



To the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission,

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

Brussels, 24 July 2020

**Subject: State-ordered birth prevention and continuous dehumanising treatment of
Muslim minorities in Xinjiang**

Dear High Representative,

With the European Parliament's resolution on the situation of Uyghurs in Xinjiang from 19 December 2019 and stressing the dire human rights situation in Xinjiang on 19 June 2020 in the resolution on Hong Kong, as well as in our letter to you on the topic of Uyghur forced labour, expressing our concern at the end of March 2020, we, Members of the European Parliament, are addressing you again to voice our deep concern on the recent discovery of further dehumanising actions taken by the Chinese government against the Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and to ask for your strong action.

Over the course of the past year, investigations have uncovered continuous atrocities committed against the Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, including political and religious mass indoctrination, destruction of places of worship and holy sites, arbitrary arrests as well as forced labour. In this context, it is estimated that as many as two million Uyghurs are currently being held in internment camps. Additionally, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) reported more than 80,000 Uyghurs to have been subject to deportation and forced labour. At the end of June 2020, a study by China expert Dr. Adrian Zenz, confirmed a new invasive strategy by the Communist Party to reduce the Muslim population throughout the region. In "Sterilizations, Forced Abortions, and Mandatory Birth Control", Dr. Zenz draws on new evidence, strongly suggesting government-induced and targeted birth prevention. Dr. Zenz explores how the Chinese state apparatus regularly subjects Uyghur women, especially in rural areas, to forced abortions, intrauterine injections and sterilization. Paired with widespread mass arrests and mass surveillance, this campaign seems to aim at sterilizing women of childbearing age with three or more children, thereby strategically assimilating Uyghur birth rates to those of the Chinese Han population. Demographic changes can already be witnessed, as natural population growth in Xinjiang has declined dramatically in Uyghur administrative districts from 2015 to 2018.



These serious and systematic human rights violations by the Chinese government against Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region cannot be judged as singled out acts. In fact, birth prevention, committed with the intention of destroying a specific population group may even meet the criteria for genocide, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Last year we, as the European Parliament, awarded to imprisoned Ilham Tohti the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought – in an expression of solidarity with those who have become victims of repression by the Chinese Communist Party. However, since then there has been little action on the part of the European Union in addressing any of the issues that Tohti highlighted.

Thus, urgent political action is now desperately needed. The European Union should demand an UN independent international fact-finding mission, to bring the issue before the UN General Assembly and ultimately work towards a UN resolution on the subject. Targeted sanctions, in the sense of a Global Human Rights Sanctions Mechanism against those responsible at government level, should be initiated if the Chinese Government does not comply with the demands.

We are looking forward to continue the conversation on this issue and promote the search for common ground on taking further actions to rein in the ongoing harm against the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

Yours sincerely,

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