

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

NAME OF CONSTITUENCY MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear X MP,

China and Muslim Uyghurs

As your constituent, I write to express my extreme concern over the situation of Uyghurs and other Turkic-speaking ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in China.

It is estimated that between two and three million Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are detained indefinitely in concentration and forced labour camps in XUAR. Many are being subject to extreme mass surveillance, enforced isolation, physical and psychological torture, and arbitrary detention in concentration, forced labour and “re-education” camps by Chinese authorities.

These people have not committed criminal offences. They are detained for reasons as trivial as contacting family abroad, attending Muslim faith schools or mosques, or for “suspicious acts” such as holding a prayer book or growing a new beard. The range of people detained, from elderly men and women, to academics, professionals, teachers and artists, undermines the official line that the camps are for ‘vocational training’ and “re-education”.

These detention facilities operate without any due process, outside any legal jurisdiction and contrary to all relevant international norms; their operation also violates domestic Chinese constitutional and criminal law.

The Chinese Government has created a near-total surveillance state in Xinjiang and deploys advanced surveillance technology through companies such as HUAWEI and ZTE, including facial and voice recognition and collection of DNA, to underpin individuals’ arrest and detention. China’s world-leading reputation in surveillance is built on the oppression of Uyghur people.

Though the Chinese Government has been condemned for these serious systematic violations, the UK Government and the international community need to do more to protect the Uyghurs and others in XUAR, particularly given China’s recent assertion that all detainees in XUAR have been freed, despite clear evidence this is untrue.

As a Jewish person, I know only too well what it is for a people to suffer this way, with too few to speak up for us. I therefore have a moral imperative to speak up against this injustice and not to look the other way at what is happening. Our experience of interment and of religious and ethnic persecution shows us the importance of the right to hold and express our beliefs freely, a right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, drafted in the aftermath of the Holocaust. The hope then, for all future generations, was expressed in the words “Never Again” yet history has concerning predictions for what will happen in Xinjiang, if it has not already happened.

I, therefore, ask for your help by tabling a question in Parliament and writing directly to the UK Foreign Office on my behalf, asking the UK government to do the following:

1. Pass a **“Uyghur Act”** that will **call for**
 - Immediate closure of all concentration and other camps and the release of all those detained
 - Restoration of religious and cultural freedoms guaranteed by the Chinese constitution for the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in XUAR
 - Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in XUAR to be able to communicate freely with relatives overseas
2. Full access of independent monitors to XUAR, including from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. Implementation of the recommendations in para. 42 (and other relevant recommendations) of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s August 2018 *Concluding Observations on the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic reports of China* (UN Document CERD/C/CHN/CO/14-17); and, Imposed Sanctions on individuals.
4. Sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Act with respect to senior Chinese officials directly responsible for the ongoing repression in XUAR.
5. Restrictions on export, re-export, and in-country transfers of items providing critical capability to the suppression currently practised in XUAR (such as surveillance technology produced by HUAWEI and ZTE) or of items produced by slave labour (such as Chinese Cotton).
6. Restrictions on research and educational collaborations and exchanges with Chinese institutions, professional bodies and companies (such as Beijing Genomics Inc, and HUAWEI) that have critical roles in suppression in XUAR (including professions involved in forced organ harvesting, abortion and sterilisation).
7. Representations to the International Olympic Committee to remove the Winter Olympics 2022 from China for breaching the human rights and dignity provisions of the Olympic Charter.
8. Representations to the UN to remove China from its Human Rights Committee and to the World Bank to cease loans to China.

I urge you to call on the Government to work with like-minded countries to continue to forcefully condemn the oppression and abuse of Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in XUAR

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE

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