Combating the persecution of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet

GA4

Issue Description:

China holds a strong grip on the minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, human rights organizations and the UN report the oppression of freedom of religion, culture and political freedom.

The Uyghurs, settled in Xinjiang, are mostly Muslim, and have their own Turkic language and culture. There have been tensions for decades, which have often led to violent circumstances. In 2017 China expanded mass detention, surveillance and "re-education programs", which received many complaints from the UN, as there were reports that the detention was randomized, and there were accounts of mistreatment and forced labor.

China took control of Tibet in the early 50's, and almost a decade later, an uprising occurred which caused the Dalai Lama (spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism) to fled form Tibet to India. Over the years, many religious institutions were destroyed.

Why has this issue not been resolved?

Resolving the Issue is very complex. As China rules its own territory and is very opaque about everything happening in its own territories, organizations have trouble to help the communities and people there. Investigators, UN officials and journalists are denied access to the country to investigate. This increases the difficulty to understand the exact situation and form a plan to help the people in need. China also has multiple coalitions with countries in Africa, the Middle east and Asia, which makes it even harder to offer any help.

Important stances on the issue

The United States has implemented sanctions on products coming from Xinjiang, stating that they won't accept products of a genocide. The Chinese control both the affected regions but doesn't acknowledge any of the calculated crimes on the Tibetan or Xinjiang population.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

Multiple organizations are involved with this issue. However, there is a lot of diplomatic resistance. As these territories are being controlled by Beijing, allows the Chinese government to reject any sort of external help. Some international organizations, located all over the world try to help the Uyghur and Tibetan communities. For example, the World Uyghur Congress, the WUC, who debate, raise funds and promote the Uygur's. This is an attempt to keep the Uygur culture alive. An international organization who helps the Tibetans is the 'International Campaign for Tibet'. They help political prisoners and try to safeguard the Tibetan culture.

Sources

World Uyghur Congress. https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/

International Campaign for Tibet. https://savetibet.org/

Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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