Genocide Emergency: Xinjiang, China
2025

Twelve million people, mostly Uyghur Muslims, live in Xinjiang, China, officially the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) seeks to assimilate Uyghurs, replacing their culture with Han Chinese communism. Since the 1990s, millions of Han Chinese have been resettled in Xinjiang under the "Big Development of the Northwest Plan." The CCP has detained millions of Uyghurs in "reeducation" camps, forcibly placing Han Chinese monitors in Uyghur homes to suppress independence movements. Officials justify these policies as counterterrorism measures.

In 1997, protests erupted after China banned Uyghur traditional celebrations, leading to a CCP crackdown that killed over 200 people and resulted in mass arrests. Tensions escalated in the 2009 Urumqi riots, where ethnic clashes left 200 dead. The region is now heavily surveilled, with widespread biometric data collection and AI-driven monitoring. "Convenience police stations" enforce CCP control, particularly targeting Uyghurs at checkpoints. Since 2017, 800,000 to 2 million Uyghurs have been detained in camps where they undergo forced CCP indoctrination, physical abuse, sexual violence, and cultural erasure. The Uyghur language is banned, and detainees are coerced into abandoning Islam. Family planning policies restrict Uyghur births, violating the Genocide Convention. Researcher Adrian Zenz found that Uyghur population growth dropped 84% from 2015 to 2018. Forced marriages, sterilizations, abortions, and sexual torture are widespread. Uyghur children are removed from their homes and placed in Mandarin-only schools. After "reeducation," Uyghurs are subjected to forced labor in cotton fields and factories, amounting to modern slavery. The CCP has also demolished Uyghur mosques, further erasing their religious identity.

The Chinese government continues its campaign of Mass Detention in Reeducation Camps, where Uyghur Muslims face Forced Assimilation and Cultural Genocide through CCP indoctrination and language bans. Advanced Surveillance technologies, including AI monitoring and biometric data collection, track and control Uyghurs' movements. Reports of Enforced Sterilization and birth control policies indicate an attempt to suppress Uyghur population growth, aligning with accusations of Crimes against Humanity and Genocide. Meanwhile, Forced Labor remains widespread, with global scrutiny on supply chains linked to Xinjiang, as seen in legal challenges against Shein and Volkswagen's exit from Urumqi amid human rights concerns.

Genocide Watch considers the CCP's repression of freedom of movement and religion, and its Orwellian surveillance of Uyghurs as Stage 3: Discrimination. The CCP's torture and imprisonment of Uyghurs into "re-education camps" is Stage 8: Persecution; the mass rape of women inside and outside these camps and CCP removal of Uyghur children is Stage 9: Extermination in violation of the Genocide Convention. The CCP's denial of its acts of genocide are stage 10: Denial. The Uyghur genocide is aided and abetted by "genocide scholar" deniers like William Schabas and Jeffrey Sachs.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- The US and other members of the UN should prohibit imports of goods produced by Uyghur forced labour.
- The US and other members of the UN should implement stricter supply chain tracking to ensure companies do not source materials from Uyghur forced labour.
- UN members should ensure that Uyghurs have access to humanitarian protection claims.
- UN members should provide support for Uyghur communities abroad, Uyghur refugees, and asylum seekers, including legal aid and resettlement programs.
- The US should forbid investments in Chinese companies that exploit Uyghur forced labour.
- The US and EU should bar exports of technology (AI, facial recognition) used in the Uyghur genocide.