**Joint statement: Item 2 General Debate on High Commissioner’s update**

**OHCHR report on grave human rights violations in Xinjiang can wait no longer**

* *delivered by Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch*

Thank you, Mr. President,

Last week’s urgent debate illustrated that the Human Rights Council can take action to hold even its most powerful members to account for their international crimes.

Now, High Commissioner, it’s past time for you to do the same.

I make this statement on behalf of 25 ECOSOC-accredited NGOs, with the support of a further 163 NGOs, listed below.

We urge you to follow through on your commitment last year to release a report on grave ongoing human rights violations by Chinese authorities targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (the Uyghur region). The release of the report without further delay is essential – to send a message to victims and perpetrators alike that no state, no matter how powerful, is above international law or the robust independent scrutiny of your Office.

As you are aware, many of our organisations have documented how Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in the Uyghur region face systematic state-organized mass detention, torture, persecution, and other violations of a scale and nature amounting to crimes against humanity. We have repeatedly raised alarm – including to your Office – over the extreme measures taken by Chinese authorities since 2017 to root out the religious traditions, cultural practices, and local languages of the region’s Muslim ethnic groups. Carried out under the guise of fighting “terrorism”, these crimes have targeted ethnic Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Hui, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks and Tajiks.

In 2020, an unprecedented number of special procedures issued a [landmark statement](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26006&LangID=E) expressing concerns over human rights violations in China, including in the Uyghur region, and called for the UN to take decisive action. Treaty bodies have also raised concerns over the situation in that region over the last five years.

In contrast to these efforts, **we have been concerned by the relative silence of your Office in the face of these grave violations**, aside from procedural updates on the status of negotiations to gain meaningful access to Xinjiang, which by your own admission have not progressed. In that context, we welcomed your confirmation in September last year that your Office was “finalising its assessment of the available information on allegations of serious human rights violations in [Xinjiang] with a view to making it public.” Six months later, after having been assured by your spokesperson in December the report would be released in a matter of weeks, the world is still awaiting that report.

Victims and survivors should not have to wait any longer. They and their families deserve justice and accountability, and need to know that your Office stands with them.

We urge you to fulfil your mandate, release the report without further delay, and brief members and observers of the UN Human Rights Council on its contents as a matter of urgency.

Accountability can wait no longer.

**Supported by the following NGOs:**

**ECOSOC-accredited NGOs:**

Amnesty International

Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme

ARTICLE 19

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)

Family Research Council

Fédération Euro-méditerranéenne contre les disparitions Forcées

Hebrew Congregation of Somers

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Human Rights Watch

International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

International Society for Human Rights, Chapter Munich

Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada

Mamatjan Nayup

Minority Rights Group International (MRG)

Mulmangcho

People for Successful Corean Reunification (PSCORE)

Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights)

René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights

Society for Threatened Peoples

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

**Non-ECOSOC accredited NGOs:**

21Wilberforce

ACAT-France

Access Accountability

Alberta Uyghur Association

Alliance for Vietnam’s Democracy

ALTSEAN-Burma

American Alliance for Automotive Corporate Social Responsibility

American Muslim Bar Association

Arakan Rohingya National Organisation

Asia Democracy Network

Australian East Turkestan Association

Australian Uyghur Association

Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women’s Association

Austria Uyghur Association

Bauhinias For Freedom

Bay Area Friends of Tibet

Be Slavery Free

Belgium Uyghur Association

Blue Crescent Humanitarian Aid Association

Campaign for Uyghurs

Canadian Coalition Against Communisms

Carleton University

China Against the Death Penalty

China Aid

China Change

Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness 華人基督徒公義團契

Chinese Human Rights Defenders

Chulalongkorn University’s Student Union

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office

CIDH AFRICA

Coalition des défenseurs des droits humains du Benin

Coalition Burkinabè des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CBDDH)

Comité de Apoyo al Tíbet - CAT

Crane Center for Mass Atrocity Prevention

CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

Dialogue China

Dutch Uyghur Human Rights Foundation

East Turkestan Press and Media Association

East Turkestan Union of Muslim Scholars

East Turkistan Association in Finland

East Turkistan Association of Canada

East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association

East Turkistan Entrepreneur Tradesmen and Industrialists Businessmen Association

East Turkistan Human Rights Watch

East Turkistan New Generation Movement

East Turkistan Nuzugum Culture and Family Association

East Turkistan Sports and Development Association

East Turkistan Union in Europe

Eastern Turkistan Foundation

Engage Action

European East Turkistan Education Association

EXCUBITUSdhe

Federation for a Democratic China

Finnish Uyghur Culture Center

Frankfurt stands with Hongkong

Fundacion Aguaclara

GAYa NUSANTARA Foundation

Global Alliance for Tibet & Persecuted Minorities

Green Advocates International (Liberia)

Hirschfeld-Eddy-Stiftung

Hong Kong Committee in Norway

Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)

Hong Kong Global Connect

Human Asia

Human Rights in China (HRIC)

Human Trafficking Search

Humanitarian China

Ilham Tohti Initiative

Ilham Tohti Initiative

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council

International Campaign For Tibet

International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC)

International Pen Uyghur Center

International Support for Uyghurs

International Tibet Network

International Union of East Turkistan Organizations

International Uyghur Human Right and Democracy Foundation

IRPOO Siberia without torture

Isa Yusup Alptekin Foundation

Islamic Community Milli Gorus

Islamic Information & Services Foundation Malaysia

Japan Uyghur Association

Jewish Movement for Uyghur Freedom

Jewish World Watch

Judicial Reform Foundation

Justice For All

Justice for Uyghurs - Switzerland

Lady Lawyer Foundation

Le Comité pour la Liberté à Hong-Kong

Liberty and Democracy Advocacy Club University of Calgary

Malaysia4Uyghur

Mamatjan Nayup

Minaret Foundation

Minh Van Foundation

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

National Committee of Democratic Party of China

Netherlands for Hong Kong

No Business With Genocide

Northern California Hong Kong Club

Norwegian Uyghur Committee

Omer Uygur Foundation

Peace Catalyst International

People's Watch

Planet Ally

PROMEDEHUM

Safeguard Defenders

Satuq Bugrakhan Foundation of Science and Civilization

SAVE TIBET Austria

Silk Road Peace Project

Society Union of Uyghur National Association

Solidarité Chine, Paris

Solidarity Sisters Network of Liberia (SoSNoL)

Stepping Stones

Stop Uyghur Genocide Canada

Stop Uyghur Genocide Australia

Sweden Uyghur Education Union

Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association

Switzerland East Turkestan Association

The Community Human Rights Promotion and Protection Association - ACPDH

The International Women's Alliance for Family Institution and Quality Education

The Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL)

The Rights Practice

Tibet Action Institute

Tibet Justice Center

Tibet Solidarity

Tibet Support Group Ireland

Tibetan Youth Association in Europe

Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)

Uigur Society of the Kyrgyz Republic

Umer Uyghur Trust

Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam

United Council of Vietnamese Homeland and Overseas

United Macedonian Diaspora

Uyghur Academy

Uyghur American Association

Uyghur Association of Victoria, Australia

Uyghur Center for Human Rights and Democracy

Uyghur Cultural and Education Union in Germany

Uyghur Education Union

Uyghur Human Rights Project

Uyghur Mosque

Uyghur Projects Foundation

Uyghur Refugee Relief Fund

Uyghur Research Institute

Uyghur Right’s Advocacy Project

Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project

Uyghur Science and Civilization Research Foundation

Uyghur Support Group Netherlands

Uyghur Transitional Justice Database

Uyghur U.K. Association

Uyghur Youth Union in Kazakhstan

Uzbekistan Uyghur Culture Center

Victoria Uyghur Association

Viet Democratic Side's International Forum

Vietnam Helsinki Human Rights Committee

Vietnam Human Rights Day - May 11 Organization

Vietnam Human Rights Network

Vietnamese Nationalist Party

Visual Artists Guild

Witness Radio - Uganda

World Uyghur Congress

World Without Genocide

Young leadership for social change network