

CANADA'S PARLIAMENT/GOVERNMENT SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO PROTECT UYGHURS IN CHINA
PARLIAMENT HILL NATIONAL RALLY,

Ottawa

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Remarks by David Kilgour, J.D.

Chères amies/chers amis,

Merci mille fois aux toutes et tous, qui sont venues(s) aujourd'hui.

Last week in Ottawa, a group of Muslims, Jews and Christians stood together (with social distancing) at the embassy of China to protest the ongoing horrific persecution of Uyghurs and other Muslims in East Turkistan (Xinjiang).

At the House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights, Dr. Adrian Zenz of Germany, said in part (July 20):

- New research gives strong evidence that Beijing's actions in East Turkistan meet the physical genocide criterion cited in section (d) of article II of the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, by "Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group".

The Genocide Convention specifically says the suppression of birth is genocide. The Beijing regime must thus be excluded or sanctioned. It must also face sanctions in that there is now also widescale forced labour by Uyghurs.

Two NGOs, Justice for All and the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, and many others are writing to the prime minister of Canada this week, saying in part:

As China's recent official White paper acknowledged, up to 8 million Uyghurs were held in Nazi-style concentration camps by the Chinese government from 2014-2019 under the guise of "Vocational Training"... According to experts, Chinese officials have enforced the mass sterilization of Uyghur women in the region and shattered families through concentration camps. The slave labor facilities, including various Uyghur prisons, have resulted in the birth rate dropping to nearly zero among Uyghurs in 2019.

Rod McGuirk of Associated Press wrote recently (Sept. 25) that the "Australian Strategic Policy Institute had used satellite images and official construction tender documents to map more than 380 suspected detention facilities in the far northwestern region, highlighting internment camps, detention centers, and prisons that have been either newly built or expanded since 2017..."

"...(Chinese) officials have forced Uighurs to undergo sterilizations and abortions and in recent months have ordered them to drink traditional Chinese medicines to combat the coronavirus... AP interviews with dozens of relatives and former detainees indicate many in the camps have been sentenced in secret, extrajudicial trials, and transferred to high-security prisons for such things as having contact with people abroad, having too many children, and studying Islam. Many others deemed less risky, such as women or the elderly, have reportedly been transferred to a form of house arrest or forced labor in factories".

Conclusion

Canadian legislators and governments at all levels have a responsibility to act. To quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil ... Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act".

Canada's national government should uphold its legal obligations as a signatory of the Genocide Convention to take concrete action through diplomatic, humanitarian and other ways. Our initiatives should include:

1. Partnering with the Five Eyes countries and demanding the closure of the modern-day concentration camps;
2. Labeling Crimes Against Humanity against the Uyghur people a Genocide with a motion to that effect in our Parliament and at the UN General Assembly;
3. Invoking our Magnitsky Act and holding the perpetrators of violence responsible for the crimes committed;
4. Sanctioning any corporation with supply chains linked with factories in Xinjiang province to ensure that no products entering Canada have been made by the forced labor of Uyghurs; [It might be noted that on Sept 22nd, the US House of Representatives voted 406-3 in favor of a bill to ban products made with forced labour in China's mass detention camps]
5. Protecting the safety of Canadian citizens of Uyghur origin and advocating on their behalf for the release of their family members being held as hostages in concentration camps; and
6. Passing Bill S-240, which criminalizes organ trafficking, and amending the Criminal Code, by making it an offence for Canadians to participate in transplant tourism.

Kop rakhmat [Thank you very much.]