



## Press Release

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Calgary, AB

### **We thank Erin O'Toole, Jagmeet Singh, Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all Members of Parliament for unanimously passing the motion to recognizing China's treatment of Uyghurs as a genocide**

The Canadian Muslim Research Think Tank thanks the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Erin O'Toole and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michael Chong for calling on the Government of Canada to boycott the Beijing Olympics in China and an Olympics relocation to a new host country. We also thank Leader Jagmeet Singh and the NDP party, Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal party and all Members of Parliament for unanimously voting in recognizing China's treatment of Uyghurs as genocide.

In its *World Report 2021*, Human Rights Watch has stated that "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 that 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," when describing the attire of 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. 100 Muslim cemeteries and Mosques have been demolished and 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;"

"We thank our Canadian leaders and challenge other nations to follow the right and high moral grounds of Canada. Canada has the strongest moral values among nations. Muslim countries should learn and follow Canadian values and take a stand for Uyghur Muslims, observed Dr. Mukarram Zaidi.

#### **For further information and comments please contact:**

Arshiya Shareef, Director Research, Islamophobia & Anti Muslim Racism Project, Think for Actions  
Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, Canadian Muslim Research Think Tank.  
587 890 8321, [chairman@thinkforactions.com](mailto:chairman@thinkforactions.com)

---

**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.