**Country – Federal Republic of Germany**

**Committee – United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Topic – Investigating the Existence of Chinese Concentration Camps for Uyghur Muslims**

As part of the Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism in early 2014, the Chinese government has been developing certain ‘re-education camps’, in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China. After the ‘Regulations on De-extremification’ were adopted on March 29th, by regional authorities; discrimination against Uyghurs, a predominantly Turkic-speaking ethnic group primarily from China’s north-western region of Xinjiang, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups, grew at an alarming rate. Most of the people who have been detained in these ‘re-education camps’ are the Uyghurs. While atrocities such as physical, sexual, and mental torture take place in these camps; those not detained are subject to intense surveillance, forced labour and sterilizations, and religious restrictions. We consider the camps to be a strict violation of laws in the UN preamble.

The Federal Republic of Germany strongly believes that inviolable and inalienable human rights are the basis of every community, of peace and justice in this world. The German foreign policy is committed to peace and security around the world. Germany primarily defines its peace and security policy in multilateral terms. In September 2018, Germany halted the deportation of Uyghurs back to their native China. In November, German Foreign minister Heiko Maas (past) visited China and called for more transparency on the imprisonment of Uighur Muslims by the Chinese government. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock (present) called on China to clarify the reported human rights violations, saying Germany was committed to protecting rights worldwide.

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Germany advocates for a UN-sanctioned policy on the sharing of cultural elements of the Uyghur community (that China has not identified as extremist) between regional groups within and beyond Xinjiang, with the rest of China, and with the world. The UN can work to preserve Uyghur culture. A UN fact-finding team will also have more credibility than a small group of reporters travelling to and reporting on the conditions of Xinjiang. Another method to consider is the denial of exports to China. By denying exports of technologies (etc) that could be used to continue the abuse of targeted groups in the Xinjiang region, nations could be directly reducing the amount of control the Chinese government has over the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region, and in so doing, protecting their privacy online as well as their freedom of movement.