



Press Release

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We thank Erin O'Toole for calling out on the Government of Canada to boycott the Beijing Olympics in China due to the Genocide of Uyghurs Muslims

The Canadian Muslim Research Think Tank thanks the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada Erin O'Toole and his Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Michael Chong for calling on the Government of Canada to boycott the Beijing Olympics in China and its relocation to a new host country. We also thank O'Toole for recognising the genocide going on in Xinjiang and China's human rights violations against the Uyghurs Muslims in the Turkestan occupied part of the country.

In its *World Report 2021*, Human Rights Watch has detailed "In Xinjiang, Turkic Muslims continue to be arbitrarily detained on the basis of their identity, while others are subjected to forced labor, mass surveillance, and political indoctrination." A separate investigation carried out by *Buzzfeed News* noted there have been at least 260 concentration camps built in the last three years which held millions of Uyghur Muslims and forced them to denounce their Islamic faith and pledge allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party. It is estimated that for the past six years, at least 1.3 million Uyghur Muslims have been through these detention camps annually under the garb of "vocational training" or "language training program." Human rights groups say the Chinese government has gradually stripped away religious and other freedoms of the Uyghurs, culminating in an oppressive system of mass surveillance, detention, indoctrination, and even forced sterilisation.

Tursunay Ziawudun spent nine months inside China's vast and secretive system of internment camps in the Xinjiang region. In her own words, she recollects horrific accounts of sexual abuse for multiple nights which left her traumatized and scarred. Tursunay explains that "they wore suits, not police uniforms," in describing her abusers. "Sometime after midnight, they came to the cells to select the women they wanted and took them down the corridor to a "black room," where there were no surveillance cameras."

According to independent estimates, more than one million men and women have been detained in the sprawling network of camps, which China says exist for the "re-education" of the Uyghurs and other minorities and 100 Muslim cemeteries and Mosques have been demolished. Natural population growth rates have declined by 84% within the Uyghur population due to the forced contraceptive methods used within the concentration camps. The China Tribunal, an Australian human rights charity's final report states that people were "cut open while still alive for their kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, cornea, and skin to be removed and turned into commodities for sale;" however, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau still says that the word "genocide" is an "extremely loaded" term and he is not, at this point, prepared to use it to describe China's treatment of the Uyghurs.

Canada is recognized by the world as a leader for its efforts in protecting human rights and standing up against injustices happening around the world. To uphold our Canadian values we strongly urge The Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau to boycott the next Olympics held in Beijing, China as a strong objection to abhorrent and inhumane policies on Uyghur Muslims in China. Leader O'Toole said years of reports from human-rights monitors, Western media outlets and Uyghurs themselves are enough reason to act.

For further information and comments please contact:

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Canadian Muslim Research Think Tank is a Calgary based national non-profit think tank a leading source of research and policy advice on Muslim affairs in Canada and Internationally.