



**Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)  
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**Hearing on Forced Labor, Mass Internment, and Social Control in the Xinjiang  
Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).**

October 17, 2019

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an important hearing, so thank you for convening it. It’s also timely. I also want to thank all of our witnesses. Your research and your advocacy has done a lot to inform us and the world about what’s happening -- the atrocities being committed in the Xinjiang region by the Chinese Communist Party. Through the decades, the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party have been as consistent as they have been egregious. Yet somehow, these tyrants maintain the ability to shock the world even further with their cruelty and their callousness.

The Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region in the last two years has experienced classic forms of Communist Totalitarianism now combined with the application of advanced technologies. The difference between the Chinese Communist Party’s crimes of the past and those of the present is the motivation. The past was about power alone. The present is about power, but also profit. Chairman Xi Jinping and his henchmen, Chen Jianguo, who by the way used to oversee Chinese brutality and repression inside of Tibet -- so he’s a specialist at this -- revived collectivization to force Uyghurs into the harness of the Chinese Party’s state. Just as collectivization created famines that harmed millions in China, this new effort is blazing a trail of human suffering.

The problem goes much deeper than simply one million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities detained in what can only be called concentration camps and are forced to labor there. For those able to escape the camps, they face the full power of the Chinese State mobilized against them and their families inside and outside of China. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Uyghur men and women have been forced through a military discipline and political reeducation in preparation to take jobs in satellite factories.

The Chinese Communist Government offers incentives for Chinese companies to exploit this labor as the cost of doing business in coastal provinces rises. And what of the families, the children, and the elderly. They are removed from their parent’s care so the adults can work in the factories. Instead of the warm embrace of their families, the young and the elderly are forced into the stifling custody of the Chinese Communist Party. For the children this means the loss of their language, their culture, their faith, their heritage. For the elderly this means loneliness and isolation in their final years.

Their children and grandchildren will never hear the stories of lives well lived, of hardships conquered, or the importance of faith and values in a brutal, communist governed world.

Today's hearing, however, is not about this alone. It is about understanding how the party integrates labor and social control, and the national security and moral risks for individuals and companies that deal with China. The network of detention facilities and factories has turned Xinjiang into a forced labor camp roughly the size of the states of California, Montana, Texas, and Florida combined. Millions of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim, ethnic minorities labor in textile and light manufacturing and are prohibited from practicing their faith. Simply put, this is slavery.

The slavery of socialism, with Chinese characteristics. Earlier this month the Trump administration announced sanctions, as the Chairman said, targeting Chinese officials as well as governmental and commercial entities for these severe human rights abuses and I believe that these also constitute crimes against humanity. We all welcome these steps, we also believe more can and should be done to resolve one of the world's greatest ongoing tragedies and to hold accountable its perpetrators.

I hope the House will soon pass Senate bill 178, the [Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act](#) that the Senate passed last month. The bill would require the administration to gather information about the situation in Xinjiang and China's efforts to suppress international awareness of it. China's efforts to silence Uyghurs and turn the world's attention away from the ongoing atrocities in Xinjiang have included the coercion and intimidation of American citizens and residents here and abroad. This is an outrage that must be addressed.

The U.S. government needs to do its part to ensure Americans and the world are aware of what the Chinese government is doing in Xinjiang and have the freedom to express it. Despite the efforts of our witnesses today, Americans—and American companies in particular—are all too unaware of what is taking place.

For example, the National Basketball Association maintains a residential training camp in Xinjiang, seemingly oblivious to the contradiction between speaking out about societal issues here at home which they have the full freedom to do. Yet staying silent about China's oppression.

Only after the U.S. Commerce Department added the Chinese artificial intelligence company SenseTime to the entity list last week for its role in facilitating the Chinese Communist Party's crimes in Xinjiang, did MIT begin to review its relationship with the firm.

It's long overdue for Americans and the private sector to wake up and fully realize the real risks of doing business with China.

So I thank all of you again for being here today. I thank you Mr. Chairman and I look forward to today's discussion.