

THE 12th WORLD EAST TURKISTAN BROTHERHOOD MEETING AND THE 3rd EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL MEETING



EAST TURKISTAN PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
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THE 12TH WORLD EAST TURKISTAN BROTHERHOOD MEETING AND THE 3RD EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL MEETING DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Leaders of various organizations, academic researchers, scholars and intellectuals who attended the 12th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 3rd East Turkistan National Unity Council meeting reached a consensus on the following agreements. These points were announced in the name of the “Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation of East Turkistan” by the consensus and decision of the leaders of the 28 organizations participating in the meeting.

At the meeting, the leaders of the organizations, as a result of joint discussions, worked together for a common goal based on principals issues; Creating a common grounds to prevent disagreements and conflicts; Conflict mitigation on the principles and operation methodologies or organizations unless the nature of the East Turkistan

cause, physical, spiritual and cultural values of the people of East Turkistan are undermined, enhance the concept of recognition and complementary grounds in the area of national interests; Acting together on points of agreement, avoiding exclusion at points of disagreement, sharing and respecting opinions and recommendations.



Pace up the internationalization of the East Turkistan cause, focus on establishing a public foundation for the

East Turkistan cause in the countries where organizations and independent activists are located and gaining the support of respective governments. Using public relations and propaganda tools such as the media, soft power, public diplomacy, and lobbying to create public awareness, gaining the support of influential individuals, political figures, and celebrities to make public awareness more dynamic. To this end, the use of shared reports, joint statements, the use of joint press texts, demonstrations and lectures in social movements, activities with visible and informational functions, and the tendency to emphasize common ground in the emphasis on uniformity in speech, consistency in action, and conceptions. The various organizations should hold diplomatic meetings as much as possible. Increase the confidence and trust of the countries that support and voice the East Turkistan cause. To avoid any kind of hostility against states or individuals who have not harmed nor shall degrade the interest of East Turkistan and its people. Increase the number of litigation friends, and regularly provide them with reliable and transparent information about the current situation and future prospects of East Turkistan.



Take joint action to deter the negative atmosphere created by any internal or external entities and individuals that intend to damage existing reputation of institutions that serve the cause of East Turkistan. Promote inter-organizational understanding, pay attention to internal and external public opinion and understanding, work together to find solution to the problem and enhance prevention, mutual support and protection mechanisms to maintain the integrity of organizations and leaders. Based on the above agreements, formulate strategic and urgent action plans through regular or extraordinary meetings, discussions, and discussions between organizations and elites to form concrete action groups for better outcome.



May Allah the Almighty grant us strength to implement the decisions made at this meeting, May He reward all the brothers and sisters who attended the meeting; May Allah unite our hearts with the bonds of the brotherhood of faith so that we remain consolidated on the justifiable fight for our beloved nation.



3RD EAST TURKISTAN NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL SUMMARY REPORT

With the unprecedented rise of genocide in East Turkistan in conjunction with the dramatic change in the world politics, the 12th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 3rd East Turkistan National Unity Council Summit was successfully held from 26 to 28th September 2020 in Ankara, Turkey with the participation of active political leaders, religious scholars, intellectuals and organizations from around the world. The National Unity Council Summit is aimed at formulating a strategic plan in line with the trends of the international political situation, furthering the awareness of co-operation among organizations actively involved in the East Turkistan cause, endorsement of the principles of our cause and making urgent decisions about the future of our cause.

The topics discussed at the summit are as follows:

1. US-China relations and the development direction of the East Turkistan cause.
2. EU-China relations and the East Turkistan causes.
3. Opportunities in Turkish-Chinese relations and the East Turkistan cause.
4. The role of the media in the East Turkistan cause.
5. The role of literature in the East Turkistan cause.
6. Current financial difficulties and solutions for Uyghurs.
7. The unchanging principles and red lines of the East Turkistan cause.
8. The role of cooperation in Islam.
9. Role, significance and factors of organization and cooperation in the East Turkistan cause.

10. Discussion on strategic cooperation in the East Turkistan cause.
11. Strengthen inter-organizational communication and relationships.
12. Factors of cooperation formation.



Highlights of the summit:

1. Preparation and adoption of bills related to Uyghurs using the current international political situation.
2. To revitalize the East Turkistan litigation development and lobbying movement in European countries.
3. Prioritizing East Turkistan cause in Turkish Media and politics utilizing the ethnic religious common bond between two nations.
4. Standardization of information about East Turkistan in the mainstream media.

5. Revitalize literature and provide spiritual nourishment to East Turkistan diaspora.
6. Formation of sustainable financial structure to aid the Uyghurs living in difficulties.
7. Alliance in protection of Core Principals of East Turkistan Cause to deter challenges.
8. Establish cooperation in the East Turkistan case on the basis of our religious and national values.
9. Reassessment of barriers in organizational cooperation, development of systematized, modernized, advanced organizational structures.
10. Carrying out public diplomacy in the Islamic world and in Muslim countries to further internationalize our cause.

During the summit, the following undisputed principles and boundary lines are adopted by consensus by all participating East Turkistan organizations.

1. The name of our country is East Turkistan.
2. The territorial integrity of our country.



3. The national and religious identity of the people of East Turkistan.
4. The flag of East Turkistan is a blue flag with a moon and crescent.
5. Our national emblem is the one adopted by the Islamic Republic of East Turkistan.



Suggestions

Representatives and participants of the 12th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Meeting and the 3rd National Unity Council Summit made the following suggestions:

1. Activating a forum for joint decision-making between organizations.
2. To announce to the international community the activities and meetings held on the basis of cooperation.
3. Separation of national interests from organizational interests.
4. Balancing task competition between organizations.
5. Achieving mutual recognition between organizations.
6. Organizations' self reflection before commenting others.
7. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of organizations and consider

other organizations as complimentary.

8. Organizational leaders meet and exchange ideas from time to time.

9. Mutual respect for organizations. Creating a situation that can solve problems face to face. To further expand the scope of our cooperation, to include representatives of the Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and other fraternal peoples in East Turkistan at next summits.

10. Enhance litigation between existing personnel and newly joined individuals to strengthen the teamwork mechanism .

11. Mutual protection as a manifestation of our cooperation.

12. Mutual protection of the dignity of cooperative organizations in all venues.

13. Joint implementation of decisions made in cooperation.

The 12th World East Turkistan Brotherhood Summit and the 3rd East Turkistan National Unity Council held successfully on September 26-28, 2020 in the Turkish capital Ankara. It is the common hope of the leaders, researchers, academics, scholars and intellectuals of the participating organizations that the full implementation of the resolutions and draft resolutions adopted at the summit and a bit step to achieve independence of our county -East Turkistan. We ask Almighty Allah to guide us to the blessed goal.



THE UYGHUR GENOCIDE

By JIMMY QUINN September 3, 2020, National Review

Call it what it is

Call it what it is Chinese Communist Party officials say that the Uyghurs, a Turkic minority in the Xinjiang region, are the “happiest Muslims in the world.” The evidence trickling out of western China tells a different story. In July, U.S. customs officials intercepted a 13-ton shipment of beauty products made out of human hair from the region and a video of blindfolded prisoners being led onto train cars went viral. Over the past couple of years, some have compared the human tragedy unfolding there to North Korean totalitarianism and South African apartheid. More recent evidence has inspired comparisons to the Holocaust. “Genocide” is a word that packs

a punch, spurring action by connecting “the solemn commitments of the past and a new atrocity unfolding before the world’s eyes,” as a report by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Simon-Skjodt Center put it last year. This word, sadly, is now an apt descriptor for the situation in Xinjiang.

Thanks to the fearless work of researchers, journalists, and victims, it’s now widely known that the CCP in 2017 stepped up its repression of the Uyghurs and other Turkic minorities by means of a mass-internment drive and a new, Orwellian surveillance state. When the Uyghurs “graduated” from these “reeducation” and “vocational training” facilities, to borrow the euphemistic terminology of CCP

officials, many were forced into slave labor. All told, over a million Uyghur and other members of Turkic minorities are estimated to have been detained, and a total of 3 million people to have been swept up in various re-education efforts. Others were charged with bogus crimes and remain imprisoned. Beijing, citing a few terrorist incidents that took place in 2014, claims that it's stamping out extremism, but its true aim is to solidify Han Chinese dominance over Xinjiang.

For years, experts and activists have called the situation a "cultural genocide." That label carries a blistering significance and refers to the CCP's attempts to wipe out Uyghur culture and traditions. The CCP has razed burial sites, closed mosques, and effectively criminalized most expressions of faith. Still, cultural genocide is not recognized as a crime under the U.N.'s 1948 convention on genocide. Invoking cultural genocide rather than

simply genocide has been a cautious way to speak out about the situation in Xinjiang without discrediting one's argument through exaggeration. In light of recent developments, that's no longer required.

In late June, Adrian Zenz, the German anthropologist who has provided most of the groundbreaking revelations on the Xinjiang mass-detention drive, published a new report detailing a systematic forced-sterilization and birth-control program to lower Uyghur birth rates. Among his findings were that birth rates plummeted 84 percent from 2015 to 2018 in Xinjiang's two major Uyghur prefectures; that a mass campaign to sterilize 14 to 34 percent of Uyghur women in rural parts of the region was underway; and that the CCP planned to sterilize or implant intrauterine contraceptive devices in 80 percent of childbearing-age women in Xinjiang's rural southern areas. During the same period, Zenz noted, the state





worked successfully to increase the Han Chinese population in Xinjiang. He likens these population-control techniques, which are based on ethnicity, to “opening or closing a faucet.” They are reminiscent of the CCP’s rule over Tibet, where Chen Quanguo, the party official who has presided over the Xinjiang genocide, gained a reputation for ruthless competence.

This implicates one of the five acts that can be considered genocide under Article II of the convention: “imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.” Prior to June, there was already evidence implicating CCP officials in the four other acts: They have killed and caused “serious bodily or mental harm” to Uyghurs, two of the acts. In addition, the CCP has inflicted on the Uyghur people “conditions of life calculated to bring about [their] physical destruction in whole or in part,” by deliberately failing to provide adequate living conditions to detainees. And the CCP has “forcibly [transferred] children of the group to another group,” by sending Uyghur children, whose parents in many cases are detained in the camps, to state facilities.

The revelation of forced birth control and sterilization has been a tipping point. Following the release of Zenz’s report, two Uyghur human-rights organizations filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court alleging genocide. And in late August, Politico reported that the Trump administration had held preliminary discussions about issuing a formal genocide determination. Indeed, the latest Zenz report clears a path for such a legal determination.

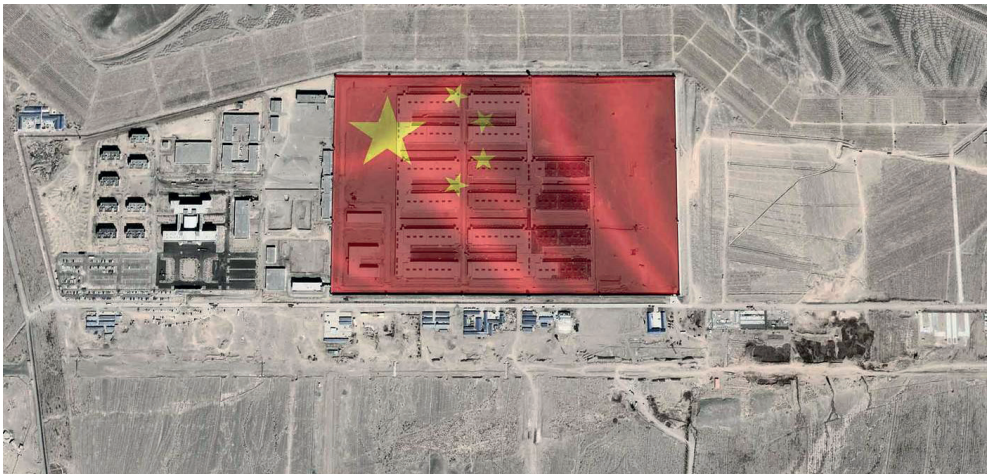
In addition to establishing the perpetration of acts listed in the convention, though, State Department lawyers must prove that the CCP targets “members of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group” and that this targeting reflects an intent to destroy the Uyghurs “in whole or in part.” Clearly, the Uyghurs are an ethnic group protected under the genocide convention. Intent is the trickier part.

How can the State Department assert that CCP officials have acted with the intent to destroy the Uyghur people? The very existence of coordinated government efforts such as the birth-control drive and the separation of Uyghur children from their parents goes a long way toward demonstrating that intent. And even as Chinese-government officials have claimed that the Uyghurs pose a significant threat of terrorism, they’ve been exceedingly transparent about their real goal. “Break their lineage, break their roots, break their connections, and break their origins,”

wrote one CCP religious-affairs official in a 2019 article. If such transparent statements of intent seem too tenuous, however, the State Department could also claim that the CCP’s cultural-genocide effort itself proves intent of “physical” genocide against the group’s members, a line of legal reasoning offered in a partially dissenting opinion in a case before the U.N.’s tribunal on war crimes in Yugoslavia.

But even with a compelling legal argument, genocide-determination decisions are fraught. In two post-Cold War mass atrocities — those in Rwanda and Bosnia in the 1990s — the State Department worried that a finding of genocide would ratchet up political pressure to act. But the main obstacle to a genocide finding today is the lack of attention paid to Xinjiang. Like the Bush administration’s 2004 determination that genocide was being committed in Darfur, a designation on Xinjiang could call attention to the issue and rally an international response.

Beijing’s sophisticated disinformation efforts and its investments in other countries have granted it near-impunity to act against the Uyghurs. The CCP has achieved the remarkable feat of not just convincing other countries to turn a blind eye but even pressuring many to endorse its actions. At the U.N. Human Rights Council, 46 countries praised the Xinjiang detention drive in the immediate wake of the forced-sterilization report, congratulating Beijing for its “remarkable achievements” and its work to fight terrorism. Many of the 46 are developing countries in Africa and the Middle East that have received significant Chinese investment and believe Beijing’s narrative about extremism. They include 22 members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The world’s liberal democracies have a better, but severely lacking, record. Many European governments have merely expressed their concern; others have declined to do even that. The 2022 Winter Olympics are still set to take place in Beijing.



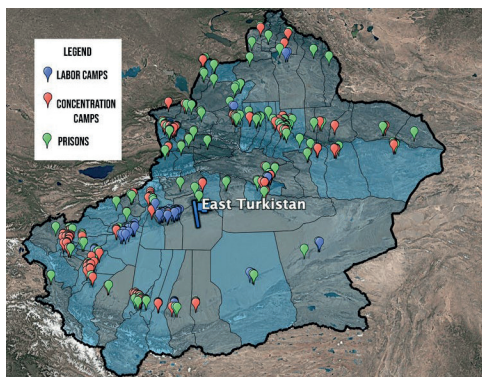
By getting out in front of other countries, the United States could make it awkward for its allies to avoid calling the situation a genocide and galvanize the efforts of human-rights groups that have long pushed for such a designation. Global companies implicated in supply chains tainted by Uyghur slave labor have so far largely escaped widespread public criticism, even as the U.S. government prepares to enforce some of the sanctions it imposed this summer, which will affect those firms. In addition to achieving progress on the forced-labor issue, a finding of genocide might convince U.S.-based social-media companies to reconsider policies under which they allow Chinese-government accounts to spread disinformation about Xinjiang.

All that said, some experts on preventing mass atrocities warn that focusing too much on genocide can reduce the perceived need to act on other crimes that don't precisely meet the definition but can be just as horrific, such as mass killings based exclusively on political affiliation. And some China-watchers worry that the Trump administration has politicized disputes with Beijing so much that a finding of genocide would seem like just another "tough on China" campaign-season announcement. But the evidence of genocide is robust enough that delaying a determination or, worse, neglecting to issue one would be a significant policy failure.

However important the designation may be, it's important that the legal

debate not eclipse the sheer human cost that the Chinese Communist party-state has exacted from the Uyghurs. As it makes its argument, the Trump administration should call attention to the stories of survivors such as Mihrigul Tursun, a former detainee who escaped to the United States. Her heartbreaking 2018 testimony to the Congressional-Executive Committee on China needs to be heard by those unaware of the Xinjiang genocide. It concludes with a simple exhortation that far too few people have taken to heart: "Please take an action against the Chinese officials responsible for my torture, and the death of my little boy, and the deaths of so many innocent Uyghurs in the camps."

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FULL-TERM ABORTIONS AND INFANTICIDE ARE COMMON PRACTICE IN CHINA, REVEALS DOCTOR WHO ESCAPED REGIME

A doctor who escaped the regime in China has shared how she participated in at least 500-600 operations on Uyghur women in the country, including forced abortion, forced sterilisation and forced removal of wombs.

Speaking to ITV News, the Uyghur woman also revealed abortions were carried out at full-term and that infanticide – the purposeful causing of a baby’s death – was common practice.

She added that on at least one occasion a baby was still moving and in their “final moments of life” when it was discarded into the rubbish.

The doctor, who did not want to be named by ITV News, said she felt

“sorry to see the killing of a small baby” but felt no remorse as she was made to believe it was just a job.

However, having had time to reflect, she now feels regret and is helping other Uyghur minority women who have escaped China to have babies by removing contraceptive implants that had been forced upon them.

SCARED

Another woman told ITV News that her first child had been forcibly taken from her body.

As a result she hid her next pregnancy. She told ITV News: “I dressed very differently to hide the bump. I pulled in my stomach.”

Through tears, she added: “I felt so scared and sad. I couldn’t tell anyone my feelings.”

“Nowhere in the world should someone need to hide their baby to save it.”

Both women are now in Istanbul, Turkey which offers sanctuary to Uyghur women who have escaped the horrors of their homeland.

BRUTALITY OF CHINA’S REGIME EXPOSED

In July, the brutality of China’s Government was exposed when a damning report revealed abortions, contraceptive devices and surgical sterilisations measures are being forced upon wom-

en in Xinjiang in an apparent attempt to limit the population of Muslim Uyghurs.

The report by German researcher Dr Adrian Zen, titled *Sterilizations, Forced Abortions, and Mandatory Birth Control: The CCP’s Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang*, details the severe human rights abuses in Xinjiang and argues that these abuses meet the United Nation’s criteria for genocide.

Warning that the situation in Xinjiang has become “especially severe” in recent years, the report states: “Government documents bluntly mandate that birth control violations are punishable by extrajudicial internment in ‘training’ camps.”

While evidence of forced abortions and birth control has surfaced before, news agency AP declared at the time that the practice is far more widespread and systematic than previously known.

Their investigative report highlights the brutal treatment of women and unborn babies through the eyewitness accounts of those affected.

Last year, Adrian Zenz estimated there were up to 1.5 million Uyghur people and other minorities being detained in so-called political



and religious “re-education” camps, sometimes referred to as “training” camps.

Forced abortions

One former detainee, Tursunay Ziyawudun, told news agency AP that she was injected until she stopped having her period, and kicked repeatedly in the lower stomach during interrogations.

As a result, she now can’t have children and often doubles over in pain, bleeding from her womb.

Ziyawudun is among a number of women who have reported forced abortions to AP. She shared how a woman in another class turned out to be pregnant and disappeared from the camp.

Ziyawudun added that two of her cousins, who were pregnant at the time, “got rid of their children on their own because they were so afraid”.



She also revealed that a “teacher” at her camp told women they would face abortions if they were found to be pregnant during gynaecology exams.

Another woman, Gulbakhar Jalilova, confirmed that detainees in her camp were forced to abort their babies.

She also saw a new mum, still leaking breast milk, who did not know what had happened to her infant.

Jalilova said she had met doctors and medical students who were detained for helping Uyghurs dodge the system and give birth at home.

Having too many children is also seen as a major reason people are sent to “re-education” camps, with parents of three or more children forcibly taken away from their families unless they can pay huge fines.

Police will often raid the homes of terrified parents searching for hidden children.



After Gulnar Omirzakh, a Chinese-born Kazakh, had her third child, authorities ordered her to get an intra-uterine device (IUD) – a long lasting method of birth control – fitted.

Despite her seemingly complying with the order, two years later, in January 2018, four officials in military camouflage came knocking at her door anyway.

They gave Omirzakh, the penniless wife of a detained vegetable trader, three days to pay a \$2,685 fine for having more than two children.

She was warned if she couldn't pay she would join her husband in a "re-education" camp.

A teary Omirzakh said: "They want to destroy us as a people."

'HUGE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE'

A former teacher drafted to work as an instructor at a detention camp described her experience with IUDs to the AP.

She said Uyghur residents had to chant: "If we have too many children, we're religious extremists."

As one of the officials in the teacher's compound, she was told she needed to have an IUD fitted. But, she protested saying she was nearly 50 with just one child and no plans to have more.

Her protests were in vain though and she was forced into a bus with four



armed officers and taken to a hospital where hundreds of Uyghur women lined up in silence, waiting for IUDs to be inserted. Some wept quietly, but nobody dared say a word because of the surveillance cameras hanging overhead.

The former teacher said her IUD was designed to be irremovable and caused her headaches and non stop menstrual bleeding, during the first 15 days.

"I couldn't eat properly, I couldn't sleep properly. It gave me huge psychological pressure," she added. "Only Uyghurs had to wear it."

The result of China's extreme population control campaign and forced abortions is a climate of terror around having children, which AP said could be seen in interview after interview.

The news agency collected the testimonies of thirty women in the midst of this brutality.

Chinese health statistics also show a sterilization boom in Xinjiang.



Birth rates in the mostly Uyghur regions of Hotan and Kashgar plunged by more than 60% from 2015 to 2018 – the latest year available in government statistics.

Across the Xinjiang region, birth rates fell by 24% last year alone compared to just 4.2% nationwide.

‘SLOW, PAINFUL, CREEPING GENOCIDE’

Dr Zenz said: “This kind of drop is unprecedented....there’s a ruthlessness to it. This is part of a wider control campaign to subjugate the Uyghurs.”

He added that the findings “provide the strongest evidence yet that Beijing’s policies in Xinjiang meet one of the UN’s genocide criteria”.

Joanne Smith Finley, an expert on Uyghurs at Newcastle University, agrees and said: “It’s genocide, full stop.”

She added: “It’s not immediate, shocking, mass-killing on the spot type genocide, but it’s slow, painful, creeping genocide.

“These are direct means of genetically reducing the Uyghur population.”

The report has received a large amount of media attention and has prompted international calls for the United Nations to investigate.

In a statement on Monday, the Inter-parliamentary Alliance on China, an international cross-party group of politicians including Conservative MP Iain Duncan Smith, Baroness Helena





Kennedy QC, and US senator Marco Rubio, called on the UN to “establish an international, impartial, independent investigation into the situation in the Xinjiang region”.

“A body of mounting evidence now exists, alleging mass incarceration, indoctrination, extrajudicial detention, invasive surveillance, forced labor, and the destruction of Uyghur cultural sites, including cemeteries, together with other forms of abuse,” the statement said.

“The world cannot remain silent in the face of unfolding atrocities. Our countries are bound by solemn obligations to prevent and punish any effort to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group ‘in whole or in part’.”

According to the BBC, China’s foreign ministry responded to the report on Monday by saying the allegations were “baseless” and showed “ulterior motives”.

Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian accused media outlets of “cooking

up false information on Xinjiang-related issues”.

PAINFUL LEGACY OF ONE AND TWO-CHILD POLICIES

Earlier this year, a Chinese mother who was given a forced abortion after falling pregnant with her third child was granted refugee status in New Zealand.

The family’s story offers a glimpse into how China’s former one-child policy and current two-child policy continue to leave a painful legacy

Although China’s brutal one-child policy was ended in 2015, it has now been replaced by a similarly draconian two-child policy and the devastating consequences of forced abortions, sterilizations, abandoned newborns, and Government abductions are still ongoing.

Chinese-born filmmakers Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang exposed some of the consequences of the policy by retelling some of the stories of those who lived through it.

In their One Child Nation documentary, which can be viewed on Amazon Prime Video, an 84-year-old midwife revealed she was unsure how many babies she had delivered, but had performed a total of between 50,000 to 60,000 sterilizations and abortions.

“I counted this out of guilt, because I aborted and killed babies,” the midwife, Huaru Yuan, continues. “Many I induced alive and killed. My hands trembled doing it.”

One mother in China told the BBC that she would have liked a second child but was also forced to have an abortion.

She said: “You either go willingly or they come for you.”

Another mother revealed how she was forced to have an abortion before the one-child policy was relaxed. Speaking of the ordeal she said: “My baby didn’t die immediately... it kept on struggling inside me.

“It broke my heart, the next day it was born still alive... it cried. The doctor said don’t look at it, you’ll have nightmares.”



WHY CALLS TO BOYCOTT 'MULAN' OVER CONCERNS ABOUT CHINA ARE GROWING

The latest backlash over Disney's remake of the movie centers on how it was partly filmed in Xinjiang, where Uyghurs live under repression.

By Amy Qin and Edward Wong Sept. 8, 2020, The New York Times

Disney's live-action remake of "Mulan" has drawn a fresh wave of criticism for being filmed partly in Xinjiang, the region in China where Uyghur Muslims have been detained in mass internment camps.

The outcry, which has spread to include U.S. lawmakers, was the latest example of how the new film, released on Disney+ over the weekend, has become a magnet for anger over the Chinese Communist Party's policies promoting nationalism and ethnic Han chauvinism.

It began blowing up again on Monday, when several social media users noticed that in the film's credits, Disney thanked eight government entities in Xinjiang, a region in China's Far West that is home to the Uyghurs. The predominantly Muslim, Turkic-speaking ethnic minority have lived for years under increasingly expansive surveillance and repression in the region.

The entities mentioned in the movie's credits included the police bureau in Turpan, an ancient Silk Road city in eastern Xinjiang that has a large Uy-



ghur population. Last October, the Trump administration placed that bureau and other police organizations in Xinjiang on a blacklist that forbids U.S. companies to sell or supply products to them. It was not immediately clear on Tuesday whether U.S. officials would scrutinize Disney's work with government agencies in Xinjiang.

American politicians began firing off fiery missives against Disney. Representative Mike Gallagher, Republican of Wisconsin, wrote on Twitter that "while the CCP is committing crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, @Disney thanked four of the propaganda departments that are lying to the world about these crimes. It also thanked the Turpan Public Security Bureau, which is on the entity list for its role in these atrocities."

Politicians from both parties are strongly criticizing China over a range of issues in the run-up to the November elections.

The film was already coming under fire months ago, facing calls for a boycott by supporters of the Hong Kong antigovernment protests after the movie's star, Liu Yifei, said she backed the city's police, who have been criticized for their use of force against pro-democracy demonstrators.

Last month, as Disney ramped up promotion for the new film, supporters of the Hong Kong protests anointed Agnes Chow, a prominent democracy activist who was recently arrested under

the territory's new national security law, as their own, "real" Mulan.

The criticism of the movie this week also points to broader concerns about China's aggressive efforts to assimilate minorities, leading to rapid cultural erosion.

Such fears drove protests last week that erupted in China's northern Inner Mongolia region over a new education policy that would reduce the teaching of the Mongolian language in local schools in favor of Chinese, the language used by the dominant Han ethnic majority.

Rayhan Asat, an ethnic Uyghur lawyer in Washington whose younger brother, Ekpar Asat, has been imprisoned in Xinjiang, said in an interview that Disney giving credit to Xinjiang government agencies "runs counter to the ideals of those in the artistic, business and entertainment communities."

"Devastatingly, Disney's support amounts to collaboration and enables repression," she added. "Those who claim to champion freedom in the world cannot afford to ignore such complicity."

The details of Disney's partnership with the authorities in Xinjiang are unclear. The company did not respond to an emailed request for comment on Tuesday morning. Calls to the regional and local propaganda departments in Xinjiang and Turpan on Tuesday also went unanswered.



“Mulan” is scheduled to be released in theaters in China on Friday. But the timing of the preproduction and the filming suggests that the cast and crew may have been in Xinjiang after the government expanded its crackdown in the region in 2017.

Production for the movie, which is about a Chinese folk heroine who disguises herself as a man to stand in for her ailing father in the army, reportedly began in 2018, with filming taking place mostly in China and New Zealand.

The Chinese Communist Party has rejected international criticism of the internment camps in Xinjiang and has described them as job-training centers that are necessary to fight Islamic extremism. But leaked documents and testimonies by former detainees have described a ruthless and coercive environment in which physical and verbal abuse, as well as grinding indoctrination sessions, is widespread.

Human rights activists and legal scholars have called the crackdown in Xinjiang the worst collective human rights abuse in China in decades.

Grant Major, the film’s production designer, recently told *Architectural Digest* that the production team spent months in and around Xinjiang to do research before filming. In September 2017, Niki Caro, the film’s director, posted a photo of a vast desert landscape on her Instagram with the location marked as “Asia/Urumqi.” Urumqi is the capital of Xinjiang.

The area surrounding Turpan, in addition to being known for its rugged landscapes, is also the site of a number of detention camps. That includes the earliest documented case of what China has called “transformation through education” targeting Muslims, from August 2013, said Adrian Zenz, a researcher at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington who has studied Chinese policies toward the Uyghurs.



In 2016, Zhu Hailun, a former deputy party secretary in Xinjiang, inspected Turpan’s “centralized re-education de-extremification” work, which Mr. Zenz said was an indication that “the region was an early leading example of such work.” Mr. Zhu was one of a group of Chinese officials sanctioned by the Trump administration in July for human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

“This film was undertaken with the assistance of the Chinese police while at the same time these police were committing crimes against the Uyghur people in Turpan,” said Tahir Imin, a Uyghur activist based in Washington. “Every big company in America needs to think about whether their business is helping the Chinese government oppress the Uyghur people.”

Disney, which has long eyed China’s booming box office and growing mid-

dle class, has a history of running into political sensitivities in China. In 1996, the company was shut out of China’s film market after it angered officials with its backing of “Kundun,” Martin Scorsese’s 1997 film that is seen to be sympathetic to the Dalai Lama. In 2016, C. Robert Cargill, a screenwriter on “Doctor Strange,” said filmmakers had decided to scrub a central character of his Tibetan origins out of fear of treading on the Chinese government’s position on Tibet and its continuing efforts to control the region.

The release of Disney’s original “Mulan” animated film from 1998 was delayed for a year as a result of Beijing punishing the company over “Kundun.” It was not until Disney bought the foreign distribution rights to two Chinese feature films, hired a Chinese performance troupe to participate in

the European release of “Mulan” and floated the idea of opening a theme park in the country that Chinese officials finally approved the release of the film in February 1999. Later that year, Disney announced plans to build a park in Hong Kong.

The animated version of “Mulan” prompted criticism at the time from Mike Pence, a staunch conservative who is Mr. Trump’s vice-president. Then a radio talk show host in Indiana, he wrote an op-ed on his program’s website that denounced the depiction of a capable woman warrior, saying it was Disney’s attempt to influence the debate over the role of women in the U.S. military.

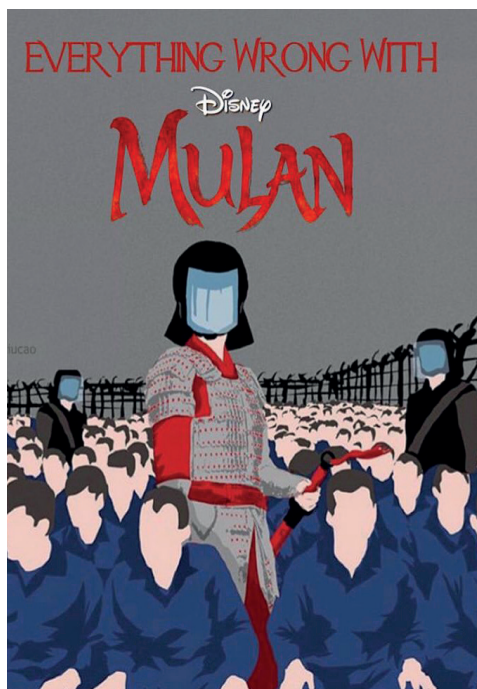
“I suspect that some mischievous liberal at Disney assumes that Mulan’s story will cause a quiet change in the next generation’s attitude about women in combat and they just might be right,” he wrote in the piece, which had the headline, “Women in the Mulan Military.”

Last year, Mr. Pence criticized American companies for trying to silence speech in order to maintain access to the Chinese market. He accused Nike of checking its “conscience at the door” and owners and players in the N.B.A. of “siding with the Chinese Communist Party” by suppressing support for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

In July, an ESPN investigation described reports of abuse of young play-

ers at the National Basketball Association’s player-development training camps in China, including in Xinjiang. After the investigation was published, the N.B.A. acknowledged for the first time it had closed its Xinjiang academy, but declined to say whether human rights had been a factor.

On Monday, calls to boycott “Mulan” began growing on social media. Among the critics was Joshua Wong, a prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activist, who accused Disney of bowing to pressure from Beijing. Supporters in Thailand and Taiwan had also urged a boycott of the movie, citing concerns about China’s growing influence in the region.



OVER 100 UK LAWMAKERS, 321 CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS DENOUNCE CHINA OVER UYGHUR MUSLIMS ABUSE

More than 100 British lawmakers have signed a letter to the Chinese ambassador condemning what they described as “a systematic and calculated program of ethnic cleansing against the Uyghur people” in China’s far-western Xinjiang region.

“When the world is presented with such overwhelming evidence of gross human rights abuses, nobody can turn a blind eye,” read the cross-party letter, which was signed by 130 lawmakers Wednesday.

“We as Parliamentarians in the United Kingdom write to express our absolute condemnation of this oppression and call for it to end immediately.”

The letter referred to reports of forced

population control and mass detention of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, as well as video apparently showing a large number of blindfolded and shaven men waiting to be loaded onto trains. The lawmakers said the video – which was recently shown to Chinese Ambassador Liu Xiaoming during a BBC interview – bore “chilling” similarities to footage of Nazi concentration camps.

The Xinjiang region is home to around 10 million Uyghurs. The Turkic Muslim group, which makes up around 45% of Xinjiang’s population, has long accused China’s authorities of cultural, religious and economic discrimination. About 7% of the Muslim population in Xinjiang, has been incarcerated in an expanding network of “political



reeducation” camps, according to U.S. officials and United Nations experts.

Chinese officials have repeatedly derided allegations of genocide, forced sterilization and the mass detention of nearly 1 million Uyghurs in Xinjiang as lies fabricated by anti-China forces. They maintain that the Uyghurs are treated equally and that the Chinese government always protects the legitimate rights of ethnic minorities.

Moreover, 321 civil society groups including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the International Service for Human Rights urged the United Nations to set up an international watchdog to address human rights violations by the Chinese government.

In an open letter published Wednesday, the groups said they are seeking greater scrutiny of and response to violations in places like Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang, as well as beyond – such as through censorship, a development that hurts the environment and the targeting of rights defenders.

“The international community can no longer sit back and allow the Chinese authorities to trample on human rights at home and abroad,” Joshua Rosenzweig of Amnesty International, one of the signatories, said in a joint statement.

The call for the creation of an “independent international mechanism” to focus on China’s rights violations adds

to recent international pressure on Beijing over its handling of issues like protests in Hong Kong and detention centers – what the government calls vocational or training centers – for Uyghur Muslims and others in western Xinjiang region.

“China has systematically persecuted rights defenders in reprisal for their cooperation with U.N. human rights operations – torture, enforced disappearance, imprisonment, and stripping licenses from lawyers,” said Renee Xia, director of Chinese Human Rights Defenders, in a statement. “The U.N. system should no longer tolerate such treatment.”

The move follows a call by independent experts who work with the United Nations for a special session of the Human Rights Council focusing on the array of issues around China’s rights record. Advocates insist that no country – no matter how large or powerful – should escape extra scrutiny of their rights records when warranted.

The groups also want U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, to “take responsibility for publicly addressing China’s sweeping rights violations,” Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

The appeal comes ahead of the start of the 47-member-state Human Rights Council’s fall session Monday. In its summer session, the council held an



urgent debate on a rise in police violence against black people and repression of protests in the United States.

HOUSE APPROVES SECOND BILL AIMED AT FORCED LABOR IN CHINA

By Matthew Daly | AP

WASHINGTON — For the second time in two weeks, the House on Wednesday approved a bill aimed at cracking down on U.S. imports of goods made with the forced labor of detained ethnic minorities in China.

The bill would require publicly traded companies in the U.S. to disclose whether any of their goods — or any part of their supply chain — can be traced to internment camps or factories suspected of using forced labor of Muslim Uyghurs or other ethnic minorities in China.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Wexton, D-Va., was approved 253-163 and now goes to the Senate.

Its passage follows approval last week of a bill aimed at barring U.S. imports of goods produced in the vast Xinjiang region of northwestern China on the presumption that they were likely made with forced labor. That bill, authored by Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., was approved Sept. 22 on 406-3 vote.

If enacted into law, the two proposals could have significant ripple effects in global trade by forcing companies to avoid a region that produces 80% of the cotton in China, as well as tomatoes and manufactured goods.

Lawmakers say the measures are needed to press China to stop a campaign that has resulted in the detention of

more than 1 million Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups under brutal conditions.

“If America does not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interest, we lose all moral authority to speak about human rights anywhere in the world,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a floor speech last week.

Wexton, whose northern Virginia district is home to one of the largest Uyghur communities in the U.S., said her bill would inform investors and markets about active exploitation occurring in one of the largest ongoing human rights violations in the world.

“For years, the government of the People’s Republic of China has been engaged in the mass internment of religious minorities in the Xinjiang region,” Wexton said. The camps supply materials for some of the largest companies in the world, “and some of these products are finding their way to U.S. consumers,” including cellphones and T-shirts, Wexton said.

While the U.S. has long banned imports made with forced labor, traditional human rights monitoring efforts are thwarted in tightly controlled regions such as in northwestern China, Wexton and other lawmakers said. Travel to the area is restricted. Auditors have been detained and threatened, and workers intimidated, they said.

Wexton’s bill directs the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules requiring publicly traded company to issue yearly reports disclosing imports that originate in or are sourced from Xinjiang, because of the strong likelihood they were made with forced labor.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes both House bills, arguing they would likely cause U.S. companies to cease doing business in Xinjiang altogether. That outcome would harm legitimate producers and manufacturers, because there is no effective way to inspect and audit suppliers in the region, the chamber said.

The group urged Congress to develop



“targeted foreign policy tools and to work with the business community to combat these abuses.”

Lawmakers from both parties have called for penalizing China amid increasingly bitter relations between the two nations over a range of issues, including trade, espionage and the coronavirus outbreak, which started in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Some companies and trade groups oppose a region-wide declaration because it puts the burden on private enterprises to ensure an often complex, global supply chain is free of materials that have been produced with forced labor. A non-governmental organization, the Worker Rights Consortium, says about 1 in 5 cotton garments sold in the U.S. contain content from the Uyghur region.

The two House bills will likely “require some dislocation,” said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. “We may even pay a dime or two more for a pair of

socks or a T-shirt,” he added, but the price is worth it to avoid being complicit in “horrific oppression.”

Since 2017, more than a million people have been swept up into vast internment camps where they are subjected to re-education programs intended to force them to assimilate into the dominant Han Chinese culture.

The Chinese government has portrayed its activities in Xinjiang as part of a campaign against a violent separatist movement and bristles at criticism of what it considers an internal matter. It calls the camps vocational training centers and denies allegations by U.S. officials and human rights groups that the camps amount to modern slavery.

Earlier this month, the U.S. blocked four companies and a manufacturing facility in northwestern China from shipping their products to the U.S. because of their suspected reliance on forced labor.

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What is happening in East Turkistan?

What is true and what is false?

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

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