

Uyghur Genocide Recognition Day: Why December 9?



UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

ئۇيغۇر كىشىلىك ھوقۇق قۇرۇلۇشى

The Uyghur Tribunal June–November 2021

- ❑ In September 2020, Geoffrey Nice established the Uyghur tribunal in London. The establishment of the tribunal was requested by the World Uyghur Congress in June 2020.
- ❑ The purpose of the tribunal was to Investigate allegations of human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, China and to evaluate whether the abuses constitute genocide under the Genocide Convention.



Tribunal Structure

Independent Experts:

Composed of legal and human rights professionals.

Judicial Process: The tribunal cannot bring formal charges but seeks to investigate and offer findings based on evidence.

Public Hearings: Open to the public and media for transparency.



Key Findings of the Tribunal

Human Rights Violations: The tribunal found credible evidence of mass detention, torture, and cultural suppression.

Genocide Allegations: Strong indication of genocidal acts based on the legal criteria for genocide. Includes:

Forced Sterilization & Family Separation: Evidence of forced birth control and child separation policies.



The Evidence

On December 9, 2021
Independent experts
recognized that China
committed genocide against
Uyghurs, after reviewing

- over 500 witness statements
- 30 eyewitness testimonies
- 40 expert witnesses



Why December 9?

- A pivotal moment in Uyghur advocacy history
- Symbolizes both mourning and the call for urgent global action
- Connected to International Human Rights Day (December 10)



Global Response

- Mixed global reactions to recognizing the genocide.
- Countries like the U.S., Canada, Czechia, Lithuania, Netherlands, and the U.K. acknowledged genocide.
- Nations like New Zealand and Italy avoided using the term "genocide."



Response From China

- The Uyghur Tribunal was the target of a vigorous public relations campaign by the Chinese government. While its representatives have claimed that the tribunal is "blasphemy against the law" and "sheer fiction" with paid actors, the government has sanctioned the tribunal and its organizers.
- The British Foreign Secretary summoned the Chinese ambassador after the British Prime Minister denounced the penalties. Representatives of the tribunal claim that although China was presented with an opportunity to provide testimony, it has not done so.





**MILLIONS
OF
UYGHURS
IN CAMPS**
STOP UYGHUR GENOCIDE

Important role for religious and civil society groups in advocating for Uyghur rights.

In the Coalition to End Forced Labor: 41 countries participating

Join at: enduyghurforcedlabour.org

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Impact on Uyghur Communities



- Continuing efforts to preserve Uyghur identity.

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Consequences of Global Inaction:

- ❖ Businesses continue to profit from Uyghur forced labor
- ❖ Consumers can be complicity without knowing
- ❖ The world normalizes genocide if “business as usual” continues, and Chinese government offices receive only a “slap on the wrist”



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Call to Action!

Importance of International Labor Organization investigations.

Governments urged to:

- ❖ Increase diplomatic pressure and accept Uyghur refugees
- ❖ Impose import bans (e.g., Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act in the U.S.)



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Tribute to Victims

Remembering countless victims of the Uyghur genocide.

