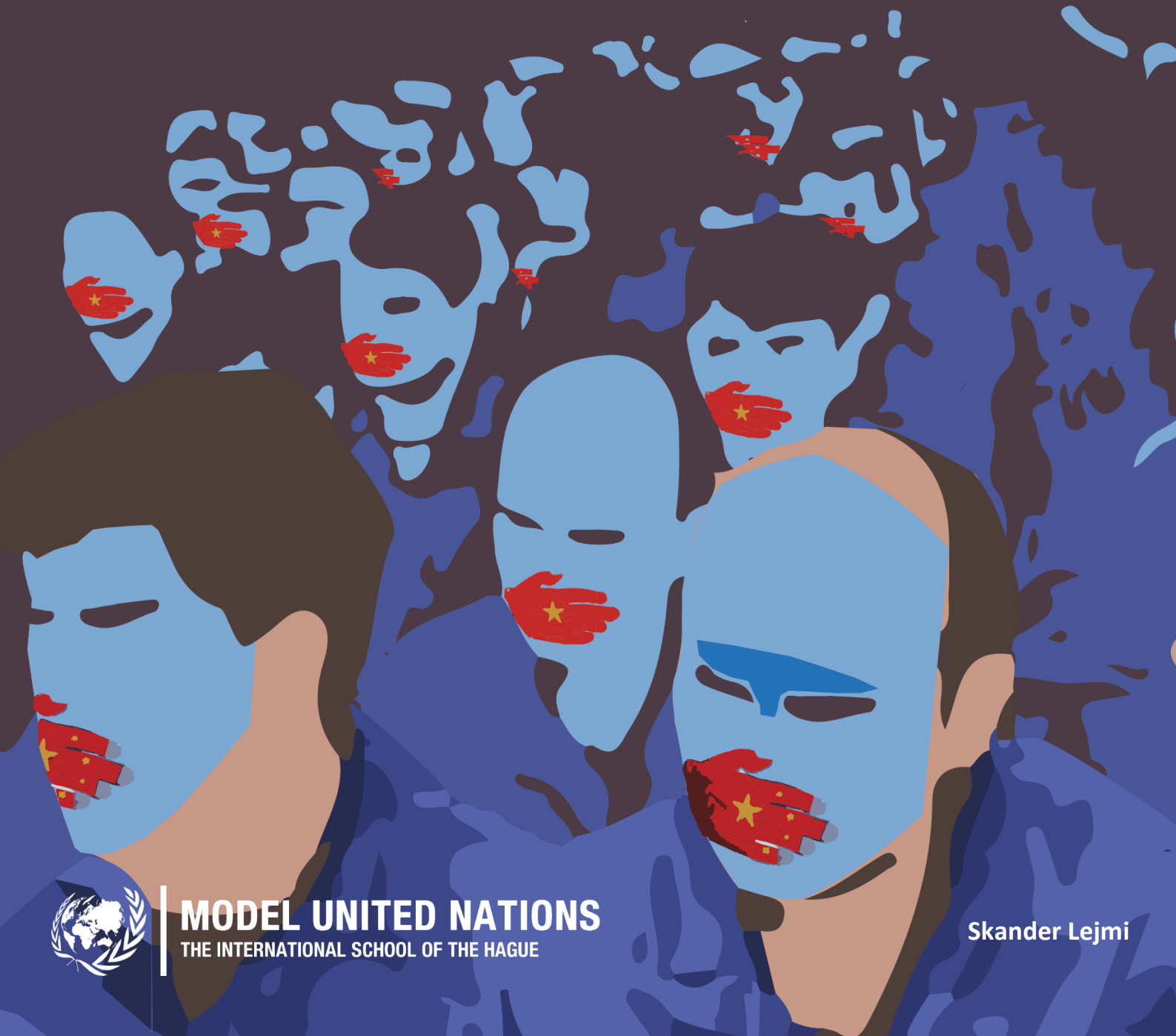


Advisory Panel on the Question of the Uyghur Muslims in China (APQUMC)

Establishing a coordinated response



Forum	Advisory Panel on the Question of the Uyghur Muslims in China (APQUMC)
Issue:	Establishing a coordinated response
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Introduction

As of currently, reports from credible sources indicate that China has detained a million or more ethnic Uighurs in the western region of Xinjiang and forced as many as two million to submit to these re-education camps that Chinese officials call internment camps. Such re-education allegedly entails force feeding these Muslims pork and forcing them to imbibe. This could be considered the least deplorable of acts reported. Of course, in committing these acts, the Muslims Ugyhurs are hereby being forced to renounce their faith, which effectively constitutes a violation of their Human Rights as outlined in article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

The acts allegedly committed against these Ugyhur Muslims is also explicitly incongruent with the UNs founding purpose outlined in the UN charter under Chapter 1, Article 1:

“The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;



2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

As such, it is the responsibility of the United Nations to thoroughly address the Question of the Uyghur Muslims in China by establishing a coordinated response thereto. In order to do this, delegates must acutely understand all of the nuances of this conflict as well as the nature of different countries involvement.

Definition of Key Terms

Extrajudicial

Not legally authorized

Sinicization

Making [something] Chinese in character or form

Uyghur

Turkic ethnic group originating from the general region of Central/East Asia. One of China's 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities. Most Uyghurs identified themselves as Muslim since the 16th century and gradually, Islam became a central part of Uyghur culture and identity.



Separatism

A belief in, movement for, or state of separation. In the context of our issue, separatism constitutes any ideological incongruence with the CCP exclaimed by Uyghur persons, particularly if the ideological incongruence relates to the Uyghurs deserving their own state, separate from that of China.

General Overview

In late June 2009, a former factory worker in Shauguan, Guangdong, China, disseminated a rumor that two Han women had been raped by six Uyghur men (according to state medias coverage). No evidence regarding this alleged rape was reported much later after investigation. Tensions began to rise in the factory and on the evening of the 25-26th of June, a large ethnic brawl broke out between the Ugyhurs and the Hans that resulted in the death of two Uyghur workers (though the real death toll is far higher according to exiled Uyghur leaders). While there were reports of the former factory worked who incited the violence being arrested, Uyghurs claimed that the authorities failed to protect Uyghur people. The July 2009 Urumqi riots ensued, violence ensued, and ultimately is considered to have lit the flame that caused the wildfire we address today, that of the Genocide of the Uyghurs.

The unrest caused by the Urumqi Riots resulted in many party theorists demanding the implementation of policies that would be conducive to the creation of a monocultural society, including a “single state-race”, with the ultimate goal of enabling China to become “a new type of superpower”. Of course, the single state-race would be a Han state and as such, these party theorists were implicitly calling for the repression of the Uyghur Muslims. Policies to further this goal were implemented at large by Zhang Chunxian, the new CCP Secretary that replaced Wang Lequan following the Riots. After an attack in the Yunnan Province, Xi Jinping (leader of the CCP) told the Politburo (i.e. the principal policy-making committee of the communist party):



““We should unite the people to build a copper and iron wall against terrorism”, and “Make terrorists like rats scurrying across the street, with everybody shouting, ‘Beat them!’””

At this stage, the political (and deplorable) motive of creating a monocultural society with the “single state-race” begins to fall to the shadows as the national security motive of “protecting the state against violent terrorism” begins to become more and more prominent. While Chinese officials justify all acts later carried out to the Uyghurs under “protection against violent terrorism”, a strong conviction is that of a political motivation that aims to create the “single state-race”, which of course would violate a series of Human Rights and would be strongly reprehensible.

Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism

Later in 2014, the CCP hosted a meeting in secrecy in order to establish their response to the situation with the Uyghur Muslims and the rising tension which later became known as the “Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism” which was publicly announced and implemented in May of 2014. The campaign included the commencement of a “Peoples War” against the “Three Evil Forces”, namely separatism, extremism and terrorism. This campaign began the implementation of what is considered to be very pervasive and repressive surveillance against the Uyghur population in Xinjiang.

Collection of Biometric Data

The surveillance includes the collection of biometric data through the imposed medical program “Physicals for All”, whereby “Every Xinjiang resident between ages 12 and 65” were required to provide DNA Samples. Alongside the DNA samples, blood types, fingerprints, voice recordings and even iris patterns were collected. The DNA samples taken from the “Physicals for All” program, alongside other blood samples, were all taken and stored in Tumxuk, contributing to their mass DNA-Collection Campaign, so much so that Tumxuk was considered by state-sponsored media as “a major battlefield for Xinjiangs



security network”. In 2018, a forensics DNA lab was built in this same Tumxuk region. Documents from the lab confirmed that they were using a software that helped analyze DNA provided by “Thermo Fisher Scientific”, a company based in Massachusetts. The company ceased their sales to the laboratory for what they said were “fact-specific assessments”, the suggestion here is self-evident...

GPS Tracking of Cars

Security officials in Xinjiang have ordered the installation of GPS tracking devices in all vehicles under the pretext that “it is necessary to counteract the activities of Islamist extremists and separatists”. Following this, the Bayingolin (i.e. an autonomous prefecture in Xinjiang) authorities supported the policy, proclaiming that “there is a severe threat from international terrorism, and cars have been used as a key means of transport for terrorists as well as constantly serving as weapons. It is therefore necessary to monitor and track all vehicles in the prefecture”.

Grid-Management System

The grid-management system was implemented as part of the “Strike Hard Against Violent Terrorism” campaign and works as follows. Cities and Villages in Xinjiang are split into squares containing approximately 500 people. Each square in the grid contains a police station that is charged with closely monitoring the actions of the inhabitants of the square as well as taking regular scans of identification cards, taking fingerprints and portrait photographs and conducting thorough cellphone searches. In some of the cities with higher Uyghur populations (such as Kashgar), the police checkpoints can be found almost every 90 meters.

Civil Servant-Family Pair Up Program

The Civil Servant-Family Pair Up Program is a government policy that forces designated families to host civil servants for a protracted duration



of time. The policy has been vigorously promoted in the Xinjiang region as part of their Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism. Hosting times have increased over time from 5 days per month to 14 days per month, with reports from Uyghur families that the ‘visitation’ days are very often exceeded. Of course, refusal to host these civil servants results in immediate imprisonment in the concentration camps.

The invasive nature of the surveillance conducted as part of the Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism may be considered a violation of citizens right to privacy under article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that reads as follows:

“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence [...]”

As such, it is also important to consider this aspect of the conflict as part of the international response to the question of the Uyghur Muslims in China.

Xi Jinping was dissatisfied with the initial result of the Peoples War and decided to replace Zhang Chunxian with Chen Quanguo in 2016. Following the appointment of Chen, tens of thousands of police officers were recruited and society was divided into three categories: trusted, average and untrustworthy.

On April 1st of 2017, new bans and regulation were implemented. Being in public with a veil or an abnormally long beard was prohibited. Uyghurs were permitted only to watch state-run television and radio broadcasts, were forced to follow family planning policies and their children could only go to state-run schools. Violating any of this regulation would constitute a crime against the state and could result in imprisonment in the concentration camps. In 2017, 73% of foreign journalists reported being prohibited from reporting in the Xinjiang region, a 27% increase from the previous year.

The “re-education” efforts initiated in 2014 intensified in 2017 as Chen ordered for them to



“be managed like the military and defended like a prison.” The CCP denied all allegations of their existence until 2018, when they started referring to these camps as “vocational training centers”. Between 2018 and 2019, the camps tripled in size. The data collected by the surveillance was all placed into a massive database called the “Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP)” which used AI to produce lists of suspicious people based on the data collected on them. Classified Chinese documents obtained and released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in November 2019 exposed over 15 thousand individuals flagged by the IJOP algorithm were being placed in detention centers. Of course, the CCP denied the subsequent allegations and called the leaked documents a politically motivated fabrication.

Abuses of Human Rights

In 2018, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Radical Discrimination estimated that approximately 1 million Uyghurs were being held in the internment camps. Later, in July of 2020, Adrian Zenz, an anthropologist that proved the existence, size and scope of the internment camps, estimated the extrajudicial detainment of 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities in the region with multiple reports of mass deaths in the camps.

According to Dr. Joanne Smith Finleys research in the region:

“political re-education involves coercive Sinicization, deaths in the camps through malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, withheld medical care, and violence (beatings); rape of male and female prisoners; and, since the end of 2018, transfers of the most recalcitrant prisoners – usually young, religious males – to high-security prisons in Xinjiang or inner China. Other camp "graduates" have been sent into securitized forced labour. Those who remain outside the camps have been terrified into religious and cultural self-censorship through the threat of internment.”



Other reports of torture, forced sterilization, brainwashing, organized mass-rape/sexual torture, medical experiments, organ harvesting and even forced labor have all been published, with multitudinous escapee testimonials.

Assuming the reliability of the allegations, these acts together would constitute a violation of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide under a multitude of different articles.

The crimes committed against the Uyghur people constitutes a genocide under article 2 of the convention above that states the following:

“In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”

The most substantively documented of these violations is d, with a considerable number of testimonials on birth control and sterilization of Uyghur women.



Major Parties Involved

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Peoples Republic of China, or rather the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are those directly responsible for the alleged crimes committed against the Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic Muslim minorities. Although Xinjiang is meant to be autonomous territory, the CCP feared a loss of control and as such have carried out what they call *weiwen*, which translates to “stability maintenance”. The politburo of the CCP have created all of these policies that allow for the crimes against humanity and the violation of the Uyghurs human rights such as that of the freedom of movement, the right to privacy and the right to practicing a religion of their choice.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

The Human Rights Watch has been actively involved in thorough investigation and documentation of the situation in Xinjiang pertaining to the Uyghur Muslims (as well as other Muslim/Turkic minorities). They have published interviews conducted with Xinjiang residents regarding the mass arbitrary detention and published a multitude of reports outlining the crimes against humanity taking place in Xinjiang. In addition, they were amongst the first to have publicly deplored China for these crimes and called on pertinent international organizations to take the appropriate action.

SWEDEN

Sweden was the first to grant asylum to the Uyghur Muslims and is urging other European Nations to do so given the future that allegedly lies ahead for the Uyghurs in Xinjiang and even beyond.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

One of the first nations to deplore China for their alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Uyghur Muslims (as well as other Muslim minorities). A bill that would



ban all US technology that the CCP might be using in China was also introduced but did not pass. The US continues to strongly condemn the alleged crimes of China and has even threatened to impose sanctions.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia has been very supportive of Chinas actions and commend them for their rigorous approach to driving terrorism and extremism out of their country. Of course, Saudi Arabia denies all allegations of crimes against humanity and supports Chinas argument against the “politicization of human rights”.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
July 2009	Urumqi Protests
May 2014	Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism Campaign Launched
2016	Xi Jinping dissatisfied with the initial result of the Peoples War and decided to replace Zhang Chunxian with Chen Quanguo as secretary of the autonomous region of Xinjiang
April 1 st 2017	Policies against violent-extremism all targeting Uyghur Muslims are passed
2018	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Radical Discrimination estimated that approximately 1 million Uyghurs were being held in the internment camps
2018-2019	Internment camps triple in size
July 2020	Adrian Zenz, an anthropologist that proved the existence, size and scope of the internment camps, estimated the extrajudicial detainment of 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities in the region with multiple reports of mass deaths in the camps



UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Resolution Condemning persecution of religious minorities in the PRC, October 2018 (S/RES/667)
- United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- United Nations Charter

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

China (as well as its allies) has on numerous occasions denied the allegations made regarding any kind of humanitarian crimes and reaffirmed the need for their actions in order to defend themselves against terrorism. In July of 2019, 22 countries issued a joint letter to the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) that condemned China's mass detention of Uyghurs and called on the immediate refrain of the violations of their human rights. In response to this, during the session of the UNHCR, 50 countries issued a joint letter in support of China's actions in Xinjiang and criticizing the "politicization of human rights".

As time passed and the evidence was substantiated, in October 2020, the number of countries that condemned China rose to 39 as the number that defended them fell to 45.

In September of 2020, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights began discussing a visit to Xinjiang with Chinese officials in order to further determine: "The impact of their policies on human rights". While China is very publicly open to the visit, the terms of the visit are still being negotiated and as of yet, the High Commissioner has not set foot in Xinjiang.



Possible Solutions

The support of China by other countries is rooted in the unsubstantiated evidence regarding the genocide and the crimes against humanity. While the ICC has been called on, since China has not signed the Rome Statute, it has no jurisdiction in China and as such cannot investigate the crimes committed in Xinjiang. In any case, it is clear that an international body comprised of legal officers from different member states should be mandated with investigating the wide range of allegations against the CCP in order to ascertain their verity. A coordinated international response such as this one would bring transparency in regards to the actions undertaken in China and subsequently allow for either the halt of slander (in the case that there is no evidence to support the allegations) or the halt and prosecution of crimes against humanity and genocide (in the case that evidence is found to support the allegations).

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