



within an increasingly securitized environment, particularly for designated minorities, notably

Observers have [referred to](#) widespread destruction of Uyghur mosques, graveyards and other cultural sites, and the subjection of at least 80,000 Uyghurs to conditions that strongly indicate forced labour since 2017.

Most recently, reports have documented Chinese government policies intending to reduce birth rates among Uyghurs including involuntary abortions and sterilizations. In 2018, 80 percent of all IUD placements in China were performed on women in the Uyghur Region, despite the region making up only about 1.8 percent unknown number of Uyghur children from their parents has also been documented by human rights groups since 2018.

These measures meet the threshold of acts constitutive of genocide, core international crimes

among an ethnic or religious group. We also believe that the Chinese government may be perpetrating the following acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention: causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

These measures are also consistent with crimes against humanity, an international crime under the Rome Statute, including the persecution against an identifiable group on racial, ethnic, and religious grounds, forced population transfers, enforced disappearances, and deprivation of liberty in violation of international law.

Signatories of this letter urge states to:

1. Convene a special session at the UN Human Rights Council to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights violations taking place in the Uyghur Region and develop strategies to end these violations.
2. Implement commitments on atrocity and genocide prevention through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy efforts.
3. Independently investigate and make appropriate legal determinations regarding the treatment of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim-majority peoples in China.

It is our collective responsibility to protect populations from mass atrocities, including crimes against humanity and genocide. We must act now to prevent further atrocities against this long-persecuted group.

Yours sincerely,

**Aegis Trust**

**Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**

**Atrocity Forecasting Project**

**Coalition for Genocide Response**

**Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College**

**European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**

**Genocide Alert**

**Genocide Watch**

**Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**

**Holocaust Memorial Day Trust**

**Human Security Centre**

**Institute for the Study of Genocide**

**Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP), Binghamton University**

**International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law**



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