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**CHINA AND THE INDO-PACIFIC
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The Question of Human Rights: Uyghur the continuing area of concern

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For many years, the minority Uyghur people in China have been facing serious issues. Not only the Uyghurs, the Turkic and Muslim minorities are facing severe human rights violations. A recent report published by German Anthropologist Adrian Zenz, argues that the government-funded project of re-education is happening in the Xinjiang area. This project aimed to wipe out the cultural recognition of Uyghurs. Since 2017, more than a million Muslims are said to have been forcibly imprisoned by the Chinese authorities and placed in re-education centres. The majority of those in custody are Uyghurs, an ethnic group mostly speaking Turkic that is mainly found in Xinjiang, northwest China.

As per this program, minority people get vocational training, and after completion of training, they get graduation. In case of any objection from the people, they witness punishment and refusal. This policy aims to create long-term forced labour by the way create a cultural assimilation of minorities into the Chinese great Han culture. The issue of low wages and forced labour rising. Some claimed that the surroundings resembled prisons, with microphones and cameras tracking everything they said and did. Some claimed they suffered from sleep deprivation and torture while being questioned. Stories of sexual abuse, including rape, have been revealed by women. A few detainees who were freed had suicidal thoughts or had seen others commit suicide. The violence and rising questions about privacy rights are major areas of concern in the context of the Uyghur issue.

Recently Radio Free Asia's investigation report was broadcast and got wider international attention. The report pointed out that three Uyghur women were imprisoned for "Religious extremism" Two of them are sisters at the age of 30 and one is a 75-year-old woman. Also, these three women died shortly after being released from prison. The report alleges that Chinese prisons are not providing an essential level of medical aid for prison inmates.

The recently published reports about the Uyghur prisoners in Keriye Prison in Xinjiang facing serious issues of forced labour and toiling for unlimited working hours, this is the wide angle of human rights violations happening against the minority Uyghurs. The United States called this issue " Genocide". In the international level discussions and criticisms alleging Chinese policy against minorities, as part of these 51 nations, including the US, sent a joint statement to the UN on 2023 October 18(Wednesday), expressing their grave concern over Chinese breaches of Uyghurs' human rights in the country's far-western Xinjiang region. China was chosen to serve on the U.N. Human Rights Council for the 2024–2026 term, despite its dismal record of upholding human rights. This led to the decision. Criticism against Chinese anti-minority policy is creating extensive and unjustified restrictions on legitimate cultural and religious practises identity and expression—including reports of the destruction of religious sites—torture, ill-treatment, and sexual and gender-based violence, including forced abortion and sterilisation, enforced disappearances and family separations, and forced labour are all common in China. Based on religion and ethnicity, there is also a systematic use of invasive surveillance. Large-scale, discriminatory, and arbitrary incarceration of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang "may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity. "The dirty policy of forced prison labour in China was also reported highly during 2018.

In 2022 OHCHR published a report about the Uyghur human rights issue and concluded that government policy is a crime against humanity. The Chinese government argues that the reason for the motive for Xinjiang detention camps is the rising level of terrorism and extremism in this area, and the government needs to tackle the problem. However, the government has not taken any remedial action to solve human rights issues.

As per the international trade law exporting goods or finished products from prison is strictly illegal. In the detention camps in the Xinjiang area, the inmates are Uyghur people, the government uses them for garlic processing for export. The prisoners are used for peeling the garlic bulbs, also Xinjiang is famous for the "garlic capital" status. As part of wider allegations that China violated international trade law by exporting prison products, in 2020 the US banned Chinese garlic. Also, in 2022, the US banned Cotton from Xinjiang, due to the concern that cotton from this area is the product of forced labour.

However, the international protest and interference of Human Rights protection organisations are still not changing the existing anti-minority policy of the Chinese government, the issues are rising in different contexts. But the victims are still the Uyghur people.