

Forum:*Special Committee*

Issue: The Question of Taking Measures to Eliminate Racial Oppression Towards Uyghur Muslims in China  
Student Officer: *Zeid Dajani*

Position: *Deputy President of Special Committee*

1. **Introduction**

Racism is an issue that always seems to be swept under the rug. It is a tough issue to solve due to the fact that it is an ideology embedded in one’s mind, meaning laws and policies being placed are not always a one and done solution. While many believe that direct, systematic racism is no longer an issue in our modern world, there are still many examples of institutionalized racism around the world, and many of these examples are targeting Muslims in communities where they tend to be minorities. This is primarily due to the events that occurred during the September 11th world trade center bombings. The 9/11 bombings planted a negative image of Muslims in many people’s minds around the world, and this significantly increased the amount of racism targeting Muslims.

One of the most predatory examples of this is the oppression and prejudice against Uyghur Muslims in China. While most of the racism we see towards Muslims in today’s world involves micro-aggressions and minor institutionalized racism, the predatory, violent treatment of Muslims in Xinjiang is akin to the actions of fascist leaders of the past. This infringement of human rights has been masked as a measure of “anti-terrorism”, however in reality it is a modern day example of fascism, and similar disgusting authoritarian practices. Uyghurs are not allowed to teach their children about Islam, and they’re not allowed to abide by any basic worship. They’re not allowed to enter mosques, and they’re forbidden by law to fast. Not just this, but they are placed into “re-education camps”, where they are tortured and indoctrinated. The phrase “re-education camps” is a pathetic attempt at sugar coating the fascist motives of these camps. They are closer to concentration camps in their practices.

1. **Definition of Key Terms**

**Uyghur:**

A member of a Turkic people of north-western China, particularly the Xinjiang region, and adjoining areas.

**Xinjiang:**

A province in north-western China.

**Institutionalized Racism:**

Institutionalized discrimination refers to the unjust and discriminatory mistreatment of an individual or group of individuals by society and its institutions as a whole, through unequal selection or bias.

**Han:**

Another Muslim community/gathering in Xinjiang, this community has a stronger claim to the land, and they’re treated better by the government

1. **General Overview – Background information**

Xinjiang is a huge focal Asian district inside the People's Republic of China including various minority gatherings: 45% of its population are Uyghurs, and 40% are Han. Its vigorously industrialized capital, Ürümqi, has a population of more than 2.3 million, about 75% of whom are Han, 12.8% are Uyghur, and 10% are from other ethnic gatherings.

When all is said and done, Uyghurs and for the most part the Han government differ on which gathering has more noteworthy verifiable case to the Xinjiang district: Uyghurs accept their predecessors were indigenous to the zone, while government arrangement considers present-day Xinjiang to have had a place with China since around 200 BC. As indicated by Chinese arrangement, Uyghurs are named a National Minority as opposed to an indigenous gathering—at the end of the day, they are viewed as not any more indigenous to Xinjiang as the Han, and have no uncommon rights to the land under the law. During the Mao period the People's Republic directed the movement into Xinjiang of a huge number of Han, who rule the area monetarily and politically.

Albeit current Chinese minority arrangement, which depends on governmental policy regarding minorities in society, has strengthened an Uyghur ethnic personality that is unmistakable from the Han population, numerous Uyghurs purportedly feel that they are gradually being killed as an ethnic and social gathering. Human Rights Watch portrays a "multi-layered arrangement of reconnaissance, control, and concealment of religious action" executed by state experts. It is assessed that more than 100,000 Uyghurs are as of now held in political "re-education camps". China legitimizes such measures as a reaction to the psychological militant risk presented by fanatic nonconformist gatherings. These strategies, notwithstanding long-standing social contrasts, have once in a while brought about hatred among Uyghur and Han residents. On one hand, because of Han migration and government strategies, Uyghurs' opportunities of religion and of development have been diminished, while most Uyghurs contend that the administration makes light of their history and customary culture. Then again, some Han natives see Uyghurs as profiting by unique treatment, for example, special admission to colleges and exception from the (presently surrendered) one-tyke policy, and as "harboring dissenter aspirations" .Recently there have been endeavors to limit the Uyghur birth rate and increment the Han ripeness rate in bits of Xinjiang to check Uyghur rebellion.

1. **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

22 nations have joined together to go against China's mistreatment of its Muslim minority, in what activists called an “unprecedented move." But Muslim nations were prominently missing from the announcement as the Islamic world keeps on deliberately ignoring this issue.

In the Wednesday letter composed by UN Human Rights Council part expresses, the signatories approached China to "abstain from the subjective detainment and limitations on opportunity of development of Uyghurs, and other Muslim and minority networks in Xinjiang."

Those 22 signatories are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. The US didn't sign the letter, having stopped the Human Rights Council a year ago, calling it "misleading and self-serving."

Bahram Sintash, a Uyghur American whose father is presently absent in Xinjiang, had this to say: "No Islamic nations have marked on the letter, notwithstanding during the most noticeably terrible arraignment against Muslims and Islam in 1,440 years of Islamic history in Xinjiang at the present time. Uyghurs abroad are exceptionally frustrated with each one of those Islamic nations now," Islamic nations have progressively avoided reprimanding China for an assortment of reasons, including the dread of China's monetary retribution and of attracting unwarranted attention regarding their own questionable human-rights records.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), a 57-nation consortium that calls itself "the aggregate voice of the Muslim world," announced "disturbing reports" of Beijing's Muslim crackdown last December, yet suddenly paddled back its remarks this March. The OIC even went as far as saying that it "applauds the endeavors of the People's Republic of China in giving consideration to its Muslim residents."

The complete indifference to this issue by Middle Eastern countries is, in all honesty, very suspicious. While most current Middle Eastern countries are nationalist and uninterested in foreign affairs, it is still concerning and odd that not 1 Middle Eastern country has commented on the situation. Mohammad Bin Salman, Saudi Arabia’s crown prince, has even gone on record and commended the actions of the Chinese government on national television.

While no such suspicion has been raised yet, accusation of unfair play, bribery, and corruption could soon come forth from UNHCR countries. This would spark the conflict, and the Uyghurs would push further for liberation. Unfortunately, Middle Eastern countries don’t see this issue as an issue worth tackling, it would raise tension and cause question of their own histories with human rights. Furthermore, with Mohammad Bin Salman having already made his statement on television, countries already at odds with Saudi Arabia such as Yemen would cause even more tension in their own conflicts with Saudi Arabia.

1. **Timeline of Events**

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| **Time period** | **Summary of Events** |
| Pre-20th Century | The historical backdrop of the religion has turned out to be exceptionally politicized, with both Chinese and patriot Uyghur students of history every now and again exaggerating the degree of their gatherings' separate connections to the district. In all actuality, it has been home to numerous gatherings since forever, with the Uyghurs touching base from Central Asia in the tenth century. The area of Xinjiang was declared an official region in 1884, with uncertainty regarding claims to the land. |
| 20th Century | The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was built up in 1955. In 1962, more than 60,000 Uyghurs fled China to the USSR because of the Great Leap Forward, a tyrant financial battle. Uyghur ousts later undermined China about a Uyghur "freedom armed force" in the thousands that were as far as anyone knows enlisted from Sovietized emigres. From the 1950s to the 1970s, a state-organized mass relocation into Xinjiang has raised the quantity of Han from 7% to 40% of the populace, worsening ethnic tensions. On the other hand, a declining infant death rate, improved therapeutic consideration and a laxity in China's one-baby policy have helped the Uyghur populace in Xinjiang develop from 4,000,000 during the 1960s to 8,000,000 as of 2001. |
| 1990s – present day | Other than the inception of the “re-education” camps, not much has occurred. A few laws were passed restricting the Uyghurs from worship, and the Uyghurs have made a few miniscule attempts at liberation, where some attacks were committed. The uyghurs, however, have made no progress in gaining more rights. |

1. UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events:

Joined Nations' human rights specialists voiced caution on Thursday over supposed Chinese political re-training camps for Muslim Uyghurs and they required the prompt arrival of those kept on the "guise of countering fear based oppression". The U.N. Board of trustees on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination refered to gauges that up to one million Uyghurs might be held automatically in extra-legitimate confinement in China's far western Xinjiang region. Its discoveries were issued following a two-day survey this period of China's record, the first since 2009.

China's remote service dismissed the charges at the time, and said against China powers were behind the analysis of Beijing's arrangements in Xinjiang. It has never authoritatively affirmed the presence of confinement focuses there. China has said Xinjiang faces a genuine danger from Islamist activists and separatists who plot assaults and work up strain between the for the most part Muslim Uyghur minority and the ethnic Han Chinese lion's share.

Yet, the board censured China's "expansive meaning of psychological warfare and ambiguous references to radicalism and hazy meaning of nonconformity in Chinese enactment". This could be utilized against those gently practicing their privileges and encourage "criminal profiling" of ethnic and religious minorities, including Uyghurs, Buddhist Tibetans and Mongolians, it said.

In its decisions, the board said it was frightened by "Various reports of detainment of enormous quantities of ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities held incommunicado and regularly for extensive stretches, without being charged or attempted, under the appearance of countering fear mongering and religious fanaticism."

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I don’t personally believe this signatory/agreement will amount to anything. China were not threatened against by anything and there were no consequences for their actions listed. China can continue with their practices without any consequences regardless of the existence of this agreement.

1. Possible Solutions

China has already declared that they don’t wish for any foreign intervention in this issue, and the UN can’t do much, as the US seem to be indifferent to this conflict, which is reflected by the fact that they didn’t sign the UNHCR treaty. The US have the most powerful position and veto in the UN, making it difficult for true UN intervention in this issue.

It is speculated that the solution to this issue have to come from inside China itself. This is extremely difficult, as China is a one party dictatorship. If China were to be a democracy, and a progressive leader would get elected, this issue would be solved with relative ease. However, China’s dictatorship sits firmly on the throne, and China will not become a full democracy any time soon.

For these reasons, the only plausible solution to this issue would be forceful intervention by the UN as well as surrounding countries. Since the US are no longer part of the UNHCR, forceful intervention could be organized within the committee. China’s veto can be easily overridden. However, the number of countries willing to supply troops for this issue may be limited, and even with the help of peacekeepers, China can easily overpower any incoming forces. It’s just not worth it to fully commit military intervention into China for any countries right now.

Unfortunately, this means that this conflict is in a state of limbo right now. Solving it is a monumental challenge and yet hundreds of thousands are being tortured or indoctrinated in concentration camps.

1. Guiding Questions
2. Who has the best claim to the Xinjiang land?
3. To what extent did the tragic events at 9/11 affect the treatment of Uyghurs?
4. What are some possible solutions to this issue?
5. How have the Chinese government justified their actions?
6. What is the public perception of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang?
7. What is the main reason of China’s oppression of the Uyghurs?
8. How have the Chinese government oppressed the Uyghurs?
9. Do you believe enough people are aware of this issue?
10. How can awareness be spread?
11. Is the Chinese government justified in any of its actions?
12. Contact Info

Zeid Dajani, Deputy President of SPC

[Zeid\_Dajani@abs.edu.jo](mailto:Zeid_Dajani@abs.edu.jo)