



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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6 November 2020

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October addressed to the Prime Minister requesting more detail on UK action in respect of the Uyghur Muslims. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond.

Your letter raised three questions. In response to the first, HMG has financed a number of projects to better understand and increase awareness of abuses in Xinjiang. For example, the FCO part-financed research by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) on the issue of forced labour. Their report, "Uyghurs for Sale", was published in March 2020 and set out how forced Uyghur labour was being used in factories. This report has arguably done more than any other to identify and publicise links between detention camps in Xinjiang and forced labour programmes across China. We continue to work with multiple project implementers and researchers on human rights issues in Xinjiang and China.

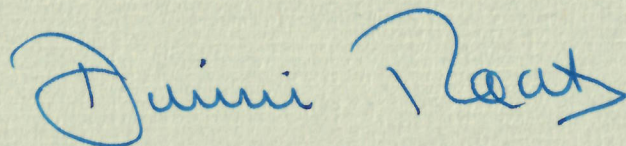
Second, the FCDO regularly engages with business, industry associations and standard-setting bodies on the violations taking place in Xinjiang. This engagement suggests that an increasing number of companies recognise the merit of taking tangible steps to ensure respect for human rights throughout their operations, supply chains and services. We are aware that a number of major companies have reconsidered their connections with the region. This includes Adidas and Lacoste, who have both ceased all activities with suppliers and subcontractors implicated in the ASPI report. H&M has ended an 'indirect' relationship with a cotton supplier in Xinjiang, and the Better Cotton Initiative, the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world, has suspended licensing and assurance activities in Xinjiang.

Third, the UK has played a leading international role in holding China to account for its human rights violations in Xinjiang and will continue to do so. As you will be aware, I have raised the Government's serious concerns about Xinjiang with my Chinese counterpart on a number of occasions, most recently in July. Alongside this, the UK has led joint statements at the UN condemning China's approach, both at the UN Human Rights Council and at the UN Third Committee. Most recently, on 6 October, the UK and 38 other countries joined a statement at the UN Third Committee in New York expressing deep concern at the situation in Xinjiang, including the mass detention of Uyghurs in political re-education camps. This growing caucus reflects UK diplomatic leadership.

By building a coalition of likeminded partners, raising our deep concerns at the UN, and directly with senior Chinese authorities, we continue to impress upon China the need to change course and to immediately end its policy of extra-judicial detention of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

As Foreign Secretary I would like to assure you that the situation in Xinjiang is a priority for the FCDO, and we will continue to use our diplomatic network to draw international attention to the egregious human rights violations which are taking place there.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dominic Raab". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP



Foreign Affairs Committee

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From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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22 October 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to follow up on your letter of 8 October to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, in which you responded to a number of points raised during your appearance before the Liaison Committee.

In response to my question on the use of the word “genocide” in respect of the Uyghur Muslims (Q125), you said:

In addition, we have funded research that has drawn attention to Uyghur forced labour in international supply chains and we have urged UK businesses to conduct due diligence to ensure they are not contributing to abuses. We will continue to play a leading role in holding China to account for its gross human rights violations in Xinjiang.

1. Could you please provide further information regarding this research, including how much funding the Government provided, who conducted it and where it is published?
2. What has been the impact so far of your urging UK businesses to conduct due diligence in this area?
3. How will the government continue to play a leading role in holding China to account?

It would be helpful to have a response to this letter by 10 November. I intend to place your response in the public domain.

Best wishes,

TOM TUGENDHAT