

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We are thankful for your leadership in standing up to the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) atrocities against the Uyghur people. We support that actions you have taken to prohibit the import of products of slave labor into the United States, sanction top CCP officials such as Chen Quanguo, the architect of China's Uyghur concentration camps, and declare the CCP's crimes in Xinjiang "the stain of the century."

We understand that the Department of State is examining whether or not to classify the CCP's atrocities against the Uyghur Muslim and other Turkic Muslim peoples in Xinjiang province as acts of genocide. We are writing to request that the Department of State classify these atrocities as genocide.

The CCP has engaged in a systematic and widespread campaign of violence, torture, detention, forced sterilization, and enslavement of the Uyghur Muslim people in Xinjiang. Its actions reflect an intent to destroy, whether in whole or in part, this population. As you know according to a number of reports, over one million Uyghurs are detained in concentration camps and forced labor factories simply because of their ethnic and religious background. Prisoners are subject to abuse, torture, rape, and even killed. According to an investigation last month by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), over the past three years the Chinese government has forced hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang to perform slave labor in the region's cotton fields.¹

Leaked Chinese government documents provided to the *New York Times* highlight repeated government orders for CCP officials to "break their [Uyghurs] lineage, break their roots, break their connections, and break their origins." As Rayhan Asat and Yonah Diamond noted in *Foreign Policy* magazine, such orders clearly illustrate the intent to wipe out the Uyghur people in whole or in part, which would constitute genocide.² The CCP has also waged a campaign to forcibly sterilize over 80 percent of Uyghur women of childbearing age with the goal of achieving "zero birth control violation incidents" which caused the birth rate in Xinjiang province to be reduced by 84 percent. Many of the children that are born in Xinjiang are separated from their families and raised in camps by the CCP.³ The CCP has also assigned male

¹ John Sudworth. "China's 'tainted' cotton." BBC News. December 15, 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/nz0g306v8c/china-tainted-cotton>

² Rayhat Asat and Yonah Diamond. "The World's Most Technologically Sophisticated Genocide is Happening in Xinjiang." *Foreign Policy*. July 15, 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/15/uighur-genocide-xinjiang-china-surveillance-sterilization/>

³ Ibid.

Han Chinese “relatives” to Uyghur homes to cohabit with Uyghur women in an attempt to dilute the Uyghur gene pool and overtime destroy their heritage.⁴

The CCP has also undertaken a massive campaign to destroy the Uyghur culture, religion and language. Olivia Enos of the Heritage Foundation has argued that the CCP intends to target Uyghurs on “both religious and ethnic grounds.”⁵ Since 2016, thousands of mosques have been destroyed in Xinjiang as part of a “mosque rectification” campaign, and mosques which remained were redesigned to have Chinese features.⁶

The CCP has deliberately killed, tortured, detained, and inflicted harm against the Uyghur people and created conditions calculated to bring about the destruction of the Uyghurs in whole or in part. They have imposed measures intended to prevent births in the Uyghur community, forcibly transferred the children of the people outside of the community, and actively worked to systematically destroy the Uyghur culture and religion. All of these are clear elements of genocide. As Michael Sobolik of the *American Foreign Policy Council* has recently written “it becomes clear that Chinese authorities are, at a minimum, guilty of three separate acts of genocide in Xinjiang: preventing births among Uyghurs, undermining familial cohesion by separating Uyghur family members, and deliberately inflicting physical and psychological harm to members of the group.”⁷

We request that you work quickly to designate the CCP’s crimes against the Uyghur people as genocide.

Sincerely,
Jim Banks
Chairman, House Republican Study Committee

Joe Wilson
Chairman, National Security and Foreign Affairs Task Force
House Republican Study Committee

⁴ Peter Goff. "Become family: China sends officials to stay with Xinjiang minorities." The Irish Times. December 17, 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/become-family-china-sends-officials-to-stay-with-xinjiang-minorities-1.4118327>

⁵ Olivia Enos. "Why the U.S. Should Issue an Atrocity Determination for the Uighurs." The Heritage Foundation. September 17, 2020. <https://www.heritage.org/asia/report/why-the-us-should-issue-atrocity-determination-uighurs>

⁶ Shohret Houshur. "Under the Guise of Public Safety, China Demolishes Thousands of Mosques." Radio Free Asia. December 19, 2016. <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/under-the-guise-of-public-safety-12192016140127.html>

⁷ Michael Sobolik. "Trump's Most Meaningful China Move Could Still be to Come." Newsweek. January 7, 2021. <https://www.newsweek.com/trumps-most-meaningful-china-move-could-still-come-opinion-1558057>