

IT DOES MATTER WHERE YOU STAY

International Hotel Chains in East Turkistan

April 2025 | Written by Peter Irwin, Dr. Henryk Szadziewski, and Ben Carrdus

It Does Matter Where You Stay: International Hotel Chains in East Turkistan reveals how major international hotel chains have established and expanded their presence in the Uyghur Region, highlighting their potential complicity in the Chinese government's atrocities.

Key Takeaways

- **Presence Amid Atrocities:** At least 115 hotels operated by international chains Accor, Hilton, IHG, Marriott, and Wyndham are active in the Uyghur region, with an additional 74 hotels planned or under construction.
- **Presence on Sanctioned Territory:** Hilton, IHG, and Wyndham have properties located in areas administered by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), an entity sanctioned by the United States and other governments for human rights violations.
- **Forced Labor:** Accor has been linked to forced labor through a franchisee's participation in a coercive labor transfer program and through its partnership with a company which has benefitted from "Xinjiang Aid" programs.
- **Complicity in Cultural Erasure:** Hilton Hotels have hosted state propaganda events and promoted tourism that aligns with government narratives, contributing to the erasure of Uyghur culture and history.
- **Building On Site of a Demolished Mosque:** A Hilton hotel was constructed on the site of a demolished mosque in Khotan.
- **Violations of International Standards:** Operations of these hotel chains may contravene international guidelines, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the International Labour Organization's conventions on forced labor.

Recommendations

- International hotel chains should **immediately end all operations in the Uyghur Region**, including halting expansion and severing all business ties.
- Hotels must **ensure transparency and accountability**, including publishing supply chain due diligence and disclosing links to sanctioned entities.
- Governments should **investigate hotel chains and booking platforms** operating in XPCC-administered areas for potential sanctions violations.

Full report:
uhrp.org

