



The situation of Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim minorities in Xinjiang

Wednesday 26 October 2022

1.15-2.45pm

Conference Room 7, United Nations, New York

In 2017, reports began to emerge of severe restrictions on the freedoms of religion or belief, movement, association and expression in Xinjiang, China. Over the past few years, numerous open source reports corroborated these accounts. In August, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published an objective and independent assessment of the human rights situation in Xinjiang. [OHCHR's report](#) concluded that serious human rights violations have been committed in Xinjiang through the use of “severe and undue restrictions” that are “characterised by a discriminatory component, as the underlying acts often directly or indirectly affect Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim communities”. OHCHR concluded that “the extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of the Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity”.

OHCHR's report draws extensively on official public information from the Chinese authorities, corroborated by first hand testimony, satellite imagery and independent research. In addition to wide-scale arbitrary and discriminatory detention, the report found credible evidence of patterns of torture, forced medical treatment, forced labour, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, violations of reproductive rights, and the destruction of religious sites.

The report determined that the situation required “urgent attention by the Government [China], the United Nations intergovernmental bodies and human rights system, as well as the international community more broadly”. This high-level event responds to that call by bringing together UN officials, civil society, journalists and representatives of the Uyghur community to discuss the report’s findings and examine how best to take forward its recommendations.

Participants and Running Order

Chair: Orville Schell, Arthur Ross Director of the Center on US-China Relations, Asia Society, New York

Introductory remarks (5 minutes): Dolkun Isa, President of World Uyghur Congress

Panelists (40 minutes, including interventions and Chair prompted discussion):

- Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
- Tirana Hassan, Acting Executive Director of Human Rights Watch
- Jewher Ilham, Author and Uyghur Rights Advocate
- Ziba Murat, Uyghur Rights Advocate

Member State interventions (20 minutes): time permitting, two minutes per Member State to include remarks and questions to panelists.

Panel response (10 minutes).

Logistical Details

Permanent Representatives plus one expert are invited to attend by [registering here](#). Civil society and media are also welcome. Registration will be required for entry and subject to room capacity. Following the panel discussion, Member States may make two minute interventions subject to time. Delegations wishing to speak should inscribe at time of registration. The event will also be broadcast on UNTV.