

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Muslim detention camps in China to prevent extremism

Members of the chairs:

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I. Introduction:

The human rights committee is dedicated to promote and encourage human rights in all its forms. This committee sets side by side the nations of the world to seek for a better quality life for the citizens, to promote ideas for improvement and innovation.

According to Human Rights Foundation (2018), more than 4 billion people around the world lack of freedom. As it is established in the 18th article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every human being has the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

According to the Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism(2018), extremism is acknowledged as violent acts committed by people or groups in order to express their disagreement with issues associated with society. This has created an aura of terror and hate among the international community. As a result, hate crimes and the use of violence have become a matter of high importance.

The Xinjiang autonomous region in China's far west has had a long history of discord between the authorities and the indigenous ethnic Uyghur population, a muslim minority who speaks Turkish. This group covers the majority of the population of Xinjiang, China, among other minorities. Although in Xinjiang there is a large part of this ethnic group, in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Australia there are also Uyghur communities. (Hayes, 2019). Nowadays the chinese government permits five religions, such as Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam, Daoism and Protestantism, but the government has always worried about that this ideologist that these ideologies can be an incentive to promote separatism.

Although the Xinjiang region has its own governor, it has been hardly controlled by China for a long time, the Chinese government has targeted this Muslim minority so much that the authorities have been questioned for its practice of preventing extremism in Xinjiang. The chairman of government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region, Shohrat Zakir has stated that the camps of vocational education and training program purpose is to eradicate terrorism, religious extremism and violent situations. Since then, lots of questions have emerged, alarming relatives and calling the attention of the international community creating question if human rights are being violated. It is said that ethnic minorities from that region are being detained against their will and locked up without any trial trying to change their religious affiliation (Bo, 2018).

“There’s no legal basis, none, for people to be held this way, there is no warrant, there is no crime, there is no calling a lawyer, there is no calling your family, there is no knowing when you are going to get out, there is no knowing what you have been charged with.” (Richardson, 2018)



1.1 The Uyghurs community has been repressed and isolated because of their beliefs.

II. History of the topic:

The Xinjiang territory has been debated over two different ethnic communities, the Uyghurs who once were 80% of the population, but by 2008 they only represent 46% who struggle to demonstrate the legitimacy of the territory of the current Xinjiang and evading any relation with the government and lifestyle of China. The Uyghurs are closer to the capital of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan than to Beijing, making them have a different culture, that's the main reason why the chinese government is afraid of a Uyghur separation, situation which has occurred in the past.

In 1933 they (the Uyghurs) established the Islamic Republic of East Turkestan and in 1944 the Soviet Union backed the creation of the East Turkestan Republic, but when China became Communist in 1946 the Soviet Union turned on East Turkestan and helped China take it over again.

The importance of the territory relies on its energy resources, as the Xinjiang region contributes with the 40% of China's coal reserves and over 20% of the countries oil and gas.

In the 1950s China was looking for the opportunity make them a minority, encouraging the migration of Han Chinese to Xinjiang, in the year 2009 a protest against discrimination from the Han Chinese and the Chinese government ended in violence leaving 200 Uyghurs injured and under arrested, hundreds were killed.

By the year 2013 this region became more important to China because of the launch of the belt and road initiative, an investment in fiber optic cables and train lines, which was meant to improve the economic influence on the world by making easier to trade with China, most of this train lines passed to Xinjiang making the region important for the project.

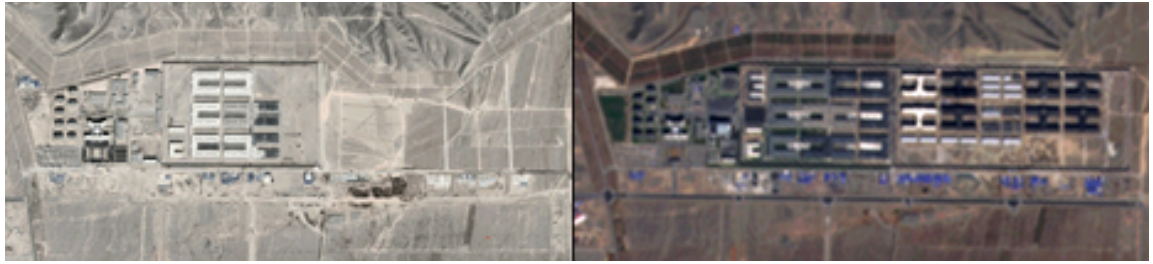
In the year 2014, 31 civilians were attacked by Uyghurs in a train station in Kunming, after this attack security measure increase all over the cities of the Xinjiang region, including legal sanctions to diminish the influence of islamic identity, cataloging their religion as an “illegal believe”. This legal sanction of de-extremification also improve in the police by turning the region into a high-tec police state, this policies have increased in a way that the Uyghurs have to hand over their cellphones at certain police checkpoints (Parvaneh, 2019).



1.2 Location of Xinjiang in China

During the same year, China initiated the “Strike Hard against Violent Extremism” campaign, which gave the government an excuse to commit actions that were against human rights, such as taking the DNA of children against their will, taking away the freedom of movement of the people, among others.

In 2015 a satellite captured an image of China's west region Xinjiang which showed an unknown structure. Within three years another photograph showed that same area capture a development in the structure of the so called re-education camps, after this questions began to arise making reporters seek answers to this mystery.



1.3 The development between 2015 and 2018 of the unknown structures that later would become facilities of re-educational camps.

When the reporters approached the buildings they were stopped by the police men in that region, saying that they could not let them pass nor film, the reporters held conversations with citizens, they claimed that there were hundreds of muslim minorities locked up in that place due to “problems with their thoughts”.

A report broadcast on state television showed rare videos from inside the facilities and interviews with people inside the camps who were called trainees, saying that they are being taught mandarin, painting, performing ethnic dances and also singing, improving their knowledge of Chinese history, this to “save them from extremism” in the other hand critics and ex-trainees claim in different interviews that human rights are been violated inside the camps (Sudworth, 2018)

III. Current Situation:

Since April 2017 an estimated of eight hundred thousand to two million muslims most of them Uyghurs have been detained in the region of Xinjiang in the northwest of China (Watson, 2019). In december 2017 reports of a DNA collection program was exposed, a program that collects DNA samples such as fingerprints, blood type, and other personal information; although these tests are voluntary by law, local Uighurs had said that they are obligated to participate in this exam, making them hand information from their religion to their political affiliation. This data is gathered in an app that government officials use to identify those with “irregular” behavior, for example those who are determined to have used an “unusual” amount of electricity, if someone is not socializing with their neighbors or if they are taking a trip abroad that they consider too long, situations like this is what officers have to decide whether they are suspicious enough to start an investigation. (Wang, 2019). In this same year according to chinese data, 21% of criminal arrests are from Xinjiang; where ethnic minorities comprise about 60% of the population.

Year	Criminal Arrests in Xinjiang	Year-on-Year Change in XUAR	Criminal Arrests in China	Xinjiang Arrests as Percentage of China Total
2008-2012	81,443	---	---	---
2013	13,900 (est*)	---	879,817	1.58%
2014	27,164	↑ 95%	879,615	3.01%
2015	34,568	↑ 27%	873,148	3.96%
2016	27,404	↓ 20%	828,618	3.31%
2017	227,882 (est**)	↑ 731%	1,068,802 (est***)	21.32%
2013-2017	330,918	↑ 306% (from 2008-2012)	4,531,000	7.30%

1.4Criminal arrests in Xinjiang

As mentioned before in 2018 the satellite Sentinel showed a major development in the structure of the reeducation camp. As far as researchers have investigated, there are 28 facilities distributed around Xinjiang (Doman, Hutcheon, Welch, & Taylor, 2018).

On September 11, 2018 the High Representative Federica Mogherini of the European Union, talked about the relationship between China and the EU, she clarified that they must see China as a partner to make the global economic system just and fair, by participating with China in the “One belt, one road” project, but that even though their economical relationship is necessary for the prosperity of both, in the human rights field they are in total disagreement, the EU has declared that the repression of freedom of religion, and that the EU will not lose their values and position against this situation.

The US delegation has already been working on sanctions that would be applied to China for its possible violation of human rights, but due to its commercial relations with China the sanctions are paused, legislators and groups of people have sent letters requesting that sanctions should be taken to punish these acts, but what the government has been doing is just retaining them so as not to damage the commercial relationship.

Several human rights organisations such as the Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have demand the U.N to take action in this situation by sending an international fact-finding mission to Xinjiang to help clear the situation or in a different situation to protect human rights at all cost. The Amnesty International secretary general Kumi Nidoo has declare that there are reports of suicides inside the facilities because of the mistreatment. The executive director of the Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth confronted the Secretary General Antonio Guterres and declared

that there has not been retaliation because of the lack of information that the international community have of the Uyghurs. On the other hand UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet give her concern on the situation by declaring that her office is seeking for answers in the region, to what the government responded giving her an affirmative answer but with the condition that they must stay away from their internal matters of state. (SBS News, 2019).

Trade talks between the presidents of the United States of America and the Popular Republic of China at the G-20 in Osaka, Japan where possible commercial arrangements were made and after that the United States should not intervene with human rights issues in China.

In August 2019, a Uighur young man named Abdurahman Memet received letters from his relatives written inside the facilities, the letter contained information about their well being and the good conditions of the camp, what calls the attention of Abdurahman is that inside the manuscript they swore allegiance to the communist party and the government, after receiving the letter he decided to publish it in the Xinjiang Victims Database, after that Abdurahman disappeared.

Letter to relatives

Address: Gaochang District, Putao Town, Bulaq Village

To: Abdurahman Memet

Dear children, how are you? How's your health? Mine is as good as it was the last time we met.

I'll tell you about this vocational school. The dormitories are in good condition, hot water runs 24/7. There are bathrooms, heated floors, and air conditioning. We are provided with food, shelter, clothing, and other products of daily use. The learning materials are all free.

In March 2018, I left home to come to the vocational school. I did so because I had previously gone abroad on a pilgrimage. My wrongful action violated Articles 123 and 124 of the Penal Code of the People's Republic of China. According to the law, I was to be given a sentence ranging from 5 to 10 years in prison. However, the Party and the Government were merciful and I was merely sent for vocational training.

The care that I received from my teachers made me understand that my actions in the past were wrong. I am regretting what I did. I let the Party and the Government down. I let the society down. My past actions undermined social stability. The lectures I attended at the school enlightened me about the cancerous nature of "extremist religious ideology" with regards to the prosperity of the People. It hampers the development of society and the happiness of the People, it destroys ethnic harmony. From now on, I shall stand on the front lines, promoting the knowledge of the National Language and the Law to all of my relatives. I am grateful to the Party and Government for giving me the opportunity to change!

I will always follow the Party, I will always listen to the Party, I will be grateful to the Party and will act in a way that is beneficial to ethnic harmony and social stability. I am extremely proud to be a citizen of the People's Republic of China!

Children, don't worry about me, we will write to each other soon.

Name: Ayshemhan Yasin, 65210119581001180X

1.5 Letter from the relatives of Abdurahman Memet

Not only the vanishing of Abdurahman called the attention of the international media, reports of Uighurs living outside Xinjiang declare that their relatives receive threats through texts and voicemails and that even though they now have western passport, it does not assure them protection against the situation that they left behind.

Their relatives were asked to give in information about the lives of their families in other countries, including addresses, telephone numbers, schools, etcetera. (Kuo, 2019)

Children of the detainees have been separated from both of their parents, over 400 children in the region have been taken to boarding schools from a very young age. The chinese government assures that this boarding schools have the purpose of re educating minorities, by avoiding the Uighur and other local languages, including punishments for both students and teachers if they do. The schools are under strict safety rules and hard isolation , including several security measures on the perimeter. such as voltage electric fences (Sudworth, 2019).

Besides the irregularity of children being separated from their parents adults being detained and taken to the re-education camps, there have been reports of sterilization to muslim women, according to Gulbahar Jalilova, a woman who was detained for more than a year in the re education camps, claimed that they were asked to put their arms through a small door in the walls and be injected, most of the time after such injection there period was delayed or didn't arrive, another statement was made by 30 year old Mehrigul Tursun at an Amnesty International event in Japan, claiming that unknown drugs and injections were used in 2017, and that after they felt depressed and tired, she was released after four months, she moved to the U.S where they declared her sterile. (Stubley, 2019)

A letter signed by 22 delegations, including Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, among others, requesting the closure of the camps and respect for human rights towards the Uyghurs and other minorities was send to the High

Commissioner of Human Rights, Michelle Bacheler. The letter also request the chinese government to allow the entrance of a U.N specialist in order to validate the conditions inside the facilities. China once again denied such declarations and alleged that the main reason of the facilities was to prevent extremism. The Geneva director of the Human Rights Watch declare “The joint statement demonstrates that Beijing is wrong to think it can escape international scrutiny for its abuses in Xinjiang, and the pressure will only increase until these appalling abuses end” (Times, 2019)

In July 2019, reacting to the letter of those western countries against the actions of the chinese government, ambassadors from more than 35 countries agreed with the measures taken by China to combat extremism, stating that the terrorist attacks have damaged Xinjiang society, calling the measures on human rights as “remarkable”, the delegations of Russia, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Nigeria. After both letters, Michelle Bachelet agreed on the letter that calls China to end the program to request the entry of experts to the region on the condition that they can enter without access restrictions (Putz, 2019).

The Chinese government has said that most of the people who were being held at the re-educational camps are now being released but New York Times reporters prove otherwise, saying that this mission to eradicate extremism is still standing and may even be bigger. Reporters say that in Hotan a city of Xinjiang, there are 5 large fields and also a satellite captured a new facility in the desert near an already established one with large walls and watchtowers. From past years it has been shown that there is a "system of forced labor" that is related to the camps, this consists of making industries and transferring the detainees that are considered to be “reformed” enough to work in those

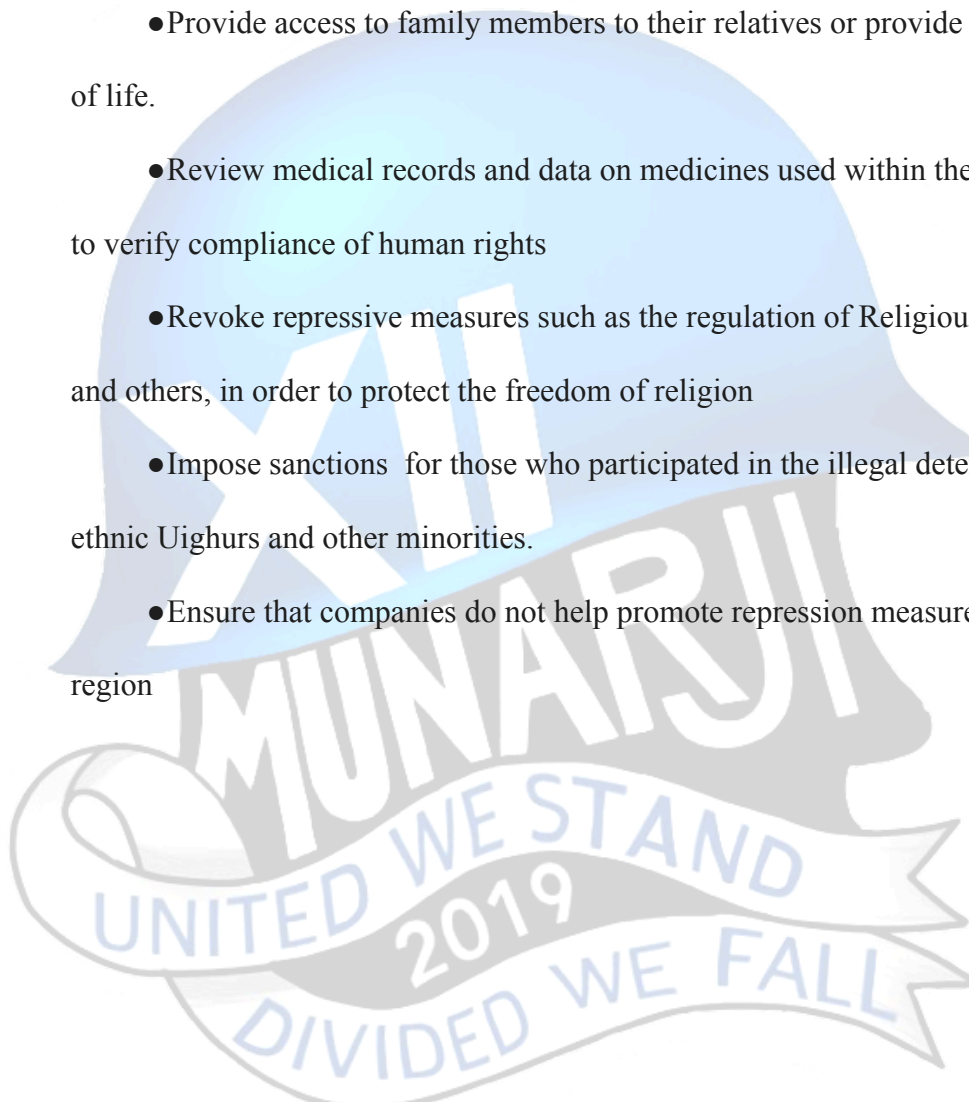
places and still be under watch. Reporters have obtained this information from Mr. Kebayir who has given his experience as a former detainee, how is he living at the moment now that he has been released. (Buckley & Lee, 2019)

V. Keypoints:

- The reason why the Chinese government has developed this camps.
- The effects of the camps in the lives of the Uighurs and other cultures in Xinjiang
- The human rights violations in the region of Xinjiang by the Chinese Government.
- The use of an information survey to collect personal data of the Uighurs living in the region and the use of police checkpoints.
- Discuss the situation of Uighurs living outside the People's Republic of China.
- Measures regarding the prevention of extremism which do not involved change of thoughts and/or beliefs.
- The internment of children in boarding schools and separating them from their parents

VI. Possible solutions:

- Release people without a criminal charge from the reeducation camps unless shown evidence of the criminal behaviour.
- Give the United Nations special group access to the facilities around the Xinjiang regions in order to asses them.
- Provide access to family members to their relatives or provide with proof of life.
- Review medical records and data on medicines used within the facilities to verify compliance of human rights
- Revoke repressive measures such as the regulation of Religious affairs and others, in order to protect the freedom of religion
- Impose sanctions for those who participated in the illegal detentions of ethnic Uighurs and other minorities.
- Ensure that companies do not help promote repression measures in the region



VI. Country Profiles

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

“ ... Xinjiang has launched a vocational education and training program according to the law. Its purpose is to get rid of the environment and soil that breeds terrorism and religious extremism and stop violent terrorist activities from happening.” (chairman of the Government of Xinjiang, Shohrat Zakir). Under the government of the president Xi Jinping most of the religions are being sinicized or formed on the basis of the chinese communist party

In order to prevent terrorism, the chinese government has implemented a vocational and training program to “acquired employment skills and legal knowledge” (Lianhe, 2018), where more than eight thousand Uighurs and other minorities have been detained, some without charges. The chinese government has spent in 2017 over 20 billion yuanes. One of the main objects of this program is to change the mentality of minorities and get them to swear allegiance to the CCP (chinese communist party)

Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has established that the region has improved since the program was implemented, in fact he stated that there have been no terrorist attacks, and the number of cases related to public safety, have decreased, whereas now people feel more safety and invites people to see the changes this has made.

UNITED STATES

Statement: The United States has shown its disapproval of what appears to be a minority retention in Xinjiang, China “is completely unacceptable what China has been doing”

In the year 2019, the U.S ambassador for religious freedom made a declaration saying that “is completely unacceptable what China has been doing”, and it's possible that sanctions are going to be established against chinese officials under the Global Magnitsky Act (Martina, 2019). Till today this sanctions have not been imposed, but Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin fears it will damage internacional business with China, the sanctions they are working on are under the Global Magnitsky Act which is a law passed by the United States that seeks foreigners who are disrupting and violating human rights, for this the state department gathered Uyghurs witnesses to show evidence to support the sanctions applied under the law.

As mentioned before this sanctions are being retained, what gives place to many groups of people being disappointed by the president Donald Trump for not taking action on the matter. Like so, a letter was sent to the top advisors of the president of the United States and Xinjiang’s Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo, signed by 40 legislators saying that China could be commenting on inhuman actions that go against human rights “may constitute crimes against humanity” and asked to reinforce export measures as well as disclose the situation to companies to ensure that no American company was in some way involved in the violations of human rights. China as a response to this said that consequences would be “in proportion” to what United States sanctions were. (Spetalnick, 2019)

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Statement: The Republic of Turkey have remained silent about the situation in Xinjiang due to commercial activities with China

On previous occasions the turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has spoken about his disapproval on the situation in Xinjiang. On february 2019 the Human Rights council at the Palace of Nations in Switzerland, the Turkish Foreign minister showed his concern about violation of Uyghur and other muslims Human Rights, and asked to differentiate between an innocent and a terrorist "We encourage Chinese authorities and expect that universal human rights, including freedom of religion, are respected and full protection of the cultural identities of the Uighurs and other Muslims is ensured," (Aljazeera, 2019)

Besides the declarations made by the Foreign Minister, the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after meeting with Xi Jinping, declared that Uighurs were living a happy life and that that the situation has been taken to extremes to harm the relationship between the two countries.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

After a visit to Xinjiang uyghur autonomous region the delegation showed his approval about what China has achieved in terms of extremism and stability achieved. Egypt spoke highly about the experience that China has with extremism after talking and visit residents. We can see that in the number of tourists hosted by Xinjiang over the past years, Abdelhalim Elwerdany a reporter from egypt mentioned that "The

conditions here are very good... I could feel that local Muslims fully enjoy religious freedom."

Kamal Gaballa who went into several facilities "Trainees study language and law, and learn how to treat others kindly. This great measure is an effective means to get rid of extremism. I will tell all what I see here truthfully to Egyptian people."

These are some of many statements reporters have said, claiming that people now a days look happy, have education, job, etc. around here allowing them to have a better life. (Yan, 2019)

VII.List of countries:

1. Arab Republic of Egypt
2. Canada
3. Commonwealth of Australia
4. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
5. Federal Republic of Germany
6. Federal Republic of Nigeria
7. Federal Republic of Somalia
8. Federation of Malaysia
9. French Republic
10. Indonesia
11. Islamic Republic of Iran
12. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
13. Japan
14. Kingdom of Belgium

15. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
16. New Zealand
17. People's Republic of Bangladesh
18. People's Republic of China
19. Republic of Kazakhstan
20. Republic of the Philippines
21. Republic of India
22. Republic of Ireland
23. Republic of Turkey
24. State of Qatar
25. Syrian Arab Republic
26. United Arab Emirates
27. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
28. United States of America



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