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**TOPIC:** The Situation in Xinjiang

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## Situation in Xinjiang Recent Updates

The situation in Xinjiang has largely remained constant over the last six months. Over a million people continue to be imprisoned, with those not facing this imprisonment instead dealing with religious restrictions, forced labor, and even forced sterilization. However, on August 31st, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a new 45-page report detailing much about the Xinjiang predicament. The report found significant violations despite China's revamped measures to counter terrorism and extremism within Xinjiang. China was quick to respond to these allegations. It called the report a "farce" and defended its position with a 131-page response document released soon after. Additionally, on October 6th, in a UN motion to "Scrutinize China's human rights record," the United Nations Rights Council pushed for a more extensive recognition of the mistreatment many Uyghurs face.<sup>1</sup> The motion failed, however, dealing a significant upset and blow to the power and influence of the West. This failure is only the second time in the council's 16-year history that a motion has failed. It speaks to the lack of credibility that the body now holds, given the copious evidence suggesting that China has cracked down on its minorities in this region.<sup>2</sup> Motivations behind this lack of action for the 19 delegations that voted against the motion reflect immoral desires in many cases. Indonesia, one of the significant delegations to vote against the motion, is likely focused on maintaining its economic ties with China. China is Indonesia's largest trading partner, with

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<sup>1</sup> The Jakarta Post. "Indonesia Rejects Un Motion to Scrutinize China's Human Rights Record." *The Jakarta Post*, <https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2022/10/07/indonesia-rejects-un-motion-to-scrutinize-chinas-human-rights-record.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Person, and Emma Farge. "U.N. Body Rejects Debate on China's Treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Blow to West." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 7 Oct. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/un-body-rejects-historic-debate-chinas-human-rights-record-2022-10-06/>.

bilateral trade between the two countries in 2021 totaling \$125 billion USD. More specifically, China relies heavily on Indonesia's mineral resources, such as coal, palm oil, nickel, and other raw substances, having invested a total of \$1.56 billion USD into the country. With this in mind, Indonesia's tactical rejection of this motion could be motivated by the "Chinese investments at stake",<sup>3</sup> likely fearing significant economic consequences.

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<sup>3</sup> "Chinese Investments at Stake' in Indonesia's Rejection of UN Uygur Debate." *South China Morning Post*, 12 Oct. 2022, <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3195602/chinese-investments-stake-indonesias-rejection-un-motion-alleged>.

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