

Dear Canadian Officials:

I am a Uyghur Canadian. On the Qurban Eid day, instead of enjoying time with my family and friends, I am writing this letter with my tears and hopes for assistance from our government. In this letter, first I want to inform you about my life in Canada as an introduction to Uyghur Canadians lives here; Second, I want to give some corrections on some terminology that is regularly misused for Uyghurs in Canadian Media and even by some of the elected representatives. The third is my personal testimony. The Forth are the common concerns of the Uyghur Canadians. Lastly I give you my sincere request and hope from our Canadian government.

Background information:

We are very concerned about the worsen situations of Uyghur people in the East Turkestan (aka Xinjiang) China for over 4 years. Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) plan is to eradicate the Uyghurs by showing "absolutely no mercy" so that they do not exist as an ethnic group in China. To achieve that goal, the Uyghur Region's party secretary Chen Quanguo ordered to "round up everyone who should be rounded up". Thus, Muslim Uyghurs have been targeted and persecuted for their religious belief and ethnic identity in their own historic and ancestral land. Numerous credible reports indicated that more than 3 million of Uyghur Muslims are locked by CCP in Nazi-style concentration camps without charge in various locations. They are physically mistreated, subjected to psychological abuse and forced to deny their faith, learn Chinese Communist ideology and sing praises of China's Communist Party.

1. My life in Canada, just like many other Uyghur Canadians here

My husband and I came to Canada as Skilled Immigrants 10 years ago and have been raising our 3 kids here. I still remember we two sang in front of the Ottawa Parliament Hill building: "We are free, we are free, finally free...." We felt so proud of being a Canadian and loving Canada more than all the other countries that we visited before.

However, I never expected that even I as a Canadian, I will not have my very basic freedom of contacting my parents back home in East Turkistan due to the Chinese government's harshest persecution of Uyghurs. The Chinese government has cut off all communication between the Uyghur region and the outside world and I could have not been able to call my parents/brothers since Aug 2017. We have been hearing the most horrible News about Uyghurs daily. When the Uyghur issue is mentioned on the media as the Chinese Concentration camp, Uyghur holocaust, slaughter, rape, organ harvesting, abused or missing Uyghur children, for others it can be only sad News for the day, but for Uyghurs, we feel the pain with our whole body, mind and soul. It was very hard to carry on our life without even knowing if our family members back home are alive or not, in such harsh circumstances.

I spent the last 4 years of my life concentrating all my efforts to make the Uyghurs' voice heard in Canada, even though I always have the fear that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) may take revenge on my family back home. From speaking person to person, giving speeches in social events and schools, appearing on News Media, collecting signatures on MP letters/ petitions, directly contacting MPs... I tried all means, yet we have only seen little improvements in Canada. The parliamentary hearings gave me some hope. I have become tired and depressed, as the Uyghurs issue does not seem to be one the mainstream media deems a priority at the public level and no meaningful action has been taken at our government level. Sometimes, I feel the weight of a mountain on my shoulders while my feet stand in the fires of despair. It has affected my health and family as well. I can see the clear result of depression on my children from their mood and sudden drop-offs in their studies. I feel very sorry for my kids as they have to go through such pain at their young age. They too feel for their grandparents and family under the Chinese regime.

This is my situation, but for other Uyghur Canadians their pain is no less than mine. Several people managed to get to know that their loved ones passed away. Some have children/ husband/ wife left back home.

2. Some terminology being used for Uyghurs which should be corrected in Canadian Media and government

I like the way our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets Muslims by saying Assalamu Aleykum in special occasions. I believe he uses Assalamu Alaykum because of its beautiful meaning: Peace be upon you. However, did you know that we Uyghurs can be labeled as extremists and sent to the camps, just for greeting with Assalamu Alaykum?

By saying this, I want to inform you that China's claim about Uyghur extremists and terrorists are totally baseless and nonsense. I feel it is extremely unjust when our Media and even some politicians mention this false claim as a reason for the ongoing genocide of Uyghurs. There is NEVER a reason for a genocide of any people. In fact, the Chinese government started this mass internment after they made sure that Uyghurs have NO means of protecting themselves and none of the other neighboring countries will speak up for the atrocity due to their political/economic interest by **luring** them into One Belt and One Road Initiatives. Plus, the global term '**war on terror**' became an easy excuse for Chinese government officials to manipulate the term and suppress Uyghur Muslims with harsh policies and silence the world. There is no excuse for genocide just like the holocaust – there is no excuse for the murder and crimes against humanity being inflicted on an entire nation including young children.

Let us think logically and compare if the CCP narratives of terrorism and the terrorism term that we know in the west are the same or not:

- **Are Uyghurs any threat to China?**

Uyghurs have faced genocide because we did not have any power or means to protect ourselves and stand against the government. Uyghurs are not even allowed to keep any sharp instruments at home. Even the kitchen knives are barcoded and registered at local police office¹. When I saw a video showing butcher knives chained to a table, I could not believe my eyes. I understand the reason when CCP started to lock up millions of Uyghurs in the concentration camps. CCP wanted to make sure that Uyghurs have to stay quiet no matter what police do with them. We do not even have any right to speak up, how can we believe that people will be able to take action or plot against the government. Even when babies were killed and taken out from Uyghur mother's tummy in their 6th month by the order of the Chinese government, the father can be detained if he resists.

We, Uyghurs are moderate, peace-loving and hardworking people. We do not want Chinese authorities to distort our image on the international stage, to justify their persecutions of Uyghurs.

¹ **Xinjiang Police Search Uyghur Homes For 'Illegal Items'**

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/searches-04042017172301.html?searchterm=utf8:ustring=%20uyghur%20knife>

- **Have Uyghur people organized against the Chinese government?**

China is a police state facilitated by surveillance everywhere. The authorities have built a draconian surveillance state using 21st century technology, implementing facial recognition systems, tracking technology, surveillance applications, and police checkpoints throughout cities in the region.² It is not possible for people to come together to do anything against the government in the Uyghur region.

I still remember when I went back to East Turkistan from the UK last time in 2006, a friend warned me that there can be a camera installed secretly by the Chinese police at my house to monitor me, and so I should speak to my family very carefully without any political discussion. At that time, I was only a student, doing my Masters. I was not involved in any politics.

A business owner, Mr. Zhang (Note: From his name, for sure he is a Han Chinese, not Uyghur) said “There are recording devices in our pockets. If anyone is found complaining, they will be sent to a ‘study class’”³

Imagine, under such tight control, how can people even think about plotting anything against CCP? It sounds so absurd when Chinese authorities mention explosive attacks. They have not earned any level of trust. I strongly believe it could be a game plan organized among themselves in order to create stories for making others believe that Uyghurs deserve the harshest policy by the government. Nevertheless, China is the only country that managed to lock up millions and still managed to cover up the facts from the outside world. For such a big atrocity, of course, Chinese authority must come up with some stories to be able to find excuses. Did not they lie many times by now from complete denial of the camps to claiming that they are “vocational training centers”?⁴....

- **Has China faced any military threat from within or from surrounding countries?**

China has very advanced military weaponry and army force that cannot be threatened by anyone in China or even by any neighboring countries.

Chinese authorities not only use police to control people in Uyghur region: It starts from the spies (secret police) in every neighborhood in each villages arranged by the village government to the Xinjiang Autonomous Region level, there are many types of police. For example: There are special police for checking individual’s bank transactions, so many people were detained for sending money for their children’s education abroad. There are special internet polices censor people’s online communication heavily and write comments as official duties⁵. The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps – Bingtuan also conduct widespread abuses against Uighur Muslims⁶.

²“The Happiest Muslims in the World” Disinformation, Propaganda, and the Uyghur Crisis”

By Uyghur Human Rights Project | July 2020

https://docs.uhrp.org/pdf/Disinformation_Propaganda_and_the_Uyghur_Crisis.pdf

³ **How CCP is Destroying Businesses in Xinjiang**

<https://bitterwinter.org/how-ccp-is-destroying-businesses-in-xinjiang/>

5 The Chinese government fakes nearly 450 million social media comments a year.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/19/the-chinese-government-fakes-nearly-450-million-social-media-comments-a-year-this-is-why/?fbclid=IwAR09c3eI3Vz9Wji1kB6avFmALVaeMt_3OgoQOmRbiaWwvBhFr0UkIZLfuc

Even though, East Turkistan is not recognized as a war zone, but you could see heavily armed police patrols and tanks in the streets. Even foreign journalists are not able to take much picture and gather information.

Under such tight control, who can plot anything to threaten within or from outside of China?

In this table, let's see how those terminologies are used in reality for Uyghurs by CCP:

	Normal understanding in the West	“Communist Style” application of those terminologies for Uyghurs in Uyghur region
Police and Army	As long as we do not commit crime, we do not have to fear them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted widespread abuses against Uighur Muslims⁷ Serve the government to repress anyone that CCP does not like Cause fear among people, so none dares to stand /say anything against CCP Heavily armed, can use military weapon at any time even for student demonstration (Who is the best fit to the criteria of real terrorists?!)
Laws & regulations	From current situation, is China applying any law & regulation for Uyghurs like other Han citizens?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the paper only. Simple example: rape is a crime in any countries, but even police/camp guards are not charged for raping Uyghur women. Did Chen Quanguo (CCP Secretary) and his followers abide by any laws or regulations when committing atrocity on Uyghurs?⁸
Religious Extremism	When you use this term RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM for Uyghurs, do you have the same standard as CCP?	<p>Normal religious practices are considered as extremism including using symbols/books/ worship places,i.e:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wearing longer skirt (never mention headscarf) Advising your son not to drink alcohol Listening/watching Islamic video/lectures
Terrorism	When you use this term TERRORISM for Uyghurs, do you have the same standard as CCP?	<p>Any peaceful resistance from a person/people is considered as terrorism act, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any demonstration is regarded as threat Any speech against unjustness Any human rights advocacy Any elements related to Uyghur language, history, culture, religion

From above analysis, you, as a reader decide if it is fair to use terminologies, such as **TERRORISM** or **EXTREMISM** for Uyghurs?

6 “US Punishes China State-within-state In Xinjiang Over Rights

<https://www.ibtimes.com/us-punishes-china-state-within-state-xinjiang-over-rights-3020556>

7 “US Punishes China State-within-state In Xinjiang Over Rights

<https://www.ibtimes.com/us-punishes-china-state-within-state-xinjiang-over-rights-3020556>

⁸ **US Enacts Magnitsky Sanctions on Chinese Officials for Xinjiang Abuses**

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/us-enacts-magnitsky-sanctions-on-chinese-officials-for-xinjiang-abuses/>

3. Personal testimonies

I am very concerned about my family back home. I have not been able to call them since last 3 years. I miss my parents, brothers and nephews so much.

1. My relative

One of my relatives came to Turkey. His name is Iysa Hekim.

According to Iysa Hekim, all of Eysa's brothers and sisters were sent to the Chinese Concentration Camps: Riyangul Hekim, Rahman Hekim, Mosajan Hekim, Ayshemgul Hekim, Mamatjan Hekim

He does not know about his old age father, if he is alive or not.

2. My previous colleague

When I was working in a village government 20 years ago, I witnessed 2 incidents:

- One of our colleagues, Yusuf was arrested for keeping a book about Islam. He was a young boy, around 20 years old. After having several times of serious meetings/political studies, my Chinese manager, CCP secretary asked me if Yusuf said anything to me and other colleagues about his views. I answered him by saying: Yusuf was a very quiet boy. When everybody else was busy talking, I saw him only staying quiet with a smile. (It means just for keeping an Islamic book, arresting Yusuf was not enough. CCP was hunting for his friends too.)
- There was a picnic event arranged by a group of young boys near the riverside in this village government. In the meeting of the village government, it was announced that the local police arrested all of them on the suspension of planning something else. When I talked with a police officer, I remember he said that no clear proof, but they suspected them.

The other Uyghur Canadians have more testimonies to tell you, but may choose to keep quiet, as they worry about their family back home.

4. Common concerns by Uyghur Canadians

• Worrying families in the Chinese Concentration camps

China has closed schools, and movie theatres but they have not closed the concentration camps during the Covid-19 crisis. It is inhumane to forcibly detain people for their religious beliefs and separate them from their children for no other reason but their belief in God. These camps have imprisoned > 3million Uyghur people against their will and the very poor conditions of the people with lack of toilets, water, food are unacceptable especially now during the COVID 19 pandemic.

• Feeling the pain of Uyghur women & children

As it is reported by the associated press, the Chinese government is separating Uyghur children from their living parents and locking them down in children's' camps with barbed wire and heavy security under the name of Kindergarten for psychological abuse and political indoctrination. We saw videos on Twitter 2-3 years old Uyghur Children are working on cotton field.⁹ This makes us worried so much about their future.

The Uyghur women are being separated from their husband and children undergoing immense hardship: While the majority of Uyghur men locked in those camps, a million Chinese Communist Party

⁹ **Babies working on cotton fields:** <https://twitter.com/auighur/status/1259846231808970755?s=20>

officials have been forcibly billeted in Uyghur homes¹. Uyghur women are being monitored and raped. A camp survivor's testimony about a young Uyghur woman was gang raped by several police (Imagine: not by street gangsters, by police!) in front of about 200 Uyghur/ Kazak detainees in the last parliament hearing was heart breaking! Ms Ruqiye Perhat, now 30, told the Washington Post that she was repeatedly raped by Han Chinese guards¹⁰.

Forced abortion has been going on since the one child policy started in China. Sterilization is not new either. Several of my friends could not get their second child. If they had health issue, I believe they might not have the first child either. We cannot imagine the pain of Uyghur girls are forced to marry their oppressors. Protecting women's dignity comes first comparing to protecting our home or wealth.

While those vulnerable children and women are suffering immensely, we stay here without being able to help. Their voice is silenced by CCP in China, so nobody else, including the Han Chinese in the big cities may not know about them. Here we try our best to speak for them, but our voice is not heard either. This gives me hard time to believe and accept this reality.

This is a repeat of what happened to the Jews who were persecuted by the Nazis.

- **Forced labour: Thousands of Uyghur people are being forced to work in factories in cities in China**

These factories are linked to the supply chains of major worldwide brands while the Chinese people are in lockdown due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the Uyghur people are being forced to work in these factories with the 24 hour surveillance, semi military management and continued enforced indoctrination. They are separated from their families. Many Canadian Uyghurs are rightfully claiming the possibility of their family members and relatives among those forced labourers in those facilities.

- **Concerns over organ harvesting in China**

Almost all Uyghurs have seen the picture of a sign "Special passengers' Human organs transportation route" at the Kashgar Airport¹¹. Cutting off all the communication of East Turkistan from the outside world, mass detention, crematories next to the concentration camps, missing children and obligatory free health check up from entire Uyghur population, collection of DNA samples all add up together to create an 'organ bank' from the Uyghurs. The China Tribunal chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC confirmed that forced organ harvesting is happening in China – this is targeted killing. Killing people for their organs creates despair and intense fear feeling for everyone and is like the cruel crimes against humanity done to the Jews in the Holocaust.

- **Student visa rejection:**

¹⁰ **Inside China's 're-education camps' Where Women Are Raped and Sterilized**
<https://metro.co.uk/2019/10/08/inside-chinas-re-education-camps-women-raped-sterilised-10879874/?ito=cbshare?ito=cbshare>

¹¹ **Witnesses Fear Chinese Regime Murdering Uyghurs for Their Organs**
https://www.theepochtimes.com/witnesses-fear-ccp-murdering-uyghurs-for-their-organs_2699333.html

Many Uyghur students' visa applications were rejected by the Canadian Embassy, although they were accepted by universities in Canada and they provided all the documents required to get a visa. Their visa applications were rejected on the assumption that these Uyghur students will not go back to their home countries. This makes me very concerned. We want to see the Canadian government take action to protect minorities under persecution. I just can't help but think if a Chinese student can get a visa, since he can go back to China and a Uyghur student cannot get a Canadian Visa because we are facing persecution back home. This is not what Canada stands for – Canada is the land that stands for freedom and justice. It means our Canadian government is helping our oppressor CCP to persecute innocent lives such as these young students. We respect Canada's immigration law and regulations, but there must be provisions in genocidal situations.

Our Canadian politicians have apologized repeatedly for returning the Jewish refugees ship with more than 900 passengers in 1939¹². Why do we repeat the same mistake in our history, while Uyghur Holocaust is happening right now?

- **Difficulties for family reunion:**

Several Uyghur families had difficulties to bring their family members (loved ones) to Canada from 3rd countries, not to mention from China. The process has become so complicated and longer for them, although their family members' life is in danger and may be returned to China at any time. Actually, their case should be handled urgently as a special case instead of making it harder, longer and more complicated. We have to remember that Uyghurs may seek asylum just because they want to run away from the Chinese government's persecutions.

- **Communication problems with family/ relatives back home**

Many Uyghur Canadians including me are unable to contact our parents and relatives back home in China. We mentioned this to MPs several times and made petitions, but there is no response or help.

- **Harassed by spam calls in Chinese language**

We always receive harassment calls in Chinese mostly from the "Chinese Embassy". Sometimes it says from DHL or Fido in Chinese. Chinese embassy rejected on their website that these calls were not made by them. However, the patterns of calls are very suspicious since we receive calls mainly before and after we had events or demonstration etc.

5. Our request for the Canadian government

As being totalitarian country, Chinese government will not admit these much atrocity and will not stop it voluntarily unless pressure comes from international pressure. The longer we wait, the more will suffer, so we want our Canadian government

1. Acknowledge the mass atrocities committed against Uyghurs in East Turkistan by China as Genocide and take the lead to stop it.
2. Issue strong actionable proposal to our government on Uyghur genocide. Let Xi Jinping in Beijing know that our government is under pressure from Canadian Public and parliamentarians alike and

¹² **Trudeau warns against modern anti-Semitism in apology for turning away Jewish refugees fleeing Nazis**
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-trudeau-says-canadas-1939-refusal-to-accept-ship-of-jewish-refugees/>

united. Strong actionable proposal is necessary to strengthen the hands of our government to safeguard our national interest with China.

3. Make any new bilateral and multilateral agreements with China conditional on the closure of the concentration camps. Canada should lead during this inhumane crisis and ask the UN to demand an immediate release of the children and their families.
4. Impose Magnitsky sanctions upon Chinese officials responsible for Uyghur genocide. We severely undermined our own credibility by applying Magnitsky Bill towards some individuals from some countries and set aside it when it comes to China.
5. Ban all products coming from China that are associated with Uyghur forced labor. Onus should be on the companies to prove that their product and supply chain is not related to forced labor.
6. Pass Organ transplant Bill S-204 that was dropped at the end of the last parliamentary session to ban any human organs originated from China as Israel, Spain and recently Belgium did already. Forced organ harvesting MUST STOP. People should be able to keep at least their organs for themselves.
7. Urge our Ministry of immigration to accept nearly 2380 Uyghur refugee families and stateless children trapped in Turkey or other vulnerable countries as they face possible deportation to China.
8. Remind the Immigration and Refugee Board to accept the claim of Uyghur refugees made here in Canada without further delay as long as their Uyghur identity is proven. There is no need to compel those Uyghur refugees to tell their horrible stories in pain and in tears before the adjudicators. For that reason, Sweden decided to accept all Uyghurs as refugees collectively. That is the right move because China is targeting all Uyghurs and all Uyghurs are at the risk indiscriminately.
9. China's government has been in denial of providing any records or other official documents for Uyghur refugee families for a long time and CIC is still asking Uyghur refugees to provide such documents from China to process their family sponsorship program. For that reason alone, Uyghur refugee families are shattered, divided without unification. Can we adjust some technical requirements like this to the actual situation on the ground and make it easier for the Uyghur refugees to unite with their families without imposing double penalty on them?
10. Facilitate our communication with our parents and other relatives back home in China.
11. Investigate the harassment, threats, coercion and reprisals by Chinese agents in Canada against members of the Canadian Uyghur community;

ⁱⁱ Xinjiang Authorities Regularly Impose 'Home Stays' on Muslim Uyghur Families: Rights Group
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/homestays-05142018153305.html?searchterm:utf8:ustring=%20chinese%20officials%20uyghur%20homes>