

A note on the effects on diaspora: Uyghurs cannot travel there for fear for their safety; many who did have disappeared. Uyghurs planning to return have been left stranded in foreign countries. Many people have lost all contact with their loved ones as any connections to diaspora is considered "suspicious". Speaking out is a huge risk as people are unsure if their actions will cause their relatives to be imprisoned or hurt.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Spread awareness among your social circles
- Reach out to your local Uyghur communities to organize and aid actions
- Donate to Uyghur organizations or refugee funds
- Contact your Congress member to pass the following acts:
 - Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act (H.R.1154/S.761)
 - Transnational Repression Policy Act (S.831/H.R.3654)
 - Uyghur Policy Act (S.4073)
- Other bills can be found here: uhrp.org/bill-summary/
- Call out and boycott brands profiting from forced labor goods, and endorse the global campaign for companies to end complicity in Uyghur forced labour. More info can be found here: enduyghurforcedlabour.org/ or forcedlabourfashion.org/



QUICK BREAKDOWN:

What is Happening to Uyghurs?

- Mass internment (prisons and concentration camps)
- Forced labor
- Cultural and religious social re-engineering, political indoctrination
- Family separation
- Forced sterilization
- Organ harvesting
- Extreme surveillance and digital enclosure
- Biometric surveillance
- Restriction of movement
- Destruction of places of worship

Genocide?

Short answer: yes. For more information, please look into the findings by the Uyghur Tribunal, an independent people's tribunal that examined the evidence for genocide and found the CCP guilty.

WHO ARE UYGHURS?

Uyghurs are a Turkic, mostly Muslim nation whose homeland, East Turkistan, was colonized by the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. They speak the Uyghur language and are culturally aligned with Central Asia. The PRC named their homeland "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" - Xinjiang means "New Colony".

Mass Internment

Since 2014, an estimated 1-3 million Uyghurs and Muslim or Turkic ethnic groups like Kazakhs have been detained in concentration ("re-education") camps or sentenced to extended prison terms without trial. Ages of detainees range from young teenagers to the elderly. Prisoners have included people from all sectors, from university professors, doctors, and religious leaders to small business owners and farmers. This treatment does not apply to Han Chinese people living in the region.

These conditions are ripe for abuse, and there have been credible accounts of rape, torture, beatings, inhumane and degrading treatment, as well as sterilizations, forced abortions, and organ harvesting.

Many children with parents in camps have been sent to orphanages, some of which are in mainland China, or have been left to fend for themselves if they have no other adult caretakers.

Forced Labor

Many who go through the camp system will end up in forced labor factories, which is tied to global supply chains and affects major brands and industries, such as Heinz, Nike, Urban Outfitters, Apple, Microsoft, solar panel industries, and so on.

Surveillance

DNA and other biometric data are taken without consent and used to police and track Uyghur movement, using AI surveillance systems and police checkpoints that specifically target Uyghurs. If deemed suspicious, Uyghurs cannot enter malls, ride public

transport, or travel to different towns or cities.

Social Re-engineering

There have been reports of harsh clampdowns on religious life (such as punishments for: having a beard, quitting alcohol or smoking, going to the mosque, etc), and the destruction of mosques and certain parts of Uyghur culture, while promoting and commodifying tourist-friendly culture. Uyghurs are forced to attend regular political education classes whether in the camps or not. Education in the Uyghur language has almost been eradicated, and a lot of Uyghur literature has been banned.



WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The Chinese government claims to be helping the "ethnic minorities" in "Xinjiang" by providing skills training, education, and increased funding for infrastructure.

However, the current situation is only a continuation of a decades-long movement towards settler colonization, resource extraction of Uyghur lands, and "stabilization" of the region. Because of its borders and natural resources, this region is an integral part of China's economic goals in Central Asia and the Middle East. China has used the Global War on Terror to demonize all Uyghur claims for their rights as separatism, extremism or terrorism. Following from Qing and Mao era policies, forced assimilation and tight grips on freedom of expression are being used to gain control of this region and its resources. In short, ethnoracialization, surveillance, mass detention, enforcement of "Chinese" cultural values, and the influx of Han Chinese settlers have all contributed to settler colonialism, Uyghur dispossession and caps on almost all Uyghur advancement, which contradicts all of China's claims of benevolence.

