



December 09, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Thank you for your efforts in countering China morally. I'm grateful for the ways this Administration has worked to prioritize international religious freedom and human rights. I appreciate the Global Magnitsky sanctions that were issued and imposed by the U.S. State Department and Treasury Department, and for the Withhold Release Orders (WRO) for certain goods produced in the People's Republic of China (PRC), issued by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

As your Office continues to counter China morally, I want to urge you to designate the continued oppression of the Uyghur Muslims as a genocide, and clarify the Administration's position on this issue.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has systematically detained more than a million Uyghur Muslims in concentration camps since 2017. That number will only grow as the CCP is currently building new camps.¹ In these camps, the Uyghur people are prohibited from practicing their religion and forced to produce goods that are sold around the world.

This year, the U.S. Department of Labor estimated that anywhere from 100,000 to hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and other ethnic religious minorities have been forced to work in the concentration camps.² Using its mass surveillance networks, the CCP has tracked and recorded the movements of the Uyghur people. Actions as

¹ Buckley, C., Ramzy, A. (2020, September 24). Night Images Reveal Many New Detention Sites in China's Xinjiang Region. Retrieved December 07, 2020, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/24/world/asia/china-muslims-xinjiang-detention.html>

² U.S. Department of Labor. (2020, September 30). U.S. Department of Labor Releases Reports on International Child Labor and Forced Labor That Highlight China's Labor Abuses [Press release]. Retrieved December 7, 2020, from <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20200930>

innocent as socializing with neighbors or entering one's house through the back door can lead to detention for the Uyghurs.³

Women and children are not immune from the CCP's abuses. The Chinese Communist Party has systematically targeted Uyghur women in a draconian birth-control campaign. According to a groundbreaking report by Adrian Zenz, "Uyghur women are subjected to forced pregnancy checks, medication that stops their menstruation, forced abortions, and surgical sterilizations."⁴ Zenz's research reveals that birth-control violations are punishable by extrajudicial internment in "training" camps, and evidence from the leaked "Karakax List" document states that such violations were the most common reason for internment.⁵

Women who are not detained are often raped and forced into marriages with Han men.⁶ Through these cruel measures, the CCP seeks to obliterate future Uyghur generations. These findings, according to Zenz, provide the "strongest evidence yet that Beijing's policies in Xinjiang meet one of the genocide."⁷ Uyghur children, whose parents have been detained, have been separated from their families and transferred to state-run institutions. By doing so, the CCP's actions destroy the Uyghur familial structure.

Southern Baptists care deeply about the value of life. Humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), and this intrinsic value persists throughout a person's entire life. To deny another person's, or group of persons, human dignity is an abrogation of justice and further detrimental to the global community.

³ Ma, A. (2019, May 11). China uses an intrusive surveillance app to track its Muslim minority, with technology that could be exported to the rest of the world. Here's how it works. Retrieved December 07, 2020, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-ijop-works-china-surveillance-app-for-muslim-uyghurs-2019-5>

⁴ Zenz, A. (2020). Sterilizations, IUDs, and Mandatory Birth Control: The CCP's Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang (Rep.). Washington, DC: Jamestown Foundation.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ma, A. (2019, November 04). China is reportedly sending men to sleep in the same beds as Uighur Muslim women while their husbands are in prison camps. Retrieved December 07, 2020, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-uyghur-monitor-home-shared-bed-report-2019-11>

⁷ Zenz, A. (2020). Sterilizations, IUDs, and Mandatory Birth Control: The CCP's Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birthrates in Xinjiang (Rep.). Washington, DC: Jamestown Foundation.

Members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China have sent a letter asking that the Administration make an official determination as to whether the Chinese government is responsible for perpetrating atrocity crimes, including genocide, against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslim ethnic minorities.⁸ Additionally, Senators Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and John Cornyn (R-Texas) have introduced a bipartisan resolution to designate human rights abuses perpetrated by the People's Republic of China against the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) as genocide.⁹

The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as “acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”¹⁰ Through its forced labor, mass sterilization, and intrusive surveillance system, there is clear evidence that the Chinese Communist Party is committing cultural genocide against the Uyghur people.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) passed a resolution condemning “the Communist Party of China for their extreme religious persecution.”¹¹ The SBC continued, calling “the United States government to elevate religious liberty as a top priority of American foreign policy in its engagement with China.” What is occurring to the Uyghur Muslims is inexcusable and necessitates proper response.

⁸ Congressional-Executive Commission on China. (2020, July 2). Xinjiang: Chairs Lead Bipartisan Letter Pressing the Administration to Address Forced Sterilizations [Press release]. Retrieved December 7, 2020, from <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/xinjiang-chairs-lead-bipartisan-letter-addressing-the-administration-to-address-forced-sterilizations>

⁹ Menendez, Cornyn Introduce Bipartisan Resolution to Designate Uyghur Human Rights Abuses By China AS Genocide [Press release]. (2020, October 27). Retrieved December 7, 2020, from <https://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/ranking/release/menendez-cornyn-introduce-bipartisan-resolution-to-designate-uyghur-human-rights-abuses-by-china-as-genocide>

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 9 December 1948, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 78, p. 277.

¹¹ On Religious Persecution And Human Rights Violations In North Korea And China. (2019, June 1). Retrieved December 07, 2020, from <https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/on-religious-persecution-and-human-rights-violations-in-north-korea-and-china/>

I urge the Trump Administration to issue a genocide determination for the atrocities committed against the Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang province, and to clarify the State Department's position. The world can no longer ignore the cries of the Uyghur people. Making a formal atrocities determination is a crucial step towards administering justice to the Uyghur people, and will galvanize other nations around the world to join our efforts to end the genocide taking place in Xinjiang.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission