

27 April 2020

Mr Tom Tugendhat MBE MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
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Secretary of State

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March about Xinjiang and COVID-19. I am grateful to you for highlighting this important issue. The risk of the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention is a matter of concern in a number of countries around the world.

As you know, we have consistently made clear our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including the extra-judicial detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in “political re-education camps”. On 9 March, I directly raised these concerns with my Chinese counterpart, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. On 5 March the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams MP, did the same with the Chinese Ambassador to the UK. On 25 February at the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council (UN HRC), Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon spoke on behalf of the UK during his national statement, calling on China to allow the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights unfettered access to Xinjiang.

We will continue to engage closely with the Chinese authorities on the COVID-19 crisis. We will also continue to raise the human rights situation in Xinjiang both bilaterally with China and at the UN.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP



Foreign Affairs Committee

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Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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19 March 2020

Dear Foreign Secretary

Members of the Uyghur diaspora have expressed concerns about the risk of COVID-19 reaching the Uyghur detention centres in Xinjiang Province, China, where up to a million people are believed to be detained. The International Committee of the Red Cross has highlighted the particular danger of infectious diseases reaching prison populations due to a faster transmission rate, and has emphasised the importance of heightened screening and sanitation in detention centres.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with information on:

- What representations you have made or intend to make to your Chinese counterparts on this matter; and
- What conversations you have had with international fora and organisations such as the World Health Organization and the ICRC on ensuring that China takes measures to manage potential outbreaks in the Xinjiang detention centres.

It would be helpful to have a response by 3 April. I intend to place your response in the public domain.

TOM TUGENDHAT MP
Chair