

COMMITTEE- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

TOPIC- Investigating the existence of Chinese Concentration Camps for Uyghur Muslims

COUNTRY - United Kingdom

SCHOOL - W. H. Smith Memorial School

China is being accused of mass detention of Uighers, a Turkish ethnic group whose members are predominantly Muslim. Uyghurs live in Xinjiang in the Northwest of China, the population being about 11 million. In recent years, Chinese government have developed many concentration camps for Uighers and other minorities ethnic groups who are constantly being subjected to rape, torture, women sterilization, sweeping surveillance and forced assimilation. The US has declared the treatment of muslims as genocide.

When investigated about these camps, the Chinese government denied even their existence, they said they were for the purpose of re-education and training and brushed the topic off. But the satellite data reviewed by RAND showed the other side of the coin. It revealed bright lit compounds and wall after wall of barbed wire, the lighting kept increasing by mid 2020, an indication that they were not just operating, but growing. It all started from 2016, where minor prohibitions regarding the culture of Uighers transformed into a whole lot of detention camps and then into sophisticated surveillance states and Uighers disappearing. According to the New York Times, students coming for break would often find their houses empty and were being told that they all are "infected". Gradually, occasional stories began to emerge from camps- high-pressure indoctrination classes, sexual abuse and many such crimes against humanity and religion. In early 2020, several videos were also posted showing the empty regions of the Uyghurs which were once filled with many of them. Besides, a document was leaked from an insider in the Xinjiang region which gave one of the most powerful insight of China's treatment of Uygher Muslims. Despite Chinese assurances that the camps had closed, the researchers concluded that only 11 of them—3 percent of the total they examined—showed any real signs of closure by mid-2020.

China says protected its claim by saying the crackdown was necessary to prevent terrorism and root out the Islamic extremists. It supported its claim by saying that due to the effective measures which are subjected to no such religious infringement terrorism have reduced since 3 years.

The United Kingdom, where there is strong commitment to rights and values, has publicly criticised China's treatment of Uigher Muslims as "barbarism" and taken a step forward to prevent human rights violations. A group of British lawmakers also urged the government for a partial winter Olympics boycott. It was also set to introduce tougher laws regarding the exports of technological goods which could be used for repression. UK along with US, Canada, European Union are to deliver a complementary action against China to condemn it for human rights violations and the need to end its oppressive practices against Uighers.

In response to such horrific treatment, Britain has announced its plan to ban the import of those goods which might include forced labour from China's Xinjiang province. More than 5,70,000 people are forced to pick cotton in the Xinjiang region. The foreign secretary Dominic Raab also announced sanctions against the preparators for gross human rights violations. The UK imposed asset freezes and travel bans against 4 Chinese government officials, as well as a Xinjiang security body, under the UK's Global Human Rights sanctions

regime for systemic violations against Uyghurs and other minorities. The Chinese embassy in the UK condemned the parliament's move, calling on Britain to take concrete steps to respect China's core interests and "immediately right its wrong moves".

Some more concrete measures could be taken to approach such a problem. Countries could join together and should compel UN to take a tough measure against China which could affect its trades with other countries. Trained officials should be sent from such international committees like UNHRC to bring Uighers from the camps and arrange for their living in some other safe region. The UN should also impose sanctions against China which could make a negative shift in its economy. Like so many minority groups Uighers are one of them and it's a global duty of each and every citizen to raise voice against such a dissension of humanity.