

UNSC

*Novice  
Specialized*



**TOPIC:** Situation in Xinjiang

**CHAIRS:** Callie Boren, Vanessa Patil

*LAIMUN XXVIII*

*December 3-4*

# LAIMUN XXVIII

Letter from the Secretariat

3

Introduction to the USG

4

Introduction to the Dais

5

Committee Description

7

Topic: Situation in Xinjiang

9

**LAIMUN XXVIII**

*December 3-4*

## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, we do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

We want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

Don't forget to do your research and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,  
Izzy Hory  
Under-Secretaries General

## Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Callie Boren and I will be one of your co-chairs along with Vanessa for UNSC Novice! I am a junior here at Mira Costa and I have been in the MUN program since freshman year. I was lucky enough to travel to New York last year and participate in NHSMUN. Travel conferences are always such a fun and unique opportunity that I hope you all will get to experience during your MUN career. I was a legal last year for UNSC Advanced at LAIMUN .

Besides being a part of MUN, I am on the Costa track team and I love practices after school with my friends and teammates. I love going to the beach with my friends and sunset swims are definitely my favorite. I also really enjoy traveling, I have been lucky enough to visit several countries in Europe and some islands too. Whenever you travel, something inevitably goes wrong, but those stories always make for the best memories. During debate, something may not go your way, and you just have to keep pushing forward. Remember to stay calm and have fun!

For UNSC Novice, I really want to see delegates find more specific areas of this topic that are not as widely discussed. There are so many ways to address this topic, so I am looking for delegates who stand out with unique solutions and detailed research. I am excited for debate this year and I cannot wait to see you all!

Best of Luck -- Callie Boren

Hello Delegates!

My name is Vanessa Patil and I am a sophomore here at Mira Costa. I started MUN last school year in the intro class, and am now in the Advanced Program. Last year I attended a travel conference at UC Davis, and was able to have a very enriching experience. In this debate, I hope each of you is able to gain valuable experience as a delegate, which you can carry with you throughout your time in MUN.

At Costa, I am a part of our Colorguard, where we perform alongside the marching band, adding visuals to the show. In the winter and spring I am part of Winterguard, which is an indoors version of the sport. I have also been a part of choir for the past 4 years, where I have grown to love music. In my free time I love to hang out with my friends, go shopping, and try new types of food. I also love to go for walks and hikes, and once walked a Marathon in a day. When I'm bored I love to watch tv shows, and sometimes rewatch them a few too many times.

I am so excited for LAIMUN this year, and hope that delegates are able to convey sincerity and passion in this subject. In the UNSC, I would love to see delegates thoroughly address a variety of issues, and use precision when formulating ideas. Debate is not always easy, but hard work and solid research pays off. If you come across a moment in debate where you feel lost, remember to stay confident, and don't get discouraged!

See you soon! -- Vanessa Patil

## Committee Description

The UN Security Council was created post World War II, in replacement of the League of Nations, the previous and failing international framework. The council's first session was held on January 17, 1946. The UNSC first acted in the Cold War, in attempts to de escalate and resolve the conflict between the USSR and the US. Although the UNSC was placing the majority of its efforts in the Cold War, the SC was able to back interventions in the Congo Crisis and the Korean War, along with authorizing several peacekeeping missions in West New Guinea, the Suez Crisis, and Cyprus.<sup>1</sup> Following the fall of the Soviet Union, the UNSC was able to refocus their efforts on issues all over the world. Their peacekeeping forces dramatically increased, and operations were launched in 8 different areas, including Somalia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and several others.

The UNSC was created with three main jobs to perform. It was required to maintain peace and security on an international scale, approve any changes to the UN Charter, and accept any potential new members to the UN. The SC is able to execute these things with its power of establishing peacekeeping missions, creating sanctions, and using military action by passing resolutions in council sessions. This is the only branch of the UN that has the power to pass resolutions proposed by member states of the UN.

The Security Council consists of 15 members, of which 10 are temporary. The five permanent members are all global powers that remain in the council with special powers. These

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<sup>1</sup>*Subsidiary Organs of the United Nations Security Council.*  
[https://static.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/subsidiary\\_organ\\_factsheets.pdf](https://static.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/subsidiary_organ_factsheets.pdf).

five countries are Russia, the United Kingdom, the US, France, and China. These five members hold a veto power, and when passing resolutions, if any of these members vetoes it, the resolution cannot pass. The 10 remaining spots are filled by UN member states elected to serve two-year terms. These positions rotate constantly among the other UN members, and many nations have held spots in the security council since its creation.

The UNSC carries out its resolutions and enforces them mainly through peacekeeping task forces, and forces voluntarily provided by individual member states. These forces are funded by the main budget of the UN, and additional supplies and funding may come from member states. Today, the UNSC has completed 59 peacekeeping missions, with 14 active missions, and over 100,000 personnel deployed in these regions.<sup>2</sup> The UNSC has majorly impacted many individual nations and the international community as a whole.

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<sup>2</sup> “Un Peacekeeping.” *Better World Campaign*, 28 Apr. 2022, <http://betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/>.



## Topic: Situation in Xinjiang

### I. Background

Although initially claiming that re-education camps did not exist, the Chinese government has since admitted to their presence. The region of Xinjiang is located northwest of China and has been designated an autonomous region. Over twelve million people reside in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), an ethnic group composed of primarily Sunni Muslims. Around the 8th century, the Uyghurs built a kingdom in north-central Mongolia, which is when their existence became widely known<sup>3</sup>. The kingdom that the Uyghurs built was soon overthrown by the Kyrgyz, so they created another near the Celestial Mountains. Later, this kingdom was overthrown as well by the expanding Mongols<sup>4</sup>. Although several invasions posed a challenge to Uyghur establishments, they eventually settled near the lower slopes of the Tien Shan Pamirs Mountains, but many moved around to different parts of Western Asia. Hundreds of years later, diasporas would form in countries such as the US and Australia. The central region the Uyghurs resided in became known as the Xinjiang region and was an official state until 1759<sup>5</sup>. The Manchu Dynasty of China sent armies to conquer the region, leading to China's control over Xinjiang. In the 1950's, the region was given the status of an autonomous region. This was when people from the Han ethnic group started to move into the region, and for the next forty

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<sup>3</sup>“Who Are the Uyghurs and Why Is China Being Accused of Genocide?” *BBC News*, BBC, 24 May 2022, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-22278037](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-22278037).

<sup>4</sup>“Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.” *Amnesty International USA*, [www.amnestyusa.org/countries/china/xinjiang/](http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/china/xinjiang/).

<sup>5</sup> *Belt and Road Initiative*, [www.beltroad-initiative.com/belt-and-road/](http://www.beltroad-initiative.com/belt-and-road/). *Bloomberg.com*, Bloomberg,

years, the group's presence would continue to increase.<sup>6</sup> It was the 1990s when anti-Han and separatist movements began, causing tension to grow. In 2009, 200 people who were mostly part of the Han ethnic group were killed. The Chinese government used this opportunity to paint the Uyghurs as immoral and started to increase government presence in the region.

In 2017, around one million Uyghurs were placed in detention centers, an action that would be counteracted with a human rights movement. Although this was the most significant movement of people to detention camps, similar structures have existed since 2014 or even earlier<sup>7</sup>. The Chinese government originally claimed that the camps did not exist at all but later changed their claim, saying they existed but were entirely voluntary. China has also claimed that these reeducation centers prevent terrorism and Islamic extremism.

The detention sites have many claims of abuse against them. It is believed that verbal abuse, solitary confinement, beatings, and restraints are all punishments that have been used. There are also no trials or lawyers for Uyghurs subjugated to this abuse, so the Chinese government can put anyone they want in them. It is believed that people who are seen doing things such as praying, attending religious ceremonies, or going to a mosque can be reason enough to be detained. For women, the most common reason for being relocated to these camps is for going over the child limit. At the camps, people are stripped from their traditional practices. They cannot wear clothes, eat food, or speak the language essential to their culture and religion. Detainees are not allowed to see or even speak with family members or people outside

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<sup>6</sup> "Uyghur." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

<sup>7</sup> "Forced Labor in China's Xinjiang Region - United States Department of State." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 1 July 2021, [www.state.gov/forced-labor-in-chinas-xinjiang-region/](http://www.state.gov/forced-labor-in-chinas-xinjiang-region/).

the camps<sup>8</sup>. Many people are forced to swear their allegiance to the Communist party through songs and pledges. Suicides are widespread in these camps because of harsh treatment. Several reports outline the camp's shoot-to-kill policy for anyone looking to escape<sup>9</sup>.

Reports also show that Uyghur women are mass sterilized against their will, limiting the population growth of the ethnic group. The government also started to encourage marriage between members of the Uyghur ethnic group and the Han ethnic group. China made sure to fine Uyghur families who passed the child limit but did not seem to enforce the restrictions on Han families. Turkik Muslim women were also forced to get IUDs and abortions along with sterilization. The government however, has denied these claims entirely. Since 2017, birth rates have significantly dropped in Xinjiang. Although originally much higher than the national average, the birth rates dropped lower than the national average in 2018 and continued to decrease. These statistics correspond with the significant increase in sterilizations in Xinjiang since 2016.

Forced labor is also a big issue in the region. Methods of torture such as sexual abuse, physical violence, and forced drug intake are all used to get people to work at nearby work sites. At these sites, the detainees have to make all sorts of goods sold across the globe. Over eighty companies benefit from forced labor; some include Amazon, Google, and Apple. Some Uyghurs have been sent to factories all over China, which many believe is part of China's plan to

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<sup>8</sup> Magazine, Smithsonian. "Is China Committing Genocide Against the Uyghurs?" *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 2 Feb. 2022, [www.smithsonianmag.com/history/is-china-committing-genocide-against-the-uyghurs-180979490/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/is-china-committing-genocide-against-the-uyghurs-180979490/).

<sup>9</sup> Milling, A. (2022). *House of Commons - Hansard - UK parliament*. UK Parliament. Retrieved August 31, 2022, from <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24>

assimilate the ethnic group. It is believed that people are forced to work for around eleven hours each day, and are punished if they miss even a day of work<sup>10</sup>. The system of forced labor is known by the Uyghurs as the “hashar” and was technically banned by the Chinese government several decades ago. Still, there is plenty of evidence which shows that it still exists.

Outside of the detention camps, conditions in the region are also poor due to stronger security implementations by the Chinese government.<sup>11</sup> These security measures include tracking people through checkpoints, cameras,<sup>12</sup> and mobile apps.<sup>13</sup> They track everything ranging from electricity used, to how often one opens their front door. There has also been an increase in officers around the region, watching for any ‘crime’ occurring. Uyghur adults and children outside the camps are also forced to work and labor, particularly in the cotton industry. Around a fifth of cotton production globally comes from the Xinjiang region.

Xinjiang has significant relations with the Chinese economy. Coal, natural gas, and oil all have a strong presence in this region, which is why China looks to Xinjiang for many of these resources. In fact, Xinjiang is essential for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a movement adopted by China in 2013. The initiative follows the Silk Road's historical route, including 71

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<sup>10</sup> Hoshur, S. (2020, October 11). *Former detainees in Kashgar draw low salaries, forfeit half of wages to old internment camps*. Radio Free Asia. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/detainees-08272020150624.html>

<sup>11</sup> *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/china/case-study/current-risks/chinese-persecution-of-the-uyghurs](http://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/china/case-study/current-risks/chinese-persecution-of-the-uyghurs).

<sup>12</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “The ‘Hashar’ Continues in China’s Xinjiang.” *Refworld*, [www.refworld.org/docid/5848120c6.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5848120c6.html)

<sup>13</sup> Samuel, Sigal. “China’s Genocide against the Uyghurs, in 4 Disturbing Charts.” *Vox*, Vox, 10 Mar. 2021, [www.vox.com/future-perfect/22311356/china-uyghur-birthrate-sterilization-genocide](http://www.vox.com/future-perfect/22311356/china-uyghur-birthrate-sterilization-genocide).

countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa, intending to promote connectedness. Due to its location, China believes the project's success requires the region to be under tight control. Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands have publicly labeled the situation a genocide. However, the debate on whether or not the term applies is ongoing. The United Nations does have specific requirements of what is a genocide and what is not. Killing members of a particular group, creating conditions to destroy the group, preventing births, forcibly transferring children from one group to another, and causing severe physical or mental harm are all official aspects of what constitutes genocide. Experts believe it should be considered a cultural genocide instead, but unlike the term genocide, cultural genocide does not have a legal definition. Since World War II, the situation in Xinjiang has been the largest mass internment of an ethnic-religious minority.

## II. UN Involvement

The World Uyghur Congress works with the UN to raise issues related to the Uyghurs. They attend sessions with the UN Human Rights Council and urge the council to take action to protect the Uyghurs from further harm.<sup>14</sup> The UN Human Rights Council has been assessing the Uyghurs' treatment and gathering data to publish complete reports.<sup>15</sup> During a meeting of the General Assembly's Human Rights Council, France presented a signed statement consisting of 43 countries criticizing China's treatment of Uyghurs. These countries were also concerned about the existence and severity of the re-education camps. The statement called for access to

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<sup>14</sup>Administrator(en-01), WUC. "Current Leadership." *World Uyghur Congress*, [www.uyghurcongress.org/en/steering-committee/](http://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/steering-committee/).

<sup>15</sup>Nebehay. "U.N. Says to Publish Findings Soon on Abuses in Xinjiang." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 11 Dec. 2021, [www.reuters.com/world/china/un-publish-xinjiang-findings-soon-2021-12-10/](http://www.reuters.com/world/china/un-publish-xinjiang-findings-soon-2021-12-10/).

China for observers to visit China and draft reports based on China's treatment of the Uyghurs to clarify for the national community. This statement was the third time in 2021 that the Human Rights Committee was centered around the Uyghur population.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, attended a virtual conference, where she spoke about working with China on various humanitarian issues. For example, she suggested that the Chinese government should align with International Law, specifically in the Xinjiang region. Bachelet also visited Xinjiang and Guangdong for six days, but the visit was met with quite a bit of backlash. Many reporters went as far to describe her trip as a propaganda coup for the Chinese government. During her visit to a prison and detention camp she spoke with former detainees. Bachelet talked about the limitations on what she could see, some due to Covid-19, and others were part of the natural expectations of what the visit would be. Instead of calling the camps detention camps, Bachelet referred to the facilities as vocational education and training centers (VETC), which human rights activists were angered by. The UN is under pressure to create more protection for the Uyghurs and launch a proper investigation.

The Sustainable Development Goals outline the significance of human rights. According to goal 10 of the 17 sustainable development goals that the UN aims to follow, the tenth focuses on reducing inequalities. The Uyghur people are treated as less than average citizens in China, experiencing multiple disadvantages because of this. This mistreatment directly violates the

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<sup>16</sup>Al Jazeera. "More Countries Criticize China at UN for Repression of Uyghurs." *Uighur News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 22 Oct. 2021, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/22/43-countries-criticize-china-at-un-for-repression-of-uyghurs](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/22/43-countries-criticize-china-at-un-for-repression-of-uyghurs).

Sustainable development goals. Therefore, it is imperative to correct these inequalities in order to accomplish these ambitions.

### III. Topics to Consider

#### A. Press and Media

Throughout the entirety of the Uyghur crisis in the Xinjiang region in China, press coverage has become a pertinent issue. Western countries have pushed for a complete investigation of the region to determine and gain a better understanding of the situation. However, China has strict policies regarding social media. Some social media sites have been blocked in China, and censorship is common across the news.<sup>17</sup> With their rapid development of new technologies, an elaborate surveillance system is targeting ethnic minorities. China has had a history of documenting biometric facial scans of residents between the ages of 12 to 65 in the Xinjiang region, which assists Chinese police forces in detaining them. Since 2017, 1.5 million Uyghurs have been forced into “re-education camps”, yet Chinese officials continue to deny forced labor accusations<sup>18</sup> They claim that other countries infringe on their national sovereignty and find continuous questioning invasive. China has published several statements that note their territorial integrity and security are being threatened. The UN has called for investigation into human rights violations and is in contact with survivors of the camps. Leaked documents have revealed startling facts about the Uyghur situation. Thousands of photographs and additional

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<sup>17</sup>Feng, E. (2022, March 3). *China erases thousands of social media accounts for vulgarity, negativity and more*. NPR. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/03/1084310580/china-erases-thousands-of-social-media-accounts-for-vulgarity-negativity-and-mor>.

<sup>18</sup> Jacobs, J. (2021, December 16). *U.S. steps up action against China over surveillance of Uyghur Muslims*. Bloomberg.com. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-12-16/u-s-targets-chinese-surveillance-of-uyghur-minorities>.

documents were discovered, showing new evidence of abuse that Uyghurs have experienced. China still maintains that the papers are lies, but the documents seem to tell a different story.<sup>19</sup> There are many restrictions on journalists traveling in Xinjiang. Whether contact is being monitored or reporters are being followed, addressing the press coverage in these camps is imperative.<sup>20</sup>

### *B. Re-education Camps*

Approximately a million Uyghurs have been detained in China, and they have been relocated to re-education camps. China states that they are vocational training centers that do not infringe on the rights of Uyghurs. Journalists and reporters are not allowed to visit these camps, but documents have exposed parts of the camps. Many who wind up in the camps have no previous violations yet have been detained in the camps regardless of their criminal status. Some simply practice their religion and are relocated to the camps because they are Muslim. There are hundreds of camps located in the Xinjiang region, a region that is roughly one-sixth of China's landmass. Uyghurs who were detained but have since escaped describe poor conditions, where they may be forced to reject Islam. Many Uyghurs that have experienced the camps share stories of sexual abuse, torture, and brutal interrogations. China has a different view of the camps, believing they unify the nation and restore territorial integrity. The camps have two main objectives, to educate people about Chinese laws, to teach Mandarin, and prevent the spread of

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<sup>19</sup> Staff, A. J. (2022, May 25). *Data leak reveals extent of Muslim repression in China's Xinjiang*. News | Al Jazeera. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/24/xinjiang-leak-sheds-new-light-on-chinas-uighur-camps>

<sup>20</sup> Sudworth, J. (2021, January 15). *China's pressure and propaganda - the reality of reporting xinjiang*. BBC News. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-55666153>



extremism. China claims that by creating these camps, they are combatting terrorism, extremism, and separatism. UN officials have insisted on access to the camps to investigate further. The international community has been concerned with these camps and human rights abuses. Leaked documents and evidence demonstrate the harm caused by the re-education camps and how it has drastically affected Uyghurs.

### *C. Forced Sterilization and IUDs*

Forced sterilization is an involuntary process that prevents a woman from being able to reproduce. In China, they have taken drastic measures such as forced sterilization to curb reproduction rates amongst the Uyghur population and other minorities. The increase in forced sterilization rates amongst Uyghurs is leading to “demographic genocide”, according to some experts. One of the reasons that some Uyghurs are detained in re-education camps is for having too many children. The government mandates an IUD, an intrauterine device, for Uyghur women who are having too many children to control the population. An example of this was the IUD inserted into Gulner Omizarkh after having two children. She was threatened that if she did not have an IUD inserted, she would be sent to the camps to join her husband. Birth rates have severely declined in past years because of these mandates. From 2015-2018, the birth rate dropped by over 60%. Xinjiang was one of China’s fastest growing regions until this new effort to decrease birth rates, transitioning Xinjiang to one of the slowest growing regions. The Uyghur population has been significantly reduced because of forced sterilizations and birth control campaigns<sup>21</sup> In 2018, many women began to testify that they were fitted for IUDs and injected

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<sup>21</sup> Press, T. A. (2020, June 29). *China cuts Uighur births with iuds, abortion, sterilization*. AP NEWS. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from

with substances that changed their menstruation cycles.<sup>22</sup> Also, in 2018, there were 1,000 IUDs implanted for every 100,000 people, approximately 80% of China's total usage of IUDs. The forced sterilization claim was denied by China, instead being advertised as a comprehensive family planning policy. Before these different birth control policies were implemented, ethnic minorities were allowed up to three children, even during the one-child policy.<sup>23</sup> The Uyghur population has suffered from the new rulings and laws. Their population has decreased, and forced sterilization is much more prominent.

#### **IV. Case Study: Biden Boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics**

In December of 2021, the White House announced it would be boycotting the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics due to the genocide and crimes against humanity happening in the Xinjiang region, as well as other misconduct with human rights issues. At the beginning of 2021, the US officially stated that the situation in Xinjiang was a genocide. Although there was a change in presidency, both the Trump administration and the Biden administration have called China out for wrongdoings in the region. There is minimal disagreement in the US over the strike, except for people saying the US should do even more. Athletes have also come out saying

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<https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-international-news-weekend-reads-china-health-269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>.

<sup>22</sup> Zenz, A. (2020, July 1). *China's own documents show potentially genocidal sterilization plans in Xinjiang*. Foreign Policy. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/01/china-documents-uighur-genocidal-sterilization-xinjiang/>.

<sup>23</sup> Watson, I., Wright, R., & Westcott, B. (2020, September 21). *Xinjiang government confirms huge birth rate drop but denies forced sterilization of women*. CNN. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/21/asia/xinjiang-china-response-sterilization-intl-hnk/index.html>

that the actions of the Chinese government are horrific. Still, no athletes protested the Olympics themselves.

With mass detentions and forced sterilizations, more and more people have begun to call out the actions of the Chinese government. While athletes from the US will still compete, this is a diplomatic boycott, meaning that they will not send their official delegation to Beijing for the Olympics. Jen Psaki, the 34th White House press secretary, said that the US did not want to add to any of the media attention of the event.

China responded to the situation in a defensive manner. They claim that the US is politicizing sports and only further creating division between the countries. They also attempted to tarnish the morality of the US, saying that they are only doing this for their benefit. They say that US politicians are using the dissension for their own political gain and not because they genuinely care about the situation in Xinjiang. Some Chinese officials say that China should boycott the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, but the government has not yet done anything like this. The US dispute caused tension between the two countries, especially after improving relations at a virtual summit. It also highlighted the morals of the US and what the country stands for. The Human Rights Watch applauded the US's actions, noting the importance of such efforts to help the Uyghurs.

Countries like Britain, Australia, and Canada have followed the US in boycotting the 2022 Olympics. Boris Johnson (former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom), Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister of Canada), and Scott Morrison (former Prime Minister of Australia) have all spoken out on the situation in Xinjiang and the human rights violations against the Uyghur

people. While many countries have not officially joined the debate, many still publicly acknowledge and support the US's actions. South Korea, Italy, France, and Germany have honored what the US is doing, as they are close allies. Diplomatic boycotts have also happened in the past with other situations. In 2014, the US protested the Olympic games in Russia because the government was becoming less lenient with gay rights. Many countries also rioted against the Olympics of 1984 in Los Angeles. The Soviet Union led this uproar, and although they claimed it was for security reasons, many speculated otherwise. Around thirty African countries boycotted the 1976 Montreal Olympics, as they thought New Zealand should have been unable to attend the Olympics because of the actions of the New Zealand rugby team.

Several public figures have spoken up claiming that these types of boycotts are pointless as they have not caused significant changes to occur in the past. Countries still do them as a public demonstration of their beliefs and morals. However, economic ties between nations may desensitize them from participating in these diplomatic disturbances. Japan, for example, did not endorse a complete diplomatic boycott due to ties in trade and the financial relations with China. Although there can be limitations, the international community typically reflects their countries morals through public statements or direct actions. The United States has made its stance very clear on the treatment of Uyghurs, and as a major country publicizes their belief, it is likely that others will continue to follow.

## **V. Guiding Questions**

1. When considering re-education camps, is it important to know whether or not your country believes it is an abuse of human rights?
2. Does your country have any laws or regulations in place to prevent forced sterilization? Do they utilize forced sterilization?
3. Has your country sent journalists to the Xinjiang region? If so, what were their experiences?
4. Is your country in support of an investigation or do they think it is a violation of national sovereignty?
5. Does your country consider the situation in Xinjiang a genocide? Do they believe that the situation meets the five requirements established by the United Nations?
6. Taking into account the reported torture in these camps, does your country believe that physical harm and mental harm are justified in this situation?
7. Considering that the Xinjiang region is autonomous, is China right in getting involved in the region?

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