

# TEKMUN'24



## Study Guide

Agenda Item:  
Conflict in East Turkestan

*Written by Meryem Ceylan & Zeynep Özdemir*

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## 1. WELCOME LETTERS

### 1.1 LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL

Most esteemed participants of TEKMUN'24,

It is with the utmost respect that I sincerely welcome every distinguished delegate to join us at the first annual Tenzile Erdoğan Girls Anatolian Religious High School Model United Nations Conference, which will be held between 22-24 of November.

I, Tuğba SevdeNur Karataş and currently nine-year student at Tenzile Erdoğan, consider it an honor to serve you as the Secretary-General in TEKMUN'24, a conference that brings together delegates from across the globe to discuss some of the most pressing issues the world is facing today.

In addition, I would like to thank in advance all to the members of our academics and organization team, and board members of the TEKMUN club for their outstanding talent and efforts. We are a strong family, thanks to our passion for this conference. I cannot wait to meet all of you in November. Until the time we all meet, take care of yourselves, and get ready for this extraordinary MUN conference.

Most esteemed participants of TEKMUN'24, It is with the utmost respect that I sincerely welcome every distinguished delegate to join us at the first annual Tenzile Erdoğan Girls Anatolian Religious High School Model United Nations Conference, which will be held between 22-24 of November.

I am looking forward to meet you at TEKMUN'24

Warmest Regards,

Secretary General

Tuğba Sevdenur Karataş

## 1.2 LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear participants of TEKMUN 2024,

It is a pleasure to greet you as the Under Secretary General of OIC at the TEKMUN'24 conference. I'm Meryem Ceylan, studying at Sehit Haki Aras Anatolian Imam Hatip High School in the eleventh grade. As the Under Secretary General of OIC, it is my duty to make sure you have all the information you need to participate in fruitful debates and create thorough solutions on the agenda item in this edition of TEKMUN. Your whole focus, effort, and critical thinking abilities are needed for this subject.

I have done my best to offer you a comprehensive study guide that covers the history, present state, and projected future of each topic on the agenda. This guide should help you with your research and preparation.

I strongly advise you to thoroughly go through the study guide, since it contains important details and resources to help you with your discussions. A list of the subjects that will be covered during the conference is also provided, along with background data and important questions regarding our agenda item.

Please be aware that active research and critical thinking are still very important, and this guide is meant primarily to serve as a resource for preparation. This guide is a comprehensive resource as well. Rather, individuals are urged to conduct additional research in order to better comprehend the matter at hand. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any queries or worries regarding our study guide. Please contact me via [meryemceylan088@gmail.com](mailto:meryemceylan088@gmail.com) . I'll assist you in getting ready and making sure the conference is fruitful and fulfilling.

Best wishes,

Meryem Ceylan

## **2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE**

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is a group of 57 countries that come together to help and support Muslim people all around the world. It was founded in 1969 to protect the rights of Muslims in different countries. The OIC's main goal is to make sure that Muslim communities have their rights protected, and live in peace and harmony.

The OIC plays an important role in solving problems that affect Muslims globally. It focuses on issues like protecting human rights, supporting economic growth in Muslim countries, and helping during conflicts or crises. When Muslim communities face unfair treatment or challenges, the OIC tries to find peaceful solutions and work with other countries to bring justice and equality.

One of the most important jobs of the OIC is to bring its member countries together to talk about the issues that Muslims face. Through meetings, discussions, and agreements, the OIC helps these countries work together to create strong and fair solutions for the problems in the Muslim world.

In this committee, we will look at different ways to support Uyghur Turks and make sure that their rights are protected. The goal is to create a united group of countries that work together to build a better future for Uyghur Turks everywhere and to make the world a safer place for them.

### 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA ITEM

This committee focuses on several oppressive assimilation policies as well as an obvious genocide committed in East Turkestan by the communist Chinese (CCP) regime. These oppressive and dictatorial policies violate numerous negative rights and have been recognized and outlined by international, regional, and national legal documents. These rights include the freedom of religion, the freedom of expression, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to a fair trial, and the freedom of movement. It is claimed that these policies' many restrictions cause it nearly impossible to exercise certain beneficial rights, such as the right to education, the right to defend and advance ethno-cultural identities, and several economic rights.

In May 2014, the Chinese government launched an official campaign of genocide as the so-called "People's War," targeting Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other non-Chinese ethnic groups in Occupied East Turkistan. A white paper from the Chinese government claims that 1.29 million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples have been forced into what is known as "vocational training and re-education camps" by China since 2014.

The camps' inmates have endured extrajudicial detention, forced labor, heightened surveillance, sexual assault, torture, organ harvesting, and even summary execution.

The term "Uyghur forced labor" describes how the Chinese government uses forced labor methods to exploit Uyghur and other Turkic ethnic groups in the Uyghur Region (East Turkistan). Uyghurs are forcibly transferred to factories and agricultural fields, often far from their homes, where they work in harsh conditions without the freedom to leave, under the excuse of "poverty alleviation" and "vocational training." This system affects millions of people and flows international supply chains. It is powered by state policies and surveillance and is used for political indoctrination, ethnic suppression, and economic control.

The brands endorsing and facilitating the forced labor of the Uyghur people expose over 2,000 domestic and foreign businesses and their purported connections to the Uyghur forced labor industry and the ongoing Uyghur genocide in East Turkestan.

The committee's main goal is to investigate and determine the most humanitarian and compassionate ways to ensure the independence of East Turkestan for the Uyghur people by using The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) principles and policies.

#### 4. SUBSTANTIAL GLOSSARY

**Uyghurs:** A member of a predominantly Muslim Turkic-speaking people, dominant in Mongolia and eastern Turkestan from the 8th to 12th centuries a.d., and now living in northwestern China, mainly in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

**Xinjiang:** An autonomous region in northwestern China, bordering Tibet, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tadzhikistan, Pakistan, and India; formerly a province.

**PLA:** Stands for the **People's Liberation Army**, which is the combined military force of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It consists of the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, Rocket Force, and Strategic Support Force. The PLA was established in 1927 and has played a significant role in the military history of China, including the Chinese Civil War and the establishment of the PRC in 1949.

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR): XUAR, also known as East Turkestan, is a region in northwest China with a large population of Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim groups, known for its distinct cultural and historical identity.

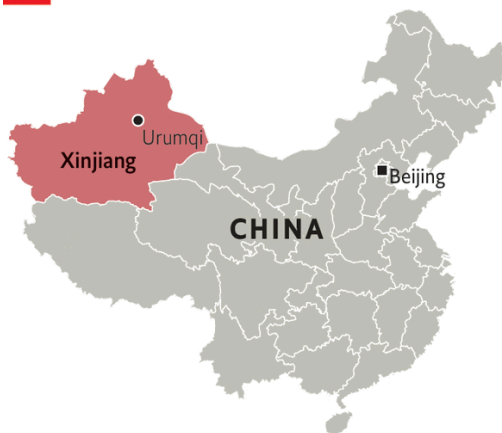
ETIM (East Turkestan Islamic Movement): ETIM is a militant group seeking independence for the Uyghur people in China's Xinjiang region, accused of violent attacks to create an Islamic state.

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP): UHRP promotes the rights of the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim peoples in East Turkistan, referred to by the Chinese government as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

## 5. OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

### 5.1 Historical and Cultural Context of East Turkestan

Chinese warlords took control of East Turkistan following the fall of the Manchu Empire in 1911. The lack of control the Chinese central government had over the area resulted in multiple Uyghur uprisings. The Uyghurs succeeded in having freedom of the East Turkistan Republic (ETR) twice, in 1933 and 1944, but Soviet military intervention ultimately ended both. With the PLA's (People's Liberation Army) invasion into East Turkistan in 1949, the ETR ended, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was established. The Uyghurs experienced harsh persecution while living in communist China. They have deliberately targeted their religion and culture, particularly since Mao's takeover in 1949. After the events of 9/11, Chinese authorities renamed their campaign of persecution against Uyghur identity as the "War on Terror."



The Economist

Today, Uyghurs are subject to more persecution because of Xi Jinping's "One Belt, One Road" policy. More than three million individuals have been held in what is referred to as contemporary concentration camps without being charged. With cameras, DNA collection, GPS monitoring, and QR codes on residences, the area is heavily monitored. To explain these actions, Chinese officials have labeled Uyghur opposition as "Islamic terrorism." This has resulted in attempts to destroy Uyghur cultural roots and harsh collective punishment.

Uyghur Turks have a lengthy history and a rich cultural legacy. The creation and growth of this civilization have been attributed to the central geographic location of the Uyghur Turks and their ability to successfully integrate various religions and cultures. Uyghur Turks have historically accepted several religions, including Buddhism, Manichaeism, Islam, and Nestorianism. This has had a significant influence on the development of their cultural institutions.



## **5.2 Current Situation of Uyghur People: Detention Camps and Police State**

The world thought that the situation in the Nazi concentration camps would never recur because it was seen as the worst humanitarian crisis of the 20th century. But, the Chinese Communist Party imprisoned millions of indigenous Turkic people in concentration camps in the twenty-first century, forcing them to reject their own culture and religion and adapt to Chinese culture as a whole. This study guide first assesses Beijing's policy toward this region as well as the evolution of the relationship between China and East Turkistan. After that, it focuses on the state of concentration camps, the people detained there, and the crimes they are said to have committed by the Chinese government. Camera footage, satellite footage, leaked documents, whistleblowers, and testimonies from escapees all prove that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is committing genocide against the people of East Turkistan, also known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, despite a crackdown on foreign journalism and a string of denials from the Chinese government.

The concentration camps began to emerge after President Xi Jinping announced in 2014 that he would be launching a “People’s War on Terror” in China. In fact, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the Chinese government started to use this global rhetoric to suppress Uyghurs, who are mainly Sunni Muslims. Such repression has reached the highest level since the CCP’s secretary, Chen Quanguo, was transferred from the Tibet Autonomous Region to East Turkistan in August 2016. He began an intensive securitization program targeting the Islamic identity and culture of Uyghurs. Since the launch of this new campaign, Xi Jinping has labeled the Uyghur people as “terrorists” who need to be contained and “re-educated” for the safety of China. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson of China claimed that they are simply taking “de-extremism measures” to prevent “terrorism” and “religious extremism”. Currently, up to 3 million Uyghurs and other Muslims are held in those camps, and the number of such camps has surpassed 1000.

Uyghur people have been targeted by the Chinese government for being "terrorists." Since the end of 2016, Uyghurs have been systematically singled out. It has been reported that up to three million Uyghurs are being contained in concentration camps in East Turkistan. Beijing claims that the concentration camps are instead “re-education camps” and “vocational centers” aimed to cleanse the “terrorist ideals” from the Uyghur people and “reintegrate them back into society”.

After being taken into the camps, detainees are required to memorize Chinese propaganda, watch propaganda documentaries about the Chinese government, and repeat slogans thanking the Party and Chinese President Xi Jinping. They must also learn Mandarin if they don't already speak the language. They are frequently tested on this, and if they do poorly, then they are subjected to punishment. The prisoners are also forced to publicly renounce their own cultural and religious identity while admitting to "mistakes" such as wearing a hijab, praying, reading the Quran, growing "abnormal" beards, and so on. Moreover, the detainees of the camps are made to take unknown drugs and are subjected to forced labour, involuntary sterilization, biometric data collection, torture, sexual and physical abuse, as well as mental abuse, which results in the death of many.

Subsequently, millions of Uyghurs and other Muslims have been sent to newly opened "education and transformation training centers" or "counter-extremism training schools," where they must stay indefinitely away from their families to "unlearn" their religious ideologies.

However, three official Chinese government documents have been leaked, confirming the brutal crackdown on Uyghurs and authenticating that these camps are indeed concentration camps—not "re-education camps." The first one is a 400-page Chinese official document leaked to the New York Times where the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, says that he would "show absolutely no mercy" to Uyghurs. The second government document labeled "secret" shows how the detention camps are run and reveals the link between the mass surveillance of Uyghurs and the concentration camps. The third leaked official document demonstrates how Uyghurs are being selected for the concentration camps. The 137-page spreadsheet lists detailed information on over 300 detainees and over 2000 of their relatives, friends, and even neighbors.

*Leaked Files by NYTIMES, 2019*

附件:

### 吐鲁番市集中教育培训学校学员 子女问答策略

is

#### 一、我的家人在什么地方？

答：他们在政府设立的培训学校统一参加系统性的培训学习教育，他们在那里的学习、生活环境都很好，你不用担心。他们学习期间的学费免费、吃住免费，并且标准比较高，每天的伙食费在 21 元以上，甚至超过了部分学员在家的生活标准，每天有我们的干部陪着他们一同学习，提供辅导帮助，与他们吃同样的饭菜，住同样的宿舍，所以你完全不用担心他们的生活。如果你想见一见他们的话，我们可以安排你和他们进行视频会面。

#### 二、为什么我的家人要去参加学习？

答：让你家人去学习因为他们不同程度的受到了宗教极端和暴力恐怖思想的侵害影响，如果一旦受到“三股势力”、别有用心的人的煽动、挑唆、蛊惑，后果是很严重的。如果他们因为极端思想和“三股势力”的影响，做了不该做的事情，不仅会伤害到无辜群众，而且会伤害到他们自己、其他家人、亲戚朋友，甚至包括你，我想这些绝不是你想看到的。所以，为了大家的安全、为了你的家庭幸福、为了你能安心学习，必须要让他们第一时间到学校去参加集中教育学习。

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) control over Uyghurs is not only physical but also digital. East Turkistan is now under the world's most intense government surveillance. The CCP uses surveillance technology and other mass surveillance methods that they call "smart policing" as a way to repress Uyghurs in East Turkistan and closely monitor their every move.

The budget going into public security and the newest surveillance technologies have increased dramatically over the past few years. The region is blanketed with facial and number-plate recognition cameras used to track the movement and personal information of individuals. Moreover, tens of thousands of police officers have been recruited in East Turkistan, and thousands of new police stations and security checkpoints have been set up throughout the region. Special machines called "data doors" are situated at some checkpoints. These machines collect information from the mobile phones or the electronic devices of the person passing through the checkpoint without their knowledge. Uyghur people's knives and front doors are engraved with QR codes that authorities can scan with a mobile app to immediately link the house and belongings to their owners. In addition, biometric data of Uyghurs, including DNA information, blood samples, iris scans, and voice samples, is also collected by the Chinese authorities.

In the city of Kashgar, where about 85% of the population is Uyghur, about 68 billion records were drawn by the end of 2017. " In February 2019, Dutch cybersecurity researcher Victor Gevers discovered an online database run by the Chinese facial recognition company SenseNets that compiled real-time information on the movements of more than 2.5 million individuals in [East Turkistan], recording more than 6.7 million coordinates in a 24-hour period. Gevers consequently asserted that the database was used to surveil Uyghur Muslims. By comparison, at the end of 2018, about 19 million records were contained in the FBI's national instant criminal background check system.

In order to compile and analyze the enormous quantity of data on every individual collected through mass surveillance, the CCP uses a central system known as the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP). With this tool, the authorities then detect Uyghurs and ethnic minorities for "abnormal" behaviors and target them for different types of restrictions or even for detention in concentration camps. Even ordinary legal behavior detected by the IJOP, such as the use of an "unusual" amount of electricity on a particular day, for example, is being treated as suspicious by the authorities. Another example that can raise the government's suspicion is simply leaving your house through the back door instead of the front.

This mass surveillance not only affects the Uyghurs in East Turkistan but also their family and friends living abroad. Their only way of communicating is through a Chinese app called WeChat, which is also closely monitored by the Chinese government. The journal Wired explains it well: “For Uyghurs [in East Turkistan], any kind of contact from a non-Chinese phone number, though not officially illegal, can result in instant arrest. Most Uyghurs [abroad] have been deleted by their families on social media. And many wouldn’t dare try to make contact, for fear that Chinese authorities would punish their relatives. It’s just one of the ways President Xi Jinping’s government maintains a tightly controlled net of surveillance over the Uyghurs [in East Turkistan], and it has a ripple effect on Uyghurs living all over the world.”.

### **5.3 Religious and Cultural Suppression**

There is no legally accepted definition for the much-debated term "Islamophobia" on a global scale. Early definitions of Islamophobia defined it as anti-Muslim prejudice, hatred of Muslims, and unfair, stereotyped views toward Islam and its adherents, linking the faith to inferiority, backwardness, irrationality, danger, and inherent violence. However, the institutionalization and complexity of modern Islamophobia are not addressed by this concept. Similar to how simplistic interpretations of Islamophobia as an unfounded or unfair fear of Islam or Muslims fail to take into consideration the term's deeply ingrained socio-political, racial, cultural, and historical components as well as its various manifestations.



*Image taken from Codastory*

*archive*

The personal experiences of Islamophobia, institutional undercurrents, and overt legal and lived manifestations speak to the phenomena of structural violence and slow violence. These concepts will be engaged in, in turn, to help unpack and understand the ensuing Uyghur case study. Paul Farmer’s (2004)

anthropology of structural violence is particularly helpful in dissecting the entrenched symbolic, socio-cultural, and political violence experienced by the Uyghurs of northwest China at the hands of the communist government. Part and parcel of the studies on racism, slavery, and other types of systemic violence, the concept of structural violence serves to inform the “social machinery of oppression,” whereby architects of this violence engage in processes of desocialization that erase or distort history, replacing it with revisionist historical narratives. The victims of this structuring (intentional institutionalization) and structuring (constricting victims’ agency, experiences, and access to resources) are people marginalized in terms of low socio-economic status, gender inequality, or racism; the result of this pervasive aggression and social inequality includes human rights violations, displacement, war, social stigmatization, political subjugation, illness and disease, torture and injury, death (including genocide), and psychological fear.

Muslim spaces, locations, and bodies have essentially evolved into brand-new areas where this structural violence is occurring slowly. The Chinese government's treatment of this ethno-religious minority shows the dangers of what Bialasiewicz (2017, 1-2) refers to as Muslim "double over-visibility," as evidenced by the destruction of mosques (Harris 2019), regulation of outward dress associated with Islam, including the prohibition of hijabs, burqas, and niqabs for women and beards and thobes for men (The Guardian 2014; Al Jazeera 2019), and controlling the appearance of Muslimness by publicly shearing modest clothing such as loose clothes, long dresses, and tunics (DeAeth 2018). Here, Muslims emphasize their otherness in the public eye to obtain access to civic spaces that have become more and more restricted for their use. This is because Islam (and its visible markers) has been thrust into the public eye due to its perceived difference (Bialasiewicz 2017). Their rising international visibility in their battle for equality and human rights indicates this twofold over-visualization of the Uyghur people.

### 5.3.1 Culture-Cide

The Chinese government has systematically targeted the culture and identity of the Uyghur people. Cultural genocide is when a government tries to erase the culture, language, religion or identity of a particular people. In East Turkestan, the Chinese government is trying to make the Uyghur people forget their own culture and history.

An important example of this is the closure of many Uyghur schools and the teaching of children in Mandarin instead of their mother tongue. This makes it difficult for Uyghur children to learn about their own culture and history. This leads to a loss of culture and identity.

On the religious side, the Chinese government prevents Uyghurs from practising their own religion. They were forced to leave because they were victims of cultural and religious oppression in China. Uyghur Muslims point to many restrictions that prevent them from celebrating their Muslim culture and rituals. Because of the restrictions, many Uyghurs went to Pakistan and started a new life. Even though they are in a country other than China, China doesn't let them live their lives freely. China encourages Pakistani Uyghurs to return to their hometown with many offers, such as buying houses and setting up businesses. But almost no one wants to go back.

### 5.3.2 Language Prohibitions

The Chinese government has enforced policies that limit the use of Uyghur and promote Mandarin Chinese instead. For example, in schools, Uyghur-language textbooks have been replaced by those in Mandarin. Human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, have reported that Uyghur students are now mostly taught in Mandarin, making it difficult for them to learn in their native language.

Beijing's assimilation policies include banning Uyghur children from learning their language at school and forcing 900.000 Uyghur children into so-called boarding schools. These policies have a serious impact on Uyghur culture. Language is an important part of their identity, and by forcing Uyghurs to speak Mandarin, the government is trying to erase their culture. In 2020, the United Nations report highlighted that these language changes are part of a wider attempt to control the Uyghur population and weaken their sense of identity.

### ***5.4 Gender-based violence and Compulsory sterilization***

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is violence committed against a person because of his or her sex or gender. It is forcing another person to do something against his or her will through violence, coercion, threats, deception, cultural expectations, or economic means. Although the majority of victims and survivors of SGBV are girls and women, boys and men can also be harmed by SGBV.

Throughout East Turkistan's history, women have played a crucial role in shaping society, culture, music, and even politics. In 1918, International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time in East Turkistan, leading to more freedom and equality for women across the region. During the second East Turkistan Republic, numerous women held various important roles in the government and the East Turkistan National Army. With the Chinese invasion and occupation of East Turkistan, women in society became more marginalized, and China began to target Turkic women, without whom there would be no

East Turkistani nation, in a bid to eradicate the future of East Turkistani national identity. Through its policies of forced relocations, forced abortions, state-sponsored rape through forced marriages, and forced sterilization of women, China has not only caused physical injury to East Turkistani women but also deep traumatic psychological damage that has impacted the whole of our nation. Since the invasion and occupation of East Turkistan, the Chinese Communist Party has been subjecting East Turkistani women to forced abortions in a bid to control and prevent the growth of the Turkic population in the region. Between 1969 and 2009 some 3.7 million forced abortions were carried out in East Turkistan.

- In 2006, the Chinese government launched its 11th Five Year Plan, which set a policy goal to transfer 400,000 Uyghur women to Chinese provinces in eastern China. That year, some 240,000 Uyghur women from East Turkistan's Kashgar state were forcibly transferred to eastern China.
- East Turkistani women are among the most repressed, if not the most repressed, women across the world. Hundreds of thousands—if not millions – of them are locked up in concentration camps, prisons, and labor camps, where they are subjected to political and cultural indoctrination, forced starvation, forced medication, rape, torture, organ harvesting, sterilization, and even summary execution.
- Because the majority of the East Turkistani men are either in concentration camps, prisons, and labor camps, many East Turkistani women have been left to tend the fields, engage in hard labor, and have thus become vulnerable to all types of violence. Over 1.12 million Chinese officials (usually males) have been sent to live in the homes of Uyghurs & other Turkic peoples. Oftentimes, the head of household has been detained or executed. Reports have come out of the region that Turkic women are being subjected to sexual humiliation, assaults, and even rape within their very own homes.
- China's government has been putting out advertisements and even sending "recruiters" to find Chinese males from China Proper to migrate to and settle in East Turkistan, plying them with promises of "beautiful Turkic women waiting for a Chinese husband" as part of comprehensive incentivize packages to attract colonists.
- Tens of thousands of Uyghur and other Turkic women have been forcibly married to Chinese men. This is, in essence, a form of state-sponsored rape. Women who refuse to marry Chinese men are being sent to concentration camps, labor camps, and prisons.
- Many East Turkistani women have not only been torn apart from their husbands but also from their children, as part of China's policy of forced family separation in East Turkistan.

## 6. FORCED LABOR AND WORLDWIDE RAMIFICATIONS

### 6.1. Overview of Forced Labor Practices in East Turkestan

#### 6.1.1 Forced Labor and Regarding Sources

According to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), forced or compulsory labor is:

"all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily."

In East Turkestan, we witnessed all possible threats defining this norm.

In the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), the People's Republic of China (PRC) government has been committing crimes against humanity, forced labor, and genocide against Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim ethnic minority groups since 2016.

Aside from the Han majority, the PRC formally acknowledges 55 ethnic groups. In the XUAR and other parts of the country, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other primarily Muslim minority groups face prejudice and maltreatment.

Oppressive conditions must be endured by Uyghurs who are imprisoned in camps and made to labor in factories. In one Kashgar, Xinjiang, internment camp, Uyghur prisoners are compelled to work as textile production workers. They have little to no communication with family members, are not permitted to leave, and are paid very little. Visits and family communication are closely watched and may be interrupted if permitted. The Uyghur workers are required to study Mandarin and go through ideological indoctrination when they are not working. But the XUAR is not the only group that engages in these atrocities.

Similar mistreatment is experienced by Uyghur workers at a Quanzhou factory in the coastal Chinese province of Fujian, which is beyond the XUAR. They are forced to live apart from Han employees in dorms that are guarded by security cameras and an iron gate. Compared to their Han colleagues, Uyghurs frequently put in more hours at work. Provincial police officers from the XUAR, not Fujian, lead the Uyghur workers back to their dormitories at the end of the day. The purpose of the roll call,



according to the local police, is to make sure nobody is missing. Nevertheless, Uyghur employees at this facility are unable to use their right to free choice to exit the building. Their identifying materials have been seized by the local police, even if they were able to depart.

## ***6.2. Relevant Industries in Forced Labor: Textile, Agriculture, etc.***

Since 2009, Chinese products have been listed on the List of Products Made by Child Labor or Forced Labor. In the 2020 edition of the List, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) included five products made in China using forced labor by Muslim minorities. These products include textiles, thread/yarn, gloves, hair products, and tomato products. Polysilicon, another product made by Muslim minorities in China using forced labor, was added by ILAB in 2021.

ILAB included six additional products made in China using forced labor by Muslim minorities in its 2024 edition of the List of Goods. These products include aluminum, polyvinyl chloride, metallurgical grade silicon, jujubes, squid, and caustic soda. Furthermore, Chinese vehicle parts that contain aluminum made with forced labor, as well as Chinese thread/yarn, textiles, and clothing made with cotton made with forced labor, are among the items that ILAB has added to the list of commodities manufactured in the XUAR using input materials made with forced labor. Last but not least, ILAB has designated

Vietnamese-made cotton clothing as a downstream product that comprises cotton that was largely produced in the XUAR using forced labor in China.



*Image taken from The*

*Economist*

In order to identify the several industries involved in this system of forced labor,

ILAB's research analyzed media and think tank studies, as well as published victim testimony. More products made using forced labor in China are probably included in the global supply chain than those that are currently mentioned in our reports because of the extensive state-sponsored infrastructure and information control in place.

Goods Suspected of Being Made or Processed With Forced Labor The Commission has observed credible reports indicating that the following products are made at least in part using forced labor associated with the XUAR:

- Textiles, such as yarn, clothing, gloves, bedding, and carpet
- Cotton
- Electronics, including cell phones and computer hardware
- Food products, including noodles and cakes
- Shoes
- Tea
- Handicrafts

#### 6.2.1 Companies Suspected of Using Forced Labor

The following companies are suspected of directly employing forced labor or sourcing from suppliers that are suspected of using forced labor:

- Adidas
- Badger Sportswear (has since committed to stop sourcing from the XUAR)
- Calvin Klein
- Coca-Cola Company
- Costco
- H&M
- Zara
- The North Face
- Puma
- GAP

- Polo Ralph Lauren
- Nike, Inc.
- Tommy Hilfiger

Scholar Adrian Zenz warned that “Soon, many or most products made in China that rely at least in part on low-skilled, labor-intensive manufacturing, could contain elements of involuntary ethnic minority labor from Xinjiang.”

Under U.S. law, the treatment of ethnic minority groups in the XUAR qualifies as "gross human rights violations," and under international law, these heinous human rights abuses may be considered crimes against humanity and atrocities. In the XUAR, the government's larger strategy of repressing and controlling ethnic minorities includes the use of forced labor. Up to 1.8 million members of ethnic minority groups have been detained or vanished by Chinese officials in the XUAR, where they are being tortured in large-scale incarceration camps. In the area, authorities have taken children away from their families and placed them in boarding schools and orphanages.

These violations of rights occur during extensive monitoring of ethnic minorities and stringent prohibitions on XUAR residents' peaceful Islamic activities.

## **7. DIPLOMATIC AND LEGAL PATHS TO COMBAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

### ***7.1 Role of the OIC and International Community in Addressing Violations***

The depth of the human rights abuses in East Turkestan (formerly known as Xinjiang), like as torture, systematic political indoctrination, and fatalities in detention, has been exposed by journalists, scholars, and activists.

United States, European Union, and United Nations lawmakers and officials have openly urged China to stop the repression. Congressman Chris Smith and US Senator Marco Rubio have demanded that Chen Quanguo, the secretary of the Xinjiang Communist Party, be subject to sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

But in states with a majority of Muslims, civil society and governments mostly say nothing. As fellow Muslims in East Turkestan experience the systematic destruction of their religious and ethnic identities, other countries have remained silent, including Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

The silence of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which identifies itself as the “collective voice of the Muslim world,” is particularly concerning.

Let's be clear. Despite what the Chinese authorities say, the situation in East Turkestan has nothing to do with curbing Islamic extremism. The Muslim people are the target of a full-scale conflict.

The Uighurs belong to the Muslim community. Islam is deeply ingrained in our history, language, and culture. Their philosophy, writing, and music are praised as outstanding Muslim accomplishments. Why, then, are Uighurs no longer included in the Islamic community's care?

“On August 17, 2023, a delegation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) visited occupied East Turkistan in response to an invitation. The delegation, led by Ambassador Dya-Eddine Bamakhrama, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the OIC. The delegation included representatives from 25 OIC Member States, including Saudi Arabia and Mauritania, as well as officials from the OIC General Secretariat.

During the meeting, the OIC and its Member States discussed their relations with the Communist Party of China, including the situation of the Muslim in occupied East Turkistan. The delegation intends to visit East Turkistan to observe the living conditions of the local Muslim community in the region.

In reality, it's a known fact that China has been implementing genocidal policies which are concentration camps, indoctrination, total ban of practicing Islam, abortion, forced family separation, and state oppression at a genocidal level where millions are arrested and other millions are dead since the occupation in 1949.

China has been implementing its "Sinicization of Islam" policy since 2012 to restrict Islamic practices, demolish mosques, arrest Muslim Scholars, Ulemas, and thinkers, legitimize its policies against Islam, and cover up ongoing genocide in East Turkestan. Furthermore, China consistently invites delegates from Islamic countries with which it maintains good diplomatic relations and deceives them by showcasing religious activities that are normally forbidden but specifically staged for these delegations. China rationalizing its human rights violations against East Turkistan people as ‘war against terrorism’ and has actively avoided any third-party interventions into this matter under the guise of ‘non-interventionism’.

OIC’s Charter underscores its role to safeguard the interest of the ummah in the socio-economic and political spheres, which transcends the responsibility of the OIC member states. However, despite its mandate to champion the cause of the Muslim community, the OIC’s silence and mixed signals on the East Turkistan issue are concerning.

International Union of the East Turkistan Organizations (IUETO) would like to remind OIC delegation to fulfill their duty to safeguard the rights of people in East Turkistan. IUETO recommends OIC delegation to report and make a press statement about their visit in Urumqi in a truthful way, upholding the truth and justice as taught in Islam. IUETO also recommends the OIC delegation put pressure on China to stop forceful Sinicization of Islam and elimination of Muslim identity of East Turkistan.

IUETO urges Muslim scholars, Islamic organizations, movements, Muslim countries, and politicians to stand with people of East Turkistan and take action to end the ongoing genocide and Chinese colonization.” \*

\*: Taken from International Union of the East Turkestan Organizations/Statements/Press Statement on OIC High-level Delegation’s Visit to East Turkistan

## **8. MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The responses from the international community are essential when issues of conflicts, wars, genocides, and crimes against humanity occur. Their stance on the matter provides accountability and verification of the situation, which can aid in protecting more lives and upholding everyone’s human rights.

### ***8.1 United Nations***

Michelle Bachelet, the previous UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, published the UN Human Rights report in August 2022, which included proof of China's atrocities against Uyghurs. Based on evidence of mass arbitrary detention, torture, and sexual violence in camps; mass surveillance; forced labor programs; sterilization of Uyghur women; forced suppression of birth rates and population growth; family separation; child separation from parents; and retaliation against international activists, they concluded that China's crimes against the Uyghurs amount to international crimes, including crimes against humanity.

The Australian Senate, the Canadian House of Commons, the Czech Republic, the French Parliament, the Lithuanian Parliament, the Netherlands Parliament, the Taiwanese Legislative Yuan, the US State Department, and the UK House of Commons have all confirmed these crimes, in addition to the UN. The Belgian Foreign Relations Committee, the Italian Parliament, and the Holocaust Museum report have classified them as crimes against humanity.

## ***8.2 The European Union***

An emergency resolution denouncing the Chinese government's persecution of Uyghurs and calling on China to quickly and unconditionally free inmates, notably Uyghur economists Gulshan Abbas and Ilham Tohti, was voted by the European Parliament with overwhelming support. The international community's general concern about the state of human rights in Xinjiang is the driving force behind the resolution.

China's "repression and targeting of Uyghurs with abusive policies, including intense surveillance, forced labor, sterilization, birth prevention measures, and the destruction of Uyghur identity, which amount to crimes against humanity and a serious risk of genocide" is strongly condemned in the resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 540 in favor, 23 against, and 47 abstentions.

## ***8.3 Role of the Countries***

### *Turkey*

Although Turkey and China are geographically distant, China holds a unique place in Turkish politics due to Turkey's large Uyghur diaspora. Since the 1950s, Turkey has offered refuge to Uyghur emigrants, and tensions peaked in 2009 when the Turkish government condemned the Urumqi riots as "genocide." In the 2010s, Turkish society was very aware of the Uyghur issue, with public protests occurring after reports of religious restrictions in Xinjiang.

However, post-2015, Turkey adopted a more pro-Beijing stance, reducing its support for Uyghur activism, partly driven by economic factors like the 2018 lira crisis. This shift marked a new phase in Turkey-China relations, where economic and political cooperation expanded. Turkey's increasingly centralized governance approach also aligned with China's preference for direct, party-level interactions.

Turkey's media control has led to censorship of Uyghur issues across outlets. The 2017 extradition agreement with China, though not ratified, heightened deportation fears among Uyghur refugees. Efforts by opposition groups to pass a 2019 motion to investigate Uyghur oppression were blocked by the government, with some critics viewing Turkey's China ties as a compromise on Uyghur rights. China's economic support has also sparked opposition arguments favoring Western-backed institutions over China's.

## *China*

The Chinese government uses the threat posed by what it refers to as "the three evil forces"—extremism, terrorism, and separatism—to defend its policies in Xinjiang. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) cannot accept any culture that impedes complete obedience to the state, as this propagandistic discourse aims to conceal. For this reason, it has long been antagonistic toward the Uyghurs, an ethnoreligious group that speaks a Turkic language akin to Turkish or Uzbek and adheres to a moderate form of Sunni Islam. The Uyghurs' distinctive culture, ethnic pride, and lively religious traditions are viewed by the CCP as indicators of disloyalty, potential causes of future upheaval, and dangers to national unity.

## *Middle Eastern Countries*

An Arab League delegation's visit to Xinjiang is being utilized by China to emphasize its alleged support for its regional policies. However, experts claim that the praise Beijing has apparently received from officials and diplomats who participated in the trip is really "Chinese propaganda" and an effort to hide human rights abuses in that country.

"During their trip, the delegation traveled to Urumqi and Kashgar, where they visited mosques, Islamic institutes, local enterprises, old towns and an exhibition on counterterrorism and de-radicalization, performed prayers in mosques with the locals and got a firsthand experience of their happy life," Wang said at a press briefing in Beijing.

"Arab countries have commended the care that Muslims in Xinjiang and people of other ethnic minority groups have received and expressed their firm support for China's effort to promote Xinjiang's development and ensure its stability."

Media outlets in Muslim nations are also influenced by China, which puts pressure on them to support its viewpoint. Networks in the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia have been transformed into Chinese propaganda tools by financial incentives. China-centric content is also spread through partnerships between Chinese and Middle Eastern media, such as the one between China Intercontinental Communication China (CICC) and Image Nation in the United Arab Emirates. As seen by Chinese Consul General Tan Banglin's defense in Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Wang Yi's interview in a Saudi state-run newspaper, and Consul General Zhao Lying's remarks in Egypt, Chinese officials purposefully exploit media appearances to deflect criticism.

## 9. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

- 1-) What is the definition of what is happening in East Turkestan and what it should be?
- 2-) What steps can be taken to protect the Uyghur cultural and historical heritage in East Turkestan?
- 3-) How can the international community effectively address the Uyghur concentration camps?
- 4-) How can the OIC document and challenge the erasure of Uyghur culture effectively?
- 5-) What diplomatic actions can the OIC recommend to address the existence of Uyghur detention camps?
- 6-) What can OIC do to prevent gender-based violence against Uyghur women?
- 7-) What is the definition and effect of Uyghur forced labor according to the OIC countries and organization?
- 7-) How can OIC countries prevent forced labor in Uyghur-populated industries from infiltrating global supply chains?
- 8-) How can members of the OIC encourage businesses to source goods that might be associated with forced labor in an ethical manner?
- 9-) How might OIC members encourage countries to adopt a more humane and fair approach towards East Turkestan?
- 10-) How can the OIC work with the EU, UN, and other entities to create stronger legal paths against human rights violations targeting Uyghurs?



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