

Brief for SDIR— Mass Sterilization and Population Control Measures Against Uyghurs & Forced Labour

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Mass Sterilization and Population Control Measures Against Uyghurs & Forced Labour

Evidence from Uyghur victims and a recent report citing documents from the Chinese Communist Party demonstrate an intentional and ongoing campaign from the Chinese government of sterilization and population control targeting Uyghur women in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. This policy appears to aim to significantly diminish the Uyghur population and is taking place in the context of the mass arbitrary detention of Uyghur in internment camps, use of Uyghur detainees in forced labour programs, attempts to forcibly assimilate and indoctrination ethnic Uyghurs and a denial of the Uyghur people's most basic rights and freedoms.

The targeted nature of this campaign of mass sterilization and population control and intent to decrease the Uyghur population fits the accepted definition of a genocide under Article 2 (d) of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and in article 6 (d) of the Statute of Rome.

Background

The Uyghur people have lived in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region for approximately 4,000 years. Xinjiang (called East Turkistan by many Uyghurs) is the homeland of the Turkish speaking Uyghurs and other Central Asian peoples such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars and Tajiks. According to the 2002 census, there are around 10.2 million Uyghurs in Xinjiang, which constitutes the large majority of its population. Uyghurs have their own language, culture, religion, ethnic identity and history, rooted in their ancestral homeland.

The Uyghur people are now facing an unprecedented crisis. While Uyghurs have been subjected to repression and human rights violations in previous decades, the Chinese government dramatically escalated its treatment of the Uyghur people to focus on total assimilation. Since 2016 and 2017, the Chinese government has launched a series of policies aimed at eroding the Uyghur ethnic identity, assimilating the Uyghur people and ensuring control and compliance.

The most notable facet of this assimilatory strategy has been the mass arbitrary detention of 1-3 million Uyghurs in internment camps, starting around April 2017. Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic Turkic people living in the region were rounded up and sent to the internment camps. They were selected for detention for a variety of reasons including contact with friends and family outside China, practicing Islam and engaging in any form of activism. In particular, prominent figures and leaders in the Uyghur community were targeted, including businessmen, religious leaders, musicians, literary figures, athletes and activists.

As leaked documents such as the China Cables¹, the Karakax² documents and other documents published by the Chinese government have made clear, the purpose of the internment camp system was to indoctrinate and assimilate the Uyghur people. Detainees were forced to recite propaganda, pledge loyalty to the Chinese government and learn Chinese while in detention, while disavowing their religion and ethnic identity. Numerous survivors have testified that torture was regularly used to enforce the indoctrination efforts. The camps existed outside of Chinese law and detainees had no access to a lawyer, were charged with no crime and were not given a trial. For over a year, the Chinese government repeatedly denied that the camps existed, until satellite imagery proved otherwise.

The threat of detention in the camps is also used to ensure compliance and advance assimilation outside the camps. This is further reinforced by a dystopian security and surveillance system to monitor and control the Uyghur people, involving a dense network of security cameras with facial recognition technology and use of artificial intelligence⁴.

The central tenets of Uyghur identity have been targeted and undermined by the Chinese government. The practice of religion has been tightly controlled. Religiously observant Uyghurs have been sent to internment camps and a series of repressive laws and regulations have made the practice of Islam nearly impossible⁵. Even the most basic expressions of religious sentiment have been criminalized, such as growing a long beard, wearing an Islamic veil or owning a Quran⁶. All imams are appointed by the Chinese government and access to mosques is strictly monitored and controlled. A Chinese government official was quoted saying that Islam was and “ideological illness” that must be “eradicated”.

In particular, these assimilatory policies have focused on the younger generation of Uyghurs. Chinese law forbids Uyghurs below the age of 18 from entering a mosque and bans parents from teaching their children about religion⁷. In schools, use of the Uyghur language has been discouraged, or banned outright, as was the case in the Hotan prefecture in September 2017⁸. Uyghur children whose parents are detained in

¹ Allen-Ebrahimian, B. (2019). “Exposed: China’s Operating Manuals for Mass Internment and Arrest by Algorithm”. *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists*. Retrieved from: <https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/exposed-chinas-operating-manuals-for-mass-internment-and-arrest-by-algorithm/>.

² Uyghur Human Rights Project (February 26, 2020). “Ideological Transformation: Records of Mass Detention from Qaraqash, Hotan”, *Uyghur Human Rights Project*. Retrieved from: <https://uhrp.org/press-release/uhrp-briefing-local-residents-danger-starving-east-turkistan.html>.

⁴ Human Rights Watch. (2019). “China’s Algorithms of Repression: Reverse Engineering a Xinjiang Police Mass Surveillance App”. *Human Rights Watch*, pp. 24, 30. Retrieved from: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/05/01/chinas-algorithms-repression/reverse-engineering-xinjiang-police-mass-surveillance>.

⁵ ONHCR. (November 12, 2018). Official Joint Letter. *ONHCR*. Retrieved from: https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/article/files/jol_de-extremification.pdf; ONHCR. (November 1, 2019). Official Joint Letter. *ONHCR*. Retrieved from: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Terrorism/SR/OL_CHN_18_2019.pdf.

⁶ BBC (February 17, 2020). “China Uyghurs: Detained for Beards, Veils and Internet Browsing”. *BBC News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51520622>.

⁷ Long Q. (October 30, 2014). “China Clamps Down on ‘Underage Religion’ Among Muslim Uyghurs”. *Radio Free Asia*. Retrieved from: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/underage-10302014120731.html>.

⁸ ONHCR. (January 12, 2018). Official Letter. *ONHCR*. Retrieved from: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23557>.

internment camps have been taken to “orphanages” run by the CCP where they are indoctrinated against participating in their Uyghur ethnic identity⁹.

The Chinese government has also been destroying physical representations of Uyghur culture, history, religion and identity. As documented by the Uyghur human rights project, much of the historical heritage in the ancient city of Kashgar has been destroyed¹⁰. The CCP has also destroyed thousands of mosques¹¹ across the region under its “Mosque Rectification Campaign”¹². Uyghur graveyards¹³, shrines and other sites of cultural, historical and religious importance have also been destroyed by the Chinese government in an attempt to erase Uyghur history. Chinese media has also been falsely claiming that Uyghurs are not ethnic Turkic peoples as they identify, but a subset of the Han Chinese ethnic group¹⁴, in order to rewrite history and more fully assimilate the Uyghur people.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has also documented the transfer of Uyghur detainees from internment camps and use as forced labourers in factories around China¹⁵. This appears to be a disturbing new phase to the CCP’s policies towards Uyghurs, as possibly hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs have been forcibly transferred away from their homes to forced labour facilities around China. In the last few years, millions of Han Chinese settlers have also been transferred to Xinjiang, sometimes occupying the homes of detained Uyghurs, in an attempt to change the population demographics of the region.

It is in this context that the CCP’s policy of mass sterilization and population control of Uyghurs must be considered. It is evident that this is the most egregious instance in a series of policies aimed to diminish and erode Uyghur society, in what can only be accurately labelled as a demographic genocide.

Sterilization and Population Control Measures

There has always been a degree of population control in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, due to the “One Child Policy” from the Chinese government. While Uyghurs were sometimes exempted from this policy and allowed to have 2 children, there have been numerous allegations of forced sterilization, birth control, forced abortions and fines for Uyghur mothers who have more than 2 children.

⁹BBC (July 4, 2019). “China Muslims: Xinjiang Schools Used to Separate Children from Families”. *BBC News*. Retrieved from : <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51520622>.

¹⁰ Uyghur Human Rights Project (June 2020). “Kashgar Coerced: Forced Reconstruction, Exploitation, and Surveillance in the Cradle of Uyghur Culture”, *Uyghur Human Rights Project*. Retrieved from :https://uhrp.org/sites/default/files/UHRP-Kashgar-Coerced-Report-06_03_20%20Final.pdf.

¹¹Kuo, L. (May 7, 2019). “Revealed: New Evidence of China’s Mission to Raze the Mosques of Xinjiang”. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/07/revealed-new-evidence-of-chinas-mission-to-raze-the-mosques-of-xinjiang>.

¹²Uyghur Human Rights Project (October 2019). “Demolishing Faith: the Destruction and Desecration of Uyghur Mosques and Shrines”. *Uyghur Human Rights Project*. Retrieved from: https://docs.uhrp.org/pdf/UHRP_report_Demolishing_Faith.pdf

¹³The Guardian. (October 9, 2019). “Then and Now: China’s Destruction of Uighur Burial Grounds”. *CNES/Airbus DS/Earthrise/AFP*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/09/chinas-destruction-of-uighur-burial-grounds-then-and-now>

¹⁴Xin, L. (July 21, 2019). “Uyghurs not Turk Descendants: White Paper”. *Global Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1158545.shtml>.

¹⁵Xiuzhong, V. et al. (March 1, 2020). “Uyghurs for Sale : ‘Re-education’, Forced Labour and Surveillance beyond Xinjiang”. *Australian Strategic Policy Institute*. Retrieved from: <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>.

However, since 2016, policies from the Chinese government have been put in place targeting Uyghur women and the Uyghur population in particular in a concerted effort to reduce the Uyghur population. Taken in context with the related crimes against humanity being perpetrated against Uyghur, especially the mass arbitrary detention of 1-3 million Uyghurs in internment camps and attempts to totally assimilate the population. It has become clear that these population control measures target the Uyghur population in particular as part of a broader series of policies to diminish and assimilate the Uyghur people.

Witness Testimony

The testimony of nearly every survivor of the internment camps have pointed to some degree of population control and interference in Uyghur women's reproductive rights. Four survivors of the internment camps have consented to have their testimonies be used as evidence:

- [Gulbahar Jalilova](#)
- [Mihrigul Tursun](#)
- [Zumrat Dawut](#)
- [Tursunay Ziyawudun](#)

All four camp survivors have publicly testified that they were subjected to birth suppressive measures while detained in the internment camps and witnessed this being perpetrated against other Uyghur women. All of the former detainees recounted that while in detention, they were forced to ingest pills, a white liquid or received injections, which made them numb and stopped the periods of female detainees. Some of the survivors testified that female detainees experienced heavy bleeding and other serious health problems and receiving the pills, liquid or injections. All of the detainees had a black bag placed over their head at the time of the arrest and were subjected to medical examinations and had blood drawn without their consent.

Ms. Tursun testified that detainees were given inadequate food, were often denied access to hygienic products and were constantly monitored on security cameras. Ms. Tursun was tortured in a 'tiger chair', with electric shocks, beaten and was subject to other forms of inhuman treatment¹⁶. Out of the 68 people who were in her cell, she witnessed the death of 9 of them during her 3-month detention.

Ms. Dawut testified that she was forced to recite Chinese propaganda promoting loyalty to Xi Jinping and undermining the Uyghur ethnic identity. She has said that she was beaten on one occasion for sharing bread with another inmate. Inmates were regularly chained, beaten and tortured¹⁷.

Ms. Jalilova testified that during interrogations, they were shackled and black-hooded, and were taken to a room where they were strapped into a tiger chair, sometimes for 24 hours. Gulbahar witnessed girls as

¹⁶US Senate. (November 28, 2018). "Rubio Chairs China Commission Hearing on Communist Party's Crackdown on Religion in China". *Marco Rubio US Senator for Florida*. Retrieved from: <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/11/rubio-chairs-china-commission-hearing-on-communist-party-s-crackdown-on-religion-in-china>.

¹⁷Abou-Sabe, K. et al. (November 24, 2019). "Secret Chinese Documents Reveal Inner Workings of Muslim Detention Camps". *NBC News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/all/secret-chinese-documents-reveal-inner-workings-muslim-detention-camps-n1089941>.

young as 14 years old and women as old as 80, coming back from interrogation with bruised bodies and swollen heads, one of which came back with part of her skull bashed in.

Tursunay Ziyawudun testified that she witnessed the rape and torture of other detainees. Other survivors such as Sayragul Sauythbay¹⁸ and Omer Bekali¹⁹ have also testified to the systematic use of torture, rape and gender-based violence in the camps.

Two of the survivors have been medically examined since being released from the internment camps and were found to have been sterilized.

Ms. Dawut testified that Chinese authorities gave her surgery to sterilize her on October 22nd, 2018, shortly after she was released from the camps. She was too afraid of being forcibly returned to the camps to say no to the operation. She underwent a medical examination after fleeing to the USA and was found to have been sterilized²⁰. Ms. Tursun was also found to have been sterilized after being examined by professionals when fleeing to the United States²¹. Another detainee, Rakhima Senbay, was found to have been forcibly fitted with an IUD device²².

The testimony of several of the internment camp survivors have been recorded in full in the final judgement of the Independent China Tribunal²³:

- Gulbahar Jalilova (page 323)
- Mihrigul Tursun (page 335)
- Omer Bekali (page 277)

From their testimony, we can conclude that sterilization and birth control measures were systematically perpetrated on Uyghur women in the internment camps. A report published by German academic Adrian Zenz gave further evidence that these measures were being forced onto the Uyghur population as a whole, across Xinjiang.

Evidence from the Report

¹⁸Stavrou, D. (October 17, 2019). "A Million People Are Jailed at China's Gulag. I Managed to Escape. Here's What Really Goes on Inside". *Hareetz*. Retrieved from: <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-a-million-people-are-jailed-at-china-s-gulags-i-escaped-here-s-what-goes-on-inside-1.7994216>.

¹⁹Shih, G. (May 18, 2018). "China's Mass Indoctrination Camps Evoke Cultural Revolution". *Agence-Presses*. Retrieved from: <https://apnews.com/6e151296fb194f85ba69a8babd972e4b/China%E2%80%99s-massindoctrinationcamps-evoke-Cultural-Revolution>.

²⁰Rauhala, E. and Anna Fifield. (November 17, 2019). "She survived a Chinese Internment Camp and Made it to Virginia. Will the U.S. Let Her Stay?". *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/11/17/she-survived-chinese-internment-camp-made-it-virginia-will-us-let-her-stay/?arc404=true>.

²¹Danilova, M. (November 27, 2018). "Woman Describes Torture, Beatings in Chinese Detention Camp". *Agence-Presses*. Retrieved from: <https://apnews.com/61cdf7f5dfc34575aa643523b3c6b3fe>.

²²Ferris-Rotman, A. (October 5, 2019). "Abortions, IUDs and Sexual Humiliation: Muslim Women who Fled China for Kazakhstan Recount Ordeals". *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/abortions-iuds-and-sexual-humiliation-muslim-women-who-fled-china-for-kazakhstan-recount-ordeals/2019/10/04/551c2658-cfd2-11e9-a620-0a91656d7db6_story.html.

²³China Tribunal (June 2019). "The Independent Tribunal Into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China". *China Tribunal*. P.63-67. Retrieved from: https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ChinaTribunal_JUDGMENT_1stMarch_2020.pdf.

A recent report published by German academic Adrian Zenz has shed light and provided important evidence about the CCP's campaign of mass sterilization and population control targeting Uyghurs. The report is entitled "[Sterilizations, IUDs, and Mandatory Birth Control: The CCP's Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang](#)" and gives compelling evidence of the campaign of sterilization that the Chinese government is using sterilization and mandatory birth control to control the birth rates of the Uyghur people, in order to change the demographics Xinjiang, assimilate the Uyghur people and erode the Uyghur ethnicity entirely.

Drawing from Chinese language sources and official CCP documents, the report demonstrates that it has been an intentional strategy from the Chinese government to reduce and manage the Uyghur population. Official CCP documents "bluntly mandate that birth control violations are punishable by extrajudicial internment in "training" camps", confirming evidence from the leaked "Karakax List" document'²⁴. Further documents from 2019 reveal plans for a campaign of mass female sterilization in rural Uyghur regions, targeting between 14 (in Guma County)²⁵ and 34 percent (in Hotan City) of all women of childbearing age²⁶, with sufficient funding to perform hundreds of thousands of 'tubal ligation sterilization procedures' in 2019 and 2020²⁷.

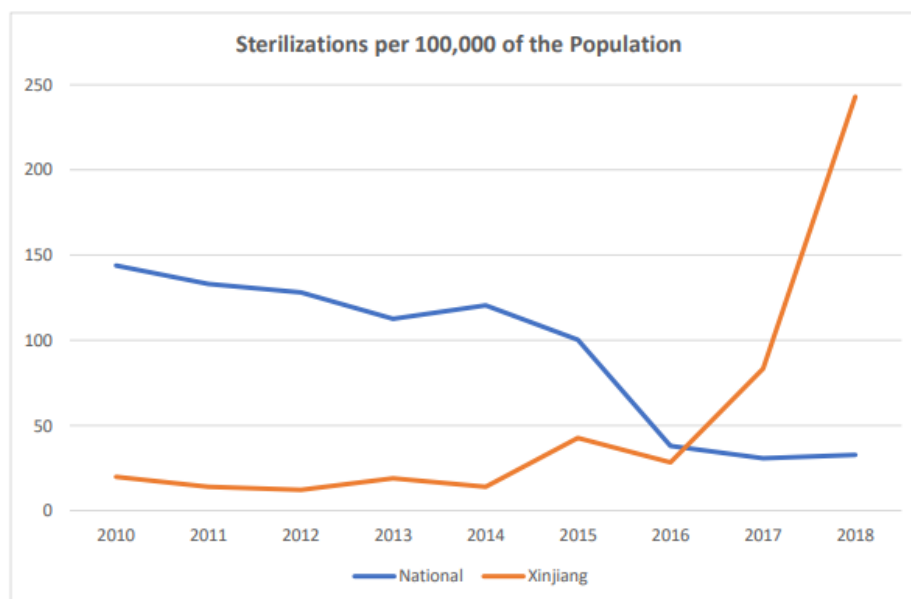


Figure 9. Source: 2011-2019 Health and Hygiene Statistical Yearbooks, table 8-8-2.

Note: Data for Sterilizations per 100,000 of the population from 2011-2019 from Dr. Adrien Zenz (June 2020) for The Jamestown Foundation.

It further states that by 2019, Chinese authorities planned to subject at least 80% of women of childbearing age in southern Xinjiang to birth prevention surgeries. In 2018, 80% of all new IUD (a contraceptive device)

²⁴Zenz, A. (February 17, 2020). "The Karakax List: Dissecting the Anatomy of Beijing's Internment Drive in Xinjiang". *Journal of Political Risk*. Retrieved from: <https://www.jpolrisk.com/karakax/>.

²⁵ <https://archive.fo/Z2gke>

²⁶ <https://www.hts.gov.cn/file/upload/201911/22/232405667.rar>

²⁷ <http://archive.is/CMD8K>

placements in China were performed in Xinjiang, despite the fact that it makes up only 1.8% of China's population. The report states that the project was implemented in all of southern Xinjiang, where most of the Uyghur population resides, and continued in 2020 with increased funding.

库木艾日克社区季度查环登记表													
序号	男方姓名	女方姓名	身份证号	采取措施时间	孩子数	第一季度		第二季度		第三季度		第四季度	
						检查时间	结果	检查时间	结果	检查时间	结果	检查时间	结果
1	热合曼·吐	帕提古丽·	652923199109*****	2/16/16	2								
2	塔依尔·阿	阿那夏古丽	652923198803*****	1/10/15	2								
3	买买提·依	帕提姑力·	652923197301*****	5/7/12	4								
4	艾孜则·阿	热伊莱姆·	652925199507*****	2/18/15	1								
5	玉山江·库	努尔曼古丽	652926199301*****	5/10/15	1								
6	斯迪克江·	吐尔孙阿依	652923198908*****	8/5/15	2								
7	热合曼·依	阿娜古丽·	652923199204*****	12/28/10	2								
8	热合曼·阿	买尔哈巴·	652923199001*****	1/11/14	1								
9	阿布来提·	肉克亚木·	652923199003*****	5/25/13	1								
10	玉苏甫·艾	玛依热·买	652923198604*****	6/5/13	2								
11	吐尔其·吐	买艳木·木	652923198508*****	8/4/15	2								
12	阿布力米提	帕提古力·	652923199111*****	2/10/15	2								
13	木合塔尔·	依米达木·	652923198803*****	2/15/10	3								
14	喀合曼·阿	米祖力皮·	652923198711*****	2/25/13	2								
15	吐尔地·阿	佐然木·沙	652925198812*****	8/11/15	2								
16	塔依尔·那	曼帕丽达木·	652923198402*****	3/10/15	2								
17	亚库普·加	帕萨拉买特·	654125198407*****	3/19/14	2								
18	阿里木·那	胡尔西旦·	652923198507*****	3/20/15	2								

Table 2. Quarterly IUD check list for Kumarik District, Payzawat County. Source: District Population Information System (PIS). Names and ID numbers were partially redacted by the author.

Note: Data for Quarterly IUD check list for Kumarik District, from Dr. Adrien Zenz (June 2020) for The Jamestown Foundation.

These policies appear to be having a substantial effect on Uyghur birth rates in the region. The report found that population growth rates in the two largest Uyghur prefectures in East Turkistan fell by 84% from 2015-2018 and fell even further in 2019²⁸. The report details that in 2020, Chinese authorities set an unprecedented near-zero growth target in one Uyghur region.

The findings of this report point to a concerted and targeted effort to reduce and control the Uyghur population through forced sterilization, the forced implanting of IUDs and the transfer of over 1 million Han Chinese settlers to the region between 2015 to 2018. Uyghur women and Uyghur reproductivity have become a central focus of the CCP's campaign of repression and assimilation that meet the criteria to be designated a 'demographic genocide'.

²⁸Zenz, A. (June 2020). "Sterilizations, IUDs, and Mandatory Birth Control: the CCP's Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang". The Jamestown Foundation. Retrieved from: <https://jamestown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Zenz-Sterilizations-IUDs-and-Mandatory-Birth-Control-FINAL-27June.pdf?x35627>.

Forced Labour

In March 2020, the *Australian Strategic Policy Institute* has released an important report on Uyghur forced labour. The extensive report evidenced that at least 80,000 Uyghurs being held in 27 forced labour facilities in 9 provinces in China through the governmental program “Xinjiang Aid”. Through this program, Chinese companies were encouraged to hire Uyghur workers in their factories everywhere in China through a range of labour transfer schemes. Advertisements for government-sponsored Uyghur labour started to emerge on Chinese media, actively promoting the “Uyghur cheap labour”²⁹.

The report indicates that Uyghur workers are rarely participating to the program on a voluntary basis, although Chinese state media claims otherwise. The general context of repression makes it impossible for Uyghurs or other Turkic ethnic groups to refuse out of fear of being sent to an internment camp or prison. Parallely, between 2017 and 2019, more than 80,000 Uyghurs, some directly from the camps, were transferred out of the Uyghur region to work in one of the 27 factories in nine Chinese provinces. Videos that emerged on Chinese social media corroborates the mass transfer of Uyghurs, where they are seen rounded up in front of train stations, all dressed in the same uniform, and with their luggage’s³⁰. The recent video footage shows that some of these transfers happened earlier this year, when much of China was under lockdown during the COVID-19 outbreak. This means the Uyghur workers were exposed to more danger by forcibly being sent across China, while the rest of the country’s population stayed safe at home.

The conditions in which the Uyghurs work resemble those of forced labour; the factories are often surrounded by barbed wire fences, watchtowers, with segregated dormitories, the workers must undergo political re-education after working hours, their freedom of movement is often limited, the workers are heavily monitored both physically and electronically³¹. All these factors taken together strongly suggests that the Chinese government is actively promoting the Uyghur forced and/or cheap labour.

²⁹ Xiuzhong, V. et al., *supra* note 15, p.15.

³⁰ Radio Free Asia. (March 26, 2020). “TikTok Videos Show Hundreds of Uyghurs Transferred to Chinese Factories”. *Radio Free Asia*. Retrieved from : https://www.rfa.org/english/video?v=1_yjoodoqr.

³¹ *Id*, p.6.

The World Uyghur Congress urges the Canadian government to take the following actions:

- Call on the Chinese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all the arbitrarily detained Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Turkic ethnic groups, and to close the camps;
- Reiterate its calls on the Chinese authorities to allow free and unhindered access to the Uyghur region for independent journalists, observers, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures;
- To halt the import of Xinjiang cotton, given the overwhelming and credible evidence of forced labour facilities in the Uyghur region, where Uyghurs are subjected to this regime;
- Take appropriate measures to ensure Canadian companies are not complicit in using Uyghur forced labour in their supply chains in China;
- Reconsider all technology transfers of goods and services that are being used by China to extend its cyber surveillance; reconsider its agreement with Huawei for its 5G network;
- To better protect Uyghurs living in Canada from reprisals and harassment by the Chinese authorities; establish a complaint mechanism or a helpline for victims of harassment of reprisals;
- Adopt targeted sanctions, asset freezes and visa bans against Chinese officials responsible for crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations against Uyghurs;
- Clearly put forward that Canada will not tolerate gross violations of diplomatic practice and interference with the human rights of individuals on its territory;
- Actively raise the situation in East Turkistan in the UN and in other international organizations and fora and work in broad coalitions to collectively address this ongoing crisis;
- Through diplomatic relations with China, raise individual cases, such as the Canadian citizen Huseyin Celil who has been in detention in the Uyghur region since 2006;
- To establish a better engagement with civil society and the affected communities.

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The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) is an international organization that represents the collective interests of the Uyghur people in both East Turkestan and abroad. The principle objective of the WUC is to promote democracy, human rights and freedom for the Uyghur people and use peaceful, nonviolent and democratic means to determine their future. Acting as the sole legitimate organization of the Uyghur people in both East Turkestan and abroad, WUC endeavors to set out a course for the peaceful settlement of the East Turkestan Question through dialogue and negotiation.

The WUC supports a nonviolent and peaceful opposition movement against Chinese occupation of East Turkestan and an unconditional adherence to internationally recognized human rights standards as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It adheres to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejects totalitarianism, religious intolerance and terrorism as an instrument of policy.

For more information, please visit our website: www.uyghurcongress.org

