



End Islamophobic attacks in Xinjiang, China

To: Canada's Minister of Global Affairs, Chrystia Freeland

I am writing to ask that you take urgent action to address the crisis faced by Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslim-majority communities in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang), who are being targeted for their religion, facing intrusive surveillance, checkpoints, and detention.

I urge the Canadian government to take the lead at the UN Human Rights Council to demand an international fact-finding initiative to reveal what is really happening in Xinjiang.



For more information on this petition please contact: fkhan@amnesty.ca

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***Content Warning: mentions of violence, including torture**
Canada must act to end Islamophobia in Xinjiang, China

Relatives and friends of people who have gone missing in Xinjiang are fearing the worst and are desperate to find out what has happened to their friends and family members.

There is credible evidence that up to one million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other mainly Muslim groups in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang) are facing Islamophobic attacks by being detained in secret internment camps. Detainees are brainwashed, tortured and are forced to renounce their religion and culture.

Chinese authorities denied the existence of the so-called "re-education" facilities until October 2018, when they described them as voluntary, free "vocational training" centres. They claim that the purpose of this vocational training is to provide people with technical and vocational education to enable them to find jobs and become "useful" citizens. This explanation contradicts the reports of beatings, food deprivation and solitary confinement reported by former detainees.

Ahead of the 40th United Nations Human Rights Council meeting, China made efforts to silence criticism by inviting delegations from different countries to visit Xinjiang, but the visits were orchestrated and closely monitored by the authorities.

Only an independent, unrestricted, international fact-finding initiative can reveal what is happening in Xinjiang. Governments like Canada, committed to promoting human rights, need to join together and urge the UN to act.