



## **U.N. MAY VISIT EAST TURKISTAN**



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
شەرقىي تۈركىستان ئاخبارات ۋە مەدەنىيەت جەمئىيىتى





## FRENCH LAWMAKERS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISE CHINA'S TREATMENT OF UYGHURS AS 'GENOCIDE'

France's parliament on Thursday denounced a "genocide" by China against its Uyghur Muslim population, in a resolution that risks straining ties between Paris and Beijing two weeks before the Winter Olympics.

**“The non-binding resolution, adopted with 169 votes in favour and just one against, was proposed by the opposition Socialists in the lower house of parliament but also backed by President Emmanuel Macron's Republic on the Move (LREM) party.**

It reads that the National Assembly "officially recognises the violence perpetrated by the People's Republic of China against the Uyghurs as constituting crimes against humanity and genocide".

It also calls on the French government to undertake "the necessary measures within the international community and in its

foreign policy towards the People's Republic of China" to protect the minority group in the Xinjiang region.

"China is a great power. We love the Chinese people. But we refuse to submit to propaganda from a regime that is banking on our cowardice and our avarice to perpetrate a genocide in plain sight," Socialist party chief Olivier Faure said.

He recounted testimony to parliament from Uyghur survivors who told of conditions inside internment camps where men and women were unable to lie down in cells, subjected to rape and torture, as well as forced organ transplants.

French MPs were also called to applaud Uyghurs refugees who had been invited to observe the parliamentary session.

The resolution follows a similar move in Britain in April last year which led to condemnation from China.





The Netherlands and Canadian parliaments both called Chinese treatment of the Uyghurs “genocide” in February 2021, while the US government also called it genocide under former president Donald Trump.

United States, Britain, Australia and Canada have announced diplomatic boycotts of the Beijing Winter Olympics, which start on February 4.

China denies genocide or the existence of forced labour camps in Xinjiang and has accused Uyghurs testifying overseas about conditions inside the northwestern region of being paid liars.

The French parliamentary resolution comes at a time when the European Union is weighing how to respond to a Chinese blockade of Lithuania’s exports, as well as Beijing’s crushing of democratic freedoms in Hong Kong.

## China ties

French President Emmanuel Macron, who has sought to avoid being dragged into increasingly confrontational ties between China and the United States, was asked about the Uyghurs during an appearance before the European parliament on Wednesday.

“You were right to remind us of massacres, massive deportations and forced labour,” he told campaigning MEP Raphael Glucksmann.

“France raises this in a very clear fashion in all of our bilateral talks (with Beijing).”

He said he was in favour of an EU regulation that would “ban the import of goods that result from forced labour.”

Speaking in parliament on Thursday to represent the government, Trade Minister Franck Riester referred to “systematic violence” and “overwhelming testimonies” from Uyghurs, but said that terming their treatment genocide was a formal decision taken by international institutions.

Beijing has turned down repeated requests from the UN High Commission for Human Rights to visit the region to investigate.

Human rights groups say they have found evidence of mass detentions, forced labour, political indoctrination, torture and forced sterilisation in Xinjiang.

After initially denying the existence of the Xinjiang camps, China later defended them as vocational training centres aimed at reducing the appeal of Islamic extremism.

The United States has slapped sanctions on a growing list of Chinese politicians and companies over the treatment of the Uyghurs, leading to tit-for-tat measures from Beijing.

China has also sanctioned European, British and US lawmakers, as well as academics who study Xinjiang and a London law firm.

The only French MP to vote against Thursday’s resolution was Buon Tan from Macron’s LREM, the chairman of a Franco-Chinese “friendship group”.

*Text by NEWS WIRES*



## TURKISH, CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO UYGHUR TURKS

**Turkiye's foreign minister Cavusoglu says his country conveyed views, expectations, sensitivities regarding issues on agenda**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Wednesday and addressed the situation of Uyghur Turks.

“Discussed our bilateral relations and regional issues with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China,” said Cavusoglu on Twitter.

Saying they have “evaluated economic cooperation opportunities,” the minister also conveyed Türkiye’s “views, expectations and sensitivities regarding the issues on our agenda, especially the Uyghur Turks.”

Turkiye and the People’s Republic of China established diplomatic relations in August 1971.

Recognizing China’s right to fight terrorism, Ankara has urged Beijing to draw a fine line between terrorists and innocent people.

Turkiye also reinstates that the Chi-





nese authorities are expected to respect universal human rights, including the religious freedom of Uyghur Turks and other Muslim groups.

In recent years, violations of the identity and culture of Uyghur Turks in China have been criticized on the international front.

**“ A 2018 Human Rights Watch report detailed a Chinese government campaign of “mass arbitrary detention, torture, forced political indoctrination, and mass surveillance of Xinjiang’s Muslims.”**

China, however, has repeatedly denied allegations that it is operating detention camps in its northwestern autonomous region, claiming instead that they are “re-educating” Uyghurs.



Bilateral, economic, and political relations between the two countries gained momentum in the 1980s. From the last decade onwards, the relations grew into a strategic cooperation level.

The trade volume between the two countries stood at around \$24 billion as of 2020, primarily driven by the expanding export volume of Turkish agricultural and husbandry goods to China.

*By Merve Gül Aydoğın Ađlarcı*





## UYGHURS IN TURKEY CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS

Protesters accuse the Chinese state of committing genocide and torture against the Muslim Uyghur minority.

**Dozens of demonstrators from China's Uyghur Muslim ethnic group have protested in Istanbul, calling for a boycott of next month's Winter Olympics in Beijing over China's treatment of the minority.**

The protesters gathered outside the city's Turkish Olympic Committee building on Sunday, waving the blue-and-white flags of the independence movement of East Turkistan, a group Beijing says threatens the stability of its far western region of Xinjiang.

"China, stop the genocide; China, close the camps," chanted the demonstrators, some holding up a banner reading "Stop Genocide Olympics".

"China does not have the right to host the

Olympics while committing all the torture, cruelty and genocide against Uyghurs," said Uyghur housewife Munevver Ozu-ygur, who said she had relatives in camps in China.

United Nations experts and rights groups estimate more than a million people, mainly from the Uyghur and other Muslim minorities, have been detained in recent years in camps in Xinjiang.

Beijing denies genocide or the existence of forced labour camps in Xinjiang and has accused Uyghurs testifying overseas about conditions inside the northwestern region of being paid liars.

After initially denying the existence of the Xinjiang camps altogether, China later defended them as vocational training centres aimed at reducing the appeal of "extremism".

The United States and many of its allies, including the United Kingdom, Canada,



Australia, Japan and Denmark, have said they will not send official diplomatic delegations to the games in protest against China's rights record. The Winter Olympics begins on February 4.

The US has slapped sanctions on a growing list of Chinese politicians and companies over the treatment of the Uyghurs, leading to tit-for-tat measures from Beijing.

China has sanctioned European, British and US legislators, as well as academics who study Xinjiang and a London law firm.

'Deceiving people'

Some 50,000 Uyghurs, with whom Turks share ethnic, religious and linguistic connections, are believed to reside in Turkey, the largest Uyghur diaspora outside Central Asia.

Last month, 19 Uyghurs filed a criminal complaint with a Turkish prosecutor

against Chinese officials, accusing them of committing genocide, torture, rape and crimes against humanity.

Uyghurs living in Turkey have criticised Ankara's approach to China.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said this month he conveyed Turkey's "views, expectations and sensitivities" over the Uyghurs to his Chinese counterpart during talks in Beijing.

"The world, Turkic countries and Islamic countries need to wake up. China is committing genocide right now," said protester Abdurrahman Taymaz.

"They are deceiving people. We want these Olympic Games to be boycotted as soon as possible."

*SOURCE: NEWS AGENCIES*





## **BILLIONAIRE INVESTOR CHAMATH PALIHAPITIYA SAYS ‘NOBODY CARES’ ABOUT UYGHUR GENOCIDE IN CHINA**

- Billionaire investor Chamath Palihapitiya said during a recent podcast episode that “nobody cares” about the ongoing human rights abuses against the Uyghurs in China.
- The abuse of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities in the region has been described as “widespread, state-sponsored forced labor” and “mass detention.”
- Palihapitiya went on to say that he cared about supply chain issues, climate change, America’s crippled healthcare system as well as the potential economic fallout of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.
- “Of all the things that I care about, it is below my line,” Palihapitiya said of the Uyghurs’ plight.

WASHINGTON – Billionaire investor Chamath Palihapitiya triggered a backlash on social media after saying during a recent episode of his podcast that “nobody cares” about the ongoing human rights abuses against the Uyghurs in China.

During a 90-minute episode, Palihapitiya

told co-host Jason Calacanis on their “All-In” podcast that he would be lying if he said that he cared about the Uyghurs, an ethnic Muslim minority in China’s north-west region of Xinjiang.

“Every time I say that I care about the Uyghurs, I’m really just lying if I don’t really



care. And so, I'd rather not lie to you and tell you the truth, it's not a priority for me," said Palihapitiya, a venture capitalist who reports say owns as much as 10% of the NBA team the Golden State Warriors. However, an NBA source familiar says Palihapitiya owns around 2%. Palihapitiya did not immediately respond to CNBC's request for comment on the investment discrepancy.

The team wrote in a statement on Twitter Monday that Palihapitiya "does not speak on behalf of our franchise, and his views certainly don't reflect those of our organization." The Golden State Warriors' statement did not mention the Uyghurs or China.

Calacanis and Palihapitiya began talking about the Uyghurs when Calacanis praised President Joe Biden's foreign policy approach to China.

The Biden administration has described the abuse of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities in the region as "widespread, state-sponsored forced labor" and "mass detention." The Biden administration has also warned businesses

with supply chain and investment ties to Xinjiang that they could face legal consequences.

**In July, that warning manifested as a joint advisory from the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Homeland Security and Labor, along with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The most-pointed line from the Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory states that "businesses and individuals that do not exit supply chains, ventures, and/or investments connected to Xinjiang could run a high risk of violating U.S. law."**

The Chinese government has previously denied any wrongdoing or human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

About 15 minutes into the podcast, Calacanis pointed to the Biden administration's steps to curb and address China's sweeping human rights abuses when the following conversation ensued:





**Calacanis:** His [President Biden’s] China policy, the fact that he came out with a statement on the Uyghurs, I thought it was very strong.

You know, it’s one of the stronger things he did, but it’s not coming up in the polls.

**Palihapitiya:** Let’s be honest, nobody, nobody cares about what’s happening to the Uyghurs, okay? You bring it up because you really care. And I think that’s really nice that you care but ...

**Calacanis:** What? What do you mean nobody cares?

**Palihapitiya:** The rest of us don’t care. I’m just telling you a very hard truth.

**Calacanis:** Wait, you personally don’t care?

**Palihapitiya:** I’m telling you a very hard truth, okay? Of all the things that I care about. Yes, it is below my line. Okay, of all the things that I care about it is below my line.

**Calacanis:** Disappointing.

Palihapitiya went on to say that he cared

about supply chain issues, climate change, America’s crippled health-care system as well as the potential economic fallout of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

He later clarified his remarks in a Monday evening tweet, saying he recognizes that he came across as “lacking empathy.”

“As a refugee, my family fled a country with its own set of human rights issues so this is something that is very much a part of my lived experience,” said Palihapitiya, who was born in Sri Lanka. “To be clear, my belief is that human rights matter, whether in China, the United States, or elsewhere. Full stop.”

Last month, the White House announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, citing “ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights abuses.”

Governments, civil society groups and United Nations officials have previously expressed concern over Beijing’s harsh measures of repressing those who criticize the Chinese Communist Party.

*By Amanda Macias*





## UYGHURS IN TURKEY FILE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST CHINESE OFFICIALS

ISTANBUL, Jan 4 (Reuters) - Nineteen people from China's Uyghur Muslim ethnic group filed a criminal complaint with a Turkish prosecutor on Tuesday against Chinese officials, accusing them of committing genocide, torture, rape and crimes against humanity.

Lawyer Gulden Sonmez said it was necessary because international bodies had not acted against Chinese authorities, who have been accused of facilitating forced labour by detaining around a million Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim minorities in camps since 2016.

China initially denied the camps existed, but has since said they are vocational centres and are designed to combat extremism. It denies all accusations of abuse.

About 50,000 Uyghurs - with whom Turks share ethnic, religious and linguistic connections - are believed to reside in Tur-

key, the largest Uyghur diaspora outside Central Asia.

The complaint was filed with the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office.

China's embassy in Turkey and the prosecutor's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"The international criminal court should have already started this trial, but China is a member of the (United Nations) Security Council and it does not seem possible within this dynamic," Sonmez said outside the city's main courthouse.

Surrounding the lawyer were more than 50 people holding photos of missing family members and signs calling for the prosecution of Chinese officials. Some waved the blue-and-white flags of the independence movement of East Turkistan, a group Beijing says threatens the stabili-

ty of its far western region of Xinjiang.

The complaint relates to 116 people who the complainants say are still detained in China and was filed against 112 people, including members of the Chinese Communist Party, directors and officers at labour camps.

“Turkish legislation recognises universal jurisdiction. Torture, genocide, rape (and) crimes against humanity can be prosecuted in Turkish courts and criminals can be tried,” Sonmez said.

### ‘RESCUE MY SISTER’

Medine Nazimi, one of those who filed the criminal complaint, said her sister had been taken away in 2017 and she had not been heard from since.

“My sister and I are Turkish citizens so I want my government to rescue my sister,” Nazimi said.

Some of the Uyghurs living in Turkey have criticised Ankara’s approach to China af-

ter the two nations agreed an extradition treaty. Turkey’s foreign minister said in March the deal was similar to those Ankara has with other states and denied it would lead to Uyghurs being sent back to China. [read more](#)

Some Turkish opposition leaders have accused the government of overlooking Uyghur rights in favour of other interests with China, which the government denies.

President Tayyip Erdogan told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in July that it was important to Turkey that Uyghur Muslims lived in peace as “equal citizens of China”, but said Turkey respected China’s national sovereignty. [read more](#)

U.N. experts and rights groups estimate more than a million people, mainly from the Uyghur and other Muslim minorities, have been detained in recent years in camps in Xinjiang.

*By Mehmet Emin Caliskan*







## U.S. LAWMAKERS CALL FOR U.N. UYGHUR RIGHTS REPORT BEFORE CHINA'S OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON, Jan 18 (Reuters) - U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday urged the United Nations' human rights office to release its assessment of China's policies in Xinjiang before next month's Beijing Winter Olympics, which the U.S. government is boycotting on a diplomatic level over what it says is ongoing genocide in the region.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has lamented that her office has been unable to gain access to the western Chinese region to probe allegations of rights abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minority groups.

Her office said in December that it was finalizing a report on the situation in Xinjiang that it hoped to publish in the coming weeks after long-running talks with Chinese officials on a proposed visit had yielded no progress. [read more](#)

Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative James McGovern, two Democrats who respectively chair and co-chair the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, wrote a public letter to Bachelet

asking her to issue the report before the "international spectacle" of the Beijing Games begins on Feb. 4.

"Its publication would send an important reminder that no country can evade international scrutiny for engaging in serious human rights abuses," Merkley and McGovern said.

Bachelet's office did not respond immediately to a Reuters question asking when the report would be released.

Bachelet had been negotiating the terms of a Xinjiang visit since September 2018, as allegations were emerging that some one million Uyghurs had been held in mass detention camps.

China denies wrongdoing in Xinjiang, and says the camps are for vocational training and to stem religious extremism.

The United States and many of its allies, including Britain, Canada, Australia, Japan and Denmark, have said they will not send official diplomatic delegations to the Games in protest of China's rights record.



## TESLA'S EXPANSION IN XINJIANG 'SETS A POOR EXAMPLE', SAY US LAWMAKERS

**Elon Musk last month announced opening of new showroom in region at heart of China's years-long campaign of repression against Uyghur people**

The chairmen of two congressional panels on oversight and trade have assailed Tesla's expansion in China's far-western Xinjiang region, where mass internment camps have drawn heavy criticism, and asked the electric carmaker about its Chinese product sourcing.

"Your misguided expansion into the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region sets a poor example and further empowers the CCP [Chinese government] at a fraught moment," Democrats Bill Pascrell and Earl Blumenauer, who head two House

of Representatives ways and means subcommittees, wrote in a joint letter to Tesla chief executive Elon Musk.

Tesla made a New Year's Eve announcement that it opened a showroom in Xinjiang, becoming the latest foreign business caught up in tensions related to the region.

"On the last day of 2021, we meet in Xinjiang. In 2022 let us together launch Xinjiang on its electric journey!" a Weibo post announcement on 31 December read.





bound for Europe and other markets.

US president Joe Biden and other lawmakers have stepped up pressure on companies to distance themselves from Xinjiang. Biden signed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act on 23 December barring imports of goods made in the region. The two lawmakers said the questions to Musk were in part to “better understand Tesla’s compliance” with the new law and other US trade regulations.

Xinjiang has become a significant point of conflict between western governments and China in recent years. UN experts and rights groups estimate that more than 1 million people, mainly Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities, have been detained in camps there.

“We are dismayed that Tesla has reportedly opened a showroom in the province that is at the heart of China’s Uyghur detainment in camps and forced labor in factories,” Pascrell and Blumenthal write in the letter dated 19 January.

The chairmen asked Musk whether Tesla sources any goods made or manufactured in Xinjiang and, if so, to identify them. They also asked whether Tesla had any financial relationships with companies connected to Xinjiang and whether Tesla planned to expand into other regions in China.

The company operates a factory in Shanghai, where it is ramping up production amid surging sales in China. China has also become an export hub for Teslas

## The US has labeled China’s treatment of ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang as genocide, enacting a range of sanctions and regulatory measures against Beijing, including restrictions on US business dealings with local operators and suppliers.

The US government also intends to conduct a diplomatic boycott of the coming Beijing Winter Olympics.

China has rejected all accusations of human rights abuses or forced labour and says its policies are part of anti-terrorism efforts and poverty alleviation programs.

The Chinese embassy in Washington and Tesla did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

*By Reuters*



## GLOBAL IMAMS URGE MUSLIMS TO BOYCOTT BEIJING OLYMPICS

Islamic leaders of all denominations have told Muslims not to attend or participate in the games over China's ongoing oppression, torture and sexual abuse of Muslims in Xinjiang.

In solidarity with China's oppressed Uyghur Muslim population, the Global Imams Council has called on Muslims around the world to refrain from participating in or attending the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The event "directly serves the interests of the tyrannical and despotic regime responsible for the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Uyghurs", the Muslim religious leaders said in a December 30 statement.

"The Chinese government continues to violate Chinese Muslims' basic human and fundamental rights through oppression, torture and dictatorship," it said.

"We stand in support of, and united with, the oppressed Uyghur Muslims."

The Global Imams Council is the world's first and largest transnational non-governmental body of Muslim faith leaders from all Islamic denominations and schools of thought, according to its website. It is based in Baghdad.

Beijing has been committing a litany of violations in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, which has a majority Muslim population, according to numerous media and NGO reports that have sparked global outrage.

More than a million people, most of them Uyghurs, have been arbitrarily detained in "political re-education" camps in Xinjiang.

Independent investigations and interviews with former camp inmates have brought to light physical and mental tor-



ture, brainwashing, systematic rape and sexual abuse inside the camps, which effectively serve as prisons.

Additionally, Chinese authorities have used various pretexts to damage or destroy two-thirds of the region's mosques and other sacred Islamic sites, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a detailed report in April.

The Beijing Olympics are set to kick off February 4 and will continue through February 20.

### Call to 'end genocide'

The council's move comes after the United States, United Kingdom and Australia last year announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

Washington, which has described Beijing's measures against Uyghurs as genocide, has ramped up sanctions against China.

President Joe Biden on December 23

signed into law a bill that bans imports from Xinjiang in response to concerns over forced labour.

The Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act bans the import of all goods from the Chinese region unless companies offer verifiable proof that production did not involve forced labour.

**“Xinjiang is one of the world's major producers of cotton, which has been singled out for high priority enforcement action, along with tomatoes and polysilicon, a material used to produce solar panels.”**

An estimated 20% of garments imported by the United States each year include some cotton from Xinjiang.

The law gives the government “new tools to prevent goods made with forced labor in Xinjiang from entering US markets”, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

It will “further promote accountability for persons and entities responsible for these abuses”, he added, calling on the Chinese regime to end “genocide and crimes against humanity”.

The law also requires the US president to impose sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for human rights abuses in the region.

*By al-Mashareq*

GICS192021



30<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### GIC STATEMENT ON THE 2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

And never think that God is unaware of what the oppressors do.  
-The Holy Quran 1442

The Global Imams Council is the world's first and largest transnational non-governmental body of Muslim faith leaders from all Islamic denominations and schools of thought. We stand in support of, and united with, the oppressed Uyghur Muslims. The Chinese Government continues to violate Chinese Muslims' basic human and fundamental rights through oppression, torture, and dictatorship.

By the authority bestowed upon this Council by the Holy Islamic Seminary of Najaf and the Eminent Muftis of the Islamic World, the Global Imams Council rules that participation and attendance in the Beijing 2022 Olympics are prohibited. This event directly serves the interests of a tyrannical and oppressive regime that is responsible for the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Uyghurs. We applaud the growing number of organizations boycotting the Beijing 2022 Olympics and reaffirm our solidarity with the World Uyghur Congress. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the many faith leaders and religious organizations that have expressed their support to Muslims during their calamities.

Cc: Their Excellencies:

- Imam Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar;
- Imam Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam, Grand Mufti of Egypt;
- Imam Sheikh Abubakar Ahmad, Grand Mufti of India;
- Imam Rawil Gaynutdin, Grand Mufti of Russia;
- Imam Husain Kavazovic, Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Imam Ahmed bin Humad al-Khalifi, Grand Imam of the Sultanate of Oman;
- Imam Allahshukur Hummat Pashazade, Sheikh ul-Islam and Grand Mufti of the Caucasus;
- Mr. Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress.



The Global Imams Council  
المجلس الإسلامي العالمي لعمامة الدين

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## UYGHURS DETAINED IN SAUDI ARABIA FEAR DEPORTATION TO CHINA: REPORT

Washington: Two Uyghur men, detained in Saudi Arabia, face the prospect of being sent back to China while a human rights organization is working to stop that possibility, a media report said.

We urge Saudi Arabia to refrain from “imminent” deportation of two Uyghur men held “arbitrarily” in the country, said Human Rights Watch’s (HRW) the the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Division deputy director, Adam Coogle, according to Voice of America (VOA).

“If Saudi Arabia deports these men, it is likely upon a request from China — unfortunately, Saudi Arabia has no asylum system nor is there any way for these men to legally challenge their deportations,” VOA quoted Coogle as saying in an email.

Emphasising that Saudi Arabia has “frequently and flagrantly violated” the human rights principle of nonrefoulement, the officials said nonrefoulement is the idea that countries should not return refugees to a place where they face a well-founded fear of persecution or torture.

In Saudi Arabia’s Jeddah, the two Uyghur men have been held in al-Dhahban prison since November 2020.

Following this case, some of the Uyghurs believe that one of the Uyghur men detained by Saudi police, 53-year-old Hemdullah Abduweli, also known as Aimidoula Waili on his Chinese passport, was taken into custody at the request of the Chinese embassy in Saudi Arabia to be deported to China, according to VOA.

Abduweli’s daughter Nuriman Hemdullah in Istanbul said that Uyghurs believe that it happened after Abduweli condemned China for its persecution of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region to other Uyghurs in his community.

The West including the US and other countries condemn Beijing’s treatment of Uyghurs and human rights groups have termed their treatment as genocide and crimes against humanity. They accuse Beijing of putting more than 1 million of the Turkic Muslim group in internment camps in China’s Xinjiang region.

*Posted by Neha*





## U.N. MAY VISIT CHINESE REGION SHROUDED BY RIGHTS ACCUSATIONS

■ **U.N. rights chief has long sought access to Chinese region**

■ **Rights groups allege gross abuses against Uyghur ethnic group**

■ **Beijing accuses West of smear campaign over Xinjiang**

■ **Accusations cast shadow over Winter Olympics starting soon**

GENEVA/BEIJING, Jan 28 (Reuters) - The United Nations' human rights chief is talking with China for a potentially imminent trip to Xinjiang region, her office said on Friday, in what could provide rare close-up foreign scrutiny of accusations of abuses against ethnic Uyghurs.

Michelle Bachelet has long sought access

to investigate an issue that has soured relations between Beijing and the West, bringing genocide accusations from Washington and a diplomatic boycott of the upcoming Winter Games.

China has denounced an international smear campaign.

Bachelet's office in Geneva said conversations were underway for a possible trip to the area in northwest China in the first half of the year. The South China Morning Post reported that a visit had been agreed for after the Feb. 4-20 Olympics.

"The parameters of that visit are still very much under discussion," Bachelet's spokesperson Rupert Colville told a U.N. briefing, adding that she would need access to civil society actors and high-level engagement from the government.



China has held some visits for journalists and diplomats in recent years, albeit in tightly-controlled conditions.

Rights groups accuse China of widescale abuses against Uyghurs and other minority groups, including torture, forced labour and detention of 1 million people in internment camps.

China calls them re-education and training facilities, denies abuses, and says it is combatting religious extremism.

### ‘CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY’?

Citing unidentified sources, The Morning Post said approval for Bachelet’s visit was granted on condition it be “friendly” and not framed as an investigation, with no ensuing report.

Colville said the proposed trip was separate from a pending U.N. report on Xinjiang. “I can assure you they (our team) will be fending off any untoward approaches,” he added.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, said Bachelet had been invit-

ed to visit a long time ago for the purpose of exchange and cooperation, and added that China opposed any “political manipulation” of a trip.

With the U.N. Human Rights Council’s five-week session set to start on Feb. 28, activists and diplomats say the window is closing for Bachelet to publish the report. It is thought to be based so far on research and in-

terviews with alleged victims and witnesses inside and outside of both Xinjiang and China.

U.S. lawmakers had wanted it released before the Olympics and activists are frustrated at the delay.

**“No one, especially the world’s leading human rights diplomat, should be fooled by the Chinese government’s efforts to distract attention away from its crimes against humanity targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities,” said Sophie Richardson, China director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, last week.**

*By Stephanie Nebehay and Gabriel Crossley*





## DENMARK TO JOIN DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF BEIJING OLYMPICS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS

**COPENHAGEN, Jan 14 (Reuters) - Denmark will not send an official diplomatic delegation to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics due to human rights issues in the host country, Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod said on Friday.**

“It is no secret that we from the Danish side are very concerned about the human rights situation in China,” Kofod said. “The government has decided that we will not attend the Winter Olympics in China.”

The decision comes after EU countries failed to agree a common stance at a meeting in Brest this week.

A U.S. boycott to protest against China’s human rights record has been joined by Australia, Britain, Canada and Japan.

The Netherlands will also not send an official diplomatic delegation to the Olympics because of COVID-19 restrictions, a foreign ministry spokesperson said earlier on Friday. [read more](#)

China denies rights abuses and has condemned the boycott as betraying Olympic principles.

*Reporting by Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen*



## CHINA POLICE TRACKING CRITICS ON TWITTER & FB, DOCUMENTS SHOW

NEW YORK: When Jennifer Chen travelled back to her hometown in China last winter for Lunar New Year, she thought little about Twitter. She had around 100 followers on an account she believed to be anonymous.

**“While living in China, she retweeted news and videos, and occasionally made comments censored on Chinese platforms, like voicing her support for Hong Kong’s protesters and her solidarity with minorities who have been interned. It wasn’t much, but it was enough for the authorities to go after her. The police knocked on her parents’ door and summoned her to the station, questioned her and then com-**

**manded her to delete her Twitter posts and account. They continued to track her when she went overseas to study, calling her and her mother to ask if Chen had recently visited any human rights websites.**

The Chinese government, which has built an extensive digital infrastructure and security apparatus to control dissent on its own platforms, is going to even greater lengths to extend its internet dragnet to unmask and silence those who criticise the country on Twitter, Facebook and other international social media. These new investigations, targeting sites blocked inside China, are relying on sophisticated technological methods to expand the reach of Chinese authorities and the list of targets, according to a NYT examination



of government procurement documents and legal records, as well as interviews with one government contractor and six people pressured by the police. To hunt people, security forces use advanced investigation software, public records and databases to find all their personal information and international social media presence. The operations sometimes target those living beyond China's borders. Police officers are pursuing dissidents and minor critics like Chen, as well as Chinese people living overseas and even citizens of other nations. A Washington Post report said the state media software programme mines Twitter and Facebook to create a database of foreign journalists and academics, and also analyses Western content on Hong Kong, Taiwan and Uyghurs. According to the report, a unit reporting to China's central propaganda department was once tasked with producing a data report on how negative content relating to Beijing's senior leadership is spread on Twitter, including profiles of academics, politicians, and journalists.

**The new tactics raise questions about the spread of powerful investigative software and bustling data markets that can make it easy to track even the most cautious social media user on international platforms. US regulators have repeatedly blocked Chinese deals to acquire US technology companies over the access they provide to personal data. They have done much less to control the widespread availability of on-line services that offer location data, social media records and personal details.**

*By New York Times*





## CHINA NAMES FORMER PARAMILITARY CHIEF AS HK GARRISON COMMANDER

Peng Jingtang will take up the position in Hong Kong after a stint as the deputy chief of staff at the People's Armed Police.

China has appointed a former paramilitary chief, Peng Jingtang, as the new commander of the People Liberation Army's (PLA) garrison in Hong Kong, state broadcaster CCTV reported late on Sunday citing the PLA spokesman.

Peng, who holds the rank of major general, was previously the deputy chief of staff



of China's paramilitary police force, the People's Armed Police. His appointment was signed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, CCTV said.

**“According to the party-run Global Times, a nationalist tabloid, Peng was previously also chief of staff of the Armed Police Force in Xinjiang, where the United Nations, the United States and others say China has detained at least one million people from the Uyghur ethnic minority. China denies any abuses in the far western region and says the camps are skills training centres and necessary to counter “ex-**



**remism”**

**The PLA maintains a garrison in Hong Kong, but has kept a low profile.**

CCTV quoted Peng as saying that he would work with all members of the garrison to follow the command of the ruling Communist Party and Xi, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and security interests. Under the territory’s mini-constitution, the Basic Law, defence and foreign affairs are managed by Communist Party leaders in Beijing.

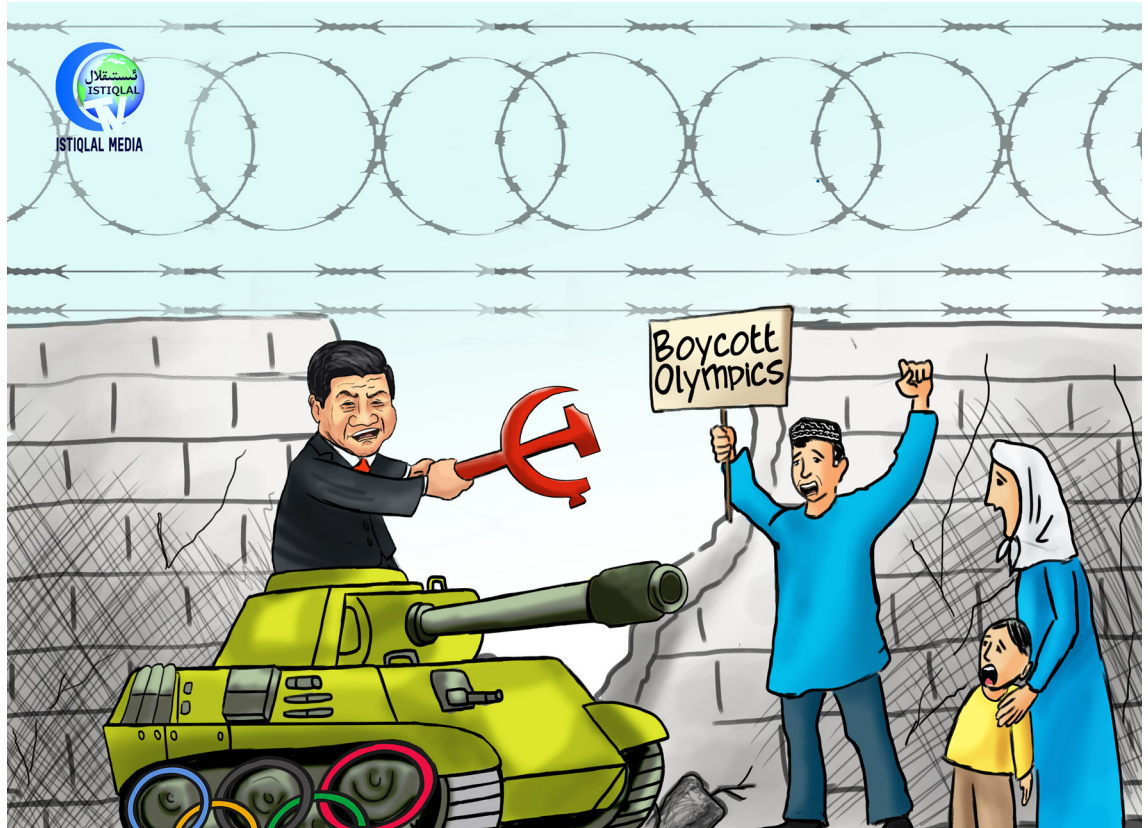
Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule in 1997 with Beijing promising that it would respect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the territory – and unknown on the mainland – for at least 50 years.

Critics say China has failed to

keep that pledge, noting that freedoms have been eroded, particularly since the imposition of the national security law in June 2020, following pro-democracy protests the previous year that sometimes turned violent.

Dozens of elected politicians and activists have been arrested since the law came into force while others have fled into exile. Beijing has also moved to overhaul Hong Kong’s electoral system in a move it said was necessary to ensure only “patriots”





**The Chinese regime, which is committing genocide in East Turkistan, is trying to suppress voices of criticism against the Beijing Winter Olympics.**



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

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