



Human Rights
Council



THS MUN 24

STUDY GUIDE - UNHRC

Deliberating upon the humanitarian condition
of the Uyghur muslims in China



THS MUN 24

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates!

It brings us great pleasure to have you join us at the United Nations Human Rights Council For THSMUN '24. With this committee, we aim to have fruitful discussion on plausible solutions to the agendas involving constructives alongside interactive and well-paced debate. We wish to incorporate your wishes for the committee and do our level-best to ensure you all have a good time at the conference. If you're looking to stand out in committee, your arguments must be compelling and impactful paired with logic and a deep understanding of your country's policy. Humanitarian agendas have the reputation of being redundant. We wish to change that with this committee.

This Committee has been mandated to Human rights, its violation and protection, which are in the interest of the globe at large. Considering the nature of the conference, we all aspire to deliberate, learn and grow. The sole purpose of the delegates of the committee should preferably be to take something like knowledge, intellect and holistic skills back home after being a part of this conference. This Committee would have delegates from all levels of experience, so the Executive Board would make sure that everything that is deliberated in the Committee is well understood by the delegates who shall be a part of the Committee. At the outset, we would like to request the delegates to be well versed with the UNA USA Rules of Procedure and the agenda at hand. However, the same shall be explained in detail before the commencement of the formal session of the conference. Please use this document only as a starting point/ basic reference for your research and not as your main research aspect as every allotment has its own nuances.

We hope that you all represent your member states in the best possible way as you can and we assure you all that the Executive Board would always be there to address your queries professionally in the committee.

Warm regards,

Vatsalaa Toshniwal - Chairperson (+91 84200 81000)

Banhi Sen - Vice Chairperson (+91 99031 88410)

Vivaan Chhawchharia - Director (+91 93304 35858)

Aanya Jalan - Director (+91 87770 88018)



THS MUN 24

Contents

01. Letter from the Executive Board

02. About UNHRC

- a. History of UNHRC
- b. Voting and Roll Call
- c. Working and Governance
- d. Mandate

03. Introduction to Agenda

- a. The Purpose
- b. What is a humanitarian crisis?
- c. What are reeducation camps?
- d. Chinese government assimilation policy

04. The Crisis

- a. Who are Uyghur Muslims?
- b. Where is Xinjiang?
- c. Situation of the Uyghur muslims in china
- d. When did the mass detention of the muslims start?
- e. Timeline of the alleged human right violations against the Uyghur Muslims in china
- f. UN involvement : relevant resolutions, treaties and events

05. Reports

06. Questions arising from the agenda

07. Further research links



THS MUN 24

About UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council, or UNHRC, is a group dedicated to advancing and defending human rights globally. Its composition and operations are identical to those of the actual UNHRC, giving delegates a forum to debate and deal with urgent human rights concerns. The UNHRC provides novices with an invaluable chance to get experience in international relations, diplomacy, and negotiation in a simulated environment. Delegates investigate the human rights policies of their designated nation, participate in discussions, and create resolutions to address world concerns. Delegates seek consensus on ways to address abuses of human rights and enhance circumstances for vulnerable groups via cooperation and compromise.

Engaging with the UNHRC offers novices an enhanced comprehension of global politics and the intricacies of human rights promotion. It raises knowledge of international concerns and develops critical thinking, public speaking, and diplomatic abilities. All things considered, novices wishing to become involved in the subtleties of global diplomacy and human rights advocacy will find the UNHRC in Model UN to be a stimulating and an instructive experience.

History of UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was established by the UN General Assembly with the passing of resolution 60/251 in 2006. The first UNHRC session occurred in June of that year. Over the course of 2006 and 2007, its mechanisms and functions were formed, and it was established as an “intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them”. The main objective of the UNHRC is to draw attention to human rights issues, discuss them, and give suggestions about how to properly address them and provide justice to those affected. The council is composed of 47 UN Member States elected by the General Assembly.



THS MUN 24

The UNHRC replaced the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was created in 1946 to “weave the international legal fabric that protects our fundamental rights and freedom”. Some reforms implemented in the UNHRC included the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which allows the UNHRC to investigate human rights situations in all UN Member States. Another was the Advisory Committee, which serves as the UNHRC’s “think tank” to offer “expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues”. A system to process “complaints” was also added, where human rights violations could be brought to the attention of UNHRC. Finally, the UNHRC works with UN Special Procedures, which include special rapporteurs, representatives, independent experts, and working groups which look to monitor human rights around the world. Fundamentally, the purpose of the UNHRC is to promote international human rights standards.

Voting and Roll Call

Attendance shall be conducted by the Chairpersons by a Roll Call at the beginning of every committee session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the committee by raising their placards and declaring “Present”. One voting delegate per committee shall represent a country delegation. All delegates shall have speaking and voting rights on all matters in the committee they belong to.

Working and Governance

The committee responds to human rights emergencies and makes recommendations on how to better implement human rights on the ground. The Council can also convene urgent meetings on short notice to respond to emerging human rights crises. The UNHRC meets at the UN Office at Geneva, and its regular sessions are held three times a year, in March, June, and September. Special sessions can be convened at the request of any Council member with the support of one-third of the membership.

The Council's primary functions include:

- Conducting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights situations in all UN member states.
- Addressing human rights violations and making recommendations.
- Working closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- Establishing fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry to investigate specific situations.



THS MUN 24

Mandate

Established in 1946 under Article 68 of the UN Charter, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) operates under the authority granted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to establish commissions aimed at promoting human rights and fulfilling other necessary functions. All members of the states of the United Nations are signatories to the Charter, thus reaffirming their commitment to upholding human rights principles. The UNHRC functions within this framework to address human rights violations, advocate for the implementation of international human rights standards and conduct information into alleged abuses. Additionally, the Council works to raise awareness about issues pertaining to human rights, provide assistance to affected populations and facilitate dialogue among governments, civil society and other stakeholders. Through its mandate and the provisions of Article 68, the UNHRC remains dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

The core functions include:

1. Promotion of human rights awareness standards globally;
2. Monitoring and reporting on human rights situations worldwide;
3. Adoption of resolutions and decisions addressing human rights issues;
4. Facilitation of dialogue and cooperation to address human rights challenges.



THS MUN 24

Introduction to Agenda

In recent decades, minority groups across diverse regions have faced deliberate victimisation, yet the global response to these atrocities has often been inadequate. Nowhere is this more evident than in Xinjiang, China, where the Uyghur community has been systematically targeted by the Chinese government. The mistreatment of Uyghur Muslims is part of China's efforts to suppress perceived separatist movements and maintain control over the region. Under the leadership of Chen Quanguo, extensive surveillance measures have been implemented, and reeducation camps have been established. Despite the Chinese government's claims that these camps provide vocational training, evidence points to widespread human rights abuses, including forced renunciations of cultural and religious identities. Reports suggest that Uyghur Muslims have been subjected to forced sterilisations, surveillance, and arbitrary detention.

The international community's response to these abuses has been mixed, with some countries condemning China's alleged actions while others have remained silent or even defended them. Diplomatic tensions have arisen, and disagreements over how to address the situation persist. Efforts to hold China accountable through international forums like the United Nations have been met with resistance from China and its allies, highlighting the challenges of addressing human rights violations in a politically charged environment. Despite these alarming reports, China has denied any wrongdoing and portrayed its actions as necessary measures to combat extremism and maintain stability in the region.

This situation has raised concerns about the erosion of religious and cultural freedoms, as well as the use of technology for mass surveillance and control. Allegations of forced labour and restrictions on religious practices, including prohibitions on fasting during Ramadan and the destruction of mosques, further exacerbate these concerns. The international community's response to the crisis in Xinjiang underscores the complexities of addressing human rights violations on the global stage. Through analysing the discussions and arguments about the issue, we aim to uncover why different countries and groups react the way they do. This will help shed light on how people around the world perceive and respond to significant human rights problems. Through this analysis, we seek to make these complex issues more accessible and understandable for all involved.



THS MUN 24

The Purpose

The purpose of this committee with the agenda focusing on the Uyghur Muslim Crisis in China is to address and investigate the reported human rights abuses against the Uyghur population and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China. The committee aims to ensure that human rights are upheld, accountability is pursued, and victims are supported through comprehensive investigation, documentation, advocacy, and international cooperation.

Firstly, the committee would conduct thorough investigations into the reported human rights abuses, including mass detentions, forced labour, extensive surveillance, and the suppression of cultural and religious practices. Gathering evidence and testimonies from survivors and reports from human rights organisations and relevant bodies is crucial to establishing a factual basis for the committee's findings.

Secondly, documenting these violations in detailed reports is essential to provide an authoritative account of the situation. This documentation helps to clarify the facts amid conflicting narratives and ensures that the extent and nature of the abuses are comprehensively recorded.

The committee would also develop and recommend actions and policies for the international community and individual states to address the crisis. These recommendations might include imposing sanctions, taking diplomatic measures, or supporting international legal proceedings to ensure justice and accountability.

Supporting the victims of human rights abuses is a fundamental aspect of the committee's work. This includes advocating for their rights and providing necessary support, such as legal assistance, humanitarian aid, and psychological support.

Overall, the committee's purpose is to uphold human rights, ensure accountability, and support victims through a multifaceted approach involving investigation, documentation, advocacy, and international cooperation.



THS MUN 24

What is a humanitarian crisis?

A humanitarian crisis is defined as an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area. There is no universal definition of a humanitarian crisis, and the terms 'humanitarian crises' and 'humanitarian emergency' are often used interchangeably. It is a generalised emergency situation that affects an entire community or a group of people in a region, which involves high levels of mortality or malnutrition, the spread of disease and epidemics and health emergencies. It can also involve a lack of clean water, food security, sanitation and shelter. Generally speaking, this situation derives from the previous lack of protection in parts of the world already suffering from constant inequality, poverty and a lack of basic services; and a trigger that makes things worse: Political events such as armed conflicts, coups, ethnic and religious persecution, etc. and environmental catastrophes like tsunamis, earthquakes, typhoons, etc. When the situation deteriorates, and because the country is unable to deal with the consequences, humanitarian aid is essential to meet the needs of vulnerable people. This can take the form of food aid, medical care, rebuilding infrastructures, etc. Reducing the number of victims would end the crisis and start a period of development cooperation activity.

Reeducation Camps

Re-Education Camps are facilities which exist throughout Xinjiang. There are public records which state that about 108 million US dollars have been spent with the intention of financing the construction of detention centres, which are to be used as Re-Education camps. Through satellite pictures, more than 34 camps with the overall capacity of about a million have been detected, both in the construction, but also in the final stage. The aim of the camp is to provide people with the education to essentially go against their culture and denounce their beliefs.

Chinese government assimilation policy

Assimilation, according to the Cambridge English Dictionary is: the process of becoming similar to others by taking in and using their customs and culture. The Chinese government has an overall goal; achieving national unity through having people follow the same customs, traditions and have the same cultural and ethnic background. In order to foster that, the Chinese government has set a one-child policy for Uyghur families and has created a new program, through which married interethnic couples have access to more benefits.



THS MUN 24

The Crisis

Who are Uyghur Muslims?

The Uyghur Muslims, primarily known as Uyghurs, are a Turkic ethnic group originating from and predominantly residing in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China. Recognised as one of China's 55 officially recognised ethnic minorities, the Uyghurs have a rich historical background dating back to the 8th century.

Initially, the Uyghurs established the Uyghur Khaganate in present-day Mongolia, but following its fall in the 9th century, they migrated to the Tarim Basin and settled in what is now Xinjiang. Historically, the Uyghurs have been integral to the Silk Road, serving as traders and cultural intermediaries between the East and West. Over the centuries, Xinjiang has witnessed the dominance of various powers, including the Mongols and the Qing dynasty, before becoming part of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The region was designated as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in 1955.

In recent years, the Uyghurs have reportedly faced severe repression and human rights abuses in China. Despite Xinjiang's status as an autonomous region since 1955, the central government maintains substantial control. Reports indicate widespread human rights violations, including mass detentions, surveillance, forced labour, and cultural suppression. Since around 2017, it is estimated that over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been detained in "re-education camps," where they are reportedly subjected to indoctrination and coerced into renouncing their religious beliefs. These actions have drawn international condemnation, with several countries and human rights organisations calling for investigations and sanctions against China. Some nations have even labelled China's actions as genocide, emphasising the need for a global response to protect Uyghur rights.

Economically, the Uyghurs have historically engaged in agriculture, trade, and crafts. Xinjiang is rich in natural resources such as oil, gas, and minerals, making it a strategically important region. However, economic benefits in Xinjiang are often unevenly distributed, with the Han Chinese population frequently receiving preferential treatment. Socially, Uyghur society is community-oriented, with strong family ties and extended families often living in close proximity. This tight-knit social structure is a fundamental aspect of their cultural identity, helping to preserve their traditions and way of life amidst external pressures.



THS MUN 24

The plight of the Uyghurs is a pressing issue that necessitates international attention and action. The rich cultural heritage and historical significance of the Uyghurs highlight the importance of preserving their identity and ensuring their human rights are upheld. As the global community becomes increasingly aware of the situation, it is imperative to foster dialogue, support investigations, and implement measures that protect the rights and freedoms of the Uyghur people.

Since the early 21st century, the Chinese government has implemented stringent security measures in Xinjiang, citing concerns over separatism, terrorism, and religious extremism. These measures have intensified significantly since 2017, marked by the construction of extensive surveillance systems and the establishment of alleged "re-education camps." Reports suggest that over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been detained in these camps, where they are subjected to political indoctrination, forced renunciation of their religious beliefs, and harsh living conditions.

The Chinese government justifies these actions as necessary for national security and social stability. However, international human rights organisations and various governments have condemned these measures, accusing China of severe human rights abuses and, in some cases, labelling the actions as genocide.

The United Nations has expressed concern over the reports of mass detentions and human rights abuses, urging China to allow independent observers into the region. In 2019, the United States imposed sanctions on Chinese officials and entities involved in the repression of Uyghurs under the Global Magnitsky Act. Similarly, the European Union and other Western countries have issued statements condemning the actions and calling for accountability. However, some countries have been more cautious in their responses, often refraining from direct criticism.

The Chinese government has actively engaged in a campaign to justify its policies in Xinjiang. It presents its actions as necessary for combating terrorism and promoting economic development and social harmony in the region. State media often highlight development projects and improvements in infrastructure as evidence of the benefits of Chinese governance, while downplaying or denying reports of human rights abuses.



THS MUN 24

Xinjiang's geopolitical significance cannot be understated. The region is a crucial part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at enhancing global trade and infrastructure networks. Xinjiang's strategic location makes it a key transit point for trade routes connecting China to Central Asia and Europe. The region's stability is therefore crucial for the success of the BRI, adding another layer of complexity to the political dynamics in Xinjiang.

The political situation of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang is a multifaceted issue with deep historical roots and significant contemporary implications. The lack of genuine autonomy, widespread repression, and international outcry highlight the urgent need for a reassessment of policies and practices in the region. As the global community continues to call for action, the plight of the Uyghurs remains a critical human rights issue demanding sustained attention and intervention.



THS MUN 24

Where is Xinjiang?

Xinjiang lies in the north-west of China and is the country's largest region. Like Tibet, it is autonomous, meaning - in theory - it has some powers of self-governance. But in practice, both regions are subjected to major restrictions by the central government.

The territory in which the Uyghurs live is of enormous political, economic, and demographic significance for the Beijing government. Known officially as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), Xinjiang constitutes about one-sixth of China's landmass, borders on eight Central Asian countries, provides a number of critical natural resources sustaining China's economic growth, and is a major population safety valve for resettling Han Chinese from central China. The area—a diamond-shaped territory of two basins ringed and bisected by mountains—is also home to a number of non-Hans, primarily Turkic peoples. Besides a Uyghur population of officially 8.2 million (as of the 2002 census), Xinjiang is also home to smaller populations of Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Oyrat Mongols, Sibes (related to Manchus), Chinese Muslims (Huis), and other groups. The previously obscure titular ethnic group of the XUAR, the Uyghurs, has since 2001 attracted the attention of Western media for alleged involvement in “Islamic terrorism.” Suddenly, Xinjiang and its peoples have become a topic of geopolitical significance for the United States. For China, Xinjiang is now the country's most politically sensitive.

Most Uyghurs espouse a tempered, syncretic Sufism. While virtually all Uyghurs identify themselves as Muslims, what being Muslim entails varies considerably depending on locale and education. Islam appears to permeate most aspects of daily life in rural areas, while many urban Uyghurs only abstain from pork and observe a few major holidays. However, this urban/rural distinction is superficial; while urban Uyghurs may not pray five times a day at the mosque like their rural counterparts, Islam is nonetheless embedded in many of their daily activities, such as greetings and exclamations, mode of dress, scrupulous personal cleanliness (including the consumption of halal food), and a sense of solidarity with other Muslims in the world. For both urban and rural Uyghurs, ethnic identity is linked with religious and linguistic identity.



THS MUN 24

The situation of Uyghur muslims in China

Treated since the 1990s as second-class residents, ruled by the majority ethnic Han, the Uyghurs came under special scrutiny after the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States. The attacks did not directly affect China, but alarmed the leadership in Beijing and Xinjiang. The discovery of small numbers of Uyghurs fighting with the Taliban, seeking autonomy and sharia rule had a great effect on Chinese leaders. In 2009 about 200 people died in clashes in Xinjiang, which the Chinese blamed on Uyghurs, 21 July 2021, who wanted their own state. Discrimination against the Uyghurs rapidly turned into intrusive police monitoring of all 12 million. Uyghur women entering a bazaar in Hotan. Photo: Greg Baker/AFP/Getty Images The 12 million Uyghurs mostly living in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR, or simply Xinjiang).

The Uyghurs' language is similar to Turkish. They see themselves as culturally and ethnically closer to Turkey and Central Asian nations. Today they make up less than half of Xinjiang's population. In recent decades the Beijing government encouraged mass migration of Han Chinese to Xinjiang, diluting the minority population there. In violating the established human rights law, China has targeted Muslim religious figures and banned religious practices in the region, destroying mosques and tombs. Ove a million are alleged to be kept against their will in reduction camps. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute found evidence in 2020 of more than 380 of these "re-education camps" in Xinjiang, an increase of 40% on previous estimates. There is evidence that new factories have been built within the grounds of the reeducation camps.

Xinjiang is a mostly desert region and produces most of China's cotton. Human rights groups have voiced concerns that much of that cotton export is picked by forced labour. In December 2020, research seen by the BBC showed that up to half a million people were being forced to pick cotton in Xinjiang. In 2021 some Western brands removed Xinjiang cotton from their supply chains, leading to a backlash against the brands from Chinese celebrities and influencers. 3 The region is also rich in oil and natural gas. Because of its proximity to Central Asia and Europe it is seen by Beijing as an important trade link. In the early 20th Century, the Uyghurs briefly declared independence for the region but it was brought under the complete control of China's new Communist government in 1949.



THS MUN 24

China is accused of forcibly sterilising Uyghur women to suppress the population, separating children from their families, and attempting to break the cultural traditions of the group. The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said China is committing 'genocide and crimes against humanity'. British Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said the treatment of Uyghurs amounts to 'appalling violations of the most basic human rights', and the UK parliament declared in April 2021 that China was committing a genocide in Xinjiang



THS MUN 24

When did mass detentions of Muslims start?

An estimated eight hundred thousand to two million Uyghurs and other Muslims, including ethnic Kazakhs and Uzbeks, have been detained since 2017, according to international researchers and U.S. government officials. The Chinese government calls the facilities “vocational education and training centres;” the most common terms used by international media organisations and researchers are reeducation camps, internment camps, and detention camps. Some activists describe them as concentration camps. Outside of the camps, the eleven million Uyghurs living in Xinjiang—officially called the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region—have continued to suffer from a decades-long crackdown by Chinese authorities.

Experts estimate that reeducation efforts started in Xinjiang in 2014 and were drastically expanded in 2017. Beginning that year, they documented the construction of new reeducation camps and expansion of existing facilities for mass detention. Reuters journalists, observing satellite imagery, found that thirty-nine of the camps almost tripled in size between April 2017 and August 2018; they covered a total area roughly the size of 140 soccer fields. Similarly, analysing local and national budgets over the past few years, Germany-based Xinjiang expert Adrian Zenz found that construction spending on security-related facilities in Xinjiang increased by 20 billion yuan (around \$2.96 billion) in 2017.

In late 2019, Xinjiang’s governor said that people detained in the reeducation camps had “graduated.” Journalists found that several camps were indeed closed. But the following year, researchers at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) identified more than 380 suspected detention facilities using satellite images. They found that China refashioned some lower-security reeducation camps into formal detention centres or prisons; expanded existing detention centres; and constructed new, high-security detention centres throughout Xinjiang. (Chinese officials have said that ASPI is an anti-China tool funded by Australia and the United States.) Instead of detaining people in reeducation camps, authorities have increasingly used the formal justice system to imprison people for years. In 2022, Human Rights Watch reported that half a million people had been prosecuted since 2017, according to Xinjiang government figures. The Associated Press found that in one county, an estimated one in twenty-five people had been sentenced to prison on terrorism-related charges, all of them Uyghurs.



THS MUN 24

Timeline of crisis

1994 - Xinjiang's government constructs the Ban Chao Memorial Park in Kashgar to commemorate Han conquest of the territory between 73 and 102CE. The Park was expanded into the Pantu City Scenic Area in 2010.

1997 - State fears of "Islamic fundamentalism and Uyghur separatism" lead the CCP to ban the Ordam Padishah Mazar, Xinjiang's largest mazar festival. After 1997, other mazar festivals became increasingly subject to government regulation.

2011 - A "second generation" of ethnic policies is proposed by Hu Angang and Hu Lianhe, who argue for an approach that is designed to discourage legal recognition of ethnic differences and "ensure integration, promote nationalism, and create a more homogeneous society." By 2013, the state regularly implemented aspects of the proposal that concern language usage and legal status.

2014-2020 - The state begins destroying Uyghur cemeteries, citing, among other things, developmental and environmental goals. The AFP finds evidence of at least 45 cemeteries, some of which still contained scattered remains. In January 2020, CCN uncovered evidence of another 60 graveyards destroyed by authorities.

2015 - Yang Weiwei's "Operational Research on Restraining the Infiltration of Religious Extremist Thought" is published. The article argues that a unified, regulated, and state-sanctioned version of Islam is necessary to combat religious extremist thought, and that the region's "excess" mosques must be destroyed.

2015-2020 - In accordance with state "Sinicization" policies, mosques begin flying Chinese flags and displaying banners promoting CCP values like "ethnic solidarity" and "the Chinese dream."

2016 - The "Mosque Rectification" campaign begins. Citing the threat posed to worshippers by old and rundown buildings, the authorities destroyed thousands of mosques throughout the province, including almost 70 percent of those servicing Muslims in Kashgar.

2017 - CCP officials begin going door-to-door telling Uyghur families that "their lifestyle is outdated." Authorities are especially concerned with demolishing Uyghur homes and rebuilding them in the style of the mainland, as well as with criticising traditional practices like eating together on a suppa, a raised platform that "stands at the centre of domestic life and hospitality."



THS MUN 24

2018 - Kargilik Grand Mosque, the largest mosque in its area, is demolished. The previous year, the mosque's imam, Qari Hajim, was detained and later died in custody.

2018 - The Maytag Grand Mosque, which was financed and built by the community less than two decades earlier, is demolished along with another mosque. Maytag, a district in Karamay, is left without any remaining places of worship.

March 2018 - The Yutian Aitika Mosque, not far from Hotan, is destroyed. The mosque had been a centre of community activity and was approximately 800 years old; some of its structures were noted as "national and cultural sites."

March 2018 - The gatehouse of Keriya Id Kah Mosque, the largest mosque in Xinjiang, and, because it dates back to 1200 CE, a protected historical site is destroyed. The demolition is a part of the state's plan to transform the area into a tourist destination.

April 2019 - The Sultanim Cemetery, in Khotan, is razed and partially repurposed as a parking lot. In addition to a history that traces back 1000 years, the site was home to the shrine of the Four Sultans and a popular destination for pilgrims.

September 2020 - The Australian Strategic Policy Institute releases a report that estimates that about 65 percent of Xinjiang's mosques (nearly 16,000) "have been destroyed or damaged."



THS MUN 24

UN involvement : relevant resolutions, treaties and events

1. United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
2. 1951 Refugee Convention, Resolution 2198 (XXI) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
3. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Adopted and opened for signature and ratification by General Assembly resolution of 21st December 1965.
4. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16th December 1966 entry into force 23rd March 1976, in accordance with Article 49.
5. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16th December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the causes of human rights violation of Uyghur Muslims?
2. What has been done by the international community so far in accordance with international law?
3. How can the international community as a whole solve this issue and protect the community?
4. What steps should the UNHRC take to address the situation of Uyghur Muslims in China?
5. What is a genocide crime? Is 'hypocrisy' as a few countries said underlying this issue?
6. What role can international sanctions play in addressing the human rights situation in Xinjiang?



THS MUN 24

Reports

Human Rights Watch: "Break Their Lineage, Break Their Roots" : China's Crimes against Humanity Targeting Uyghurs and Other Turkic Muslims OHCHR
Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China

CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/9 : Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of China.

Congressional Research Service (CRS) : China Primer: Uyghurs