

Starvation in Ghulja

China's "Zero COVID" policy has resulted in the deaths of up to a dozen Uyghurs in Ghulja, as those under house arrest are subjected to forced medication, detentions and starvation.

This CCP policy of extensive lockdowns has triggered significant food shortages in Uyghur regions, including Ghulja. Uyghurs living in Ghulja are speaking out on social media about the government's lack of assistance as their families starve to death in isolation. We urgently call upon the Canadian government to take action:

01 — Recognize the starvation genocide

These policies must be understood as part of the larger Uyghur genocide.

02 — Place pressure on China

China should be pressured to end these COVID-related measures and offer medical assistance and food to Uyghurs suffering in Ghulja.

03 — Intervention to provide aid

Canada should call on humanitarian bodies like Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and UNICEF to investigate and offer humanitarian help.

About URAP

The Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project (URAP) is an organization representing the voice of Uyghurs in Canada. Our mandate is to document and provide supporting evidence on legal advocacy related to Uyghur forced labour, and to bolster global Uyghur human rights efforts through strategic national engagements and collaboration with other Uyghur organizations and activists.

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We would like to thank the National Endowment for Democracy for their continued support.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

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UYGHUR ACTION DAY

2022

UYGHUR RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT



PROJET DE DÉFENSE DES DROITS DES OUIGHOURS



Forced labour

Uyghur forced labour is pervasive in global supply chains, implicating hundreds of industries, and hundreds of thousands of companies.

The United States recently passed the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) into law, which bans all imports of products made in whole or in part in the Uyghur region, assuming all regional products are tainted with Uyghur forced labour. **Canada needs to take stronger action. We are urging action on the following:**

BILL S-204

Bill S-204, introduced by Senator Leo Housakos, would amend the Customs Tariff to prohibit the importation of any and all goods produced in the Uyghur region on the basis that they are produced using Uyghur forced labour. Based on present wording of Bill S-204, it would not impose a rebuttable presumption, but rather an outright ban (i.e. the importer would not have the chance to provide evidence that its goods are not produced using forced labour). However, Senator Housakos plans to amend this so that the bill mirrors the UFLPA and imposes only a rebuttable presumption clause, and corporate accountability. We are urging support on this bill, including through writing letters and meeting with MPs to raise awareness on it.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Our newly launched Clean Universities and Clean Communities campaigns are drawing attention to the issue of institution and community ties to Uyghur forced labour, through investments in companies implicated or even Chinese state-sponsored entities. The Canada Pension Plan's investment portfolio is one such example, and we are continuing to uncover similar complicity at McGill University and other Canadian institutions. This issue extends even beyond forced labour, as Chinese high tech companies that have been linked to Uyghur surveillance continue to be operational in Canada and service the Canadian government. We are urging support on these initiatives from the Canadian government and individual community members, to reach out to their institutions and communities and demand greater transparency and divestment from such investments and companies.

Transnational repression

Uyghurs in Canada and other parts of the diaspora are subject to China's transnational campaign of intimidation, harassment, and surveillance.

In a joint report released in June 2021, the UHRP and the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs found that the CCP "has engaged in an unprecedented scale of transnational repression" since 1997, now reaching 28 countries across the globe (Jardine, Lemon, and Hall 2021). URAP's February 2022 report, "Intended and Unending: A Report on China's Transnational Harassment and Intimidation Campaign Against Uyghur-Canadians," found that no Uyghur Canadians studied escaped this Chinese campaign. Uyghur-Canadians are targeted not only for their activism, but even for having family in East Turkistan, or affiliations to Uyghur and Muslim communities in Canada. Their experiences include:

- Intimidation;
- Intelligence, data gathering and informant recruitment
- Cyberattacks and online trolling;
- Restrictions on movement and travel;
- Contact with family members being cut off or these family members being threatened

We are urging action in Canada in the following ways:

MECHANISMS TO TRACK TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

Establishing mechanisms to track and address instances of the CCP's campaign of direct intimidation, harassment and repressive threats targeting Uyghurs and other anti-CCP activists residing in Canada.

CUTTING TIES TO ENTITIES ASSISTING THE CCP IN THIS CAMPAIGN

Cutting ties to entities including institutions and companies assisting the CCP in this campaign, including Chinese high tech companies that are operational in Canada and act as surveillance outlets of the CCP.

SUPPORTING UYGHUR-CANADIANS

Providing support to Uyghur-Canadians, including by prioritizing cases like Husein Celil's, a Uyghur-Canadian torn away from his wife and children by the Chinese government and unjustly detained for the past 16 years; and supporting Uyghurs in other diaspora countries to resettle in Canada.

Refugee Resettlement

Beyond transnational repression, Uyghur refugees in authoritarian diaspora countries are at risk of detention and deportation to China.

The UHRP and the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs report from June 2021 found that between 1997 and March 2021, there were 1546 cases of detention and deportation of Uyghurs across 28 countries (Jardine, Lemon, and Hall 2021). This threat did not extend to Uyghurs living in democracies. **We can therefore support Uyghurs facing this risk by supporting Uyghur refugee resettlement into Canada, and through placing pressure on governments in which Uyghurs are detained and face deportation to protect and/or release them. We are urging Canadian action on the following:**

MOTION M-62

Motion M-62, tabled by MP Sameer Zuberi on "Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims" on June 21, 2022, is a private motion that calls upon Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to expedite the entry of 10,000 Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in need of protection over two years starting in 2024 into Canada. On October 26, 2022, Parliament will be holding their first debate on motion M-62. This debate represents an opportunity for Members of Parliament to show support for the motion in a public forum ahead of a vote later this year. We are urging support on this bill, including through writing letters and meeting with MPs to raise awareness on it.

WAIVE UNHCR GUIDELINES

We are urging Canada to act on the unanimous vote passed in the House of Commons to waive UNHCR guidelines for Uyghur refugees entering Canada. As we move forward with campaigns supporting and funding the resettlement of Uyghur families, it is important to ensure they will be accepted into Canada.

UYGHURS IN THAILAND

As 52 Uyghur refugees continue their decade-long detainment in Thai immigration detention centres, we are urging Canadian officials to place pressure on Thailand to release the detainees so a third safe country may accept them, like Canada.