Jr. Human Rights Council
SPsMUN 2026

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LETTER FROM THE DAIS

Dear delegates,

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the Junior Human Rights chairs for SPsMUN 2026, welcome you all to the beginning of this exciting conference. The journey that lies ahead, not only for you, delegates, but for us chairs, is challenging. It calls for dedication and strong commitment, but we are sure that each and every delegate will be able to achieve great accomplishments during the debate, and we couldn't be more thrilled to get to meet each and everyone of you.

For this conference, the topic chosen for the Junior Human Rights council is a major humanitarian challenge within the international community, the topic being: "Tackling the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang". This topic will offer us the chance to address and examine the human rights violations suffered by the Uyghur population in Xinjiang, while considering the protection of vulnerable populations, discriminatory laws, and the preservation of cultural and religious traditions worldwide.

We encourage all delegates throughout the preparation phase to conduct extensive and thorough research on the matters at hand and get a solid understanding of historical and contemporary context. Furthermore, we encourage all delegates to engage fully, enjoy the debate and its outcomes, and approach the themes at hand with the highest of formality and respect.

Sincerely,

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Figure 1: Delegates attending a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Human Rights Council is one of the six main UN councils, established on March 15, 2006, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It has close ties to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Established by the General Assembly as a replacement for the former UN Commission on Human Rights, it includes 47 member states, which are chosen through secret and direct ballots.

The main goal of the Human Rights Council is to protect the individual rights of every

person. Due to this, the council has developed a unique process that reviews human rights records of every UN member state, ensuring that they are able to hold them accountable for human rights violations if necessary. This, in turn, encourages nations to abide by the human rights charter. The Human Rights Council also creates an environment that emphasises the importance of constructing solutions to human rights issues.

This council holds three regular sessions a year, but can call for special sessions in a human rights emergency. Unlike the Security Council, the Human Rights Council does not have binding power over UN states, being unable to force nations to abide by resolutions. Instead, it exerts moral pressure through warnings, recommendations, and bringing international attention to issues.

TOPIC A: TACKLING THE TREATMENT OF UYGHURS IN XINJIANG

Figure 2: Protest in support of Uyghurs in Istanbul, Turkey

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years, the issues regarding the treatment of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang have gained significant visibility in the international community, as the large-scale human rights violations there enacted became more evident. The Uyghurs are a Muslim Turkic speaking population located mainly in the Xinjiang autonomous region in northwestern China.

Xinjiang officially became part of China in 1949, where since the beginning of its integration, the Chinese government has launched mass migration campaigns to encourage the immigration of Han Chinese into the newly annexed territory. The reason behind such actions, as presented by the Chinese state, was to boost economic development while strengthening political control and national unity in a region with an already established culture, as well as reducing the risk of and influence of separatist movements. For centuries, the Xinjiang region served as a focal point for European and Asian trade, due to its strategic location that connects South and North Asia with the Middle East.

Uyghur communities historically evolved around the Silk Road (an ancient trade route connecting Asia, Europe and North Africa) leading to its customs and beliefs being different from those in eastern China. Due to distinct cultural characteristics, nowadays the Uyghurs see themselves as still not integrated with the Han Chinese population, which shapes their political relationship with the Chinese state.

Subsequent to the annexation of the region to China, harsh policies promoting the implementation of Mandarin language education, religious ideology and state authority were applied to the Uyghur community, suppressing their own traditions and customs. These impositions and actions that were taken toward the Uyghurs angered and upset part

of the population, as many saw negative effects on their cultural heritage and identity. Following the start of rising tensions and resentment, during the 1980s and 1990s, Uyghur activist groups began to express demands to become a more autonomous and independent state from the Chinese government. While most of these demonstrations were peaceful, a few turned violent, raising fears of terrorism. Due to the global context at the time, where the Soviet Union had just collapsed, the People's Republic of China saw such deeds as threats to national security and unity. The Chinese government feared that separatist movements in Xinjiang could be inspired by the independence movements in former Soviet republics, potentially destabilizing the region. As a result, authorities justified strict security measures and increased surveillance as it was claimed necessary to maintain control and prevent any challenge to state authority.

In order to maintain Xinjiang as part of the Chinese state and prevent the region from developing further revolutionary ideas and plans, the Chinese government adopted measures that led researchers, journalists and international organizations to call for action as the new Chinese rules presented violations to the Human Rights declaration. In 2017, China established a large network of facilities in Xinjiang that were referred to as “educational and training centers”. However, through ex-participants of the project, satellite images and leaked documents, these facilities were later identified by researchers, journalists, and human rights organizations as concentration camps, where the Uyghurs suffered political indoctrination, forced renunciation of religious beliefs and strict mandarin language training. Former detainees have also stated that forms of psychological pressure were applied during the stay at these camps and even after, as well as forced labour and separation of families. Following that, the area of Xinjiang became one of the most heavily surveilled territories in the world. Strong military and police monitoring and presence were established, and while China argues that these measures were necessary in order to promote security of the community, many consider such actions as the start of a systematic repression.

CURRENT SITUATION

Figure 2: Location of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China, showing its borders with neighboring provinces and countries.

Today, even though the Chinese state claims that stability has been restored and that harsh measures are not being taken anymore, the international community still continues to raise serious concerns about the conditions of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Even after the reported closure of the "educational and training" centres, Xinjiang still remains a heavily monitored region. Surveillance continues to happen through a system used by the government called

IJOP (Integrated joint operations platform) which differentiates itself from any other type of supervision, as it employs the use of high technology devices to gather data from facial recognition cameras, iris scanners, DNA collection and online activity monitoring. This system aims to use its resources to track and monitor the Uyghur population and other Muslim populations present in the region.

Moreover, international companies and governments have also showcased serious apprehension over the compelling evidence that links major Chinese companies and industries to state-imposed forced labour in the region of Xinjiang, exploiting Uyghurs. Thousands of Uyghurs have been removed from their homes to work in factories, and face risks such as harassment, restricted freedom and poor working and living conditions. This form of labour has been mostly shown in industries working with minerals, textiles and electronics, in which China is known as one of the biggest world's suppliers. These facts provoked action and international response, which includes the U.S Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) which has the intent to ban all the goods exported to the United States that could possibly have been products of exploitation of the Uyghurs or forced labour in Xinjiang altogether.

As tensions continue to rise in the territory, demographic studies have shown that there has been a significant decrease in birth rates among the Uyghurs. This decline has been associated with the severe birth-restrictions and policies imposed by the government of China. Multiple testimonies have stated that the government has pressured women to undergo procedures that limit or damage completely their reproductive capacities.

In 2022, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report that cited evidence of inconsistent detention and cultural repression happening in Xinjiang against the Uyghur population and other groups. The report concluded that these

abuses perpetrated by the Chinese government may constitute international crimes. China, in response, denied all the allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, claiming that the "harsh" policies implemented were simply aiming to ensure national security, and part of a plan to combat extremism, terrorism and separatism in the country. Furthermore, the nation argued that western governments and international organizations were using this situation to advance a political agenda, as part of a strategy to destabilize China as a whole.

Despite cultural and religious ties to the Uyghur community, many Muslim-majority countries have largely been silent or pro-Beijing in their responses to the situation in Xinjiang. In the United Nations, some Muslim countries even support the Chinese government anti-terrorism systems, while others prefer not to openly criticize China's policies. The Muslim area is seen to have close economic, strategic, and political links with China due to its trade, investment, and involvement in initiatives like the Belt and Road initiative. Due to worries about trade dependency, infrastructure investment, and diplomatic relations, the hesitance of Muslim-majority nations to react to Chinese actions emphasizes the link between economic interests and human rights safeguards in the world's response to Xinjiang.

As this situation expands to a global context, the circumstances in Xinjiang are creating significant consequences for many countries, affecting international trade and economy. As the matter involves forced labour, it has pushed many governments to consider how products from Chinese origin are originally sourced. Several nations, especially in Europe, have introduced new laws regarding the importation of products that are possibly the result of forced labour. The United Nations, as a response to the situation, increased the pressure on governments to respond to this situation and address the Uyghur crisis in Xinjiang.

PAST UN ACTIONS

Date	Past UN action
August 10th 2018	For the first time at a United Nations human rights panel, UN experts acknowledged the repression of Uyghurs in China. Additionally, they expressed concern over religious and ethnic-based persecution. A member of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination declared reports of the detainment of Uyghurs at internment camps as credible, and called on China to release all prisoners of arbitrary detainment.
August 13th 2018	During a Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination meeting, in which delegations reviewed a report on China's policies for the elimination of racial discrimination, committee experts expressed concern over China's counter-terrorism laws and their suppression of different ethno-religious groups. One expert questioned the delegation of China directly about the internment camps, but the delegation responded defensively, even disregarding some of the experts' questions. Ultimately, the committee made no progress.

December 26th 2019	In 2017, former Xinjiang University President Tashpolat Tiyip was imprisoned by the Chinese government, and for two years his whereabouts remained unknown. The secrecy regarding his situation raised suspicions in the international community with reference to possible human rights violations concerning all Uyghur detainees, specifically involving violations of the right to a fair trial and due process of law. UN experts opened discourse with the Chinese government in an attempt to clarify the situation and gather information about the treatment of prisoners inside the detainment camps. However, no information has been released.
June 10th 2022	In a statement, UN experts urged China to address its systemic human rights violations, citing allegations of harassment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, undue prosecution, and trafficking. They aimed to achieve full transparency and cooperation with the government, while prompting the UN Human Rights Council to consider the creation of a Special Procedures mandate or to appoint a UN Special Envoy to monitor the situation.
August 31st 2022	On the 31st of August of 2022, a report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights titled, “OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China” was finally released. The report contained an in-depth investigation into China's counter-terrorism strategy and oppressive policies, concluding in a final assessment that China has committed imperative human rights violations, and that the country's actions may constitute crimes against humanity. The report condemned China's violations of international law and called for the release of arbitrarily imprisoned individuals, a legal review of Chinese counter-terrorism policies, and Government investigation into human

	rights abuses allegations in detention camps. Still, nothing changed.
November 24th 2022	Due to China's inactivity before the August 31st assessment of human rights' demands, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a decision as a form of preventative measure to avoid the escalation of the situation into full scale human rights violations. In it, the committee reinforced that China should release all arbitrarily detained individuals and to investigate human rights abuses inside detainment camps. However, China continued to make no change to its policies.
December 1st 2025	At the 2025 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, NGOs including the Uyghur Youth Initiative, as well as others, called for a coordinated response to the state-imposed forced labor in the Uyghur region in Xinjiang. They complained that despite widespread evidence of systemic abuse and forced labor tied to government labour-transfer programmes, the issue was not formally included in the forum's agenda. Their intervention highlights global ongoing concerns that existing UN and business human rights mechanisms are sufficiently addressing the repression and exploitation faced by Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

MAJOR BLOC POSITIONS

United States of America

The United States of America stands firmly with the Uyghurs in the sense that it recognizes China's actions against their ethnic group as genocide, and has worked towards bringing justice to the Chinese government. The US has been extremely vocal in the condemnation of the crimes committed by China against Uyghurs in the past few years, evidenced by how it was the first country to take action for Uyghurs through passing the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act in 2020. The act condemned the human rights violations perpetrated in Xinjiang and called for an end to the arbitrary detention, torture and harrassment of the Uyghurs. Then, on the 19th of January of 2021, the US Secretary of State issued a statement declaring that the People's Republic of China's actions against ethnic minority groups within its territory constitute genocide. Following this statement, another act was passed in December of that same year, this time with a focus on ending the country's contribution to forced Uyghur labour taking place in China. This was the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act, which, by recognizing the impact of forced Uyghur labour on global supply chains assumes all goods made in the Xinjiang region are made with some sort of forced labour and interrupts their entrance into the US market. This act has caused the interception of several commercial shipments from Xinjiang and the restriction of Chinese entities by the US Department of Commerce. Furthermore, the United States has placed several sanctions and visa restrictions on senior officials in the Chinese government in an attempt to pressure the country into enacting some kind of change. Overall, the United States of America vehemently denounces the current situation in Xinjiang and calls upon the government of China for urgent change.

Canada

Canada is one of the countries which aligns itself with the United States in condemning China's acts against Uyghurs as genocide. On the 23rd of January of 2021, only a few days after the US Secretary of State issued a statement calling China's policies genocidal, Canada's House of Commons voted entirely in favour of recognizing the situation in Xinjiang as a genocide, making it the second country to do so. Later, in June, Canada's ambassador at the Human Rights Council in Geneva read out a joint statement backed by 44 other countries urging China to end the arbitrary detention of Uyghurs and to allow the United Nations full access to Xinjiang, while expressing concern over allegations of torture, forced sterilisations, and family separations. Canada then issued a second statement, now on behalf of 50 countries, at the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. The state reiterated concern over human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region, now heightened due to access to more information thanks to the at the time recently released OHCHR Xinjiang Human Rights report. This time, countries compelled China to uphold its international human rights obligations and to follow all recommendations made by the UN report, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in Xinjiang. Additionally, Canada has placed sanctions on Chinese officials accused of violating the human rights of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. To conclude, Canada condemns all actions taken by China against Uyghurs as ethno-religious persecution and genocide.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom aligns itself with the United States of America and Canada in denouncing the human rights abuses occurring in Xinjiang, China. On the 22nd of April of 2021, British lawmakers voted in favour of recognizing the People's Republic of China's actions against Uyghurs in Xinjiang as a genocide. Additionally, the United Kingdom has backed all statements made at the United Nations by allied countries, as well as having delivered their own speech at the United Nations Third Committee on human rights violations in Xinjiang in 2023, condemning the crimes against humanity committed by

China. Furthermore, the British government took action against China in the form of sanctions, imposing asset freezes and travel bans on four Chinese government officials and a Xinjiang security body, in an attempt to hold China accountable for its violations. These decisions are all part of a coordinated diplomatic effort between the United States, Canada, the EU and the United Kingdom to pressure the Chinese government into ending its oppressive practices. Additionally, the Foreign Affairs Committee within the British Parliament has published a report outlining the United Kingdom's responsibility to the Uyghur people and the appropriate response to China's crimes. Overall, the United Kingdom strongly condemns all crimes and violations perpetuated by the Chinese government against Uyghurs in Xinjiang and is in favour of further investigation.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China firmly denies the accusations of human rights violations and of genocide taking place in Xinjiang, and affirms that all actions taken by the government are lawful and in line with the country's counter-terrorism policies. Calling back to violent incidents such as the Ghulja massacre of 2009, China claims that all measures implemented in Xinjiang were necessary to fight the “Three evil forces” which were previously active in the region. Once the Uyghur detainment camps were discovered in early 2018, China denied the existence of the camps entirely, following a narrative that Western ‘anti-China’ forces were issuing completely fabricated statements to prejudice the state. However, by early 2019, once countries and human rights organisations began to speculate that such camps were being used as concentration camps, China chose to acknowledge their existence and state that the camps were “Vocational Skills Education Training Centers”, not concentration camps, which are used to fight extremism by teaching Uyghurs Mandarin, Chinese law, and vocational skills. When faced with allegations of genocide by foreign countries in 2021, China returned to its original narrative that the West was spreading lies with malicious intent, and that the centers were needed to fight the “Three evil forces". After unsuccessfully attempting to prevent the release of the 2022 OHCHR report by

framing it as an infringement upon state sovereignty, a report in which China is accused of committing crimes against humanity, the People's Republic of China reiterated the imperative nature of aggressive counter-terrorism operations in the Xinjiang region, citing their strategy's effectiveness by bringing attention to how there have been no terrorist attacks in Xinjiang since 2016. In sum, China's strategy consists of defending their actions as a necessary response to the high indices of extremism and terrorism in the Xinjiang region, and labeling concerns raised by Western nations over human rights inflammatory and ridiculous fabrications.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation, as a strong military, economic and diplomatic partner of the People's Republic of China, defends China's actions in Xinjiang. Since 2019, Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, has repeatedly emphasized the importance of respecting a nation's sovereignty and of the principle of non-interference on another state's internal affairs. Specifically with regards to China's treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, Lavrov has referenced China's numerous explanations as to how it is not committing human rights abuses and found them credible. In 2019, after 22 ambassadors from various countries expressed their concerns over Chinese persecution of Uyghurs in Xinjiang to the United Nations, Russia was among 36 other states that also wrote to the UN supporting China's policies. The letter commended the People's Republic of China's commitment to de-radicalization and the effectiveness of its counter-terrorism policies, framing Xinjiang's re-education camps as a positive tool in fighting extremism. Over time, Russia's relationship with China has only strengthened, and more recently, in 2021, Lavrov, along with China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, called for a United Nations Security Council Summit of its permanent members. The purpose of the summit would have been to address sanctions imposed on both countries over alleged human rights violations, and to remind countries not to interfere with sovereign nations’ internal affairs. Overall, Russia recognizes the imminent threat terrorism posed to China's national security especially within the Xinjiang

region, and unrelentingly defends China's rights to operate as it sees fit within its borders as a sovereign nation.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, despite being a Muslim country, has openly supported China and its counter-terrorism policies. In 2019, Saudi Arabia, along with Russia, was among the 35 signatories on a letter to the United Nations defending China's actions in Xinjiang. In 2020, Saudi Arabia expressed its support in yet another letter to the UN. On a trip to China in the previous year, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman directly addressed the Chinese treatment of Uyghurs by validating national security concerns as a justification for China's oppressive policies. Saudi Arabia corroborates the Chinese narrative that its actions are a contribution to the global “War on Terror”, expressing admiration for China's commitment to de-radizalisation and for the effectiveness of China's policies. Additionally, the nation defends China's sovereign right to fight extremism and radicalisation however it sees fit. Not only that, but Saudi Arabia has previously detained Uyghurs in its own territory without charge, and threatened to extradite them to China, where they would risk suffering human rights abuses. This provoked a grave reaction from the international community, which urged Saudi Arabia not to deport them as to protect their wellbeing. To conclude, Saudi Arabia continues to strengthen relations with the People's Republic of China and not only agrees with and firmly defends but also contributes to the current situation in Xinjiang.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description
1949	The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was historically subject to constant dispute over occupation by the Han dynasty, the Tibetan Empire, the Mongols, and the Uyghur Khaganate. Following a brief period of independence when the state was known as the East Turkistan Republic, the region was formally annexed by the People's Republic of China in 1949, with Soviet military support. The Soviet Union, which had previously supported the Turkistan Republic, withdrew its support in favour of an agreement made with China following the end of World War 2, as countries sought to establish a new world order. The annexation, motivated by the region's richness in natural resources, occurred through an invasion of East Turkistan by the Chinese People's Liberation Army and Soviet planes. By bringing the Uyghur population under Chinese control, the events of 1949 mark the beginning of a history of systematic oppression.

1997	On the 5th of February of 1997, upon the government ban of Uyghur cultural community gatherings, Uyghurs took to the streets to participate in non-violent protests for an end to the religious repression and ethnic discrimination they suffered. The Chinese government responded aggressively, leaving an estimated dozen dead, hundreds injured and several disappeared. What is described by Uyghurs as the Ghulja massacre, was framed by the Chinese government as a calculated response to an unfolding riot, and labelled the Yining incident. It is recognized by many as a turning point for Uyghurs in Chinese history, who claim the violent repression of the protest was an indicator of the oppressive route China's government would take in their treatment of the Uyghur people.
2001	On September 9th of 2011, two airplanes hit the two World Trade Center towers in the United States. These were discovered to be coordinated Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks, setting off the 'War on Terror', a massive global panic with regards to terrorism and extremism, consequently leading to large-scale islamophobia. This was the climate in which the Chinese Communist Party created the political slogan of the "Three evil forces" that threatened national security, in reference to terrorism, extremism, and separatism. The launch of this campaign was of great significance for Uyghurs; a people whose culture and religion has been consistently repressed under China's main justificatory claim of combatting

	extremism, an argument rooted in the aforementioned slogan. In the following years, the “Three evil forces” campaign would be used as the base for oppressive policies against Uyghurs.
2009	On the 25th of June of 2009, a brawl broke out between Uyghurs and Han in the province of Guangdong. According to the Chinese government, 2 Uighurs died, but 118 were badly injured, having suffered intense beatings. News travelled to Xinjiang, and a week later, the Urumqi riots occurred. The event consisted of a peaceful protest that turned into a riot, killing 184 Han and Uighurs and leaving over 1000 injured. At their root, these events were caused by ethnic tensions, exacerbated by China's migration policies, an attempt to increase Han presence in Xinjiang and assimilate Uyghurs into Han culture, and by the fearmongering that started with the “Three evil forces” campaign. The significance of these events lies in how they are representative of the scale of the tensions between ethnic groups in China, and evidence of a history of violence giving context to future escalation.
2014	In May 2014, China launched the “Strike Hard Campaign Against Violent Terrorism”, as a response to recent terrorist attacks, aimed at eradicating the “Three evil forces”. However, the campaign was primarily used to oppress Uyghurs rather than to keep the Chinese people safe. This was made possible through the use of subjective wording in claims such as how it targets anyone who “challenges … state security, ethnic unity, and social stability,”, allowing the government to blur the lines between extremism and religious practice, and imprison and punish any Uyghur that expressed their religious or ethnic

	identity. Some of the campaign's measures included high levels of surveillance through the deployment of government officials and mass digital surveillance systems, discriminatory police checkpoints for Uyghurs but not for Han Chinese, the banning of Islamic practices such as wearing a veil or growing a beard, and the restriction of migration and travel, among others.
2017	Despite the fact Uyghurs had been persecuted for decades prior, a wave of mass detention which attracted international attention began in 2017, with the creation of massive detention facilities that are estimated to hold 1.5 million people. At first, the existence of these camps, discovered through satellite imagery, was denied by the Chinese government. However, a year later, the government acknowledged their existence and framed them as “Vocational Skills Education Training Centers” for de-radicalization of extremists. At the same time, Uyghurs that had been held in these camps came forward with reports of political indoctrination, human rights abuses, and torture. While the Chinese government states that Uyghurs attend these camps out of free will, Human Rights Watch claims the government exercises practices of arbitrary detention and lack of due process, and the camps are clearly guarded by walls, watchtowers and armed guards.

2021-22	The United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Lithuania and the EU all labelled China's actions against Uyghurs as genocide, as defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In 2022, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report stating that while they do not recognize a genocide to be taking place, China's policies could constitute crimes against humanity. This was an extremely important step in resolving the conflict as for the first time, countries mobilized themselves by acknowledging the severity of the situation, some even placing sanctions on Chinese officials. This way, the issue also gained further visibility, pressuring the Chinese government to change their policies or organizations to intervene.
2024 - present	Over time, China's crackdown on Uyghurs has only intensified, with increased surveillance through sophisticated AI and facial recognition software, an increased number of disappearances and separation of families. Not only that, but there has been a notable decrease in Uyghur birth rates, caused by the forced sterilizations imposed by the Chinese government upon Uyghur women in detention camps and Uyghur-majority areas. Additionally, a network of forced Uyghur labour has been uncovered, affecting global supply chains and motivating the creation of legislation such as the US Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act. Cultural and religious erasure also continues, through the changing of the names of Uyghur villages. Overall, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region can

	still be described as a police state, and the violence persists.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Uyghurs

Turkic speaking muslim population native to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China. The community contains distinct cultural and linguistic characteristics from the Han Chinese population placed in the area.

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR)

Previously the East Turkistan Republic, the region is administered by the Uyghur population, though in practice has been generally governed by China since 1949. It contains important resources and is considered a crucial region for Eurasian trade.

Separatism

Movement or ideology where a group seeks independence or greater autonomy. It can happen politically and in a civilised manner or it can be pursued through violent means.

Arbitrary detention

Imprisonment of individuals without the undergoing of legal steps or justification. **Cultural assimilation**

Policies that aim to introduce minority groups to a dominant culture, often leading to a loss of original heritage, such as religious beliefs and cultural practices.

Genocide

Acts committed with the intention to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious community. Genocide is an international crime as it violates the fundamental principles of

human rights by threatening the security of millions of people.

Non-interference principle

International law that prevents countries from interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

❖ How does your delegation view China's counter-terrorist policies and the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang?

❖ To what extent does your delegation value sovereignty in issues regarding possible human rights violations?

❖ To what extent does your delegation agree with the United Nation's approach to the situation so far, and how would your delegation alter it? ❖ What economic, diplomatic, cultural or religious factors might influence your delegation's perspective on this issue?

❖ How and to what extent is your nation affected by the issue of the mistreatment of Uighurs and what it represents for the right to sovereignty and the protection of human rights?

❖ What historical events related to the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang impacted your delegation the most? How?

❖ What has your country's position on the treatment of Uyghurs been so far, and what other nations has it allied itself with?

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