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UN RULES USELESS AGAINST CHINA'S FORCED LABOR, RESEARCH SHOWS

BY STUART LAU

MAY 9, 2023 Politico

The EU wants to focus on ILO compliance and companies' due diligence on supply chains. Neither works easily.

The EU's trade gurus, confronted with concerns over whether Chinese cotton or solar panels are being produced with Uyghur Muslim forced labor, have long turned to the International Labour Organization (ILO) guidelines for reference, adopting its rules while urging Beijing to ratify and observe them.

Except they might not be that effective in this case.

In a new research paper previewed by POLITICO, Adrian Zenz, a leading scholar on Beijing's repressive policies,

casts doubt on the applicability of these rules by the ILO, a U.N. agency, arguing they were mainly drawn up to tackle commercially — not politically — driven exploitation.

In other words, Beijing is not primarily looking for cheap labor when its local officials in Xinjiang arrange for Uyghurs to go to work. Instead, it is a top-down political campaign to make these Uyghurs, collectively presumed by the state to be potential secessionists and terrorists, submit to Communist Party rule

That, according to Zenz, a scholar at the U.S.-based Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, makes the ILO definition insufficient in tackling the issue. His research shows that the use of ILO indicators “largely fails” in evaluating

the coercive elements in China’s system against the Uyghurs.

“Conventional means such as the ILO’s forced labor indicator framework,” Zenz says in a journal article previewed by POLITICO, “was not designed to evaluate state-sponsored forced labor.”

Referring to the ILO’s 11 indicators for measuring forced labor, he writes: “These indicators were designed to measure forced labor in individual companies or economic sectors. They are largely unsuited to evaluating the key mechanism that underpin state-sponsored forced labor, especially in Xinjiang, where state goals for coercive mobilization are primarily political.”

“State-sponsored forced labor is not readily detected by examining individual workers, especially in highly repressive environments such as Xinjiang where they cannot speak freely,” adds Zenz, whose critical research led him to being sanctioned by China in 2021.

According to the European Commission’s proposal, the definition of “forced labor applied by state authorities” should be “aligned” with ILO Convention No. 105, which specifically prohibits the use of forced labor as punishment for the expression of political views; for economic development; as a means of labor discipline or punishment for participation in strikes; or for racial, religious or other discrimination.



RECOUNTING CHINA’S BAREN CRACKDOWN, ACTIVIST RUSHAN ABBAS WANTS WORLD TO SPEAK OUT ON UYGHURS

by Gulfiye Y
Bitter Winter, 05/09/2023

Yet another Uyghur asylum seeker died in the custody of Thai authorities. Uyghurs

all over the world mobilized to protest.

On May 5 and 6, 2023, protests and demonstrations before Thailand's embassies and consulates were set off by the death of yet another Uyghur refugee in the custody of Thai authorities. The protests were held in Washington DC, Toronto, Montreal, Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and Munich.

“Muhammet Tursun [also spelled Mattohti Mattursun], Aziz Abdullah, in just the past 2 months ... rotting in Bangkok detention center... these two men have passed away. [] Every day I wake up and I am reminded that my existence, my identity is a crime...” said a young protester in a video.

Uyghurs demonstrated and protested against the Thai government on behalf of the incarcerated Uyghur refugees held within Thailand in “immigration detention centers” since 2014—for nine years.

A second Uyghur has died this year while in custody, following three earlier deaths at the same facility. About fifty Uyghurs remain there. It is long past the time to end the pain of their uncertainty. If returned to China, they will be delivered into the hands of their persecutors. Their fear of the Chinese government is palpable. We ask the Thai authorities to act with humanity and release these innocent people who are merely seeking safe haven.

Much has been written about the travails of this group of refugees that has now lasted for nine years. What began with 370 refugees continues now with about fifty who are still held in deplorable conditions, with the prospect of a most dire future.

The Thai authorities will not release the refugees to any of the several countries willing to take them in—and are holding them on the demand of China. The



international uproar about the 109 sent early on from Thailand to China was intense, with the images of the hooded men flanked on both sides with guards and being manhandled onto the planes. Their future was on full display—and, not surprisingly, their present whereabouts remain unknown.

There is no rational, logical, or lawful reason (to the international community at least) to hold these so-called “illegal migrants” (in fact, refugees) for nine years. These refugees were transiting Thailand with no intention to stay, but were stopped and arrested just at the exit border with Malaysia. China’s demand to arrest these people was based on extremely vague and undefined changes to be determined later. It was only alleged that they had “violated relevant Chinese laws.”

The Chinese demand to get these people

back demonstrates a single-mindedness, an obsession with the “Strike Hard” program, and a show of absolute force in the “war on terror”: an unrelenting persecution where international borders and norms are irrelevant. This is the “rule of law with Chinese characteristics.”

Thailand is a state party to the 1984 Convention Against Torture, which forbids governments from returning people to situations where they may be tortured. Chinese assurances of fair treatment must be assessed against Chinese “rule of law with Chinese characteristics” as enforced in practice, where being a Uyghur is enough to be sent to jail and torture happens routinely.

The protesters called upon the Thai Government to stand on the right side of history and to behave with honor. This insanity must end.





CANADA EXPELS CHINESE DIPLOMAT ACCUSED OF TARGETING LAWMAKER

OTTAWA, May 8 (Reuters) - Canada on Monday expelled Toronto-based Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei after an intelligence report accused him of trying to target a Canadian lawmaker critical of China's treatment of its Uyghur Muslim minority.

"We will not tolerate any form of foreign interference," Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said on Monday.

The expulsion escalates already tense Sino-Canadian relations and is likely to prompt China, Canada's second-largest trading partner, to respond.

China's embassy in Ottawa said it condemns the expulsion, and that it has formally protested the move to the government.

"China will resolutely take

countermeasures," said a spokesperson for the embassy in a statement posted on its website.

Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and professor of international affairs at the University of Ottawa, said China is mostly likely to respond by expelling a Canadian diplomat.

Spy agency Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) authored a report in 2021 about Chinese influence in Canada that included information about potential threats to Conservative Member of Parliament Michael Chong and his family.

"It shouldn't have taken two years for the

government to make this decision,” Chong told reporters after the announcement.

China has said it has never interfered in Canada’s internal affairs and has no interest in doing so. China’s Toronto consulate-general said the report on Chong has “no factual basis and is purely baseless.”

Details of the CSIS report came to light on May 1, when Canada’s *Globe and Mail* newspaper reported China sought information about Chong and his family in China in a likely effort to “make an example” of him and deter others from taking anti-Chinese government position.

The *Globe*, citing an unnamed national security source, said Zhao was involved in gathering information about Chong, who in 2021 sponsored a successful motion declaring China’s treatment of its Uyghur Muslim minority genocide.

Chong said he was “profoundly disappointed” to find out about the potential threat to his family in Hong Kong from a newspaper, and criticized Trudeau’s government for inaction. He repeatedly called for Zhao’s expulsion since the *Globe* report.

Trudeau said he found out about the intelligence report from the newspaper, and on Wednesday blamed the spy agency for not passing it onto him at the time.

The agency has now been directed to immediately pass on information about threats to members of parliament and their families.

Canadian media outlets have published several reports, citing anonymous intelligence sources, alleging schemes run by the Chinese government to interfere in Canada’s last two elections. Beijing has denied those allegations.

Trudeau has previously said China attempted to meddle in the 2019 and 2021 votes, but that the efforts did not change the outcome. He has appointed an independent special investigator to probe the allegations.

Diplomatic tensions between Canada and China have been running high since the detention of Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou in 2018 and Beijing’s subsequent arrest of two Canadians on spying charges. All three were freed in 2021.

Last year, Beijing lifted a three-year ban on imports of canola, Canada’s largest crop, from trading companies Richardson International and Viterra. The restrictions followed Meng’s arrest, but China cited concerns about pests in the crop shipments as its reason for the ban. China is also a major importer of Canadian potash and wheat.

Reporting by Steve Scherer in Ottawa; editing by Rami Ayyub



JOLY WEIGHS CHINESE RETALIATION OVER EXPELLING DIPLOMAT WHO CSIS SAYS TARGETED MP

THE CANADIAN PRESS May. 5, 2023

The Liberal government is assessing how painful China’s retaliation would be if Canada decides to expel a diplomat accused of targeting Conservative MP Michael Chong and his relatives in Hong Kong.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said Thursday she requested that China’s ambassador to Canada be summoned over the affair, saying that outright expulsion is an option on the table.

Chong, meanwhile, said he was told that when Canada’s spy agency learned about threats against him and his family in

2021, it shared its intelligence with the prime minister’s national security adviser and other departments.

That claim appears to contradict Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s assertion on Wednesday that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service chose not to elevate the information about unspecified threats following Chong’s criticism of Beijing’s human-rights record.

Trudeau’s office maintains that he was left in the dark at the time.

At a parliamentary committee, Joly confirmed media reports that CSIS believes a diplomat working out of

China's Toronto consulate had taken note of Chong's relatives abroad.

This happened after the MP sponsored a parliamentary motion condemning Beijing's conduct in Xinjiang as genocide, which passed in the House of Commons.

In an interview that aired on CTV's "Power Play" on Thursday, Chong said he was told that the diplomat was trying to collect information about his family members in the People's Republic of China.

"I've been told that the Ministry of State Security in the People's Republic of China was also doing the same," he said.

"It's clear that they were trying to intimidate, by using the family of an MP, to intimidate an MP and other MPs to affect the course of debate in the House of Commons on foreign policy."

Joly called the targeting of Chong and his family "completely unacceptable."

"All options, including expulsion of diplomats, remain on the table as we consider the consequences for this behaviour," she said.

But in a heated exchange with Chong, she said Ottawa isn't sure whether it will follow demands by the Opposition Conservatives to expel the diplomat in question.

"We're assessing the consequences that we'll be facing in case of diplomatic expulsion, because there will be consequences," Joly warned.

"Economic interests, consular interests and also diplomatic interests will be affected."

The minister raised China's 2018 detention of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, which was widely seen as retaliation for the arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou. Beijing also limited Canadian imports such as canola at the time.

Joly also told reporters she would make a decision "very soon" as to whether one or more Chinese diplomats are sent home.

She informed MPs she had instructed her deputy minister on Thursday to tell Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu that Canada will not tolerate any form of foreign interference in its affairs.

"Once again, China strongly urges the Canadian side to immediately stop this self-directed political farce, and not go further down the wrong and dangerous path. Should the Canadian side continue to make provocations, China will play along every step of the way until the very end," said Cong.

The question of what the Liberal government knew — and when it knew — is still not settled.

On Thursday afternoon, Chong told the House of Commons that Jody Thomas, the prime minister's national security adviser, had contacted him to say CSIS had provided her predecessor's office with a July 2021 intelligence assessment that said his family was being targeted by a Chinese diplomat.

He said Thomas told him that CSIS sent the intelligence to the national security adviser, the Privy Council Office and other relevant government departments.

Trudeau and several key ministers have said they only learned about the report from a Globe and Mail article published Monday, which cited a top-secret document and an unnamed security source. The prime minister said Wednesday that he ordered Canada's intelligence agencies to immediately inform MPs of any threats against them, regardless of whether those threats are considered credible.

When asked about Chong's allegations Thursday afternoon, Trudeau offered only: "No comment."

Chong, speaking to reporters later in the day, added that Thomas told him neither Trudeau nor his top aide, Katie Telford, had received information about the threats.

Trudeau spokeswoman Alison Murphy said in a statement that Thomas told Chong "information from CSIS was not briefed up to the prime minister or his office."

The government has noted that in 2021, CSIS briefed Chong after China publicly said it would sanction him for criticizing Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang province. The agency never told Chong about any threats.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre is calling on MPs to vote in favour of a motion that calls on the government to take more aggressive steps, including to expel Chinese diplomats involved in foreign interference attempts.

The Chinese embassy in Ottawa

downplayed the allegations and warned the Liberals against expelling diplomats.

"China strongly urges the Canadian side to immediately stop this self-directed political farce, not go further down the wrong and dangerous path," the embassy wrote.

"Should the Canadian side continue to make provocations, China will play along every step of the way until the very end."

Meanwhile, CSIS shed more light Thursday on other ways it sees China as attempting to meddle in Canadian affairs.

In its 2022 public report, CSIS noted reports that subnational affiliates of China's Ministry of Public Security had set up three overseas "police stations" in Canada without permission from Ottawa.

"CSIS has observed instances where representatives from various investigatory bodies in (China) have come to Canada, often without notifying local law enforcement agencies, and used threats and intimidation in attempting to force 'fugitive' Chinese Canadians and permanent residents to return."

Foreign interference directed at Canada's democratic institutions and processes, at all levels of government, can be an effective way for a foreign state to achieve its immediate and medium- and long-term strategic objectives, the CSIS report says.

"Foreign states — again, directly and via proxies — may seek to influence electoral nomination processes, shape public discourse or influence policy positions of

elected officials using covert tactics. The purpose is to advance issues or policies that favour the foreign state, or quell dissent.”

The report says these threat actors must be held accountable for their clandestine activities.

“We will also continue to inform national security stakeholders and all Canadians about foreign interference to the fullest extent possible under the CSIS Act, in

order to build our national resilience to this pernicious threat,” it says.

CSIS reiterates warnings that the Communist government has made plans aiming “to exploit the collaborative, transparent, and open nature of Canada’s research and innovation sector in order to serve the PRC’s economic, intelligence and military interests.”

—Dylan Robertson, The Canadian Press



DEMOLITION OF KASHGAR’S KHAN BAZAR CREATES UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR UYGHUR SHOP OWNERS

Kamile Wayit was apprehended after posting a video about the ‘white paper’ protests across China.

By Shohret Hoshur for RFA Uyghur

2023.04.28

A Uyghur college student who supported the “white paper” protests in China is being detained in Xinjiang pending an

investigation into her communication with her brother who lives in the United States, a state security agent said.

Kamile Wayit, a 19-year-old preschool education major at a university in China's Henan province was detained in December after posting a video about November's "white paper" protests across China.

When she returned to her home in Atush, the capital of Xinjiang's Kizilsu Kirghiz Autonomous Prefecture, for winter break, city police apprehended her, her brother Kewser Wayit told Radio Free Asia in an earlier report.

She was one of dozens of young people around China detained in relation to the protests sparked by a fatal lockdown fire in an apartment building in Xinjiang's regional capital Urumqi that killed about 40 Uyghurs.

The demonstrators also opposed the rolling lockdowns, mass surveillance and compulsory testing under China's zero-COVID policy, with some holding up blank sheets of printer paper and others calling on President Xi Jinping to step down.

Authorities now are reviewing Wayit's case for potential prosecution, said a State Security Bureau police officer in Atush, adding that she was apprehended for communicating with her brother who lives in the United States, but also related to her posting on TikTok about the fire in Urumqi.

"The State Security Bureau detained her," the agent said. "After her case reaches the prosecutor's office, her lawyer can

review her case, [which is] related to state security [and is] vastly different from other social cases."

The agent also expressed some uncertainty over the crime Wayit would be charged with.

"I don't know what her real crime was" or what relevant organizations determined her crime to be based upon, she said.

Arrest 'echoes' suffering of many others

The agent said she didn't know exactly how long Wayit would be held at the national security detention center, but that once the prosecutor's office reviewed her case, it would be submitted to the court for trial.

"It may take two to three months for her case to reach the prosecutor's office, and then they will inform the accused's family about inviting lawyers to defend her rights, or the government will appoint a lawyer for her free of charge," she said.

The state security police officer suggested that RFA contact Hawagul, an official at the Bureau of Justice in Atush, for information, but she was out of the office.

Wayit's detention has raised concern among some American institutions that have publicly called attention to her case in recent weeks.

The editorial board of "The Tufts Daily," the student newspaper at Tufts University near Boston published an opinion piece on Wayit, whose brother is a mechanical engineering graduate student at the institution.

Kamile Wayit's arrest "echoes the stories of millions of Uyghurs who have suffered years of oppression from the Chinese Communist Party," the April 12 editorial said.

It went on to say that advocacy for the detained Uyghur could include reaching out to officials in powerful institutions, signing petitions and connecting with local Uyghur organizations.

"In addition to being aware of the atrocities taking place throughout the world, there is a responsibility for those with the privilege of freedom to support those within our community and beyond who suffer from systems of injustice," the editorial said.

On April 20, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor tweeted that Wayit would not be spending the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, with loved ones because of her detention.

"We are concerned by her detention by the People's Republic of China, and we call on the PRC to ensure respect for her human rights and fundamental freedoms, including all fair trial guarantees, and to immediately and unconditionally release all unjustly detained persons," the tweet said.

Translated by RFA Uyghur. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Malcolm Foster.

IN ANCIENT MURALS AND CAHYGHUR YOUTHS LEARN ABOUT THEIR HISTORY IN BERLIN

'Returning to the Past' program seeks to teach lessons about rebuilding and resilience.

By Ekrem and Nuriman Abdureshid for RFA Uyghur

2023.04.23

The group of Uyghur students stood in awe of the ancient murals with Persian and Indian influences, fragments of text and other artistic objects from caves in northwestern China's Xinjiang region.

With heads tilted upwards, the youths, aged 10-15, took in a reconstruction of a Buddhist cave temple dating from around

the sixth century and spanning two levels of the gallery. The murals adorned the walls of Cave of the Ring-bearing Doves in Kizil, near Kucha, on the Northern Silk Road in what is now the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

But they were not seeing the cave art or temple in their original locations. They



were viewing them more than 4,800 kilometers (3,000 miles) away at the Humboldt Forum, a Berlin museum dedicated to human history, art and culture.

The wall paintings, whose once vivid colors have dulled with age, and other artifacts depicting both Buddhist legends and secular themes, are part of the history of ancient Xinjiang.

“We saw our motherland’s artifacts, such as ancient carpets and clothes,” Kamil, a Belgian-Uyghur participant, told Radio Free Asia. “I never thought that we had things in Europe. I felt proud when a gentleman told us the story about them and our ancestors.”

Kamil was one of the 26 Uyghur kids participating in a four-day trip to the German capital organized by the research center of the World Uyghur Congress, an advocacy group headquartered in

Munich.

The youngsters, who study at Uyghur-language schools in seven European countries, were learning about their history and culture through artifacts taken from their historic homeland by a German expedition team that made four trips to Xinjiang in the early 20th century, and are now kept in Berlin museums.

‘Returning to the Past’

The educational program called “Returning to the Past” was the first gathering of its kind for Uyghur teenagers in Europe to get together and learn about their heritage at a time when the Chinese government has been eradicate Uyghur culture in Xinjiang in an effort to Sinicize the restive region.

“Mr. Ablet explained to us the value of artifacts carted to Germany from our homeland exhibited in the museum,” said Atikem, a teacher at a Uyghur-language

school in England, who brought six students to the event. She was referring to a Uyghur historian who is an expert on the artifacts displayed in the museum and who served as a guide for the group.

WUC program organizers sought to impart two lessons during the program: rebuilding destroyed cities and remaining strong as a persecuted people.

On the first day of the program, instructors introduced Berlin to the participants, said Abduweli Ayup, director of the WUC's Research Center and an event organizer.

They drew parallels between the destruction of the city during World War II and the demolition in recent years of parts of ancient Uyghur cities by the Chinese government, including mosques, cemeteries, old towns and marketplaces.

“At the beginning of the program, we explained to them that Berlin was destroyed during WWII, and similarly, Uyghur cities, Uyghur symbols and cultural relics are facing destruction now,”

Ayup said.

“Just like the German people rebuilt Berlin, we need to rebuild Uyghur cities in the future, so we should get inspiration from the rebuilding of Berlin,” he said.

Parallels

The program also drew parallels between the genocide of the Jews during the war and the genocide of the Uyghurs beginning in 2017, when Chinese authorities began detaining members of the mostly Muslim minority group in “re-education” camps and prisons where some were subjected to torture, sexual assaults, and forced labor.

The U.S. government, the European Parliament and the legislatures of several Western countries have declared that the maltreatment amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity.

During a visit to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, organizers highlighted the ongoing Uyghur genocide to the young people and expressed hope



that Uyghurs would stand up to China one day just as did the Jews, Ayup said.

“By showing them the museum that depicts the history of Jewish people’s fight for liberty, we tried to explain to the teenagers how a nation of genocidal victims can rise and the possibility to rise,” he later told RFA.

In one discussion exercise, some participants compared the genocide of the Jews to the genocide of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

“I never thought they could make such comparisons,” Atikem said. “They told me that the Nazi government made Jewish people poor first and locked them

in ghettos. They compared the Nazis’ behavior to that of the Chinese [who] locked up Uyghurs.”

“The Jewish people stayed as one family in those ghettos and survived that oppression through family support,” the teacher said. “The Chinese separated kids from their parents and brought mental anguish to all of them. These kids said that to me.”

“They missed their Uyghur identity, I think,” she said. “I also thought they longed for their people, culture and the opportunity to live as Uyghurs.”

Translated by RFA Uyghur. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Malcolm Foster.



CHINESE GENOCIDE OF UYGHUR MUSLIMS

By Shruti Dasgupta

May 15, 2023, The Jaipur Dialogues

The Xinjiang province of China is home to an ethnic group of minorities. 45% of Xinjiang's population are Uyghurs. The Uyghur Muslims comprise 80% of the total Uyghur population. The Uyghurs constitute only 1.5-2% of the total population of China. However, their numbers are dwindling everyday. The Chinese government faces bans and sanctions for the alleged acts of human rights violation of the Uyghur Muslims. Several human-right organizations label the mistreatment of Uyghurs in China as "Genocide of the Uyghur Muslims".

The People's Republic of China is ruled by a democratically elected communist regime that advocates a preference of atheism. The Chinese public has the liberty to believe in religion but the law limits their freedom to practice any religion of choice. The government of China recognizes Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Protestantism, and Catholicism. The Chinese government rigorously moderates the religious sects and activities in the country.

Chinese government's alleged Acts of Human Rights Violation

The Chinese government allegedly continues to oppress 1 million Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province. The government considers the Uyghur Muslims as extremists. They believe Uyghur are embodiment of the three evils of society: ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and violent terrorism. Thus, the government has put these people in

state-sponsored camps under the name of "re-education camps"; where these people undergo forced labor in addition to the violation of their human rights. Moreover, Satellite images of these camps, from 2015 till 2012, show expansion of infrastructure.

THUS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER THE OPPRESSION MUST BE INCREASING; IRRESPECTIVE OF THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATICS.

The list of bans that Chinese government has imposed in the Uyghur Muslims are as follows:

Banned from practicing their religion openly and freely.

Banned from speaking their language; which is a dialect of the Turkic language and is written in a Uyghur Perso-Arabic script.

Banned from wearing their ethnic dress.

Ban on religious fasting on Ramadan since 2017. In 2020-21 this ban was lifted and citizens above 65 were allowed to fast for Ramadan; however, the ban was reintroduced in full force last year when all ages were banned from observing this religious activity.

Ban on religious education at all ages.

Ban on religious ceremonies and practices.

Approximately 8500 mosques were destroyed, defaced, or demolished in China's Xinjiang province to control the 'rising extremist' views and terror groups. The Uyghurs are the 'forced labor' in cotton fields and industries established in the Xinjiang province. They are equivalent to slaves with low or no pay in government farms and companies. The ethnic community is being slowly erased by the Chinese government.

How the World responds to the Uyghur Muslim Genocide

The USA has banned Xinjiang cotton imports under the ‘Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act’ in 2022. This action was an attempt by the USA to not be complacent in the use of forced labor in the ‘re-education camps’ in China. The European Union, UK, and Canada have also banned imports from the Xinjiang region; they have instituted sanctions on Chinese imports in protest of the Chinese government’s policies against the Uyghur Muslims.

China denies the allegations of abuse of the Uyghur Muslims. The government states that the camps are facilities that are used to combat terrorism in the country. The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt openly support China on their policies. They

believe that the Chinese government can introduce measures to counter terrorism and extremism as appropriate.

Recently, the reports of widespread human rights abuses; including mass detentions, forced labor, cultural assimilation, and religious restrictions, have raised serious concerns about the well-being and rights of the Uyghur Muslim minority globally. Meanwhile the Chinese government denies the allegations of genocide, mounting evidence, survivor testimonies, and satellite imagery indicate a distressing reality. Therefore, the international community must prioritize the protection of human rights and conduct independent investigations to shed light on the situation. Upholding justice, advocating for human rights, and safeguarding the dignity of every individual should be at the forefront of this pressing issue.





CRIMES SENDING YOU TO JAIL IN XINJIANG: “WE DON’T TRUST YOU,” “YOU DIDN’T PLAY PIANO AT YOUR WEDDING”

Our study of the Xinjiang Police Files reveals one of the strangest collections ever of crimes for which Uyghurs are detained.

by Kok Bayraq

05/12/2023  Bitter Winter

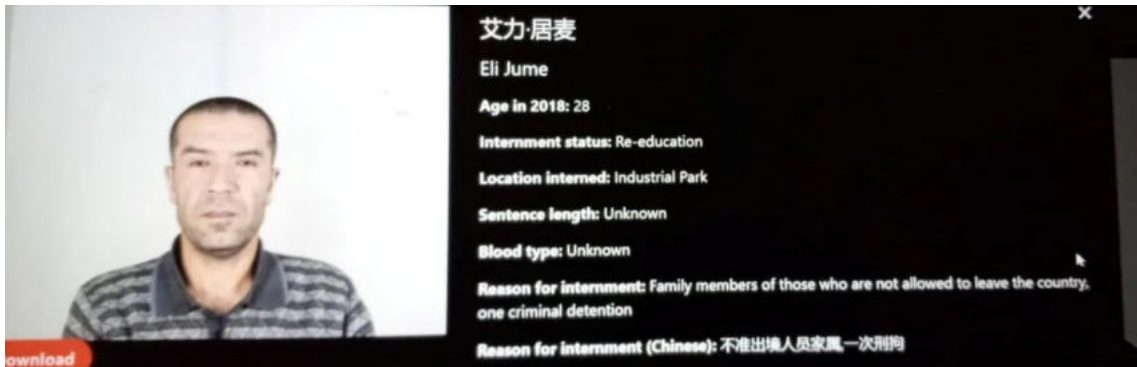
Last year, The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) released a bombshell report entitled “Xinjiang Police Files” based on leaked internal documents from China’s police network.

In the process of searching for information about my friends and relatives in this report for a year, one point caught my attention: the strangeness of the arrest reasons.

Humanity has witnessed many atrocities and inequalities in the political and legal fields, both on paper and in practice, but it has never witnessed crimes as strange as those listed in the files.

Here are some excerpts from the archive:

1. “Eli Jume, 28, reason for internment: Family members of those who are not allowed to leave the country...” Why would a country restrict someone from going abroad? Could it be because debts the person leaves behind her would cause problems, or because the person’s appearance or statements would reveal the country’s dirty secrets? I would say the latter reason is true. The logical translation of “families not allowed to travel abroad” is members of families that are victims of, witnesses to, or rebels against the Uyghur genocide. Another strange feature of this case is that Eli Jume was arrested even if he did not attempt to leave the country.



2. “Abdugheni Pazil , 25, reason for internment: People who don’t trust”.

What does “people who don’t trust” mean? There is no answer in the document.

However, there is a brief explanation in a report by Radio Free Asia for a similar case: “Those born in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s are [regarded as] dangerous generations.” A village security chief

cited from instruction on his hand and continued: “They have not experienced famine and the political storms, like generations before them; and they are not much appreciative of Party and state, and are daring and brave at making turbulence in the society.” What is the term for a specific group being targeted for elimination? Genocide!



3. “Eziz Yasin, 32.” One of the reasons for internment: “In June 2012, the suspect Eziz Yasin illegally studied scriptures from Kerim Yasin (deceased [his brother]) for 3 days...” All those who are born and raised in a family belonging to a particular religion, whether Buddhist, Christian, or Muslim, normally take religious classes for at least a few days or a few hours

throughout their lives.

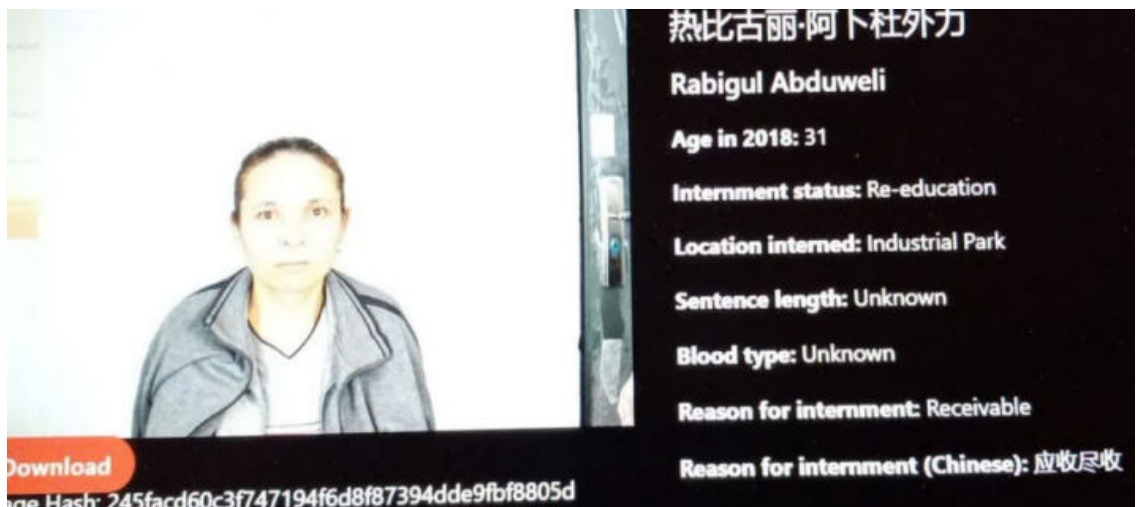
The reason for internment shows that the aim is the eradication of religious identity, which is not tolerated. The same logic is confirmed in another official document stating that Islam is a mental illness and that a person who is affected by it must be “purified” and “treated.” What word should we use for the forcible

eradication of a religious identity? “Forced assimilation”? Or something worse?



4. “Rabigul Abduweli, 31,” reason for internment: based on the rule that “everybody who needs to be arrested should be arrested.” This looks even more strange, the more so in a country that

keeps telling the international community that it respects the “rule of law.” The subtext implies that all Uyghurs may be arrested just for being Uyghurs.

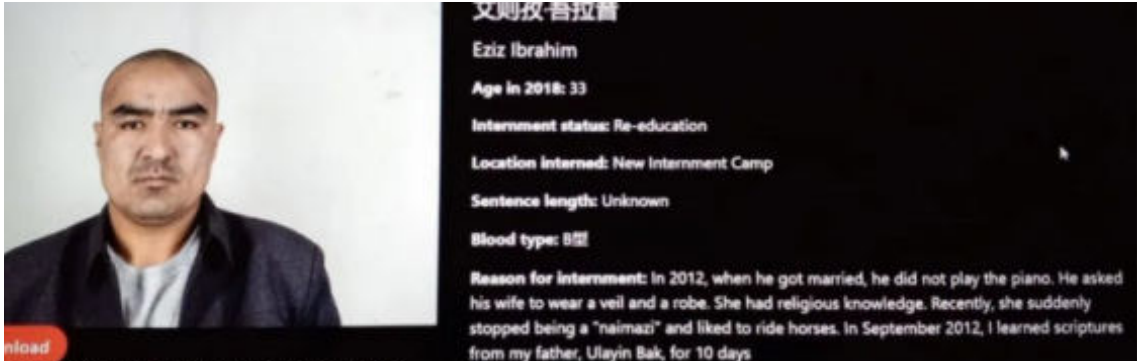


5. “Eziz Ibrahim, 33.” One of the reasons for internment: in 2012, when he got married, he didn’t play the piano at his marriage. There was a reason for this,

After the crackdown campaigns in the region, the local communities had lost many of their friends and relatives and were not able to organize funerals for

them. Thus, they decided to stop singing and dancing for a while, including at their weddings, to pay their respects to their

heroes. The fact that such consciousness emerged among the Uyghurs was considered a crime.



6. "Huseyin Memet, 51. One of the reasons for internment: he did not go funerals (nor to weddings). It was also reported that a villager was detained because he did not hold the ceremony of Nazir when his mother died, which raised suspects of religious extremism. In recent decades,

some groups among the Uyghurs find it more virtuous to donate money to others than to hold the Nazir ceremony, and the Chinese authorities consider it a sign of "Wahhabism." Thus, the situation evolved to a point when Uyghurs can only laugh and cry with the permission of the state.



The list goes on and on. We can list more than one hundred categories of such strange reasons for being detained, and thousands of detainees in each category.

Eziz Ibrahim and Huseyin Memet's cases, where one was detained for not laughing and celebrating and another for not crying, mirror the following story.

There was a student who was a bully

at his university, and he liked to "train" new students at the school. He entered the first-year-students dormitory and asked, "What did you have for lunch today?" "Dumplings" said a student. "Why didn't you eat noodles?" the bully asked, slapping the student's face. Then he turned to another student. "What did you have for lunch?" he asked again. The second student, who had learned from

the experience of the first., answered “Noodles.”

The bully then asked, “Why didn’t you eat dumplings ?” and slapped the second student as well.

The arrest reasons in the Chinese police documents are similar to the bully’s “educational” strategy. They make no sense. Clearly, the bully’s purpose was to show his strength. China’s goal is much more sinister—to wipe Uyghurs and their

identity from the face of the earth.

In short, as demonstrated by the files, being a Uyghur is a crime. As a Uyghur, I am not surprised. What I’m wondering is how can China still be a member of the UN Human Rights Committee after such atrocities were revealed to the world? And how some countries can expect mediations for peace from China in international affairs such as the Ukraine war? What is missing: decency, intelligence, or the power to punish crimes against humanity?

THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IN THE HISTORY OF TURKIYE



Turkey’s presidential elections were held on March 14, but the candidates could not pass the 50% mark of the vote. Where

the candidate with the highest votes is supposed to exceed 50% in order to be able to win the elections.

The head of the Turkish Election Authority, Ahmed Yanar, said that Erdogan won 49.51% of the vote, while Kilicdaroglu got 44.88%, according to the non-final results.

The next two weeks will be the longest two weeks in Türkiye's history

Because of the above results, the Turkish Elections Authority announced that a second round of presidential elections will be held on May 28 between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his main rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu, two weeks after the first round after the elections.

The importance of elections

These elections bear the utmost importance in the history of Turkey and the Islamic world, as they come with the completion of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's twentieth year in power. Türkiye has also recently witnessed economic inflation and a dispute over

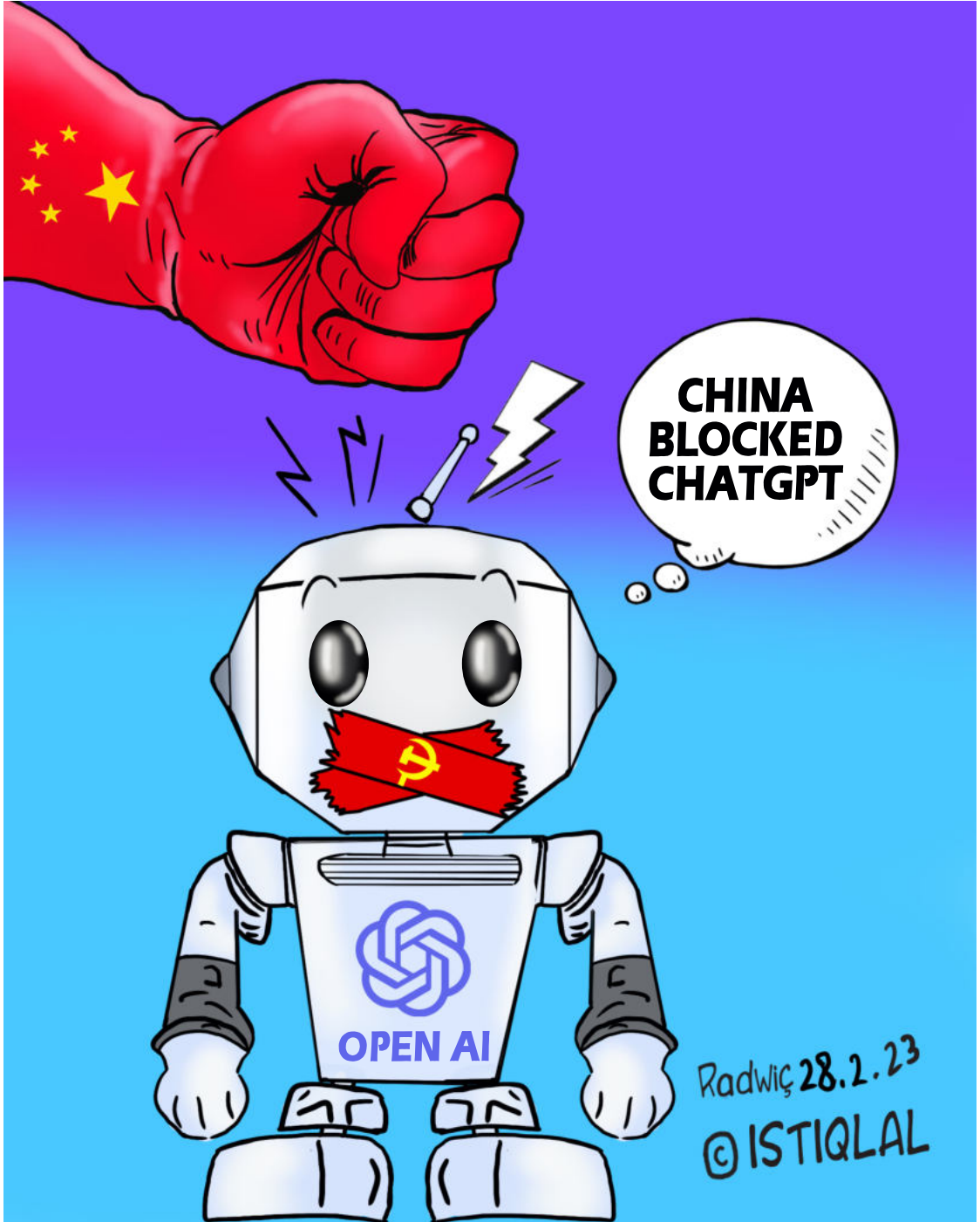
Ankara's foreign policy. It also suffered from the catastrophe of the devastating earthquake that struck the country on February 6, claiming the lives of more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan and the Islamic world

Scholars in the Islamic world called on all voters to go to the polls in the Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections and cast their votes for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, stressing that the issue of the Turkish elections is "one of the Islamic issues." They also emphasized that Turkey's policy during the reign of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has benefited Muslims and the Islamic world with great benefit. He is also considered by many to be the leader of the Islamic world.

Millions of people await the results of the Turkish presidential elections with impatience...





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What is happening in East Turkistan?

What is true and what is false?

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

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