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Uyghurs

Uyghurs are a Turkic people that live predominantly in western China. There are an estimated 11 million Uyghurs in China.⁴⁷ Most live in the poor southern areas of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), but they also live in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.⁴⁸ About 40 per cent of Xinjiang's population is now Han Chinese.⁴⁹ Han Chinese are the majority in some areas of the XUAR, including the capital Urumqi, following large-scale state-sponsored internal migration⁵⁰ which is allegedly orchestrated by the state to dilute the Uyghur population.⁵¹ The Uyghur birth rate in

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⁴⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁴⁸ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210

⁴⁹ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554;

⁵⁰ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

⁵¹ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'Are Uyghurs Slowly Disappearing From Xinjiang?', Forbes.com, 21 November 2021, 20211123141212; 'US imposes sweeping human rights sanctions on China, Myanmar and North Korea', Reuters, 10 December 2021, 20211213075356; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; Officially, multiple Western

the XUAR has declined 48.7 per cent between 2017 and 2019, and it is thought that the Uyghur population could be reduced by up to a third over the next 20 years.⁵² Uyghur and other minority women have reported forced sterilizations and intrauterine device insertions for birth control.⁵³ Uyghur children have been forced to attend boarding schools to receive immersive Chinese language training⁵⁴ and 'patriotic education'.⁵⁵

Strict security measures are in place in the XUAR. Movement is controlled at checkpoints and residents may need permission to leave their area of residence.⁵⁶ Security measures include: large numbers of police stations and/or checkpoints;⁵⁷ monitoring WeChat (a Chinese messaging app);⁵⁸ facial recognition software;⁵⁹ mass 'anti-terrorism rallies'; the recruitment of tens of thousands of security personnel from both within and outside of the XUAR; biometric data collection from all XUAR residents between the ages of 12 and 65;⁶⁰ the implementation of a 'double-linked household' system in which households report other households to authorities for possible transgressions,⁶¹ and the 'grid system'.⁶² The government has also established a compulsory homestay program in which civilians, reportedly Communist Party members⁶³, spend time living with Uyghur families to monitor and report on their activities and teach them Han Chinese culture.⁶⁴ It has been reported that the police in the

governments including the United States have determined that Chinese government actions toward Uyghurs in Xinjiang Province constitute genocide, see 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210

⁵² 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230

⁵³ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230

⁵⁴ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 73 – 74, 20230321164711; 'As in Xinjiang, China is tightening its grip in Tibet', The Economist, 13 February 2021, 20210215105856

⁵⁵ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 73 – 74, 20230321164711; 'As in Xinjiang, China is tightening its grip in Tibet', The Economist, 13 February 2021, 20210215105856

⁵⁶ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'Eradicating Ideological Viruses': China's Campaign of Repression Against Xinjiang's Muslims', Human Rights Watch, 9 September 2018, p.58, CIS7B839419396; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁵⁷ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 53, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵⁸ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵⁹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁶⁰ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 27 January 2021, p. 1, 20210225150248; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2018', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 10 October 2018, p.199, CIS7B839419791; 'Congressional Executive Committee on China 2019 Annual Report', US Congressional Executive Committee on China, 18 November 2019, p. 268, 275f, 20200221114933; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁶¹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 26 – 27, 20230321164711; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁶² 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; see also footnote 22; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁶³ 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁶⁴ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 27, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Fake families and neighbourhood spies: China's 24-hour repression of Uyghurs', The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 October 2021, 20211019155638; 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

XUAR use a range of other digital tools to monitor people's behaviour.⁶⁵ The deployment of self-driving cars for surveillance purposes is also reported in one area of XUAR.⁶⁶

Religious and Uyghur cultural activities are tightly controlled in the XUAR. Muslim religious figures have been targeted and religious practices banned in the XUAR.⁶⁷ Prohibited behaviours in XUAR include growing 'abnormal' beards, wearing of veils in public, and ceasing drinking alcohol or smoking.⁶⁸ Uyghurs have received lengthy prison sentences for circulating religious texts, praying in groups or observing Ramadan.⁶⁹ A leaked document (the 'Karakaz List') of unknown origin suggests that a database of Uyghurs and their religious practices is kept to determine whether residents are sent to re-education camps.⁷⁰ The list is considered to be authentic⁷¹ and other reports have made similar claims.⁷² Uyghur cultural practices remain restricted or banned.⁷³ During the May 2022 visit of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, XUAR residents were reportedly warned not to speak with the delegation.⁷⁴

More than a million Uyghurs were placed in high-security vocational education camps. Leaked documents in 2019 of an unknown origin state that the camps were intended to be run as high security prisons with strict discipline and punishments.⁷⁵ Further internal government documents leaked in May 2022, dubbed the 'Xinjiang Police Files,' included sensitive information of police operations and training in internment camps in XUAR, mugshots of thousands of detainees and official government speeches outlining plans for detainee re-education and punishment.⁷⁶ Since April 2017, an estimated eight hundred thousand to two million Uyghurs and other Muslims have been detained in mass camps.⁷⁷ The government claims that these centres included training in Mandarin,

⁶⁵ 'Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan — and beyond', Darren Byler, The China Project, 12 March 2023, 20230313121135; 'Spyware Tied to China Targets Apps Used by Uyghurs, Cybersecurity Firm Says', Katrina Manson, Bloomberg, 9 November 2022, 20221111141923; 'Freedom on the Net 2022 - China', Freedom House, 18 October 2022, section C4 20221018163933; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; 'Surviving the Crackdown in Xinjiang', The New Yorker, 5 April 2021, 20210406103357

⁶⁶ 'Driverless police surveillance cars hit streets of Xinjiang's Karamay', Gulchehra Hoja, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 14 July 2022, 20220715085000

⁶⁷ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁶⁸ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 27, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G3, 20230310092046; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 28 February 2021, 20210406120337; 'China Uighurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 16 February 2020, 20200218103818

⁶⁹ 'Uyghurs tell Congress of gang rape, shackles and sterilization', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 23 March 2023, 20230327113026; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D2, 20230310092046; 'Uyghur imam sentenced for providing religious instruction to son in Xinjiang', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 8 September 2022, 20220909154624; 'Uyghur woman sentenced for 14 years for teaching Islam, hiding Qurans', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 9 January 2022, 20220110095558

⁷⁰ 'China Uighurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 17 February 2020, 20200218103818

⁷¹ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337

⁷² 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'Who are the Uighurs and why is the US accusing China of genocide?', BBC News, 9 February 2021, 20210225152748; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, p. 88, 20220525141041

⁷³ 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 13, 20230307164140; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 69 – 70, 20230321164711; 'Terror & tourism: Xinjiang eases its grip, but fear remains', Dake Kang, AP News, 9 October 2021, 20220112151948

⁷⁴ 'US 'remains concerned' over UN human rights chief's visit to China over lack of transparency over Xinjiang', ABC News (Australia), 29 May 2022, 20220530112819; 'China warns overseas Uyghurs to keep quiet during UN visit', Jilil Kashgary, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 27 May 2022, 20220530112936; 'Authorities warn Uyghurs not to talk about 're-education' with UN team', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 11 May 2022, 20220513103948; 'Uyghurs warned against divulging 'state secrets' before UN right chief 's China visit', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 2 May 2022, 20220503103554

⁷⁵ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; 'China's Internment Camps Ruled by Secrecy and Spying, New Leak Shows', The New York Times, 23 November 2019, 20191125142121

⁷⁶ 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, 20220525141041; 'Public Security Minister's Speech Describes Xi Jinping's Direction of Mass Detentions in Xinjiang', Adrian Zenz, China File, 24 May 2022, 20220525141530

⁷⁷ 'China: Xinjiang Official Figures Reveal Higher Prisoner Count', Human Rights Watch, 14 September 2022, 20220915150606; 'China's Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Break Their Lineage, Break Their Roots', Human Rights Watch, 19 April 2021, p. 2, 20210506100326; 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'Documenting Xinjiang's Detention System', Nathan Ruser, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 September 2020, 20220114121720

the law, vocational skills and deradicalisation.⁷⁸ According to former detainees, treatment and conditions in the centres include factory labour, crowded and unsanitary conditions, food deprivation, beatings and sexual abuse.⁷⁹ The government points to the 'urgent need' for education and training of Uyghurs, in order to prevent the spreading of separatist and religious extremist forces for the potential creation of a 'theocratic state called "East Turkestan" in XUAR'.⁸⁰ The government identifies a broad range of 'justifications' for detaining Uyghurs although sometimes none is given.⁸¹ A long-awaited report from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), published August 2022, concluded that the arbitrary and discriminatory detention of Uyghur and other Muslim groups may constitute crimes against humanity.⁸² The Chinese government has rejected the findings of the report and denounced it as a 'political tool' against China.⁸³ The centres are thought to have been closed sometime in 2019⁸⁴ although reportedly the sites remain either empty or converted for other purposes such as quarantine facilities, detention centres or prisons.⁸⁵

The Chinese government claims that Uyghurs have 'graduated' from the camps, but these claims are contested and many are thought to have been transferred to detention centres or prisons. The local XUAR government claims that detained Uyghurs have been 'returned to society' but does not offer details.⁸⁶ A CCP backed media source notes that trainees have graduated from 'education and training programs of standard spoken and written Chinese, understanding of the law, vocational skills and deradicalization'.⁸⁷ This claim is contested by academics and commentators, and it is unclear on what basis detainees may be released.⁸⁸ Prior to their release, detainees may be interrogated, required to 'confess' their crimes, 'explain how they have been transformed,' and express gratitude to the CCP.⁸⁹ Reports indicate that many of the detainees are likely to have been formally convicted of crimes and placed in higher security facilities.⁹⁰ Generally, Uyghurs and other

⁷⁸ 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁷⁹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 7, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; 'New Accounts Describe Torture, Forced Labor Facing Xinjiang Detainees', China Digital Times (CDT), 6 October 2021, 20211012135503; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 28 January 2021, p.2, 20210225150248

⁸⁰ 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁸¹ 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 50, 20211021093810

⁸² 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; see further reporting, 'For exiled Uyghurs, UN report is long-awaited vindication', Dake Kang, AP News, 1 September 2022, 20220902114125; 'China: Long-delayed UN report must spur accountability for crimes against humanity in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 1 September 2022, 20220902113957; 'China: New UN Report Alleges Crimes Against Humanity', Human Rights Watch, 1 September 2022, 20220902113826; 'A long-awaited UN report condemns China's actions in Xinjiang', The Economist, 1 September 2022, 20220902113618

⁸³ 'Beijing taps into anti-West resentment to counter UN report', Dake Kang, AP News, 3 September 2022, 20220905102954; 'China denounces OHCHR report on Xinjiang - "a patchwork of disinformation, political tool for US, some Western forces"', Global Times, 1 September 2022, 20220902123339

⁸⁴ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 11, 20220901100337; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁸⁵ 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁸⁶ 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040. COISS conducted targeted web searches for information. Information from Xinjiang is limited as media and access by foreign governments and observers is limited.

⁸⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; 'Re-education camp in Xinjiang? Let's find out the truth', China Daily, 5 February 2021, 20210630131153

⁸⁸ 'Like we were enemies in a war' - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, 20210622154946

⁸⁹ 'Like we were enemies in a war' - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, p. 116 - 118, 20210622154946

⁹⁰ 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

Muslims convicted of 'extremism' face lengthy prison sentences.⁹¹ Upon release, prisoners may also be required to continue their 'ideological education'.⁹²

Uyghurs have allegedly been moved in large numbers from XUAR to other parts of the country to work in factories. Research reports found that workers, including those released from detention facilities, had been moved to segregated camps outside XUAR to work in factories that were part of the supply chains of major multinational companies.⁹³ The workers are allegedly subject to 're-education', such as learning Mandarin and political education when they were not working.⁹⁴ In December 2020, it was reported that up to half a million people were being forced to pick cotton in Xinjiang with new factories being reportedly built within the grounds of the re-education camps.⁹⁵ Reports of state-sponsored forced labour in XUAR are ongoing.⁹⁶

Uyghurs living overseas are pressured to return. The government has allegedly sought the repatriation of Uyghurs from foreign countries by threatening and/or detaining their families who remain in the XUAR.⁹⁷ The authorities have also been known to put pressure on Uyghurs to spy on fellow Uyghurs and organisations that scrutinise China,⁹⁸ often in return for contact with their family.⁹⁹ Contact by XUAR-based Uyghurs with relatives overseas is reportedly punishable by interrogation and detention.¹⁰⁰ Uyghurs living abroad are reportedly monitoring, threatened and/or harassed¹⁰¹ with some having their phones hacked¹⁰² or their Facebook or other social media accounts being targeted

⁹¹ 'Crimes of Extremism, Part II: Harsh Sentences, Low Transparency in Xinjiang', Dui Hua Foundation, 18 May 2022, 20220526112536

⁹² 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229

⁹³ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; 'VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022', Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352; 'Uyghurs for sale', Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; The OHCHR report notes the government's emphasis on employment and skills development following release from vocational centres as part of poverty alleviation schemes, however raises concerns regarding coercive practices, see 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, pp. 36 – 40, 20220901100337

⁹⁴ 'Uyghurs for sale', Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755

⁹⁵ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁹⁶ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 80, 20230307164140, see also 'UN committee urges China to dismantle forced labour systems', Emma Farge, Reuters, 06 March 2023, 20230307164606; 'China: US Law Against Uyghur Forced Labor Takes Effect', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 20 June 2022, 20220621091845; 'US sanctions China's biotech sector over Uyghur rights abuses', Al Jazeera, 15 December 2021, 20211221091543; 'Intel apologises in China over Xinjiang supplier statement', Reuters, 22 December 2021, 20211224100518; 'China imposes sanctions on US officials over Xinjiang', AP News, 20 December 2021, 20211221153328

⁹⁷ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711; 'Involuntary Returns - China's covert operation to force 'fugitives' overseas back home', Safeguard Defenders, 17 January 2022, p. 30, 20220119103546; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 152-153, 165-166, 20220429113002; 'We'll kill you: Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; 'Why targeting ethnic minority journalists is central to China's crackdown on the press', Erica Hellerstein, Coda, 16 February 2022, 20220316111059; 'Under pressure over Xinjiang, China takes aim at overseas Uyghurs, academics', Reuters, 9 April 2021, 20210630143802; 'The cost of speaking up against China', BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁹⁸ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; 'With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 153, 20220429113002; 'We'll kill you: Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011

⁹⁹ 'With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; 'The cost of speaking up against China', BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134;

¹⁰⁰ 'What is happening to the Uyghurs in Xinjiang?', The Economist, 12 July 2021, 20210713103756; 'Eradicating Ideological Viruses: China's Campaign of Repression Against Xinjiang's Muslims', Human Rights Watch, 9 September 2018, p.89, CIS7B839419396, see also 'Overseas Uyghurs Struggle To Locate Relatives In Xinjiang Prisons', News 18, 22 September 2021, 20210922133956

¹⁰¹ 'Defending Democracy in Exile: Policy Responses to Transnational Repression', Freedom House, June 2022, pp. 6 – 7, 20220701093205; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 150-152, 20220429113002 'We'll kill you: Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040; 'Uyghurs tell Australian inquiry of 'intimidation and harassment' from Chinese government', The Guardian, 9 October 2020, 20210225170839

¹⁰² 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112

by hackers.¹⁰³ Uyghurs, particularly from XUAR, face difficulty obtaining approval for passports, and authorities have refused to renew passports for Uyghurs overseas.¹⁰⁴ Uyghurs may face imprisonment upon their return to China.¹⁰⁵

Uyghurs living outside the XUAR may be subject to surveillance and face discrimination. While the majority of Uyghurs live in XUAR, according to DFAT in 2019, some are located in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.¹⁰⁶ They report some middle-class Uyghurs have integrated into Han Chinese society. Some have learned Mandarin, joined the Communist Party or joined local government in the XUAR.¹⁰⁷ However, even those with good skills and connections report discrimination outside of the XUAR, for example when accessing accommodation or when dealing with the police.¹⁰⁸ Uyghurs without good Mandarin skills may experience employment discrimination in Han dominated companies.¹⁰⁹ A media report notes Uyghurs who live elsewhere in China often face intense scrutiny with local police keeping a mass of data about the person including fingerprints, DNA samples and the mould of their face.¹¹⁰ Another states that Uyghur identification cards carry an electronic security warning which may lead to individuals being stopped, questioned and searched when scanned in public places.¹¹¹

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¹⁰³ 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 159-164, 20220429113002; 'Chinese hackers used Facebook to target Uighurs abroad, company says', Reuters, 25 March 2021, 20210630144548

¹⁰⁴ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 55, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022', Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352

¹⁰⁵ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, pp. 131, 135, 143 - 145, 20220429113002

¹⁰⁶ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 19, 20191003160550

¹⁰⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

¹⁰⁸ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550; this is also reported by media sources cited in '2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Macau)', United States Department of State, 2 June 2022, p. 42-43, 20220603082906

¹⁰⁹ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

¹¹⁰ 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

¹¹¹ 'An anonymous letter from a Uyghur in China', Darren Byler, SupChina, 1 June 2022, 20220603091756

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Muslims

The Uyghurs and the Hui are the two largest Muslim groups. Hui Muslims²¹⁰ are concentrated in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, but are also spread throughout the country.²¹¹ Hui Muslims tend to be more assimilated into Han culture than Uyghurs.²¹² Recent restrictions on religious practice have led some Hui Muslims to fear increasing restrictions on their own religious practice.²¹³ Structures and

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²¹⁰ Hui Muslims are designated as one of the Muslim ethnic groups. An academic observation notes that 'Hui' is the traditional name for all Muslim peoples in China,' but acknowledges that 'PRC government has changed it as an ethnic term, exclusively for the Muslims who have scattered in every province and are more acculturated to the Han Chinese societies,' see 'Religion and Nationalism in Chinese Societies', edited by Cheng-tian Kuo, Amsterdam University Press, 30 October 2017, p. 181, 20190619110523

²¹¹ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'Muslims in China and their Relations with the State', Al Jazeera Center for Studies, 26 August 2018, 20220401145626; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020-September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 0221031114931

²¹² 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210; 'Religion in China', Council on Foreign Relations, 25 September 2020, 20210216105458; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020-September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 0221031114931

²¹³ 'China's Ningxia to 'Learn From' Xinjiang's Anti-Terror Campaign', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 3 December 2018, CXBB8A1DA39791; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 20 November 2020, 20210223131215; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020-September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 0221031114931

symbols of Islam have been removed in Hui areas.²¹⁴ Hui Muslims are known to have been targeted by the authorities both inside and outside Xinjiang including arrest and detention in internment camps.²¹⁵ Societal treatment of Hui Muslims may vary across regions including the prevalence of discrimination and harassment.²¹⁶

The government plans to 'sinicise' Islam, including outside of Xinjiang. The stated-backed China Islamic Association announced a 'five year plan' in 2019 to sinicise Islam and make it compatible with socialism.²¹⁷ The outline of the plan includes promoting patriotism, building a system of Islam classics with Chinese characteristics, improving rules and regulations in the field of Islam, strengthening the construction of Islamic culture and training high-quality Islamic personnel.²¹⁸ Use of Arabic script is banned in some places,²¹⁹ learning Mandarin is being promoted in Xinjiang.²²⁰ Imams are required to take political education classes,²²¹ be registered, be 'committed to upholding CCP leadership' and pass a yearly 'ideological knowledge' exam.²²² 'Arabisation', including the use of fashions or architecture associated with Arab countries is banned in some places, including Ningxia and Gansu.²²³ Islamic financial systems, the call to prayer, buying Islamic books and the sale of halal

²¹⁴ 'Planting the Flag in Mosques and Monasteries', Jessica Batke, China File, 12 December 2022, 20230208093521; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'China remodels major mosque in Beijing to remove Middle Eastern influence', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 13 September 2022, 20220915150854; 'Hui Mosques and Cemeteries "Sinicized" in Qinghai, Yunnan, Beijing, and Shanghai', Chen Tao, Bitter Winter, 23 September 2022, 20220927093409; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 19 November 2020, 20210223131215; 'China's repression of Islam is spreading beyond Xinjiang', The Economist, 26 September 2019, 20220401144722; 'Chinese govt removes domes, minarets, Arabic text and all Islamic symbols from the largest mosque in Ningxia Hui region to "Sinicize" it', OpIndia, 1 November 2020, 20210223132442; 'Prayer Inscriptions on Hui Muslims' Homes Banned', Bitter Winter, 13 September 2020, 20210223132202

²¹⁵ 'Hui Muslims and the "Xinjiang Model" of State Suppression of Religion', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 28 February 2021, p. 5, 20210330144811; CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA ANNUAL REPORT 2021', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 30 March 2022, p. 99-101, 117, 20220404113708 ('other Muslim minorities' are mentioned in the November 2022 update, see 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 298, 20221202093431); 'Xinjiang's Hui Muslims Were Swept Into Camps Alongside Uighurs', Gene A. Bunin, Foreign Policy, 9 February 2020, 20220401145252; 'China Detains Hui Muslim Poet Who Spoke Out Against Xinjiang Camps', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 26 January 2020, 20200210095734; 'They Don't Understand the Fear We Have', Human Rights Watch, 30 June 2021, 20210630093820; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 0221031114931

²¹⁶ 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 3, 0221031114931; DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19-20, 20211222100210

²¹⁷ DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'China passes law to make Islam "compatible with socialism"', Aljazeera, 6 January 2019, 20190923112154; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418

²¹⁸ '"Sinicization" Campaigns Target Religious and Ethnic Minorities Across China', China Digital Times (CDT), 17 February 2021, 20210218143554; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144

²¹⁹ 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258

²²⁰ 'China to step up use of Mandarin in Xinjiang schools in face of growing international outcry over policies', South China Morning Post, 27 March 2021, 20210628150056

²²¹ 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552

²²² DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210

²²³ 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'Beijing plans to continue tightening grip on Christianity and Islam as China pushes ahead with the "Sinicisation of religion"', South China Morning Post, 6 March 2019, 20190307124747; 20210223124418; 'Chinese Hui Muslims trigger storm by wearing traditional dress to event to promote ethnic unity', South China Morning Post, 27 June 2021, 20210628091443

foods have been banned in some places.²²⁴ Independent personal pilgrimages are not allowed²²⁵ and all were cancelled in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²²⁶

Muslims may attempt to worship outside of officially sanctioned mosques. Islamic identity is not uniform and Muslims from different sects, associated with different traditions or due to personal beliefs may prefer to worship together in what one writer has dubbed as 'house mosques'.²²⁷ Some house mosques have been raided or sealed in rural areas and worshippers told to go to officially sanctioned mosques.²²⁸ Mosques within Xinjiang have reportedly been hidden behind high walls and CCP propaganda signs which has meant the religious site is hidden from passers-by.²²⁹ The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade reports that differing levels of religious observance and expression, such as Ramadan, exist across different parts of China.²³⁰

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²²⁴ 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418; 'Arabic. Muslim symbols ordered taken down in China's capital', Aljazeera, 1 August 2019, 20190801124109; 'How China is trying to impose Islam with Chinese characteristics in the Hui Muslim heartland', South China Morning Post, 23 September 2019, 20190923114035; 'Chinese Muslim poet Cui Haoxin fears his people will suffer as history repeats itself in wave of religious repression', Associated Press, South China Morning Post, 28 December 2018, 20190102114504; 'Tiny Muslim community in China's Hainan becomes latest target for religious crackdown', South China Morning Post, 28 September 2020, 20201006094347

²²⁵ '2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Macau)', United States Department of State, 2 June 2022, p. 31, 20220603082906; 'China Is Stepping Up Its Control over Religion', VOA News, 19 October 2020, 20210219133816

²²⁶ '2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Macau)', United States Department of State, 2 June 2022, p. 31, 20220603082906

²²⁷ 'Love Allah, Love China', Foreign Policy, 25 March 2019, 20190923113323; 'How China is trying to impose Islam with Chinese characteristics in the Hui Muslim heartland', South China Morning Post, 14 May 2018, 20190923114035

²²⁸ 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'What does China want to achieve by 'modifying' Islam?', DW, 1 August 2019, 20190923113033; 'Love Allah, Love China', Foreign Policy, 25 March 2019, 20190923113323

²²⁹ 'Mosques disappear as China strives to 'build a beautiful Xinjiang'', Reuters, 13 May 2021, 20210628150629

²³⁰ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Common Claims

People's Republic of China

Country of Origin Information Services Section (COISS)

Effective from 6 December 2023

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Uyghurs

Uyghurs are a Turkic people that live predominantly in western China. There are an estimated 11 million Uyghurs in China.⁴⁰ Most live in the poor southern areas of the Xinjiang Uyghur

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⁴⁰ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

Autonomous Region (XUAR), but they also live in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.⁴¹ About 40 per cent of Xinjiang's population is now Han Chinese.⁴² Han Chinese are the majority in some areas of the XUAR, including the capital Urumqi, following large-scale state-sponsored internal migration⁴³ which is allegedly orchestrated by the state to dilute the Uyghur population.⁴⁴ The Uyghur birth rate in the XUAR declined 48.7 per cent between 2017 and 2019, and it is thought that the Uyghur population could be reduced by up to a third over the next 20 years.⁴⁵ Uyghur and other minority women have reported forced sterilizations and intrauterine device insertions for birth control.⁴⁶ Uyghur children have been forced to attend boarding schools to receive immersive Chinese language training⁴⁷ and 'patriotic education'.⁴⁸

Strict security measures are in place in the XUAR. Movement is controlled at checkpoints and residents may need permission to leave their area of residence.⁴⁹ Security measures include: large numbers of police stations and/or checkpoints;⁵⁰ monitoring WeChat (a Chinese messaging app) and

⁴¹ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China,' Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210

⁴² 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554;

⁴³ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China,' Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

⁴⁴ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'Are Uyghurs Slowly Disappearing From Xinjiang?', Forbes.com, 21 November 2021, 20211123141212; 'US imposes sweeping human rights sanctions on China, Myanmar and North Korea', Reuters, 10 December 2021, 20211213075356; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; Officially, multiple Western governments including the United States have determined that Chinese government actions toward Uyghurs in Xinjiang Province constitute genocide, see 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China,' Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210

⁴⁵ 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230

⁴⁶ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China*', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230

⁴⁷ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 73 – 74, 20230321164711; 'As in Xinjiang, China is tightening its grip in Tibet', The Economist, 13 February 2021, 20210215105856

⁴⁸ 'China: Xinjiang's forced separations and language policies for Uyghur children carry risk of forced assimilation, say UN experts', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 26 September 2023, 20231016141734; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 73 – 74, 20230321164711

⁴⁹ 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'Eradicating Ideological Viruses: China's Campaign of Repression Against Xinjiang's Muslims', Human Rights Watch, 9 September 2018, p.58, CIS7B839419396; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁵⁰ 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 53, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

other apps;⁵¹ facial recognition software;⁵² mass 'anti-terrorism rallies'; the recruitment of tens of thousands of security personnel from both within and outside of the XUAR; biometric data collection from all XUAR residents between the ages of 12 and 65.⁵³ A 'double-linked household' system is in place in which households report other households to authorities for possible transgressions,⁵⁴ and the 'grid system'.⁵⁵ The government has also established a compulsory homestay program in which civilians, reportedly Communist Party members⁵⁶, spend time living with Uyghur families to monitor and report on their activities and teach them Han Chinese culture.⁵⁷ It has been reported that the police in the XUAR use a range of other digital tools to monitor people's behaviour.⁵⁸ The deployment of self-driving cars for surveillance purposes is also reported in one area of XUAR.⁵⁹

Religious and Uyghur cultural activities are tightly controlled in the XUAR. Muslim religious figures have been targeted and religious practices banned in the XUAR.⁶⁰ Prohibited behaviours in XUAR include growing 'abnormal' beards, wearing of veils in public, and ceasing drinking alcohol or smoking.⁶¹ Uyghurs have received lengthy prison sentences for circulating religious texts, praying in

⁵¹ 'Freedom on the Net 2023 - China', Freedom House, 4 October 2023, section B4, 20231005104557; 'Spyware Tied to China Targets Apps Used by Uyghurs, Cybersecurity Firm Says', Katrina Manson, Bloomberg, 9 November 2022, 20221111141923; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵² 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵³ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 66, 20230321164711; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 27 January 2021, p. 1, 20210225150248; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2018', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 10 October 2018, p.199, CIS7B839419791; 'Congressional Executive Committee on China 2019 Annual Report', US Congressional Executive Committee on China, 18 November 2019, p. 268, 275f, 20200221114933; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵⁴ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 26 – 27, 20230321164711; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵⁵ 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; see also footnote 22; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵⁶ 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵⁷ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 27, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D4, 20230310092046; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Fake families and neighbourhood spies: China's 24-hour repression of Uyghurs', The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 October 2021, 20211019155638; 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

⁵⁸ 'Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan — and beyond', Darren Byler, The China Project, 12 March 2023, 20230313121135; 'Spyware Tied to China Targets Apps Used by Uyghurs, Cybersecurity Firm Says', Katrina Manson, Bloomberg, 9 November 2022, 20221111141923;

⁵⁹ 'Driverless police surveillance cars hit streets of Xinjiang's Karamay', Gulchehra Hoja, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 14 July 2022, 20220715085000

⁶⁰ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁶¹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 27, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G3, 20230310092046; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 28 February 2021, 20210406120337; 'China Uyghurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 16 February 2020, 20200218103818

groups or observing Ramadan.⁶² A leaked document (the 'Karakaz List') of unknown origin suggests that a database of Uyghurs and their religious practices is kept to determine whether residents are sent to re-education camps.⁶³ The list is considered to be authentic⁶⁴ and other reports have made similar claims.⁶⁵ Uyghur cultural practices remain restricted or banned.⁶⁶

More than a million Uyghurs were placed in high-security vocational education camps. Leaked documents in 2019 of an unknown origin state that the camps were intended to be run as high security prisons with strict discipline and punishments.⁶⁷ Further internal government documents leaked in May 2022, dubbed the 'Xinjiang Police Files,' included sensitive information of police operations and training in internment camps in XUAR, mugshots of thousands of detainees and official government speeches outlining plans for detainee re-education and punishment.⁶⁸ Since April 2017, an estimated eight hundred thousand to two million Uyghurs and other Muslims have been detained in mass camps.⁶⁹ The government claims that these centres included training in Mandarin, the law, vocational skills and deradicalisation.⁷⁰ According to former detainees, treatment and conditions in the centres include factory labour, crowded and unsanitary conditions, food deprivation, beatings and sexual abuse.⁷¹ The government points to the 'urgent need' for education and training of

⁶² 'Uyghurs tell Congress of gang rape, shackles and sterilization', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 23 March 2023, 20230327113026; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section D2, 20230310092046; 'Uyghur imam sentenced for providing religious instruction to son in Xinjiang', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 8 September 2022, 20220909154624; 'Uyghur woman sentenced for 14 years for teaching Islam, hiding Qurans', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 9 January 2022, 20220110095558

⁶³ 'China Uyghurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 17 February 2020, 20200218103818

⁶⁴ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337

⁶⁵ 'China: Phone Search Program Tramples Uyghur Rights', Human Rights Watch, 4 May 2023, 20230505083018; 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is the US accusing China of genocide?', BBC News, 9 February 2021, 20210225152748; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, p. 88, 20220525141041

⁶⁶ 'China's "beautiful Xinjiang" continues to oppress Uyghurs', Al Jazeera, 12 September 2023, 20230915131458; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 13, 20230307164140; '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 69 – 70, 20230321164711; 'Terror & tourism: Xinjiang eases its grip, but fear remains', Dake Kang, AP News, 9 October 2021, 20220112151948

⁶⁷ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711;

'China's Internment Camps Ruled by Secrecy and Spying, New Leak Shows', The New York Times, 23 November 2019, 20191125142121

⁶⁸ 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, 20220525141041;

'Public Security Minister's Speech Describes Xi Jinping's Direction of Mass Detentions in Xinjiang', Adrian Zenz, China File, 24 May 2022, 20220525141530

⁶⁹ 'China: Xinjiang Official Figures Reveal Higher Prisoner Count', Human Rights Watch, 14 September 2022, 20220915150606; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Break Their Lineage, Break Their Roots', Human Rights Watch, 19 April 2021, p. 2, 20210506100326; 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'Documenting Xinjiang's Detention System', Nathan Ruser, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 September 2020, 20220114121720

⁷⁰ 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁷¹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 7, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section C4, 20230310092046; 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; 'New Accounts Describe Torture, Forced Labor Facing Xinjiang Detainees', China Digital

Uyghurs, in order to prevent the spreading of separatist and religious extremist forces for the potential creation of a 'theocratic state called "East Turkestan" in XUAR'.⁷² The government identifies a broad range of 'justifications' for detaining Uyghurs although sometimes none is given.⁷³ A long-awaited report from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), published August 2022, concluded that the arbitrary and discriminatory detention of Uyghur and other Muslim groups may constitute crimes against humanity.⁷⁴ The Chinese government has rejected the findings of the report and denounced it as a 'political tool' against China.⁷⁵ The centres are thought to have been closed sometime in 2019⁷⁶ although reportedly the sites remain either empty or converted for other purposes such as quarantine facilities, detention centres or prisons.⁷⁷

The Chinese government claims that Uyghurs have 'graduated' from the camps, but these claims are contested and many are thought to have been transferred to detention centres or prisons. The local XUAR government claims that detained Uyghurs have been 'returned to society' but does not offer details.⁷⁸ A CCP backed media source notes that trainees have graduated from 'education and training programs of standard spoken and written Chinese, understanding of the law, vocational skills and deradicalization.'⁷⁹ This claim is contested by academics and commentators, and it is unclear on what basis detainees may be released.⁸⁰ Prior to their release, detainees may be interrogated, required to 'confess' their crimes, 'explain how they have been transformed,' and express gratitude to the CCP.⁸¹ Reports indicate that many of the detainees are likely to have been formally convicted of crimes and placed in higher security facilities.⁸² Generally, Uyghurs and other

Times (CDT), 6 October 2021, 20211012135503; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 28 January 2021, p.2, 20210225150248

⁷² 'Xi Jinping calls for protection of 'hard-won stability' in Xinjiang visit', Al Jazeera, 27 August 2023, 20230828100342; 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁷³ 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 50, 20211021093810

⁷⁴ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; see further reporting from the time of publication, 'For exiled Uyghurs, UN report is long-awaited vindication', Dake Kang, AP News, 1 September 2022, 20220902114125; 'China: Long-delayed UN report must spur accountability for crimes against humanity in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 1 September 2022, 20220902113957; 'China: New UN Report Alleges Crimes Against Humanity', Human Rights Watch, 1 September 2022, 20220902113826; 'A long-awaited UN report condemns China's actions in Xinjiang', The Economist, 1 September 2022, 20220902113618; and one year on: 'China: Anniversary of UN's damning Xinjiang report must be 'wake-up call' to action', Amnesty International, 31 August 2023, 20230904110016; 'China: Unrelenting Crimes Against Humanity Targeting Uyghurs', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 31 August 2023, 20230904110108

⁷⁵ 'Beijing taps into anti-West resentment to counter UN report', Dake Kang, AP News, 3 September 2022, 20220905102954; 'China denounces OHCHR report on Xinjiang – 'a patchwork of disinformation, political tool for US, some Western forces'', Global Times, 1 September 2022, 20220902123339

⁷⁶ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 11, 20220901100337; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁷⁷ 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁷⁸ 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; '"If I speak out, they will torture my family": voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040. COISS conducted targeted web searches for information. Information from Xinjiang is limited as media and access by foreign governments and observers is limited.

⁷⁹ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; 'Re-education camp in Xinjiang? Let's find out the truth', China Daily, 5 February 2021, 20210630131153

⁸⁰ '"Like we were enemies in a war" - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, 20210622154946

⁸¹ '"Like we were enemies in a war" - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, p. 116 – 118, 20210622154946

⁸² 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

Muslims convicted of 'extremism' face lengthy prison sentences.⁸³ Upon release, prisoners may also be required to continue their 'ideological education'.⁸⁴

Uyghurs have allegedly been moved within and outside the XUAR as part of 'labour transfers.'

Research reports found that workers, including those released from detention facilities, had been moved to segregated camps outside XUAR to work in factories that were part of the supply chains of major multinational companies.⁸⁵ The workers are allegedly subject to 're-education', such as learning Mandarin and political education, when they are not working.⁸⁶ Reports of state-sponsored forced labour involving Uyghurs and other minorities are ongoing.⁸⁷

Uyghurs living overseas are pressured to return. The government has allegedly sought the repatriation of Uyghurs from foreign countries by threatening and/or detaining their families who remain in the XUAR.⁸⁸ The authorities have also been known to put pressure on Uyghurs to spy on fellow Uyghurs and organisations that scrutinise China,⁸⁹ often in return for contact with their family.⁹⁰

⁸³ [China's persecution of Uyghurs extends to those it once favoured](#), The Economist, 28 September 2023, 20231006135609; ['Life Sentence for Professor Rahile Dawut Confirmed'](#), Dui Hua Foundation, 21 September 2023, 20230926085618; ['2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China'](#), United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 70, 20230321164711; ['Crimes of Extremism, Part II: Harsh Sentences, Low Transparency in Xinjiang'](#), Dui Hua Foundation, 18 May 2022, 20220526112536

⁸⁴ ['As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation'](#), Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229

⁸⁵ ['The Uyghurs Forced to Process the World's Fish The New Yorker'](#), The New Yorker, 9 October 2023, 20231030173732; ['China Primer: Uyghurs'](#), Congressional Research Service, 22 September 2023, 20231030173434; ['How Beijing Forces Uyghurs to Pick Cotton'](#), Adrian Zenz, Foreign Policy, 16 May 2023, 20230517132730; ['2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China'](#), United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; ['VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022'](#), Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352; ['Uyghurs for sale'](#), Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755; ['China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang'](#), Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; The OHCHR report notes the government's emphasis on employment and skills development following release from vocational centres as part of poverty alleviation schemes, however raises concerns regarding coercive practices, see ['OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China'](#), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, pp. 36 – 40, 20220901100337

⁸⁶ ['Uyghurs for sale'](#), Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755

⁸⁷ ['The Uyghurs Forced to Process the World's Fish The New Yorker'](#), The New Yorker, 9 October 2023, 20231030173732; ['China Primer: Uyghurs'](#), Congressional Research Service, 22 September 2023, 20231030173434; ['How Beijing Forces Uyghurs to Pick Cotton'](#), Adrian Zenz, Foreign Policy, 16 May 2023, 20230517132730; ['2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China'](#), United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; ['Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China'](#), United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 80, 20230307164140, see also ['UN committee urges China to dismantle forced labour systems'](#), Emma Farge, Reuters, 06 March 2023, 20230307164606; ['China: US Law Against Uyghur Forced Labor Takes Effect'](#), Human Rights Watch (HRW), 20 June 2022, 20220621091845

⁸⁸ ['Targeted in Türkiye: China's Transnational Repression Against Uyghurs'](#), Safeguard Defenders, 10 August 2023, 20230904114656; ['2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China'](#), United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711; ['Involuntary Returns - China's covert operation to force 'fugitives' overseas back home'](#), Safeguard Defenders, 17 January 2022, p. 30, 20220119103546; ['Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs'](#), Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 152-153, 165-166, 20220429113002; ['We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state'](#), The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; ['Why targeting ethnic minority journalists is central to China's crackdown on the press'](#), Erica Hellerstein, Coda, 16 February 2022, 20220316111059; ['Under pressure over Xinjiang, China takes aim at overseas Uyghurs, academics'](#), Reuters, 9 April 2021, 20210630143802; ['The cost of speaking up against China'](#), BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134; ['If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile'](#), The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁸⁹ ['2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China'](#), United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 80, 20230321164711; ['With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other'](#), Radio Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; ['Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs'](#), Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 153, 20220429113002; ['We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state'](#), The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011

⁹⁰ ['China using families as 'hostages' to quash Uyghur dissent abroad'](#), Sam Judah, BBC News, 31 July 2023, 20230731155617; ['With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other'](#), Radio Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; ['The cost of speaking up against China'](#), BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134;

Contact by XUAR-based Uyghurs with relatives overseas is reportedly punishable by interrogation and detention.⁹¹ Uyghurs living abroad are reportedly monitoring, threatened and/or harassed⁹² with some having their phones hacked⁹³ or their Facebook or other social media accounts being targeted by hackers.⁹⁴ Uyghurs, particularly from XUAR, face difficulty obtaining approval for passports, and authorities have refused to renew passports for Uyghurs overseas.⁹⁵ Uyghurs may face imprisonment upon their return to China.⁹⁶

Uyghurs living outside the XUAR may be subject to surveillance and face discrimination. While the majority of Uyghurs live in XUAR, according to DFAT in 2019, some are located in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.⁹⁷ They report some middle-class Uyghurs have integrated into Han Chinese society. Some have learned Mandarin, joined the Communist Party or joined local government in the XUAR.⁹⁸ However, even those with good skills and connections report discrimination outside of the XUAR, for example when accessing accommodation or when dealing with the police.⁹⁹ Uyghurs without good Mandarin skills may experience employment discrimination in Han dominated companies.¹⁰⁰ Uyghurs who live elsewhere in China often face intense scrutiny with local police keeping a mass of data about the person including fingerprints, DNA samples and the mould of their face.¹⁰¹ A media report states that Uyghur identification cards carry an electronic security warning that may lead to individuals being stopped, questioned and searched when scanned in public places.¹⁰²

⁹¹ 'Freedom on the Net 2023 - China', Freedom House, 4 October 2023, section B4, 20231005104557;

⁹² 'Defending Democracy in Exile: Policy Responses to Transnational Repression', Freedom House, June 2022, pp. 6 – 7, 20220701093205; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 150-152, 20220429113002 'We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040; 'Uighurs tell Australian inquiry of 'intimidation and harassment' from Chinese government', The Guardian, 9 October 2020, 20210225170839

⁹³ 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112

⁹⁴ 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 159-164, 20220429113002; 'Chinese hackers used Facebook to target Uighurs abroad, company says', Reuters, 25 March 2021, 20210630144548

⁹⁵ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 55, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022', Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352

⁹⁶ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section G1, 20230310092046; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, pp. 131, 135, 143 – 145, 20220429113002

⁹⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 19, 20191003160550

⁹⁸ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

⁹⁹ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550; this is also reported by media sources cited in '2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Macau)', United States Department of State, 2 June 2022, p. 42-43, 20220603082906

¹⁰⁰ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

¹⁰¹ 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

¹⁰² 'An anonymous letter from a Uyghur in China', Darren Byler, SupChina, 1 June 2022, 20220603091756

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Muslims

Hui Muslims comprise the largest non-Uyghur Muslim group in China. Hui Muslims¹⁶⁷ are concentrated in the north-western region of China, but are also spread throughout the country.¹⁶⁸ The Uyghurs and the Hui are the two largest Muslim groups; however, Hui Muslims tend to be more assimilated into Han culture than Uyghurs.¹⁶⁹ Recent restrictions on religious practice have led some Hui Muslims to fear increasing restrictions on their own religious practice.¹⁷⁰ Structures and symbols of Islam have been removed in Hui areas.¹⁷¹ Hui Muslims are known to have been targeted by the

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¹⁶⁷ Hui Muslims are designated as one of the Muslim ethnic groups. An academic observation notes that 'Hui' is the traditional name for all Muslim peoples in China,' but acknowledges that 'PRC government has changed it as an ethnic term, exclusively for the Muslims who have scattered in every province and are more acculturated to the Han Chinese societies,' see 'Religion and Nationalism in Chinese Societies', edited by Cheng-tian Kuo, Amsterdam University Press, 30 October 2017, p. 181, 20190619110523 and 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, p. 82, 20230913092014

¹⁶⁸ 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, pp. 81 and 89, 20230913092014; ; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 20221031114931; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China,' Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'Muslims in China and their Relations with the State', Al Jazeera Center for Studies, 26 August 2018, 20220401145626;

¹⁶⁹ 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, p. 85, 20230913092014; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 20221031114931; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China,' Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144

¹⁷⁰ 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 20221031114931; 'China's Ningxia to 'Learn From' Xinjiang's Anti-Terror Campaign', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 3 December 2018, CXBB8A1DA39791; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 20 November 2020, 20210223131215

¹⁷¹ 'China: Mosques Shuttered, Razed, Altered in Muslim Areas', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 22 November 2023, 20231122135326; 'China is expanding its crackdown on mosques to regions outside Xinjiang, Human Rights Watch says', AP News, 22 November 2023, 20231123085032; 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Yunnan protest: Mosque closure sees clashes with security forces', Nicholas Young, BBC News, 30 May 2023, 20230621141720; 'Protesters clash with police in China over partial demolition of mosque', The Guardian, 30 May 2023, 20230531133106; 'Planting the Flag in Mosques and Monasteries', Jessica Batke, China File, 12 December 2022, 20230208093521; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'China remodels major mosque in Beijing to remove Middle Eastern influence', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 13 September 2022, 20220915150854; 'Hui Mosques and Cemeteries "Sinicized" in Qinghai, Yunnan, Beijing, and Shanghai', Chen Tao, Bitter Winter, 23 September 2022, 20220927093409; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 19 November 2020, 20210223131215; 'Chinese govt removes domes, minarets, Arabic text and all Islamic symbols from the largest mosque in Ningxia Hui region to 'Sinicize' it', OplIndia, 1 November 2020,

authorities both inside and outside Xinjiang including arrest and detention in internment camps.¹⁷² Societal treatment of Hui Muslims may vary across regions including the prevalence of discrimination and harassment.¹⁷³

Islam is subject to 'sinicisation' with Islamic belief, expression and practice restricted across Muslim communities. The stated-backed China Islamic Association announced a 'five year plan' in 2019 to sinicise Islam and make it compatible with socialism.¹⁷⁴ Imams are required to take political education classes,¹⁷⁵ be registered, be 'committed to upholding CCP leadership' and pass a yearly 'ideological knowledge' exam.¹⁷⁶ Some mosques have been closed or demolished.¹⁷⁷ 'Arabisation', including the use of fashions or architecture associated with Arab countries is banned in some places, including Ningxia and Gansu,¹⁷⁸ as is Arabic script.¹⁷⁹ Islamic financial systems, the call to prayer, buying Islamic books and the sale of halal foods have been banned in some places.¹⁸⁰ Independent

20210223132442; 'Prayer Inscriptions on Hui Muslims' Homes Banned', Bitter Winter, 13 September 2020, 20210223132202; 'China's repression of Islam is spreading beyond Xinjiang', The Economist, 26 September 2019, 20220401144722

¹⁷² 'Hui Muslims and the "Xinjiang Model" of State Suppression of Religion', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 28 February 2021, p. 5, 20210330144811; CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA ANNUAL REPORT 2021, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 30 March 2022, p. 99-101, 117, 2022040113708 ('other Muslim minorities' are mentioned in the November 2022 update, see 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 298, 20221202093431); 'Xinjiang's Hui Muslims Were Swept Into Camps Alongside Uighurs', Gene A. Bunin, Foreign Policy, 9 February 2020, 20220401145252; 'China Detains Hui Muslim Poet Who Spoke Out Against Xinjiang Camps', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 26 January 2020, 20200210095734; 'They Don't Understand the Fear We Have', Human Rights Watch, 30 June 2021, 20210630093820; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 20221031114931

¹⁷³ 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 3, 20221031114931; DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19-20, 20211222100210

¹⁷⁴ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'China passes law to make Islam 'compatible with socialism'', Aljazeera, 6 January 2019, 20190923112154; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418; 'Sinicization' Campaigns Target Religious and Ethnic Minorities Across China, China Digital Times (CDT), 17 February 2021, 20210218143554; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144

¹⁷⁵ 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552

¹⁷⁶ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210

¹⁷⁷ 'China: Mosques Shuttered, Razed, Altered in Muslim Areas', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 22 November 2023, 20231122135326; 'China is expanding its crackdown on mosques to regions outside Xinjiang, Human Rights Watch says', AP News, 22 November 2023, 20231123085032; 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Yunnan protest: Mosque closure sees clashes with security forces', Nicholas Young, BBC News, 30 May 2023, 20230621141720; 'Protesters clash with police in China over partial demolition of mosque', The Guardian, 30 May 2023, 20230531133106; 'Planting the Flag in Mosques and Monasteries', Jessica Batke, China File, 12 December 2022, 20230208093521

¹⁷⁸ '2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', United States Department of State, 15 May 2023, p. 32, 20230516091411; 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'Beijing plans to continue tightening grip on Christianity and Islam as China pushes ahead with the 'Sinicisation of religion'', South China Morning Post, 6 March 2019, 20190307124747; 20210223124418; 'Chinese Hui Muslims trigger storm by wearing traditional dress to event to promote ethnic unity', South China Morning Post, 27 June 2021, 20210628091443

¹⁷⁹ 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258

¹⁸⁰ 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418; 'Arabic, Muslim symbols ordered taken down in China's capital', Aljazeera, 1

personal pilgrimages are not allowed¹⁸¹ and were cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022 reportedly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸²

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August 2019, 20190801124109; 'How China is trying to impose Islam with Chinese characteristics in the Hui Muslim heartland', South China Morning Post, 23 September 2019, 20190923114035; 'Chinese Muslim poet Cui Haoxin fears his people will suffer as history repeats itself in wave of religious repression', Associated Press, South China Morning Post, 28 December 2018, 20190102114504; 'Tiny Muslim community in China's Hainan becomes latest target for religious crackdown', South China Morning Post, 28 September 2020, 20201006094347

¹⁸¹ '2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', United States Department of State, 15 May 2023, p. 12, 20230516091411; 'China Is Stepping Up Its Control over Religion', VOA News, 19 October 2020, 20210219133816

¹⁸² '2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', United States Department of State, 15 May 2023, p. 32, 20230516091411;

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Uyghurs

Uyghurs are a Turkic people that live predominantly in western China. There are an estimated 11 million Uyghurs in China.³⁸ Most live in the poor southern areas of the Xinjiang Uyghur

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³⁸ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

Autonomous Region (XUAR), but they also live in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.³⁹ About 40 per cent of Xinjiang's population is now Han Chinese.⁴⁰ Han Chinese are the majority in some areas of the XUAR, including the capital Urumqi, following large-scale state-sponsored internal migration⁴¹ which is allegedly orchestrated by the state to dilute the Uyghur population.⁴² Uyghur and other minority women have reported forced sterilizations and intrauterine device insertions for birth control, reducing the Uyghur birth rate⁴³ Uyghur children have been forced to attend boarding schools to receive immersive Chinese language training⁴⁴ and 'patriotic education'.⁴⁵

Strict security measures are in place in the XUAR. Movement is controlled at checkpoints and residents may need permission to leave their area of residence.⁴⁶ Security measures include: large numbers of police stations and/or checkpoints;⁴⁷ monitoring WeChat (a Chinese messaging app) and other apps;⁴⁸ facial recognition software;⁴⁹ mass 'anti-terrorism rallies'; the recruitment of tens of

³⁹ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210

⁴⁰ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554;

⁴¹ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 4, 20220901100337; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

⁴² 'Are Uyghurs Slowly Disappearing From Xinjiang?', Forbes.com, 21 November 2021, 20211123141212; 'US imposes sweeping human rights sanctions on China, Myanmar and North Korea', Reuters, 10 December 2021, 20211213075356; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; Officially, multiple Western governments including the United States have determined that Chinese government actions toward Uyghurs in Xinjiang Province constitute genocide, see 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210

⁴³ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p.69, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section C3, 20240301084828; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711; 'Chinese birth-control policy could cut millions of Uyghur births, report finds', BBC News, 7 June 2021, 20210630114230

⁴⁴ 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section C3, 20240301084828 ; '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 76, 20240423144042 ; 20230321164711; 'As in Xinjiang, China is tightening its grip in Tibet', The Economist, 13 February 2021, 20210215105856

⁴⁵ 'China: Xinjiang's forced separations and language policies for Uyghur children carry risk of forced assimilation, say UN experts', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 26 September 2023, 20231016141734

⁴⁶ 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section G1, 20240301084828; 'Eradicating Ideological Viruses: China's Campaign of Repression Against Xinjiang's Muslims', Human Rights Watch, 9 September 2018, p.58, CIS7B839419396; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁴⁷ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p.53, 20240423144042; 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section G1, 20240301084828; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁴⁸ 'Freedom on the Net 2023 - China', Freedom House, 4 October 2023, section B4, 20231005104557; 'Spyware are Tied to China Targets Apps Used by Uyghurs, Cybersecurity Firm Says', Katrina Manson, Bloomberg, 9 November 2022, 20221111141923; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section D4, 20240301084828; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁴⁹ 'Shanghai Launches New "Uyghur Ethnicity" Detection', IPVM, 15 May 2024, 20240523113858; 'CHINESE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY EXPANDS AT HOME AND ABROAD', China Digital Times (CDT), 14 May 2024, 20240523110043; '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22

thousands of security personnel from both within and outside of the XUAR; biometric data collection from all XUAR residents between the ages of 12 and 65.⁵⁰ A 'double-linked household' system is in place in which households report other households to authorities for possible transgressions,⁵¹ and the 'grid system'.⁵² The government has also established a compulsory homestay program in which civilians, reportedly Communist Party members⁵³, spend time living with Uyghur families to monitor and report on their activities and teach them Han Chinese culture.⁵⁴ It has been reported that the police in the XUAR use a range of other digital tools to monitor people's behaviour.⁵⁵ The deployment of self-driving cars for surveillance purposes is also reported in one area of XUAR.⁵⁶

Religious and Uyghur cultural activities are tightly controlled in the XUAR. Muslim religious figures have been targeted and religious practices banned in the XUAR.⁵⁷ Prohibited behaviours in XUAR include growing 'abnormal' beards, wearing of veils in public, and ceasing drinking alcohol or smoking.⁵⁸ Uyghurs have received lengthy prison sentences for circulating religious texts, praying in

April 2024, p. 53, 20240423144042; 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section D4, 20240301084828; '"If I speak out, they will torture my family": voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵⁰ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 31, 20240423144042; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 27 January 2021, p. 1, 20210225150248; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2018', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 10 October 2018, p.199, CIS7B839419791; 'Congressional Executive Committee on China 2019 Annual Report', US Congressional Executive Committee on China, 18 November 2019, p. 268, 275f, 20200221114933; '"If I speak out, they will torture my family": voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁵¹ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 28, 20240423144042; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵² 'POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN CHINA', EDITED BY BEN HILLMAN AND CHIEN-WEN KOU, Australian National university (ANU), March 2024, pp. 236-238, 20240327154240; 'Social Reengineering in the Name of Security in Xinjiang', Michael Clarke, The Diplomat, 6 October 2023, 20231016141311; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; see also footnote 22; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵³ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 28, 20240423144042; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 19, 20211021093810

⁵⁴ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 28, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section D4, 20240301084828; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 11, 20230307164140; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 12, 20211222100210; 'Fake families and neighbourhood spies: China's 24-hour repression of Uyghurs', The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 October 2021, 20211019155638; 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 1, 20210630152554

⁵⁵ 'POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN CHINA', EDITED BY BEN HILLMAN AND CHIEN-WEN KOU, Australian National university (ANU), March 2024, p. 221, 20240327154240; 'Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan — and beyond', Darren Byler, The China Project, 12 March 2023, 20230313121135; 'Spyware Tied to China Targets Apps Used by Uyghurs, Cybersecurity Firm Says', Katrina Manson, Bloomberg, 9 November 2022, 20221111141923

⁵⁶ 'Driverless police surveillance cars hit streets of Xinjiang's Karamay', Gulchehra Hoja, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 14 July 2022, 20220715085000

⁵⁷ 'State of the Worlds Human Rights 2024', Amnesty International, 23 April 2024, p. 130, 20240424131540; 'How China Made Xinjiang's Ceremonies Illegal', Darren Byler, Foreign Policy, 8 March 2024, 20240405085952; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

⁵⁸ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 72, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section G3, 20240301084828; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 28 February 2021, 20210406120337; 'China Uyghurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 16 February 2020, 20200218103818

groups or observing Ramadan.⁵⁹ A leaked document (the 'Karakaz List') of unknown origin suggests that a database of Uyghurs and their religious practices is kept to determine whether residents are sent to re-education camps.⁶⁰ The list is considered to be authentic⁶¹ and other reports have made similar claims.⁶² Uyghur cultural practices remain restricted or banned.⁶³

More than a million Uyghurs were placed in high-security vocational education camps. Leaked documents in 2019 of an unknown origin state that the camps were intended to be run as high security prisons with strict discipline and punishments.⁶⁴ Further internal government documents leaked in May 2022, dubbed the 'Xinjiang Police Files,' included sensitive information of police operations and training in internment camps in XUAR, mugshots of thousands of detainees and official government speeches outlining plans for detainee re-education and punishment.⁶⁵ Since April 2017, an estimated eight hundred thousand to two million Uyghurs and other Muslims have been detained in mass camps.⁶⁶ The government claims that these centres included training in Mandarin, the law, vocational skills and deradicalisation.⁶⁷ According to former detainees, treatment and conditions in the centres include factory labour, crowded and unsanitary conditions, food deprivation, beatings and sexual abuse.⁶⁸ The government points to the 'urgent need' for education and training of

⁵⁹ 'What Ramadan is like in Xinjiang', The Economist, 11 April 2024, 20240509114725; 'Uyghurs tell Congress of gang rape, shackles and sterilization', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 23 March 2023, 20230327113026; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section D2, 20240301084828 ; 'Uyghur imam sentenced for providing religious instruction to son in Xinjiang', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 8 September 2022, 20220909154624; 'Uyghur woman sentenced for 14 years for teaching Islam, hiding Qurans', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 9 January 2022, 20220110095558

⁶⁰ 'China Uyghurs: Detained for beards, veils and internet browsing', BBC News, 17 February 2020, 20200218103818

⁶¹ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337

⁶² 'China: Phone Search Program Tramples Uyghur Rights', Human Rights Watch, 4 May 2023, 20230505083018; 'China's Nightmare Homestay', Foreign Policy, 26 October 2018, CIS7B839419947; 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is the US accusing China of genocide?', BBC News, 9 February 2021, 20210225152748; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, p. 88, 20220525141041

⁶³ 'How China Made Xinjiang's Ceremonies Illegal', Darren Byler, Foreign Policy, 8 March 2024, 20240405085952; 'Uyghur publisher jailed for books on Uyghur independence, identity', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 23 March 2024, 20240328155413; 'China's "beautiful Xinjiang" continues to oppress Uyghurs', Al Jazeera, 12 September 2023, 20230915131458; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 13, 20230307164140; 'Terror & tourism: Xinjiang eases its grip, but fear remains', Dake Kang, AP News, 9 October 2021, 20220112151948

⁶⁴ 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?', BBC News, 21 June 2021, 20210629170711

'China's Internment Camps Ruled by Secrecy and Spying, New Leak Shows', The New York Times, 23 November 2019, 20191125142121

⁶⁵ 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'The Xinjiang Police Files: Re-Education Camp Security and Political Paranoia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region', Adrian Zenz, Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2022, 20220525141041

'Public Security Minister's Speech Describes Xi Jinping's Direction of Mass Detentions in Xinjiang', Adrian Zenz, China File, 24 May 2022, 20220525141530

⁶⁶ 'China: Xinjiang Official Figures Reveal Higher Prisoner Count', Human Rights Watch, 14 September 2022, 20220915150606; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142; 'Break Their Lineage, Break Their Roots', Human Rights Watch, 19 April 2021, p. 2, 20210506100326; 'The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang', Scilla Alecci, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 24 May 2022, 20220525141819; 'Documenting Xinjiang's Detention System', Nathan Ruser, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 September 2020, 20220114121720

⁶⁷ 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁶⁸ 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section C4, 20240301084828 ; 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; 'New Accounts Describe Torture, Forced Labor Facing Xinjiang Detainees', China Digital

Uyghurs, in order to prevent the spreading of separatist and religious extremist forces for the potential creation of a 'theocratic state called "East Turkestan" in XUAR'.⁶⁹ The government identifies a broad range of 'justifications' for detaining Uyghurs although sometimes none is given.⁷⁰ A long-awaited report from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), published August 2022, concluded that the arbitrary and discriminatory detention of Uyghur and other Muslim groups may constitute crimes against humanity.⁷¹ The Chinese government has rejected the findings of the report and denounced it as a 'political tool' against China.⁷² The centres are thought to have been closed sometime in 2019⁷³ although reportedly the sites remain either empty or converted for other purposes such as quarantine facilities, detention centres or prisons.⁷⁴

The Chinese government claims that Uyghurs have 'graduated' from the camps, but these claims are contested and many are thought to have been transferred to detention centres or prisons. The local XUAR government claims that detained Uyghurs have been 'returned to society' but does not offer details.⁷⁵ A CCP backed media source notes that trainees have graduated from 'education and training programs of standard spoken and written Chinese, understanding of the law, vocational skills and deradicalization'.⁷⁶ This claim is contested by academics and commentators, and it is unclear on what basis detainees may be released.⁷⁷ Prior to their release, detainees may be interrogated, required to 'confess' their crimes, 'explain how they have been transformed,' and express gratitude to the CCP.⁷⁸ Reports indicate that many of the detainees are likely to have been formally convicted of crimes and placed in higher security facilities.⁷⁹ Generally, Uyghurs and other

Times (CDT), 6 October 2021, 20211012135503; 'Uyghurs in China', Congressional Research Service, 28 January 2021, p.2, 20210225150248

⁶⁹ 'Xi Jinping calls for protection of 'hard-won stability' in Xinjiang visit', Al Jazeera, 27 August 2023, 20230828100342; 'Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang', The State Information Office of the People's Republic of China (White Paper), August 2019, 20190823110750; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142

⁷⁰ 'The architecture of repression', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 October 2021, p. 50, 20211021093810

⁷¹ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 44, 20220901100337; see further reporting from the time of publication, 'For exiled Uyghurs, UN report is long-awaited vindication', Dake Kang, AP News, 1 September 2022, 20220902114125; 'China: Long-delayed UN report must spur accountability for crimes against humanity in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 1 September 2022, 20220902113957; 'China: New UN Report Alleges Crimes Against Humanity', Human Rights Watch, 1 September 2022, 20220902113826; 'A long-awaited UN report condemns China's actions in Xinjiang', The Economist, 1 September 2022, 20220902113618; and one year on: 'China: Anniversary of UN's damning Xinjiang report must be 'wake-up call' to action', Amnesty International, 31 August 2023, 20230904110016; 'China: Unrelenting Crimes Against Humanity Targeting Uyghurs', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 31 August 2023, 20230904110108

⁷² 'Beijing taps into anti-West resentment to counter UN report', Dake Kang, AP News, 3 September 2022, 20220905102954; 'China denounces OHCHR report on Xinjiang – 'a patchwork of disinformation, political tool for US, some Western forces'', Global Times, 1 September 2022, 20220902123339

⁷³ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 11, 20220901100337; 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁷⁴ 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

⁷⁵ 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; '"If I speak out, they will torture my family": voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040. COISS conducted targeted web searches for information. Information from Xinjiang is limited as media and access by foreign governments and observers is limited.

⁷⁶ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 13, 20211222100210; 'Re-education camp in Xinjiang? Let's find out the truth', China Daily, 5 February 2021, 20210630131153

⁷⁷ '"Like we were enemies in a war" - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, 20210622154946

⁷⁸ '"Like we were enemies in a war" - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, p. 116 – 118, 20210622154946

⁷⁹ 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 7 June 2021, p. 2, 20210630152554; 'Room for 10,000: Inside China's largest detention center', Dake Kang, AP News, 22 July 2021, 20220112155413

Muslims convicted of 'extremism' face lengthy prison sentences.⁸⁰ Upon release, prisoners may also be required to continue their 'ideological education'.⁸¹

Uyghurs have allegedly been moved within and outside the XUAR as part of 'labour transfers.'

Research reports found that workers, including those released from detention facilities, had been moved to segregated camps outside XUAR to work in factories that were part of the supply chains of major multinational companies.⁸² The workers are allegedly subject to 're-education', such as learning Mandarin and political education, when they are not working.⁸³ Reports of state-sponsored forced labour involving Uyghurs and other minorities are ongoing.⁸⁴

Uyghurs living overseas are pressured to return. The government has allegedly sought the repatriation of Uyghurs from foreign countries by threatening and/or detaining their families who remain in the XUAR.⁸⁵ The authorities are also known to put pressure on Uyghurs to spy on fellow Uyghurs and organisations that scrutinise China,⁸⁶ often in return for contact with their family.⁸⁷

⁸⁰ 'China's persecution of Uyghurs extends to those it once favoured', The Economist, 28 September 2023, 20231006135609; 'Life Sentence for Professor Rahile Dawut Confirmed', Dui Hua Foundation, 21 September 2023, 20230926085618; '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 72, 20240423144042 ; 'Crimes of Extremism, Part II: Harsh Sentences, Low Transparency in Xinjiang', Dui Hua Foundation, 18 May 2022, 20220526112536

⁸¹ 'As crackdown eases, China's Xinjiang faces long road to rehabilitation', Eva Dou and Cate Cadell, The Washington Post, 23 September 2022, 20220927094229

⁸² 'The evolution of forced labour in Xinjiang', The Economist, 30 May 2024, 20240607130559; 'The Uyghurs Forced to Process the World's Fish The New Yorker', The New Yorker, 9 October 2023, 20231030173732; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 22 September 2023, 20231030173434; 'How Beijing Forces Uyghurs to Pick Cotton', Adrian Zenz, Foreign Policy, 16 May 2023, 20230517132730; '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 74, 20240423144042 ; 'VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022', Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352; 'Uyghurs for sale', Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755; 'China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang', Council on Foreign Relations, 19 January 2021, 20210216114142;; The OHCHR report notes the government's emphasis on employment and skills development following release from vocational centres as part of poverty alleviation schemes, however raises concerns regarding coercive practices, see 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, pp. 36 – 40, 20220901100337

⁸³ 'Uyghurs for sale', Vicki Xu, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 1 March 2020, 20200302113755

⁸⁴ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p.74, 20240423144042; 'The evolution of forced labour in Xinjiang', The Economist, 30 May 2024, 20240607130559; 'The Uyghurs Forced to Process the World's Fish The New Yorker', The New Yorker, 9 October 2023, 20231030173732; 'China Primer: Uyghurs', Congressional Research Service, 22 September 2023, 20231030173434; 'How Beijing Forces Uyghurs to Pick Cotton', Adrian Zenz, Foreign Policy, 16 May 2023, 20230517132730;; 'Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong SAR, China, and Macao SAR, China', United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 6 March 2023, p. 80, 20230307164140, see also 'UN committee urges China to dismantle forced labour systems', Emma Farge, Reuters, 6 March 2023, 20230307164606; 'China: US Law Against Uyghur Forced Labor Takes Effect', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 20 June 2022, 20220621091845

⁸⁵ 'Targeted in Türkiye: China's Transnational Repression Against Uyghurs', Safeguard Defenders, 10 August 2023, 20230904114656; '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 21, 20240423144042 ; 'Involuntary Returns - China's covert operation to force 'fugitives' overseas back home', Safeguard Defenders, 17 January 2022, p. 30, 20220119103546; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 152-153, 165-166, 20220429113002; 'We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; 'Why targeting ethnic minority journalists is central to China's crackdown on the press', Erica Hellerstein, Coda, 16 February 2022, 20220316111059; 'Under pressure over Xinjiang, China takes aim at overseas Uyghurs, academics', Reuters, 9 April 2021, 20210630143802; 'The cost of speaking up against China', BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁸⁶ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 21, 20240423144042 ; 'With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 153, 20220429113002; 'We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011

⁸⁷ 'China using families as 'hostages' to quash Uyghur dissent abroad', Sam Judah, BBC News, 31 July 2023, 20230731155617; 'With threats and intimidation, China coerces Uyghurs in Turkey to spy on each other', Radio

Contact by XUAR-based Uyghurs with relatives overseas is reportedly punishable by interrogation and detention.⁸⁸ Uyghurs living abroad are reportedly monitoring, threatened and/or harassed⁸⁹ with some having their phones hacked⁹⁰ or their Facebook or other social media accounts being targeted by hackers.⁹¹ Uyghurs, particularly from XUAR, face difficulty obtaining approval for passports, and authorities have refused to renew passports for Uyghurs overseas.⁹² Uyghurs may face imprisonment upon their return to China.⁹³

Uyghurs living outside the XUAR may be subject to surveillance and face discrimination. While the majority of Uyghurs live in XUAR, according to DFAT in 2019, some are located in Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet and Hunan.⁹⁴ They report some middle-class Uyghurs have integrated into Han Chinese society. Some have learned Mandarin, joined the Communist Party or joined local government in the XUAR.⁹⁵ However, even those with good skills and connections report discrimination outside of the XUAR, for example when accessing accommodation or when dealing with the police.⁹⁶ Uyghurs without good Mandarin skills may experience employment discrimination in Han dominated companies.⁹⁷ Uyghurs who live elsewhere in China often face intense scrutiny with local police keeping a mass of data about the person including fingerprints, DNA samples and the mould of their face.⁹⁸ A media report states that Uyghur identification cards carry an electronic security warning that may lead to individuals being stopped, questioned and searched when scanned in public places.⁹⁹

Free Asia (RFA), 4 February 2023, 20230206164752; 'The cost of speaking up against China', BBC News, 31 March 2021, 20210331131134;

⁸⁸ 'Uyghur father jailed for 20 years for sending son abroad and for visiting Turkey', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 22 December 2023, 20240111171836; 'Freedom on the Net 2023 - China', Freedom House, 4 October 2023, section B4, 20231005104557

⁸⁹ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 21, 20240423144042; 'Defending Democracy in Exile: Policy Responses to Transnational Repression', Freedom House, June 2022, pp. 6 – 7, 20220701093205; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 150-152, 20220429113002; 'We'll kill you': Uyghur exile who fled to Arctic Circle still fears reach of Chinese state', The Guardian, 15 March 2022, 20220316093011; 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040; 'Uighurs tell Australian inquiry of 'intimidation and harassment' from Chinese government', The Guardian, 9 October 2020, 20210225170839

⁹⁰ 'Your Family Will Suffer' How China is Hacking, Surveilling, and Intimidating Uyghurs in Liberal Democracies', Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), 9 November 2021, p. 11-17, 20221006161112

⁹¹ 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, p. 159-164, 20220429113002; 'Chinese hackers used Facebook to target Uighurs abroad, company says', Reuters, 25 March 2021, 20210630144548

⁹² '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 24, p.55, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section G1, 20240301084828; 'VOA Interview: Uyghur Emigre Describes Life in China's Xinjiang in 2022', Voice of America (VOA), 4 January 2023, 20230110164352

⁹³ 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section G1, 20240301084828; 'Great Wall of Steel: China's Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs', Bradley Jardine, Wilson Center, 25 April 2022, pp. 131, 135, 143 – 145, 20220429113002

⁹⁴ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 19, 20191003160550

⁹⁵ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

⁹⁶ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550; this is also reported by media sources cited in '2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: China (Includes Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Macau)', United States Department of State, 2 June 2022, p. 42-43, 20220603082906

⁹⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report: People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 3 October 2019, p. 21, 20191003160550

⁹⁸ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, pp. 26-7, p.55, 20240423144042; 'If I speak out, they will torture my family': voices of Uyghurs in exile', The Economist, 15 October 2020, 20210225163040

⁹⁹ 'An anonymous letter from a Uyghur in China', Darren Byler, SupChina, 1 June 2022, 20220603091756

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Muslims

Hui Muslims comprise the largest non-Uyghur Muslim group in China. Hui Muslims¹⁶³ are concentrated in the north-western region of China, but are also spread throughout the country.¹⁶⁴ The Uyghurs and the Hui are the two largest Muslim groups; however, Hui Muslims tend to be more assimilated into Han culture than Uyghurs.¹⁶⁵ Recent restrictions on religious practice have led some Hui Muslims to fear increasing restrictions on their own religious practice.¹⁶⁶ Structures and symbols of Islam have been removed in Hui areas.¹⁶⁷ Hui Muslims are known to have been targeted by the

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¹⁶³ Hui Muslims are designated as one of the Muslim ethnic groups. An academic observation notes that 'Hui' is the traditional name for all Muslim peoples in China,' but acknowledges that 'PRC government has changed it as an ethnic term, exclusively for the Muslims who have scattered in every province and are more acculturated to the Han Chinese societies,' see 'Religion and Nationalism in Chinese Societies', edited by Cheng-tian Kuo, Amsterdam University Press, 30 October 2017, p. 181, 20190619110523 and 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, p. 82, 20230913092014

¹⁶⁴ 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, pp. 81 and 89, 20230913092014; ; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 20221031114931; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'Muslims in China and their Relations with the State', Al Jazeera Center for Studies, 26 August 2018, 20220401145626;

¹⁶⁵ 'Measuring Religion in China', Pew Research Center, 30 August 2023, p. 85, 20230913092014; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 1, 20221031114931; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144

¹⁶⁶ 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 20221031114931; 'China's Ningxia to 'Learn From' Xinjiang's Anti-Terror Campaign', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 3 December 2018, CXBB8A1DA39791; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 20 November 2020, 20210223131215

¹⁶⁷ 'International Religious Freedom Report for 2023 - China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', US Department of State, 26 June 2024, p. 31, 20240628112222; 'China: Mosques Shuttered, Razed, Altered in Muslim Areas', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 22 November 2023, 20231122135326; 'China is expanding its crackdown on mosques to regions outside Xinjiang, Human Rights Watch says', AP News, 22 November 2023, 20231123085032; 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Yunnan protest: Mosque closure sees clashes with security forces', Nicholas Young, BBC News, 30 May 2023, 20230621141720; 'Protesters clash with police in China over partial demolition of mosque', The Guardian, 30 May 2023, 20230531133106; 'Planting the Flag in Mosques and Monasteries', Jessica Batke, China File, 12 December 2022, 20230208093521; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'China remodels major mosque in Beijing to remove Middle Eastern influence', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 13 September 2022, 20220915150854; 'Hui Mosques and Cemeteries "Sinicized" in Qinghai, Yunnan, Beijing, and Shanghai', Chen Tao, Bitter Winter, 23 September 2022, 20220927093409; 'China's new campaign to make Muslims devoted to the state rather than Islam', LA Times, 19 November 2020, 20210223131215; 'Chinese govt removes domes, minarets, Arabic text and all Islamic symbols from the largest mosque in Ningxia Hui region to 'Sinicize' it', OpIndia, 1 November 2020, 20210223132442; 'Prayer Inscriptions

authorities both inside and outside Xinjiang including arrest and detention in internment camps.¹⁶⁸ Societal treatment of Hui Muslims may vary across regions including the prevalence of discrimination and harassment.¹⁶⁹

Islam is subject to 'sinicisation' with Islamic belief, expression and practice restricted across Muslim communities. The stated-backed China Islamic Association announced a 'five year plan' in 2019 to sinicise Islam and make it compatible with socialism.¹⁷⁰ Imams are required to take political education classes,¹⁷¹ be registered, be 'committed to upholding CCP leadership' and pass a yearly 'ideological knowledge' exam.¹⁷² Some mosques have been closed or demolished.¹⁷³ 'Arabisation', including the use of fashions or architecture associated with Arab countries is banned in some places, including Ningxia and Gansu,¹⁷⁴ as is Arabic script.¹⁷⁵ Islamic financial systems, the call to prayer,

on Hui Muslims' Homes Banned', Bitter Winter, 13 September 2020, 20210223132202; 'China's repression of Islam is spreading beyond Xinjiang', The Economist, 26 September 2019, 20220401144722

¹⁶⁸ 'Hui Muslims and the "Xinjiang Model" of State Suppression of Religion', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 28 February 2021, p. 5, 20210330144811; CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA ANNUAL REPORT 2021, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 30 March 2022, p. 99-101, 117, 20220404113708 ('other Muslim minorities' are mentioned in the November 2022 update, see 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 298, 20221202093431); 'Xinjiang's Hui Muslims Were Swept Into Camps Alongside Uighurs', Gene A. Bunin, Foreign Policy, 9 February 2020, 20220401145252; 'China Detains Hui Muslim Poet Who Spoke Out Against Xinjiang Camps', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 26 January 2020, 20200210095734; 'They Don't Understand the Fear We Have'", Human Rights Watch, 30 June 2021, 20210630093820; 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 2, 20221031114931

¹⁶⁹ 'China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities: state protection (2020–September 2022)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, section 3, 20221031114931; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19-20, 20211222100210

¹⁷⁰ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 19, 20211222100210; 'China passes law to make Islam 'compatible with socialism', Aljazeera, 6 January 2019, 20190923112154; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418; '"Sinicization" Campaigns Target Religious and Ethnic Minorities Across China', China Digital Times (CDT), 17 February 2021, 20210218143554; 'China's Repression of the Hui: A Slow Boil', The Diplomat, 15 June 2021, 20210628144144

¹⁷¹ 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552

¹⁷² 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 18, 20211222100210

¹⁷³ 'China: Mosques Shuttered, Razed, Altered in Muslim Areas', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 22 November 2023, 20231122135326; 'China is expanding its crackdown on mosques to regions outside Xinjiang. Human Rights Watch says', AP News, 22 November 2023, 20231123085032; 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Yunnan protest: Mosque closure sees clashes with security forces', Nicholas Young, BBC News, 30 May 2023, 20230621141720; 'Protesters clash with police in China over partial demolition of mosque', The Guardian, 30 May 2023, 20230531133106; 'Planting the Flag in Mosques and Monasteries', Jessica Batke, China File, 12 December 2022, 20230208093521

¹⁷⁴ 'International Religious Freedom Report for 2023 - China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', US Department of State, 26 June 2024, p. 31, 20240628112222; 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'Beijing plans to continue tightening grip on Christianity and Islam as China pushes ahead with the "Sinicisation of religion"', South China Morning Post, 6 March 2019, 20190307124747; 20210223124418; 'Chinese Hui Muslims trigger storm by wearing traditional dress to event to promote ethnic unity', South China Morning Post, 27 June 2021, 20210628091443

¹⁷⁵ 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258

buying Islamic books and the sale of halal foods have been banned in some places.¹⁷⁶ Independent personal pilgrimages are not allowed.¹⁷⁷

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¹⁷⁶ 'China Is Taking a Wrecking Ball to Famous Mosques', Ruslan Yusupov, Foreign Policy, 31 July 2023, 20230802100126; 'Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2022', Congressional-Executive Commission on China, November 2022, p. 163, 20221202093431; 'A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China', New York Times, 21 September 2019, 20190923110258; 'China Targets Muslim Scholars And Writers With Increasingly Harsh Restrictions', NPR (National Public Radio), 21 November 2020, 20210223115552; 'China's crackdown on Muslims extends to a resort island', SBS World News Australia, 15 February 2021, 20210223124418; 'Arabic, Muslim symbols ordered taken down in China's capital', Aljazeera, 1 August 2019, 20190801124109; 'How China is trying to impose Islam with Chinese characteristics in the Hui Muslim heartland', South China Morning Post, 23 September 2019, 20190923114035; 'Chinese Muslim poet Cui Haixin fears his people will suffer as history repeats itself in wave of religious repression', Associated Press, South China Morning Post, 28 December 2018, 20190102114504; 'Tiny Muslim community in China's Hainan becomes latest target for religious crackdown', South China Morning Post, 28 September 2020, 20201006094347

¹⁷⁷ 'International Religious Freedom Report for 2023 - China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, and Xinjiang)', US Department of State, 26 June 2024, p. 11, 20240628112222; 'China Is Stepping Up Its Control over Religion', VOA News, 19 October 2020, 20210219133816

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China

Treatment of persons with criminal background, risk of arbitrary detention and unfair trials

Torture is reported in law enforcement contexts. Allegations are difficult to independently verify given the lack of access and monitoring of prison and detention facilities.⁶⁴ China has ratified the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.⁶⁵ In 2012, China amended its Criminal Procedure Law to prevent confessions made under torture from being admissible and creating legal remedies for victims of torture.⁶⁶ However, the common but illegal use of coercion and violence to obtain evidence and confessions in criminal investigations continues.⁶⁷

Numerous former prisoners and detainees have reported on the physical, sexual and psychological abuse to which they have been subjected; with political and religious dissidents being particularly targeted for this type of treatment.⁶⁸ Systematic torture is reported particularly in the penal system and internment camps against member of the minority Uyghur ethnic group.⁶⁹

The methods and types of alleged torture vary. Beatings and kickings are the most commonly reported form of torture reported in Chinese detention facilities according to a German NGO, the International Society for Human Rights.⁷⁰ Other methods of abuse including force-feeding, forced use of medications, electric shock, stress positions (including use of the 'tiger chair'), the use of loud music or deprivation from food, medical care or toilets have also been reported.⁷¹

Detainees' families may not be informed of their relative's detention; the law requires that such notification take place within 24 hours with the exception if doing so would 'hinder' the investigation.⁷² and among sensitive cases notification may not occur or is delayed.⁷³ The revised criminal procedure law reaffirms the

⁶⁴ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 11, 20230321164711

⁶⁵ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 11, 20211222100210

⁶⁶ 'Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of China', Committee Against Torture (United Nations), 3 February 2016, 20190816162353

⁶⁷ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 6, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, Section F2, 20230310092046; 'The Potential to Secure a Fair Trial Through Evidence Exclusion: A Chinese Perspective', Jiang, N., Gless S., Richter T. (eds) *Do Exclusionary Rules Ensure a Fair Trial? A Chinese Perspective*, Ius Gentium: Comparative Perspectives on Law and Justice, volume 74, 18 April 2019, 20201026111053

⁶⁸ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 6, 20230321164711; 'Freedom in the World 2023 - China', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, Section F3, 20230310092046; 'Battered and Bruised: Why torture continues to stand at the heart of China's judicial system', Safeguard Defenders, 22 May 2018, pp.12-17, CIS7B839419444

⁶⁹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 7, 20230321164711; 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p. 21 - 25, 20220901100337; 'Like we were enemies in a war' - China's Mass Internment, Torture and Persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang', Amnesty International, 10 June 2021, p. 96-107, 20210622154946

⁷⁰ 'Common methods of torture and abuse in the People's Republic of China', International Society for Human Rights, n.d., accessed 16 August 2019, 20190816163135

⁷¹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 6, 20230321164711; 'Common methods of torture and abuse in the People's Republic of China', International Society for Human Rights, n.d., accessed 16 August 2019, 20190816163135 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 37, 20211222100210

⁷² 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 34, 20211222100210; 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2020 - China', US Department of State, 30 March 2021, p. 11, 20210401093207; 'Criminal Procedure Law (2018)', China Law Translate, 30 October 2018, accessed 4 October 2019, arts. 75, 85, 93, 20191004115703

⁷³ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 14, 20230321164711

harassment toward their family members remaining in China.¹³⁶ Numerous reports confirm the return of 'economic fugitives' to China who later faced prosecution and punishment including life imprisonment.¹³⁷ Some European courts have halted extraditions to China for persons wanted for economic crimes after an October 2022 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that doing so could violate Article 3 (on torture and ill-treatment) of the European Convention on Human Rights.¹³⁸

The government has sought the forcible repatriation of Uyghur Muslims from foreign countries, many of whom sought asylum in those countries.¹³⁹ Reportedly, returned Uyghur students have been sent to military-style 're-education' camps or have disappeared.¹⁴⁰ Authorities threatened to detain relatives of some Uyghur students to compel them to return.¹⁴¹ In 2015, Thailand forcibly returned over 100 Uyghurs to China.¹⁴² The same year, two pro-democracy activists who were forcibly returned by Thailand, although they had been recognised as refugees by the UNHCR, and accepted for re-settlement in Canada.¹⁴³ Both activists were later prosecuted and imprisoned for 'national security offences,' and were reportedly mistreated and tortured.¹⁴⁴ There are reports of other Chinese asylum seekers and refugees 'voluntarily' returning home

¹³⁶ 'Involuntary Returns - China's covert operation to force 'fugitives' overseas back home', Safeguard Defenders, 17 January 2022, 20220119103546; 'China's aggressive efforts to bring back fugitives grow more brazen', Christian Shepherd, The Washington Post, 29 April 2022, 20220623145928; "OUT OF SIGHT, NOT OUT OF REACH: THE GLOBAL SCALE AND SCOPE OF TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION", Freedom House, 31 January 2021, p.28, 20210209091205; 'Australia-China law enforcement cooperation', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 June 2019, p. 12, 20200129160359; 'The Disappeared', Foreign Policy, 29 March 2018, CIS7B839419927

¹³⁷ 'Man deported to China for 'economic crimes' spent time in jail', The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 January 2020, 20200129161136; 'Australia-China law enforcement cooperation', Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 June 2019, pp. 12 - 14, 20200129160359; 'Circumventing the China Extradition Conundrum: Relying on Deportation to Return Chinese Fugitives', New York University, 1 June 2018, 20210303152855; 'Life in prison for former top official in corruption case', Shanghai Daily, 24 January 2017, CXC9040661206; 'Untold story: China's Operation Fox Hunt and the capture of Zhang Jianping', Australian Financial Review, 18 June 2016, 20200129155231; 'China says graft fugitives abroad abuse system to prolong cases', Reuters, 17 December 2015, CXBD6A0DE17266. Official statistics reporting: 'China launches fugitive-hunting campaign in 2022', China Daily, 2 March 2022, 20220304154725; 'China Seized 7,831 Fugitives Abroad and Recouped \$2.8 Billion Since 2014', Caixin Global, 11 August 2020, 20200921131546

'Anti-graft office's success bolsters hunt for fugitives', China Daily, 27 June 2019, 20190627103853; 'Over 1,300 fugitives hiding overseas repatriated to China in 2018', China Daily, 24 January 2019, 20200129115410

¹³⁸ 'Italian supreme court blocks extradition to China after landmark human rights ruling', Finbarr Bermingham, South China Morning Post, 2 March 2023, 20230424105658; 'Europe nears a reckoning in its ties to China's security operations', Christian Shepherd and Emily Rauhala, The Washington Post, 3 November 2022, 20230421145614; 'Cyprus denies China extradition, Poland appeals ECtHR decision last minute', Safeguard Defenders, 8 January 2023, 20230113132912; see a summary of the ruling of *Liu v Poland*: 'Landmark decision could herald end to Europe's extraditions to China', Safeguard Defenders, 17 November 2022, 20221118133750 and full text at: 'CASE OF LIU v. POLAND (Application no. 37610/18)', Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights, Refworld, 5 October 2022, 20230421145334

¹³⁹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 20, 20230321164711; 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, p.42, 20220901100337; 'China: Xi Jinping's continued tenure as leader a disaster for human rights', Amnesty International, 14 October 2022, 20221017122942; 'Morocco: Uyghur Activist at Risk of Extradition', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 19 July 2022, 20220721125256; 'Uyghur who studied in Turkey arrested by police in Xinjiang, sources say', Shohret Hoshur, Radio Free Asia (RFA), 8 August 2022, 20220809095624; 'I Thought It Would Be Safe': Uighurs In Turkey Now Fear China's Long Arm', National Public Radio, 12 March 2020, 20201016083425; 'How Turkey is sending Muslim Uighurs back to China without breaking its promise', Telegraph Group -United Kingdom, 26 July 2020, 20201016084530

¹⁴⁰ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711

¹⁴¹ '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, p. 71, 20230321164711

¹⁴² 'Why Thailand Forced Uighurs to Return to China', The Atlantic, 12 July 2015, CXBD6A0DE18822

¹⁴³ 'Thailand Repatriates Chinese Dissidents Who Sought Political Asylum', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 16 November 2015, CXBD6A0DE15960; 'Thailand: Activists Forcibly Returned to China', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 18 November 2015, CXBD6A0DE16125

¹⁴⁴ 'Wife of Rights Activist Jiang Yefei Calls on Canadian Government, UN, and International Human Rights Organizations to Help', Human Rights in China (HRIC), 18 September 2018, CXBB8A1DA35570; 'Repatriated Cartoonist 'Being Mistreated' in Police Detention Center - Wife', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 24 May 2017, CXC9040668039; 'Country'



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Pre-Removal Clearance 2024

Thematic Brief

Country of Origin Information Service (COIS)

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travel rights, or administratively detained in different types of facilities, including facilities that are not officially recognised ('black jails').⁵³⁰ Criminal punishments can include 'deprivation of political rights' for a fixed period of time following release from prison, and could involve the denial of rights of free speech, association and publication.⁵³¹ Former prisoners have reported severe restrictions on their abilities to find employment, travel, obtain residence permits and passports, rent residences and access social services.⁵³² Former political prisoners and their families are frequently subjected to surveillance, telephone wiretaps and arbitrary searches.⁵³³ The large-scale arbitrary detention of Uyghurs in Xinjiang utilises 'vocational skills education and training centres'.⁵³⁴ Allegations of patterns of torture or ill-treatment in these centres has been found to be credible.⁵³⁵

Torture and ill-treatment is prohibited by law however occurs in practice. There are credible reports that torture is used in law enforcement contexts, especially in politically sensitive cases.⁵³⁶ China has ratified the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.⁵³⁷ In 2012, China amended its Criminal Procedure Law to prevent confessions made under torture from being admissible and create legal remedies for victims of torture.⁵³⁸ However, the common but illegal use of coercion and violence to obtain evidence and confessions in criminal investigations continues.⁵³⁹ Numerous former prisoners and detainees have reported on the physical, sexual and psychological abuse to which they have been subjected, with political and religious dissidents particularly targeted for this type of treatment.⁵⁴⁰ The methods and types of alleged torture vary. Beatings and kickings are the most commonly reported form of torture reported in Chinese detention facilities according to the International Society for Human Rights.⁵⁴¹ Other methods of abuse including force-feeding, forced use of medications, electric shock, stress positions (including use of the 'tiger chair'), the use of loud music or deprivation from food, medical care or toilets have also been

⁵³⁰ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, pp. 19-20, 20240423144042; 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 37, 20211222100210

⁵³¹ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 20, 20240423144042

⁵³² '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 20, 20240423144042

⁵³³ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, p. 20, 20240423144042

⁵³⁴ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, pp. 13-18, 20220901100337

⁵³⁵ 'OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 31 August 2022, pp. 43-44, 20220901100337

⁵³⁶ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, pp. 5-7, 20240423144042

⁵³⁷ 'DFAT Country Information Report - People's Republic of China', Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 21 December 2021, p. 11, 20211222100210

⁵³⁸ 'Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of China', Committee Against Torture (United Nations), 3 February 2016, 20190816162353

⁵³⁹ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, pp. 5-7, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section F2, 20240301084828; 'The Potential to Secure a Fair Trial Through Evidence Exclusion: A Chinese Perspective', Jiang, N., Gless S., Richter T. (eds) Do Exclusionary Rules Ensure a Fair Trial?. Ius Gentium: Comparative Perspectives on Law and Justice, volume 74, 18 April 2019, 20201026111053

⁵⁴⁰ '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China', US Department of State, 22 April 2024, pp. 5-7, 20240423144042; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section F3, 20240301084828; 'Battered and Bruised: Why torture continues to stand at the heart of China's judicial system', Safeguard Defenders, 22 May 2018, pp.12-17, CIS7B839419444

⁵⁴¹ 'Common methods of torture and abuse in the People's Republic of China', International Society for Human Rights, n.d., accessed 16 August 2019, 20190816163135

reported.⁵⁴² According to the US Department of State, there were reports that individuals in RSDL were subject to physical and psychological abuse, humiliation, rape, torture, starvation, isolation, and forced confessions.⁵⁴³

Deaths in custody are reported. Deaths in custody are reported. Political and religious dissidents have died in prison or shortly after release due to ill-treatment or denial of medical care.⁵⁴⁴ The Uyghur Tribunal stated in 2021 that a significant number of Uyghurs had died in custody as a result of methods of detention or torture.⁵⁴⁵ In 2023, Tibetan Buddhist monk Geshe Phende Gyaltsen died in police custody, reportedly under torture.⁵⁴⁶ In 2021, Tibetan Buddhist monk Tenzin Nyima died after injuries sustained from beatings and torture while in prison.⁵⁴⁷ In 2019, UN experts called for a comprehensive and independent investigation into the death in custody of Cao Shunli, a human rights defender who was reportedly tortured.⁵⁴⁸ Wang Meiyu, a political activist died in police custody in September 2019.⁵⁴⁹

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⁵⁴⁴ 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, section F3, 20240301084828

⁵⁴⁵ 'Uyghur Tribunal Judgment', Uyghur Tribunal, 09 December 2021, pp. 49, 54, 20211213115002

⁵⁴⁶ 'Tibetan political prisoner and monk dies in Chinese custody', Radio Free Asia (RFA), 06 February 2023, 20230208092730; 'Freedom in the World 2024 - China', Freedom House, 29 February 2024, 20240301084828; 'Human Rights Watch World Report 2024', Human Rights Watch (HRW), 11 January 2024, p. 155, 20240112083455

⁵⁴⁷ 'China: Tibetan Monk Dies from Beating in Custody', Human Rights Watch, 21 January 2021, 20210212151421; 'Written statement* submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status', p. 2, United Nations General Assembly, 21 June 2021, 20210906105408

⁵⁴⁸ 'U.N. Experts Renew Call for Probe Into Death of Cao Shunli', China Digital Times (CDT), 15 March 2019, 20190318102400

⁵⁴⁹ 'Death of Chinese activist in police custody prompts calls for investigation into torture', Guardian, 30 September 2019, 20190930120935

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Standard Q&A Report

20230621171720: China – Hui Muslims – LGBTQI+

Date of Report

27 June 2023

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Background

The applicant claims that he is a gay person of Hui Muslim ethnicity in China. He fears that the Hui Muslim community will harm him because of his sexual orientation that is against the Islamic principles if he returns to China.

Questions

1. [How are homosexual Hui Muslim men treated in their Hui Muslim community?](#)
2. [Are they isolated, ostracised or harmed by their community?](#)
3. [How are their families treated by their community?](#)

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Answers

1. How are homosexual Hui Muslim men treated in their Hui Muslim community?

2. Are they isolated, ostracised or harmed by their community?

No specific information was located regarding the societal treatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex+ (LGBTQI+) Hui Muslims in China with one academic source claiming that such 'identities are widely reviled' in the Hui community. Limited information was located regarding the experiences of LGBTQI+ Muslims of other ethnicities; research in this area is sparse with available sources indicating that LGBTQI+ individuals are not accepted within the community and few disclose their sexual orientation to family members. Please see [Additional Reading](#) for further information regarding the societal treatment of Hui Muslims and LGBTQI+ individuals.

In a 2021 interview with academic Dr Guangtian Ha,¹ as published by the Hui Hui Cultural Association of Singapore,² he provides the following response when asked 'how Hui Millennial navigated movements and forged new identities via LGBTQI movements, 米兔³ or the cultural phenomena of 小鲜肉^{4:5}

Gender and sexuality have always been my major concerns in my own research, and it is somewhat disheartening to observe that in the study of Islam in China — which is a field dominated by men with few women academics — gender and sexuality still constitute a marginal topic.

I have been following a few gay Muslim social media groups, and have interviewed a few gay Hui. Some but not all of them are millennials. I know Hui that are in their sixties who have been gay all their lives, and I know some Hui imams who are gay but who conceal their sexual identities — with or without success — for obvious reasons. Many of the gay Hui I follow are pious Muslims, and they quote Qur'an for guidance in daily matters. However, I haven't seen any systematic efforts to re-interpret the Qur'an to justify gender fluidity or sexual diversity. **LGBTQI identities are still widely reviled among the Hui; in this regard the Hui are no different from the mainstream Chinese society.**

I haven't seen a unique Hui version of 米兔, and I presume everyone likes 小鲜肉. There isn't much of a difference between Hui and Han in this regard, and Hui millennials are as different from each other as Han millennials are (emphasis added in bold).⁶

While dated, reporting from February 2010 indicates that a Hui Muslim man, Xiaodai Mui, (also known as Xiao Dai, or Andrew), from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR or Xinjiang) was the winner of 'Mr Gay China' and went on to represent China at the 'Worldwide Mr Gay'

¹ Dr Guangtian Ha's biographic page at Haverford College states he is an Assistant Professor of Religion, see <https://www.haverford.edu/users/gha>. He does not appear to have published research on this particular topic.

² According to the 'About Us' page, in part, the association '...was formed in 2019 by a group of enthusiastic local Chinese, passionate about their cultural heritage and determined to serve the community. We come from varied educational and social background from ordinary members of the our [sic] society, community leaders, businessmen, assatizah to professionals. Amongst them are workers, lawyers, architects, teachers, lecturers, assatizah, artists, businessmen and others. Determined to serve the Hui Hui community, the leaders seek to adopt an inclusive approach in the context of Chinese Community of various religious background in multi-racial Singapore,' see <https://huihui.com.sg/about-us/>

³ For reference only and should not be relied upon: Google translate indicates this translate to 'rice rabbit,' however is phonetically 'Mǐ tù,' likely in reference to the #metoo movement, see <https://yoyochinese.com/blog/learn-mandarin-popular-chinese-slang-2018-2019-explained>

⁴ For reference only and should not be relied upon: Google translate indicates 'small fresh meat' (Xiǎo xiānròu) which may colloquially translate to a 'young handsome boy,' see <https://www.digmandarin.com/20-common-chinese-slang-words.html>

⁵ 'Guangtian Ha – On the Hui Muslims of China', Hui Hui Cultural Association of Singapore, 23 April 2021, 20230627094432

⁶ 'Guangtian Ha – On the Hui Muslims of China', Hui Hui Cultural Association of Singapore, 23 April 2021, 20230627094432

international pageant in Norway. According to sources, the 'Mr Gay China' contest in Beijing was cancelled last minute ostensibly due to licensing issues, however Andrew was secretly chosen by organisers to represent China.⁷ Chinese state media news source *Global Times* stated that Andrew's participation was 'not easy... considering he is a Hui minority from [XUAR],' and quoted the Mr Gay China organiser that '[o]rganizing gay events in Xinjiang is much harder than in Beijing...Because it is against religion.'⁸

Limited information was located regarding this individual including whether he returned to China or issues he may have experienced within his community in the XUAR. *Reuters* quoted his fears of 'facing trouble' with the authorities on returning to China.⁹ However, the *Global Times* purportedly quote Andrew ('Xiaodayi Mui') in a July 2010 article regarding the anniversary of the 2009 Urumqi riots, noting that he had closed the gay bar he runs and found his advocacy efforts limited by the unrest, as well as indicating he had the opportunity to relocate to France but he didn't want to leave 'his home country and [his] family.'¹⁰ An article published by *The Taipei Times* in 2019, seemingly quoting Andrew from 2010, indicates he feared returning to Urumqi and was residing in Beijing.¹¹

Limited sources report on the experiences of LGBTQI+ Muslims of other ethnicities in China. Postdoctoral researcher, Sam Tynen¹² published an article in *The China Project* in June 2022 regarding familial and social stigma against LGBTQI+ among the Uyghur Muslim communities. Recounting an interview with a gay Uyghur man, alias Erkin, he writes:

Erkin and I walked around a busy bazaar in southern Ürümqi while we talked. For a time, we sat down at a kabob stand for some grilled lamb meat seasoned with cumin wrapped with naan. The kabob stand included a few tables under a tent; for us it was a tiny haven in the middle of a bustling market. Workers and customers were in close proximity. We had been speaking Uyghur, but at this point he apologized and explained that he would like to speak in English so that others would not be able to understand him. **For Erkin, the Uyghur space of the market and kabob stand was not safe. He could only be open if he spoke a foreign language that nobody else there would understand** (emphasis added in bold).¹³

Erkin also shared his experiences of disclosing his sexuality to a high school friend who 'didn't take it well [and] cut off the friendship,' and later to his mother who 'cried' but was not 'super dramatic.'¹⁴ The author observes:

His [Erkin's] mother hid her emotions. She was not "dramatic" about it, in Erkin's words. She did not show anger. She buried her emotions in secrecy instead, not telling anyone else in the family and pretending as though nothing had happened. A sense of privacy and distance between family members (called *perdishep* in Uyghur, from the root word for "curtain") was an aspect of Uyghur culture that came up over and over again with Uyghurs, both gay and straight. The secrecy only encouraged Erkin's masking and pushed him onto the periphery of society. He had to hide from the family that was trying to control him in order to withstand the pressures.¹⁵

⁷ 'Chinese Contestant Enters Worldwide Gay Pageant', Edward Wong, The New York Times, 12 February 2010, 20230627093903; 'Gay pageant in Norway seeks global role model', Gwladys Fouche, Kurt Pedersen, Reuters, 14 February 2010, 20230627094052

⁸ 'Gay Chinese contestant goes global', Lin Meilian, Global Times, 12 February 2010, 20230627094004

⁹ 'Gay pageant in Norway seeks global role model', Gwladys Fouche, Kurt Pedersen, Reuters, 14 February 2010, 20230627094052

¹⁰ 'Gay Chinese contestant goes global', Lin Meilian, Global Times, 12 February 2010, 20230627094004

¹¹ 'EDITORIAL: A stage for Taiwan to shine on', The Taipei Times, 10 May 2019, 20230627113417

¹² The same author has self-published relevant articles on a Colorado-based blog; these have not been uploaded to CISNET however may be accessed here: <https://bconnectedcolorado.com/trapped-between-layers-of-trauma-growing-up-queer-and-uyghur-in-china/> and <https://bconnectedcolorado.com/finding-myself-in-china/>

¹³ 'Between Islamophobia and homophobia: Life as an LGBTQ Uyghur in China', Sam Tynen, The China Project, 9 June 2022, 20230626161723

¹⁴ 'Between Islamophobia and homophobia: Life as an LGBTQ Uyghur in China', Sam Tynen, The China Project, 9 June 2022, 20230626161723

¹⁵ 'Between Islamophobia and homophobia: Life as an LGBTQ Uyghur in China', Sam Tynen, The China Project, 9 June 2022, 20230626161723

The author further notes given Erkin's job security and social network, he 'could take the risk of coming out and losing family support,' however this is not possible for many Uyghurs. In the author's research, he has found that anecdotally, the LGBTQI+ Uyghur community fear 'losing their jobs and housing if they came out, not to mention complete lack of family support.'¹⁶

A 2016 article authored by a Muslim of Kazakh ethnicity in *Sixth Tone* describes the expected breakdown of her secret relationship with a woman of Uyghur ethnicity following pressure on the latter to marry a man.¹⁷ The author outlines the following regarding her experiences with her family and life in Xinjiang more broadly for LGBTQI+ people:

Neither of us are out to our parents. I've been afraid of being found out ever since I was young, and I've always dreaded reaching an age old enough to get married. I know I couldn't stand to be with a man. I used to tell my parents that I was too busy studying to date, and so they never really forced the issue. But now that I'm 26 and finished with my master's, they've started asking more. They want me to come home to the highlands, but I don't think I can return.

There's an amazing lesbian social scene in Shanghai, while back in Xinjiang even the T's¹⁸ have to wear their hair long. **The pressure is intolerable. You may be able to steal an hour here or there to go to a secret bar, but you'll always feel the weight of your parents watching over your shoulder. Your days aren't your own. My gay and lesbian friends back home have been beaten up, and some have even taken their own lives** (emphasis added in bold).¹⁹

The author observes that despite both she and her partner being Muslim, their cultures are 'quite different' and her partner's Uyghur family are more conservative particularly in relation to marriage and family. She notes that her partner had considered entering a 'marriage of convenience' with a gay Uyghur man before deciding it was too risky, noting that 'Uyghur marriage traditions are elaborate, and the two families would become intertwined. It needs to be real.'²⁰ There are no further sources which indicate variations between Muslim communities of different ethnicities.

In 2017, when reporting on Shanghai Pride events, news source *The Daily Beast* quoted an unnamed activist from the 'mostly Muslim Xinjiang district' that 'most LGBT people were in "marriages of convenience" and that coming out was unrealistic.'²¹ However the reporter noted that he was also provided with an information booklet for the Xinjiang LGBT Center, 'featuring photos from their panels on HIV prevention, social programs, and even the Xinjiang Blue Voice Chorus.'²² No further reliable information was located regarding the Xinjiang LGBT Center indicating they have continued to operate after 2018.²³

Additional Reading

- 'China Common Claims - April 2023 - PDF', Country of Origin Information Services Section (COISS), 14 April 2023, pp. 16 – 17 (Muslims) and 27 – 30 (LGBTI), 20230414121511

¹⁶ '[Between Islamophobia and homophobia: Life as an LGBTQ Uyghur in China](#)', Sam Tynen, The China Project, 9 June 2022, 20230626161723

¹⁷ '[Love in the Lowlands as a Muslim Lesbian Tomboy](#)', Maira Erken, Sixth Tone, 20 May 2016, 20230627100937

¹⁸ 'In China, tomboy lesbians are referred to as "T," while the feminine counterparts are called "P,"' '[Love in the Lowlands as a Muslim Lesbian Tomboy](#)', Maira Erken, Sixth Tone, 20 May 2016, 20230627100937

¹⁹ '[Love in the Lowlands as a Muslim Lesbian Tomboy](#)', Maira Erken, Sixth Tone, 20 May 2016, 20230627100937

²⁰ '[Love in the Lowlands as a Muslim Lesbian Tomboy](#)', Maira Erken, Sixth Tone, 20 May 2016, 20230627100937

²¹ '[Shanghai Pride Reflects Two Sides of LGBT Life in China](#)', Jay Michaelson, The Daily Beast, 28 June 2017, 20230627121748

²² '[Shanghai Pride Reflects Two Sides of LGBT Life in China](#)', Jay Michaelson, The Daily Beast, 28 June 2017, 20230627121748

²³ COISS conducted targeted searches primarily on open source search engines and social media. The purported website for the centre is no longer available, <http://www.xjtgay.com/>. Among the English language search results, the last reference to the centre was on Twitter in 2018, <https://twitter.com/dariuslongarino/status/955638788776251392?lang=en>. An undated webpage on 'OutChina' states the centre is an NGO established in 2015 and summarises its services/advocacy efforts, however provides no information regarding its current status, <https://www.chinalgbt.org/northwest>

- '[2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - China](#)', United States Department of State, 20 March 2023, pp. 75 – 76, 20230321164711
- '[Freedom in the World 2023 - China](#)', Freedom House, 9 March 2023, section F4, 20230310092046
- '[Chinese LGBTQIA+ people open up about family shame and social stigma after coming out](#)', Samuel Yang, ABC News (Australia), 7 March 2023, 20230307124111
- 'China: 20221024144139 – Treatment of LGBTQ+ people in Zhejiang, China – State Protection of LGBTQ+ people', Country of Origin Information Service Section (COISS), 9 November 2022, 20221109115759
- '[China: Situation of Hui Muslims and their treatment by society and authorities; state protection \(2020–September 2022\)](#)', Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board Canada, 13 October 2022, 20221031114931
- 'China: 20220324143024 - Dongxiang Muslim - Hui Muslim - Gansu Province - Sinicisation', Country of Origin Information Service Section (COISS), 5 April 2022, 20220405104458

3. How are their families treated by their community?

No information was located regarding the societal treatment of family members of LGBTQI+ Hui Muslims, or Muslims of other ethnicities, in China.²⁴ Please see [Questions 1](#) and [2](#) for the country information available in relation to LGBTQI+ Muslims in China.

Additional Reading

- Nil

²⁴ COISS conducted targeted searches on CISNET, COI databases, open source search engines, EBSCO search database.