

# POSITION PAPER

Committee- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Agenda- Investigating the Existence of Chinese Concentration Camps for Uyghur Muslims.

Portfolio- Afghanistan

## INTRODUCTION:

The Uyghurs are a Muslim minority in China, living in the north-western province of **Xinjiang**. China has been accused of genocide against the Uyghur population and other Muslim ethnic groups and has supposedly detained more than one million Uyghurs over the past few years in re-education camps, camps where it is believed that they have been subjected to ill-treatment, involuntary labour and sterilization, religious diminution and sexual harassment. China denies all allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang and says that every person was released from the re-education/ vocational camps.

China insists that the community is waging campaigns for independence. In 2014, separatists purported several acts of violence - **Kunming stabbing attack in the south-western province of Yunnan that killed 31 civilians and police personnel**, an incident that made global headlines and **Urumqi protests**.

Beijing labelled the Uyghur ethnic group as a terrorist collective. China says the crackdown in Xinjiang is necessary to prevent terrorism and root out Islamist extremism.

## COUNTRY STANCE:

We deny the existence of concentration camps and have substantial beliefs that they are mere vocational centres being used to align the community attitude with the government ideology.

**We back the accused nation and oppose any and all allegations.** We strongly condemn acts of violent crimes and/or protests carried out by the community and separatism under the garb of wanting independence. **We stand against the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, the separatist group accused of carrying out violent protests and disturbing communal harmony.**

We urge the leaders of the community to not harbour militants, terrorists and far-left affiliated organisations.

Afghanistan has concerns about the oppression and internment of all Muslims, be it in Myanmar, Iraq, Kashmir or China **but wishes not to interfere in the**

**accused country's internal affairs.** However, we will not allow any Uyghur militant groups to operate from within Afghanistan.

In present times, the Afghan government wishes to solely focus on its own socio-economic and geo-political situations. The country assures the accused nation that it will not face any pressure on the issue.

### **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

Certain steps, however, can be taken to tackle the issue:

- Other nations should **form proper enquiry panels** for the issue and not just believe in fabrications.
- The **Uyghur community is urged to weed out separatists and militants.** They are encouraged to not align with turncoat and heretical tendencies.
- The **community in question and other nations should not support iconoclastic beliefs and take into account the accused country's internal policies.** It will diminish separatism and lead to a common ground based not on violence but on diplomacy.
- The Council should take into account the modus operandi **of Islamic State Khorasan Province which is believed to be recruiting separatists and militants from the community in question.** Such enrolments are polarising members of the community and volatilisising the situation, in and out of the accused nation. Several videos depicting Uyghur militants have recently surfaced, sponsored by the IS.

I urge the international community to look closely into the matter and to help crusade against the Islamic State which is propagating terrorism, galvanising separatist tendencies in the Chinese Uyghur Community and fabricating lies about internment camps.

### **CONCLUSION:**

I would like to put forth answers to questions in the Background Guide. The three evils which China states are against the government machinery **are terrorism, radicalisation and religious extremism-** something which the Afghan government has always stood against, therefore, we strongly condemn the violent attitude of the Uyghur separatists. Secondly, supposed persecution of the community is the accused nation's internal affair, therefore, the global community should not be wading into the controversy and the international press should respect Chinese sanctions and attitude toward its people. Thirdly, **I urge other nations to not believe propaganda purported by radicalised Uyghur separatists and to form enquiry panels for a deep understanding of the issue.**

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