

The question of protecting human rights of the Uyghurs in China

The Uyghurs are Turkic-speaking people who live in China, most specifically towards the North in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, also known as XUAR. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – OHCHR, began receiving claims that members of the Uyghur and other Muslim ethnic communities were disappearing from the Xinjian Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China in 2017 (OHCHR Assessment 1). The way Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are treated and the policies in XUAR show how detrimental it is for these people, as families are being separated and people are being isolated. The Chinese government said was that “Xinjiang-related issues are in essence about countering violent terrorism and separatism.” (Yi). They also said, “Xinjiang protects the freedom of religious belief for all ethnic groups in the region in accordance with law.” However, in the XUAR Regulation on De-extremification, some of the primary expressions of extremification include “wearing, or compelling others to wear, burqas with face coverings, or to bear symbols of extremification”, “publishing, printing, distributing, selling, producing, downloading, storing, reproducing, accessing, copying, or possessing articles, publications, audio or video with extremification content”, “deliberately interfering with or undermining the implementation of family planning policies” and other 12 expressions ("Xinjiang Uyghur")

The debate around the question of protecting human rights of the Uyghurs in China should be focused on measures to protect the Uyghur’s human rights and address the reality of “re-education camps”. Debate time should be used to narrow down the specifics of where the human rights are being breached, and find solutions to make sure the Uyghurs are not denied of their rights

The Uyghur Human Rights Project, also known as UHRP, urges global business to “cut all ties with entities assisting the government...” ("UN Confirms"), by cutting ties with programs of high-tech surveillance or state-imposed forced labor, there wouldn’t be enough money to keep them running, which would allow for Uyghurs to be safe. Also, the OHCHR in their document assessing the human rights of Uyghurs, state that the treatment of the Uyghurs, and other Muslim ethnic communities, in facilities called VETC should be of high concern globally.

References

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