



## CHINA TRIES TO KEEP UYGHURS FROM FASTING



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# WITH FEASTS AND PATROLS, CHINA TRIES TO KEEP UYGHURS FROM FASTING



Uyghurs and other members of the faithful pray during services at the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in East Turkistan, as seen during a government organized visit for foreign journalists, April 19, 2021.

For years, Beijing has banned or restricted Ramadan in the name of fighting religious extremism.

**During Ramadan, Chinese authorities have been using a mix of festivals and surveillance to keep the mostly Muslim Uyghurs in the far western region of Xinjiang from fasting, praying and observing the Muslim holy month that ends next week.**

In the city of Atush, officials told Radio Free Asia that they organized arts events and outdoor feasts and distributed free food during the month. They also held communal meetings in the early evenings to coincide with sundown, when Muslim families typically gather to eat after the daylight fast in a practice called iftar.

Police in the northwestern city of Ghulja conducted street patrols and home inspections to see if residents were fasting. They also banned residents from gathering on the streets to prevent them from meeting for dinner together.

“It is prohibited to do iftar together and prayer together,” a police officer in Ghulja told RFA. “We tell them fasting is not allowed, We also pay attention [to see] if they are visiting their relatives during iftar.”

In the regional capital Urumqi, a traffic police officer said designated officers had been tasked with monitoring taxi drivers to ensure they were not fasting or praying during the month.

A flurry of social media videos coming out of Xinjiang this month showed Uyghurs singing Chinese songs and gathered around outdoor tables with beer bottles on top. RFA could not independently verify when the videos had been taken or who had shot them, but their intent seemed to be to promote eating, dancing and entertaining – not prayer and fasting.

### Squelching Islam

Due to Chinese censorship and severe restrictions placed on Xinjiang residents talking with journalists, it is nearly impossible to obtain candid comments from Uyghurs on the ground about these events.

But Uyghur advocates and experts outside China say that for years Beijing has been trying to restrict and discourage Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities in the region from observing Ramadan and practicing Islam in general – all in the name of fighting religious extremism and terrorism.

Chinese authorities began banning Muslims in Xinjiang from fasting during Ramadan in 2017, when they began arbitrarily detaining an estimated 1.7 million Uyghurs in “re-education” camps amid larger efforts to diminish their culture, language and religion.

The restriction was partially relaxed in 2021 and 2022, allowing people over 65 to fast, and police reduced the number of home searches and street patrol activities. But in 2023, authorities ordered all Muslims in Xinjiang to not fast and even



used spies to report on those who did.

“The Chinese Communist Party has been aggressively carrying out its campaign of eliminating the religious beliefs of the Uyghur people during the holy month of Ramadan,” said Ablikim Idris, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Uyghur Studies.

“During this month of prayer and fasting, Chinese authorities have been organizing political indoctrination sessions, singing and dancing, as well as other entertainment for Uyghurs in order to eradicate their faith in Islam from their hearts,” he said.

“Their goal is to trample on the millennial-long faith of Uyghurs and turn them into a people without God and religion.”

Evening gatherings about social order

A police officer in Atush contacted by RFA Uyghur said authorities have been tasked with coordinating various activities and events – some overseeing security, while others perform surveillance or organize art shows.

We “have been working tirelessly, without any breaks, operating 24 hours a day,” she said.

The security director of a village in Upper Atush told Radio Free Asia that since the beginning of Ramadan, residents have had to gather at the village meeting hall in the early evenings.

“We have been advertising legal rules and holding weekly study events for the community,” he said.

During events attended by city and political officials, there were no explicit



speeches banning Ramadan or fasting. Instead, lectures were delivered on maintaining social order and stability and eating meals regularly to maintain one's health, some officials said.

Officials also gave farmers agricultural training until about 7 p.m., as well as offered health advice and explained the importance of loyalty to China and how stability contributes to its prosperity, he said.

When RFA asked officials and police about whether distributing free food during Ramadan had prompted discontent among Uyghurs, they said that community "awareness" had increased, thereby negating any dissatisfaction.

They attributed this "progress" to the significant role played by the Chinese Communist Party and the government in shaping public sentiment.

"I didn't observe any disagreement over the food distribution," said a village security chief.

"I believe there are no longer people with outdated ideologies," she said. "Everyone has embraced progressive ideals, thanks to the efforts of our party and nation. People accept modernity and embrace advanced ideologies."

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

## **A PROTEST WAS HELD IN ISTANBUL TO COMMEMORATE THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARIN MASSACRE**





**In order to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Barin massacre that happened on April 5, 1990, to commemorate the martyrs and to put on the agenda the ongoing genocide crime in East Turkistan, China, and the crime of banning the fasting of East Turkistan people in the holy month of Ramadan, in front of the Chinese Consulate General in Istanbul, “We will not forget Barin, from fasting A protest and a press conference were held under the theme “We will not give up”.**



At the protest and press conference organized by the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations, the President of the Union, Hidayetullah Oguzkhan, read a statement. The statement gave a brief explanation of the Barin massacre, which is being recorded today, on April 5, 1990, in the month of Ramadan, in the village of Barin, Aktu County, East Turkistan. The Barin Massacre was a people’s uprising against China’s acts of forced birth control in the region, and the Chinese invaders, who were nervous about it severely repressed the people. It was reported that thousands

had been kidnapped and executed.

In the statement, the Yining Massacre in 1997, the Urumqi Massacre in 2009, and the 74 years since China invaded East Turkistan, China has imprisoned millions of East Turkistan people in prison camps, forced labor, and carried out open genocide, as is currently happening in Palestine. It was argued that the crime of attempt should be tried in an international court.

At the end of the statement, on behalf of the 35 million people who are forbidden to fast, pray, or simply be Muslims in East



Turkistan, he called on the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and international intelligence agencies to voice their opposition to the crimes of genocide and oppression of Islam and

Muslims in East Turkistan.

Then, the president of the East Turkistan Scholars Union, Associate Professor, Dr. Ulimajan Bugda, spoke. He said that 34 years ago, the martyrs of Barin sacrificed



their lives against the Chinese aggressors in order to protect their beliefs and culture. It is necessary to make sacrifices, time and effort to take the country back from the hands of the aggressor. For this reason, the East Turkistan people in the

foreign countries should be firm in their lawsuits.

After the press release, the participants broke the fast together. The gathering ended with prayers for the souls of the martyrs.





# FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN CHINA FACE INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AND INTIMIDATION



**The work environment for journalists in China, especially for foreign correspondents, has become increasingly challenging, despite initial hopes that the end of COVID-19 restrictions might ease their operational constraints.**

The event is viewed differently by various groups: supporters of the East Turkistan independence movement refer to it as the “Barin uprising”, while proponents of the Chinese government call it the “Barin Township riot”. The official terminology used by the Chinese government is the “Counter-revolutionary armed riot in Barin Township, Akto County”.

The Uyghur American Association posted on social media on April 6th, stating: “On this 34th anniversary of the Barin Uprising, approximately 100 Uyghur Americans convened at the Uyghur Center to pray for our brothers and sisters in East Turkistan and to remember those who perished in Barin. Our historians emphasized the significance of the uprising, and the evening was concluded with Taraweeh prayers. Special thanks to Enqer Hajim for organizing the Iftar, and we hope our fasts and prayers are accepted.”

### Increased Surveillance and Intimidation

According to a survey conducted by the Association of Foreign Correspondents in China (FCCC), foreign journalists are facing renewed and intensified barriers to independent reporting, including surveillance and harassment, with some even being tracked by drones for the first time.

The survey, which garnered responses from 101 of the FCCC’s 157 members, points to a troubling landscape for press freedom in China.

81% of respondents reported experiencing harassment or violence, while over 50% indicated that their journalistic activities had been obstructed by police or other authorities at least once in the past year.

### Challenges in Politically Sensitive Regions

Politically sensitive regions, in particular, remain hotspots for reporting difficulties.

85% of those who attempted to report from the Xinjiang region, home to the Muslim Uyghur minority, encountered problems. Allegations of human rights violations against the Uyghurs have made Xinjiang a focal point for international media, leading to increased scrutiny and reporting challenges.

Additionally, regions bordering Russia, Southeast Asian countries, and areas with significant ethnic minority populations like Inner Mongolia have also been flagged as problematic for foreign journalists.

### Pressure on Interviewees

The challenges extend beyond direct surveillance and intimidation of journalists; authorities are also exerting pressure on potential interviewees, with a vast majority of surveyed journalists reporting that their interview subjects canceled on them due to warnings against speaking to foreign media.

This practice not only restricts the flow of information but also highlights the broader implications for freedom of speech and access to diverse perspectives in China.

## CHINA ATTEMPTS TO REVEAL HISTORY OF OCCUPATION BY BUILDING “GREAT WALL MUSEUM” IN EAST TURKISTAN



Yalkun Uluyol giving evidence on Uyghur forced labour at the UK’s Foreign Affairs Committee in February 2024. Flanked by Rahima Mahmut, left, Director of the World Uyghur Congress in London, and Hamid Sabi, right, Counsel to the Uyghur Tribunal held to determine the genocide of the Uyghurs (2021). Screenshot.

**The insatiable pain of loss for a Uyghur exile, trying to come to terms with separation from those he loves.**

His crime: “untrustworthy” for having relatives abroad.

His punishment: 16 years in jail.

But Yalkun Uluyol’s father was “lucky.” One of his uncles was sentenced to life in prison.

Giving evidence to the UK’s Foreign Affairs Committee in February, the 30-year-old Istanbul-based Uyghur exile catalogued his family’s harrowing experiences.





Yalkun Uluyol's father, Memet Yaqub, in happier times, holding a honey melon from his hometown Qumul in 2013. All photos except #1 courtesy of Yalkun Uluyol.

Impassionately and in measured tones he ran down the list of thirty family members who had disappeared. In the absence of police reports or court hearings, he only discovered his father's fate after two years of searching and he is still receiving news about other family members lost or disappeared. Some have received long prison terms; others are undergoing forced labour while still others have disappeared altogether.

The story he told needed no embellishment. Heading up the hearing, UK lawmaker Alicia Kearnes described Yalkun's account of the atrocities taking place in the Uyghur homeland as "a heartbreaking insight into the reality faced by the Uyghur people; one of loss, forced separation, grief, and the ache of the unknown." She concluded, "Genocide is taking place in Xinjiang."

Speaking to "Bitter Winter" after his "day in court," Uluyol spoke of the last time he saw his father on a flying visit home in 2016 with his sister. He learned afterwards that he had returned to Istanbul not a moment too soon, after police had "come looking for him," a few days later. He has not heard his voice for almost eight years.

His father Memet Yaqup, a successful melon trader who employed 300 workers, plyed his birthplace Qumul's famed sweet melons from Guangzhou, a southeastern inner Chinese city. Yaqup believed fervently in education but also wanted to embed his children in their culture and language. After primary schooling in predominantly Han Chinese Qumul,

Yaqup sent them to live with grandparents in their family village to complete their high school and secondary years in the Uyghur language. There he developed a deep appreciation of his Uyghur history and identity.

After school he was sent to learn English in Malaysia followed by tertiary education for both him and his sister in Türkiye. His mother went with them and escaped the mass roundups in their homeland.

News headlines might have moved onto other atrocities, but Uluyol and the Uyghur diaspora live with the daily torment of not knowing, the pain of being sidelined by the international community, and the burden of survivor's guilt. Sometimes the load is too hard to bear, said Uluyol trying to convey the urgency of his people's situation and the need for the world to call China to account.

Uluyol told "Bitter Winter" about the struggle to locate his father and other members of his family and his search for purpose as he grieves the loss of a parent and a homeland.

He has buried himself in research since news of the human rights abuses started trickling out of the Uyghur region. He juggles his time between a foreign policy PhD at Istanbul's Koç University and probing transnational repression and forced labour of his people. His Uyghur Rights Monitor, launched in November 2023, publishes in-depth policy briefs on a range of issues facing his people both at home and abroad.

Only recently however has he begun to speak more personally about the impact on him of policies that have oppressed Uyghurs and Turkic peoples in China's far northwestern region since 2016, when Chen Quanguo, fresh from quelling dissent in Tibet was appointed to "show no mercy" and "round up everyone who should be rounded up."

"I tended to sideline the effect this has all had on me at first," he admitted. "But then I realized that this has all made me who I am." Tragedy and heartache has dogged Uluyol since his father was arrested. He was not only cut off from a father, a mentor, and a friend, but was cast adrift in Türkiye to care for his mother and sister and the three children of another uncle who suddenly became his responsibility. "But I was not the only young Uyghur who had to fend for themselves when communications were cut between China and the outside world," he said. "There have been hundreds of us, some resorting to drugs and crime just to get by."

Finding himself suddenly in the final year of his undergraduate programme with an extended family to support, he scraped by working three jobs just to put food on the table and cover university fees for everyone. "It was a horrible time. Not only had I lost my father and family back home in such traumatic circumstances, but we all became involuntary refugees."

In the Summer of 2020, he eventually married his childhood sweetheart Rabia who came to study in Türkiye in 2014, but tragically their daughter, born with

congenital abnormalities and needing multiple surgeries over two years, died, aged two, in November 2023. "I had become a father and so much wanted to share this with my own father," he said. Posting photos of his wedding and the birth of his daughter on WeChat, China's social media platform, in the hope that they might somehow reach his father, backfired. "This just caused problems for everyone at home," he said. "I don't even



Yalkun Uluyol's father, Memet Yaqub, photo taken in early 2018 in Guangzhou, shortly before his arrest.

know if my father knew I had become a father. I don't know if he knew my daughter had died."

Seven days after she passed away, Uluyol was due to speak on Uyghur forced labour at the EU Parliament. "I could have stayed with my wife, and we could have mourned together," he said. "But at that moment I realized that I wanted to go and give evidence. This was my mission in life and the responsibility of my existence."





Yalkun Uluyol with his sister Tomris and father, Memet Yaqup, photo taken in happier times around 2007, in their family home in Qumul.

“I decided to go and tell my own story,” he said. “I wanted to say, ‘I’m here’ despite my grief.”

Rabia, enrolled as a Master student in religious sociology, heads up the Ötkür Association whose remit is to support children attending Uyghur schools and

courses around Türkiye. They are both committed to easing the trauma and psychological needs faced by young de-facto orphans in the diaspora.

He calls his compatriots in the homeland, “the unforgettable forgotten.” “They are unforgettable,” he said, “but much of the world has moved on. We must not let them be forgotten.” “It is a heavy burden to carry,” he told “Bitter Winter.”

Unlike physical pain that is felt intensely at first and gradually eases off, “the pain and suffering of the Uyghurs hits you hard at first too, but it never dies down,” he said. “It is a hole in my heart. It is a nightmare in my dreams.”

He has learned to cope by turning the pain into motivation. “I have to live my daily life. I have to improve intellectually.



Yalkun Uluyol taking a selfie when his father Memet Yaqup visited the family in Istanbul in May 2015.

I am trying to move forward step by step, becoming a better son, husband, brother, and Uyghur,” he said. “I have to try to continue to convince people of what is happening,” he said.

Hounded by nightmares where over and over again he finds himself in the unsuccessful pursuit of his father, the agony of loss and separation never leaves him. The guilt of being free when those at home didn't make it out weighs heavy on him. He tries hard to be happy, to live with passion and work hard to fulfill his dreams. “I know this is what my father would have wanted for me,” he said. “I try to remind myself constantly that it's not my fault...it's not my father's fault. There's

an authoritarian regime that is making all the mistakes and we are the ones who are suffering.”

He misses the memories that will never be, the times he could have spent with grandparents who have now died, and the conversations he will never have with his father. “It's not just not being able to talk to them; it's also about the impossibility of talking to them anymore,” he said.

“The pain never disappears,” he said. “In fact, it becomes stronger and more painful as time goes by.” “It's important for us and me to hold the people responsible for all this accountable and ensure they pay for their crimes,” he said.



*Every exiled Uyghur  
carries a load*



# Thailand Should Free Detained Uyghur Asylum Seekers

*Few people realize that Thailand has been holding more than 40 Uyghur asylum seekers in immigration detention for a decade. The danger to this remaining group is real. The new government of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin should free these forgotten people, who fled dangerous conditions in China, and arrange for their resettlement in a third country.*



Ten years ago, on March 13, 2014, Thai immigration officials patrolling in Songkhla, near the Thai-Malaysia border, arrested a group of 220 persons in the jungle, kicking off this saga that continues today. In July 2015, Thai authorities forcibly returned 109 ethnic Uyghur men from immigration detention centers across Thailand at the request of the Chinese government.

Without giving the Uyghurs any opportunity to seek asylum, as required under international human rights law, the authorities rounded those 109 men up from detention centers around the country and handcuffed, blindfolded, and handed them over to Chinese officials in Bangkok. Beijing sent a plane with Chinese police officials to pick them up, and during the handover, treated the Uyghurs like dangerous criminals, degrading them, and filming them in blindfolds and handcuffs. The men then disappeared into China's opaque, abusive penal system, never to be seen again.

At that time, Thailand chose to keep approximately 50 Uyghur men in their custody—leaving them to languish in indefinite detention. Now more than ten years after they were first detained, at least 43 Uyghur men remain in Bangkok's Suan Phlu immigration detention center today. Immigration authorities have repeatedly refused access to the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, denying the men's right to recognition of their refugee status, despite the fact that all of them have long ago completed their

sentences for illegal entry into Thailand.

In May 2014, the Chinese government launched an abusive "Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism," which escalated in 2017. An estimated one million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang were arbitrarily detained and imprisoned at the height of the campaign, subjected to mass surveillance, forced labor, forced separation of families, and other abuses.

Though purportedly to counter terrorism, the campaign involved arresting and detaining people for lawful activities such as receiving phone calls from abroad or using WhatsApp on their phones. In 2022, the United Nations said the conditions in Xinjiang "may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity."

As part of that campaign, the Chinese government has acted against Uyghurs who have fled abroad. Since 2014, Thai authorities have arrested as many as 350 Uyghur men, women, and children fleeing persecution in China. While Bangkok allowed over 170 women and children to leave Thailand for Turkey, in line with that group's wishes, it has applied a wholly different, rights abusing treatment to the Uyghur men it holds.

In addition to the Uyghur men who remain in Thai immigration detention, another five are serving criminal sentences linked to their attempt to escape immigration detention in northeastern Thailand's Mukdahan province. After they complete

their sentences, it is expected they will be returned to indefinite immigration detention. For all the Uyghurs who remain detained in Thailand, Thai immigration authorities have denied them access to lawyers, family members, humanitarian groups, and others. Conditions inside Thailand's immigration detention centers are extremely overcrowded and unhygienic. Detainees lack adequate food, water, and proper medical services.

Detainees in Thailand's immigration detention centers are frequently confined to open cells, some of which have over 100 people crammed together. In the past, children have been imprisoned alongside adults, creating a litany of social protection hazards. In 2019, senior government officials, including then Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwon, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that agreed to refrain from detaining children, but in some cases children still have been detained.

Migrants who were able to leave the Suan Phlu immigration detention center have spoken about beatings and other forms of abuse and mistreatment they experienced or witnessed. Members of nongovernmental groups and lawyers working on cases related to the Suan Phlu detention center have corroborated these conditions. To date, successive Thai governments have not shown a genuine interest in addressing these serious problems.

Some witnesses said that the Uyghurs had it worse than other detainees. A

2023 VICE News article quoted another detainee as saying, "They were pretty much treated like terrorists...They were not allowed visits, could not receive money, and were not allowed to use mobile phones. Their leaders were punished if immigration authorities found out if they were using a mobile phone."

In April 2023, a 40-year-old Uyghur detained in Suan Phlu, Mattohti Mattursun, died after being taken to the hospital with liver and respiratory problems. He is the fifth Uyghur asylum seeker to die in Thai detention in the last 10 years. Others include Aziz Abdullah, a 49-year-old Uyghur asylum seeker who died from pneumonia in the same detention center in February 2023; a 27-year-old man, of cancer in 2018; and in 2014, a newborn baby and a 3-year-old.

If Thai authorities provided appropriate access to health care, access to lawyers or other refugee assistance agencies, these deaths could have been prevented. But the Uyghurs were walled off from support and left to languish in detention as part of an apparent strategy to partially appease the Chinese government, which continues to demand that Thailand should forcibly return them to China.

While the Thai government fears hurting its relations with the Chinese government, it is also concerned about the negative international reaction it faced in 2015 when it sent back the 109 others. A coalition of governments – including the US, Canada, and the European Union and its member states – are rightly continuing

to urge Thailand to release the remaining Uyghurs it holds and allow them to travel to a safe third country.

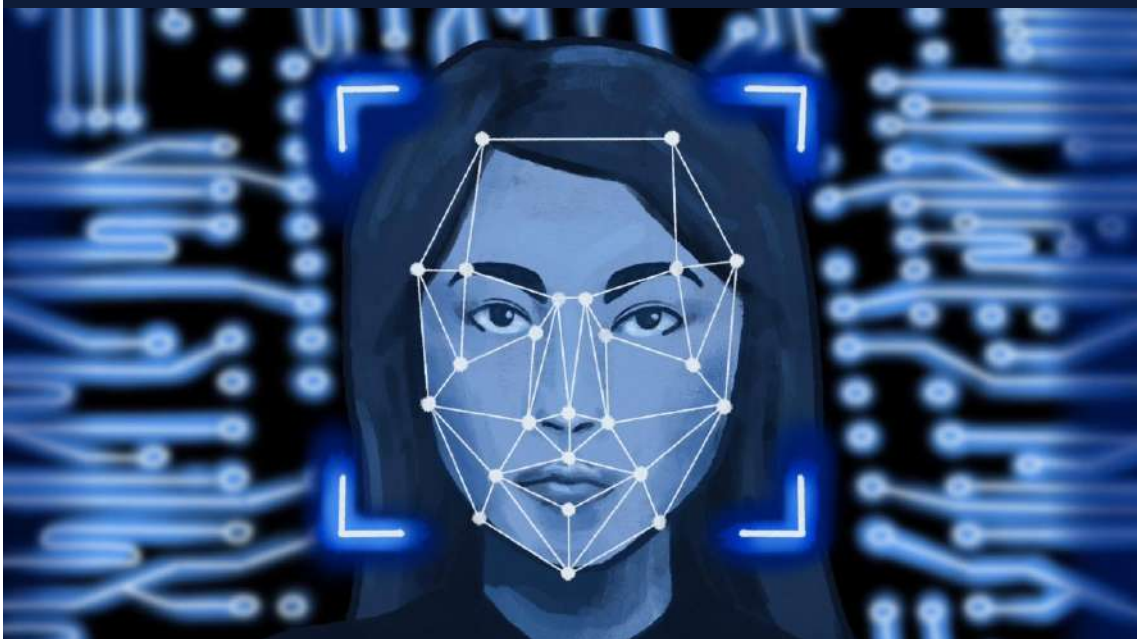
As a party to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Thailand is legally bound not to send anyone to a place where they would be at risk of being tortured.

Furthermore, in February 2023, Thailand's own Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearances entered into force. The law states that authorities shall not "expel,

return, or extradite a person to another State, if there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, or to enforced disappearance."

The government of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin should take the option of returning the Uyghurs to China off the table and recognize Thailand's obligations under the Convention against Torture. It should release the remaining Uyghurs, let them reunite with their families and allow them to travel to a safe third country.

## INVESTMENT FIRMS STEP AWAY FROM CHINESE TECH COMPANIES AFTER SCRUTINY





For years, US venture capital firms have invested in Chinese technology companies linked to China's military and persecution of the Uyghur people. Now, the recent glare of the spotlight from Congress and declining public opinion of China has prompted these firms to step back from involvement in the country.

A bipartisan investigation released last month, co-sponsored by Reps. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), alleges that several prominent Silicon Valley firms invested at least \$3 billion over the last 20 years in Chinese companies. The report contends that these firms contributed to China's military and surveillance of the Uyghur people, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group native to Northwest China.

The venture capital firms cited – Sequoia Capital China, Walden International, Qualcomm Ventures, GSR Ventures and GGV Capital – invested in China's AI and semiconductor sectors. The list includes \$1.9 billion in AI companies, and over \$1.2 billion in 150 semiconductor companies – a “dual-use” technology that is used for both civilian and military purposes. Several of the companies are blacklisted by the US government.

“We need to understand that a dollar given to a Chinese AI company, semiconductor company, or any other advanced dual-use technology company is a dollar that can be given to support the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] and the PLA [People's Liberation Army],” Rep. Gallagher said in a statement to the Medill News Service.

“We need to cut off the flow of funds. We can't afford to keep funding our own destruction.”

In the report, the lawmakers warned that because the committee examined only five venture capital firms, the investigation greatly understates the total US investment in China's AI and semiconductor sectors. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the total US foreign direct investment in China was \$126.1 billion in 2022.

Reps. Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi, who lead the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, launched the investigation in July 2023. The lawmakers sent letters to venture capital firms requesting information about the firms' investments in Chinese entities.

### Taking aim at artificial intelligence

The report investigated AI companies that primarily develop technology used for facial recognition and surveillance for the Chinese military. According to the report, this technology has been used to identify and track Uyghurs living in China.

For instance, Megvii, developer of the Face++ facial recognition software, is one of the primary companies investigated, receiving over \$15 million from GGV Capital since 2019. Roughly two-thirds of Megvii's revenue came from CCP surveillance projects in the year GGV invested in Megvii, the report stated.

After GGV Capital made its investment, Megvii was placed on “multiple US

government red flag lists over its involvement in surveilling and tracking Uyghurs in Xinjiang,” according to the report.

A GGV Capital spokesperson told Tech Policy Press that the company is “actively seeking exit” from investments with Megvii. The committee’s report noted that the firm has faced challenges with the separation due to “limited market appetite for purchasing the shares.”

GGV Capital is also splitting into two separate entities, GGV Capital U.S. and GGV Capital Asia, a transition the firm expects to complete by the end of March. According to a statement provided to Tech Policy Press, the split will be a “separation of all business and operational processes to function as separate and independent firms.”

GGV Capital US “will not invest in China,” the statement said.

While the committee’s report called efforts to split off from China “a step in the right direction,” Reps. Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi specified that legislative action is still needed to stop “future flows of American capital to problematic PRC companies.”

When Megvii filed for an initial public offering in Hong Kong’s stock market in late 2019, the company issued a now-archived report stating that agreements with customers require its technology to be used only for “civil purposes,” not for military use or human rights violations.

GGV Capital told the Medill News Service

that the firm “was not aware of any potential (or actual) abuse of Megvii’s technology as an investment risk and only became aware when certain details became known publicly.”

According to the 2019 Megvii report, other major US finance firms were co-sponsors of Megvii’s IPO, including Goldman-Sachs, Citigroup, and J.P. Morgan. After Megvii’s 2019 IPO application lapsed, Megvii filed for a new IPO in Shanghai in 2021, and the major U.S. finance firms were no longer listed as co-sponsors. However, GGV Capital hasn’t ended its relationship with Megvii completely despite attempting separation.

Worries over China’s domination in microchips

According to the committee’s report, China also plans to dominate the semiconductor industry by 2030 by increasing domestic production and collaborating with foreign firms. Semiconductors are essential parts of electronic devices, used in a variety of products from smartphones to weapons.

The investigation found that Walden International, a venture capital firm headquartered in California, is one of the largest investors in the Chinese semiconductor industry. The firm may have invested as much as \$2.2 billion in China’s semiconductor sector. This includes a combined \$125 million investment in Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation, or SMIC, and its affiliated entities, which is now on multiple U.S. blacklists because it supplies the Chinese military.

Walden International did not respond to a request for comment.

Albert Keidel, an economist and professor at George Washington University specializing in East Asia, said he is skeptical of the report's findings. He argued that the investigation misinterprets the firms' investments as dangerous, when in reality the investments are common among growing economies.

Keidel noted that the report emphasized the firms' investments in dual-use technologies. He said the report had "logical issues," pointing out that foreign investment in US companies like Boeing could be interpreted as beneficial to the US military.

"Is investing in portfolio investments in large Chinese firms that have a dual purpose really going to stop the Chinese from advancing their technologies?" Keidel said. "I really doubt it."

Several of the firms responded similarly to the investigation's findings. According to the report, the firms made their investments "during an era of optimism."

"We need to face the fact that China is a competent government that is trying to increase its standard of living," Keidel claimed. "We're pointing the finger at others that are becoming successful and good competitors."

Rep. Krishnamoorthi's perspective on dual-use technology differed from Keidel's. According to a statement from Krishnamoorthi, the report shows investments in "sensitive sectors,"

sometimes through blacklisted companies.

"Dual-use technologies pose inherent dangers in the wrong hands through their military applications," Rep. Krishnamoorthi said in the statement. "Through its military buildup, ongoing genocide, and other human rights abuses, the CCP has shown that it does not deserve the benefit of the doubt."

### Consulting and intangible involvement

Beyond financial investment, some venture capital and consulting firms have been identified as providing intangible expertise and advice to Chinese companies supporting the military. According to the report, these services include talent acquisition, consulting and job training.

According to the report, GGV Capital worked with Tsinghua University to launch a financial training program for companies in GGV's ecosystem. Walden International reported that it "often assists its portfolio companies with identifying talent, suggesting or connecting with other investors, and corporate strategy matters." The report notes that the firm provided these services for SMIC.

Some consulting firms have also recently been identified as having collaborated with Chinese companies. The Financial Times reported last month that Urban China Initiative, a think tank led by McKinsey & Company, advised the CCP and provided research instrumental to China's 2016-2020 Five Year Plan.

In response, Rep. Gallagher issued a



statement condemning McKinsey.

“One is left to conclude that McKinsey’s true mission is to make money, even if that money comes from genocidal communists,” Rep. Gallagher said in the statement. “Companies like McKinsey that help the CCP in its quest to destroy individual dignity and American global leadership should be prohibited from receiving taxpayer dollars.”

In response to the allegations made by The Financial Times report, McKinsey issued a statement asserting that “the Urban China Initiative is not McKinsey, and it did not perform work on McKinsey’s behalf.”

McKinsey stated that UCI was co-founded in 2011 with Columbia University and Tsinghua University. The consulting firm denied working with China, stating its “client work in China is overwhelmingly for US, multinational and Chinese private sector entities.”

McKinsey shut down UCI in 2021, following recent trends of divestment in Chinese organizations and separation from branches in China.

### Next steps

Reps. Krishnamoorthi and Gallagher recommended that Congress pass legislation to prohibit investments in PRC companies on US sanctions and red flag lists, including the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List. They also recommended that such lists be updated to include more companies with ties to China’s technology industries.

“The Committee’s findings suggest that there are billions of dollars beyond those captured in this report that have flowed into PRC companies that support the PRC’s military, digital authoritarianism, and efforts to develop technological supremacy and undermine American technological leadership,” the report said.



**The Chinese regime forced Uyghur Muslims to eat and drink during holy month of Ramadan in East Turkistan**

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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 genocide crime and shine a light on the oppression in East Turkistan as well as expose China's fake news propaganda.**

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