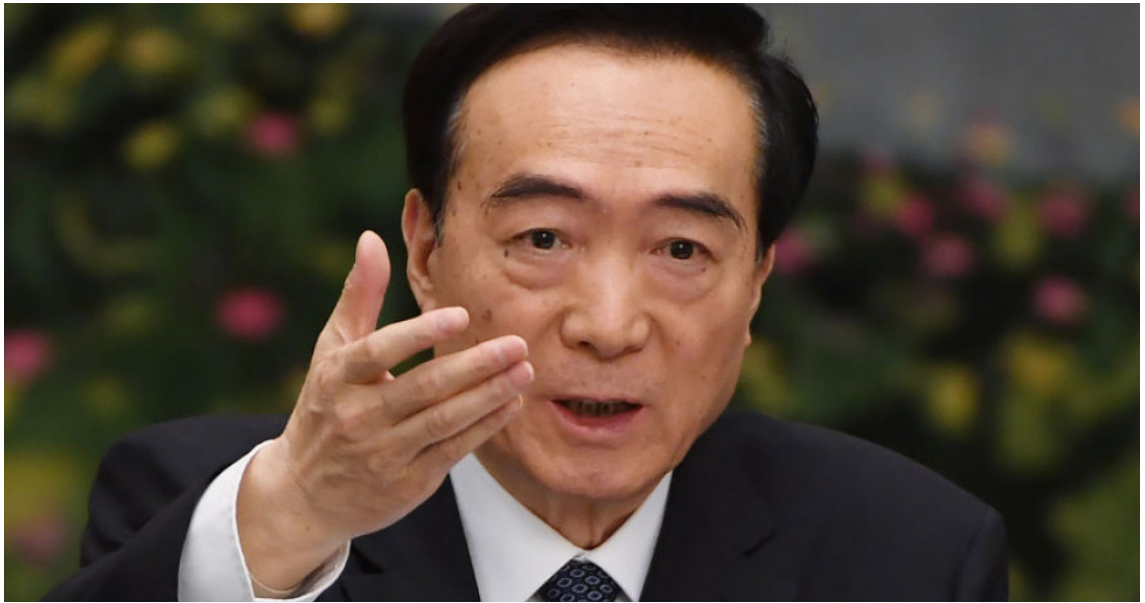
of Chinese drivers' licences. But, according to Safeguard Defenders, in reality they carry out "persuasion operations", aimed at coercing those suspected of speaking

"Chen is the primary architect of policies that meet the definition of genocide under international law," according to a 2020 tweet from the Uyghur Human Rights Project.

Chen's removal from the group was surprising given he is only 66 years old, two years below the mandated retirement age of 68.

Earlier this year, a cache of documents called the Xinjiang Police Files revealed that Chen allegedly told his audience to treat Uyghurs returning from abroad "as criminals" during a speech in 2017.

He also reportedly instructed police to "arrest, detain, handcuff and shackle them [returnees] without exception", according



to the BBC.

In the same speech, he ordered police to “shoot dead” anyone who tried to escape from the brutal incarceration camps.

More than a million Uyghurs are thought to have been detained in these facilities, where torture and other abuses are common.

China argues the camps are used for “re-training” Uyghurs and stamping out religious extremism, claims widely rejected by human rights groups.

Chen is one of the highest-ranked Chinese officials sanctioned by various countries in connection with abuses against the Uyghurs, including the US.

Before East Turkistan, Chen Quanguo made his name as the governor of China’s Tibet region where he has been accused of ruling with an iron fist and overseeing

the abuse of the local population.

Muslims in these camps have been forced to undergo abortions, drink alcohol and eat pork in what activists say is an attempt to destroy their unique Turkic Muslim culture.



UYGHUR REFUGEES IN TURKEY: A HOSTEL FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE TROUBLED

“ A flickering island of hope pieces together the fallout of Beijing’s “War on Terror.” It needs help.

There are activists who shout slogans, march, and carry banners, there are those who write and lobby governments, and there are yet others who behind the scenes are left to silently pick up the collateral carnage of war.

One such young man lives in Istanbul. The vast city straddling Asia and Europe is home to more than 50,000 Uyghur exiles, most of whom have been wrenched from their roots, torn from familiarity, and severed from everything and everyone they hold dear.

Burdened for youth like him, who came

to study but were cut loose from family and financial support when the roundups, disappearances, and worst excesses of Beijing’s purge of the Turkic minorities started in earnest in the homeland in 2016, Abdusemi Hoten opened a hostel for homeless and troubled Uyghurs two years ago as a branch of the East Turkistan New Generation Movement Association.

Here those who had fallen into homelessness, crime, violence, and drug dependance could take refuge and start to rebuild their lives. Those who had lost parents to the re-education camps,



torture, and abuse could find another “family” to which they could belong, a warm bed on which to lay their heads and three square meals a day. Here they would find a listening ear when the trauma of losing everything became too much to bear alone.

Two years have passed since the empty four-story shell in a suburb of the metropolis was donated by a well-wisher and with much fanfare from Uyghur groups, internationally and locally, the project was kick-started with a few initial donations. But with a mounting economic crisis in Turkey, galloping inflation, and donor fatigue within the Uyghur community, the very existence of this hostel and the vulnerable individuals it was set up to serve, seems to have been forgotten and the urgency of the cause lost in the mists of other pressing needs. Funds have now dried up and the hostel is at breaking point.

But drug addicts and traumatized youth don't just disappear. Their needs are as intense as they were the project first saw the light of day.

Abdusemi spoke to Bitter Winter from the echoey shell of their building in the midst of a redecorating spree courtesy of a recent rare donation. The arrival of much needed psychological help in the form of an enthusiastic psychology graduate has doubled his team to two, and the new arrival was wielding a paint brush and broom as a new resident was trying on his recently acquired secondhand football boots in anticipation of a match later

that day. Twenty-two hungry residents to be fed three times a day, bills to be paid, the house to be kept warm as winter approaches, and a variety of activities to help steer the young men from their dangerous trajectory, have all emptied the pot to the lowest it has ever been.

Embarrassing forays to the rich, cap in hand have often been rebuffed, some even suggesting the youths were not worth saving and Abdusemi was wasting his time. Uyghur charities in Istanbul themselves are overwhelmed with the needs of orphans, widows, the sick, and those with a host of emotionally driven conditions brought on by tragic tales from the homeland, accounts of relatives' camp ordeals, and social media silence from their wives, husbands, children, and parents left behind.

Abdusemi, a Masters student in Istanbul, juggles life between his own studies and organizing tailor made programs for each resident. He runs group work sessions, gym visits, picnics, and football matches and provides a six-month intensive drug rehabilitation program and weekly personal one to one psychological support for those who are alone and far from their families. He arranges visiting speakers with inspirational stories of their own to encourage the young men.

Family therapy is also offered to restore broken relationships for those still in families. Taking the lead from residents themselves, some are offered apprenticeships, computer training or specific educational opportunities, and all are offered English

classes.

Abdusemi's dream is for not a single Uyghur homeless street child or drug addict to be left roaming the alleyways of Istanbul. Street fights have abated thanks to his intervention, already many have left their past behind and are on their way to becoming chefs, carpenters, and computer programmers, and some have embarked on further education.

But Abdusemi fears for the future. He pays himself a basic minimum wage from the kitty, but with an impending marriage and need to move into rented accommodation, he will need a raise. The newly appointed psychologist cannot live on air and the wind will not pay the bills. He believe passionately in what he is doing as a unique vocation, but also realizes that for plans to move forward he will need a team. Struggling hand to mouth is not the path to growth, and there are still youths on the street living in damp cellars, prey to traffickers and criminals searching for

the vulnerable to do their bidding, whom he longs to help.

Sitting laconically across from our Bitter Winter reporter he explains that this job he loves is not for everyone. "It is my vocation," he says. He would be hard to replace. He hopes against hope that they will find a way to keep going and carries on planning as if the bank was full. "I'm not asking for much," he muses. "If there is anyone out there with money, these lives are worth saving." In two short years, 45 have been through his center, ten addicts have turned their back on drugs, and others have moved on to lead independent lives.

"We could take more young people," he said. "The future of our next generation is at stake. There is so much more we would like to do if we had the funds."

More information can be obtained from Abdusemi himself via Ruth Ingram at info@bitterwinter.org.





UYGHUR WORLD CUP STADIUM FIRM BUILT CHINESE ‘INTERNMENT CAMP’

D **Company behind Qatar’s venue for final also worked on prison for mass Uyghur detention**

The company that built the venue for the Qatar 2022 World Cup final also constructed a prison used in China’s mass detention of Uyghurs in East Turkistan, The Times can reveal.

Documents show that China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC), the joint venture partner with Qatar in building the showpiece Lusail stadium, previously worked for the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

The Corps is a Chinese government body, linked to the People’s Liberation Army, which has been widely sanctioned for human rights abuses in the western Chinese region.

The golden, 80,000-capacity Lusail

stadium in Doha, designed by a team including Sir Norman Foster’s firm Foster + Partners, was built especially for the tournament and will host the final match in December.

CRCC, owned by the Chinese state but with some shares listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, is also responsible for key infrastructure for this year’s Winter Olympics in Beijing and has built railway stations for the Moscow Metro.

The revelation that the company built “internment camps” in East Turkistan will raise further questions for Fifa, world football’s governing body, after previous criticism of Qatar’s own record of human rights and the treatment of migrant workers employed to build its World Cup

venues.

The US State Department estimates that between 2017 and 2018 at least two million Uyghur and Turkic Muslim minority people were sent for political indoctrination in prisons in East Turkistan, a programme widely condemned by western governments and human rights groups.

The prisons are said to have been used for enforced disappearances, incarceration without trial, torture and forced labour. There is no evidence to confirm CRCC had knowledge of the exact purpose to which the buildings it constructed would be put by the authorities in East Turkistan.

Laura Murphy, professor of human rights and contemporary slavery at Sheffield Hallam University, said: “Despite its role in constructing the infrastructure of repression in the Uyghur region, it remains one of the world’s top contractors and wins contracts for projects funded by international development finance institutions.”

The documents uncovered by The Times, which are publicly available on websites owned by the Chinese government, show CRCC purchased a large quantity of cement for the construction of a prison in Onsu county, East Turkistan, in March 2019.

Images from Google Earth after the purchase show a vast amount of concrete being added to a prison construction project south of Aksu City. It has been identified by the Australian Strategic

Policy Institute as the site of detention centres used to hold Uyghur Muslims. Radio Free Asia reports that, as of 2018, one in six of ethnic Uyghurs in Onsu were held in the camps.

The Corps is derived from units of the People’s Liberation Army that first established central government development projects in East Turkistan in the 1950s. In March 2021 the EU joined the US in sanctioning leading members of the Corps, citing “atrocious human rights violations”.

While it is not possible to know precisely which organisation funded the prison built by CRCC, the company has a long-standing and public business relationship with the Corps’s first division, which is based in Aral City.

In October 2020, CRCC’s chairman, Zhuang Jidong, met Lu Yuedong, head of the Corps’s first division and signed an agreement to “deepen co-operation”. Zhuang commended the Corps for “uniting and stabilising East Turkistan” and “culturally replenishing East Turkistan”.

East Turkistan is historically closer to central Asia than to the rest of China and its original inhabitants were mainly Uyghurs, who speak a Turkic language, and other largely Muslim ethnic groups such as Kazakhs. It briefly broke away from Chinese rule after the Second World War but was reconquered.

It was hit by sporadic unrest from the 1990s, with particularly brutal clashes in 2009, before the central government in

Beijing decided on a wholesale programme of “re-education” into the “modern” values of the Chinese Communist Party.

Fifa and ambassadors for the World Cup such as David Beckham have already faced criticism over the human rights implications of awarding the World Cup to Qatar, a largely conservative Islamic state ruled by an absolute monarchy.

In 2020, prosecutors from the US Department of Justice alleged that representatives of Qatar bribed three South American Fifa officials to secure their support ahead of the 2010 vote, which awarded the competition to the Gulf state. Qatar has repeatedly denied accusations that it bribed its way into hosting the competition.

Qatar faced further allegations relating to the rights of migrant workers brought into the country to build the stadiums and associated infrastructure. No figures have

been released on the number of workers who died while working on the stadiums, but one study estimated it as being in the hundreds.

Neither CRCC nor Qatar’s World Cup organising committee responded to requests for comment.

Behind the story

Thousands of migrant workers in Qatar are still being exploited and abused despite promises by the authorities to reform labour practices, Amnesty International says today (Richard Spencer writes).

A survey of progress in workers’ rights a month before the World Cup is due to start found some “important strides” had been made since 2017.

The authorities have improved laws protecting domestic workers, established a minimum wage and set up a fund to compensate workers whose employers



The revelation that the company built “internment camps” in East Turkistan will raise further questions for Fifa

failed to pay them.

However, the survey also found implementation was patchy and significant abuses remained, including unpaid wages and domestic staff being forced to work up to 18 hours a day.

“Despite the positive evolution of Qatar’s labour system, which has improved the living and working conditions for hundreds of thousands of migrant workers and has the potential to transform the lives of many more, substantial work remains,” the report says. “Ultimately, human rights abuses persist on a significant scale.”

Qatar is not alone in causing concern in the West over the conditions to which it has subjected migrant workers in recent years. As with many countries in the Middle East it traditionally practised the “kafala” labour system, under which employers “sponsor” residence rights for their migrant employees, a system they can abuse to effectively hold them prisoner.

As elsewhere in the Gulf, most manual workers live in dormitories in labour camps where conditions are often grim. After repeated complaints as work began on World Cup stadiums a decade ago, Qatar agreed to a three-year co-operation deal with the International Labour Organisation to improve standards and abolish kafala.

Amnesty, though, found some employers still delayed or denied salaries and put up barriers to workers changing jobs. Thousands of workers have been registered as having died in Qatar over the past decade and, while many of those deaths are due to natural causes, there has been little investigation of how many are linked to unsafe working practices, particularly in the Gulf’s boiling hot summers.

“At a minimum, hundreds of these fatalities were likely a consequence of working in Qatar’s extreme heat,” Amnesty says. “New heat legislation is an improvement but must be strengthened to meet international standards.”

Amnesty says more pressure should have been brought on the football authorities to ensure they took responsibility for working practices.

“We’ve long thought the FA (Football Association) should have spoken out far more clearly and honestly about the serious human rights abuses that threaten to completely overshadow this World Cup,” Sacha Deshmukh, chief executive of Amnesty International UK, says. “With kick-off almost upon us, the FA has a responsibility to say loudly and clearly that Qatar’s labour reforms urgently need reinforcing.”

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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 **Radwa Adel**

Editor **Radwa Adel**

Caricature **Radwa Adel**

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@istiqlalmedia.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