

Document schedule

Doc #	Title/details	Date
1	Formal Message: <i>Xinjiang Update: China pushes back ahead of Geneva Human Rights</i>	6 November 2018
2	Briefing: <i>Xinjiang</i>	March 2019
3	Formal Message: <i>China: Xinjiang: Update and consideration of next steps</i>	17 May 2019
4	Briefing: <i>Xinjiang</i>	June 2019
5	Briefing: <i>China-New Zealand relationship</i>	June 2019
6	Formal Message: <i>China: Xinjiang: Update and consideration of next steps</i>	11 July 2019
7	Media lines: <i>Situation in Xinjiang/reports of Uighur detention camps</i>	Undated

From: NAD

Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 11:25 AM

To: BEIJING; NAD; UNHC

Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; CEO; DCE; DS AAG; DS MLG; DS EMA; UNHC; AMER; EUR; AUS; ARD; WASHINGTON; LONDON; CANBERRA; OTTAWA; NEW YORK; GENEVA; FM.NAB (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Defence (Seemail); ISED; SEA; HONOLULU; ...ARF POSTS; ...EAS POSTS; ...MEA POSTS; ...EUROPEAN POSTS; MEA

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: CHINA: XINJIANG: UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF NEXT STEPS

HANDLING

National Assessments Bureau: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Defence: International Branch, SCE

s6(a)

Report

s6(a), s6(b)

New Zealand has signed a letter addressed to the Human Rights Council President and High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered in the Human Rights Council on 8 July alongside 21 other countries OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

From: BEIJING

Sent: Friday, 17 May 2019 12:38 a.m.

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HANDLING

National Assessments Bureau: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Defence: International Branch, SCE

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

REPORT

The year to date

s6(a)

2 The Chinese Government's s6(a) that there have been no violent attacks by Muslims in Xinjiang over the last three years. It directly rejects criticism of its approach, as reflected in comments by a Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson on 30 April, asserting that:

"Xinjiang affairs are China's internal affairs. Terrorism and extremism are wanton violations of basic human rights. In Xinjiang, China has taken preventive anti-terrorism and de-radicalization measures that are entirely lawful, which respect and protect human rights and have won extensive support from people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang."

3 Turkey has been the only government of a Muslim-majority country to have openly criticised Chinese behaviour in Xinjiang. Following this, China closed its consulate in Izmir and the Chinese Ambassador in Ankara threatened economic retaliation, suggesting that: *"Criticising your friend publicly everywhere is not a constructive approach ... If you choose a non-constructive path, it will negatively affect mutual trust and understanding and will be reflected in commercial and economic relations."* And recent comments from Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Indonesian President Joko Widodo, as well as from the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation illustrate a range of different views across the international Muslim community. Here is a link to comments from the UN Secretary General.

s6(a), s6(b)

Xinjiang Governor Shohrat Zakir said in March that *"in general there will be fewer and fewer students in the centres. If one day our society doesn't need them, the education and training centres will disappear."* An editorial in the state-run Global Times on 6 May dismissed US's criticism as *"a growing smear campaign on China's Xinjiang affairs [that is] clearly part of a broader US policy of suppressing China"*, but also stated that:

"As long as Xinjiang can maintain basic stability and avoid the catastrophic resurgence of violent and terrorist activities, the number of education and training centers will gradually reduce after a period of time. The governance in Xinjiang

will gradually return to normal, and in this process Xinjiang will finally bid farewell to large-scale bloody terrorist activities."

New Zealand engagement and invitation to visit

s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

The Embassy has not been invited on the government's recent series of officially organised Xinjiang 'invitation tours'. New Zealand's relationship with Xinjiang includes support for development projects there, both through university-to-university cooperation and BEI's Head of Embassy Fund [HEF].

s6(a)

As reported, the Prime Minister raised Xinjiang with both Premier Li and President Xi during her visit to Beijing last month. s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)

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s6(a), s6(b)

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s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a)

COMMENT

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

ENDS

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Xinjiang

Key points

- China's 'Strike Hard' campaign in Xinjiang continues, despite sustained global condemnation and media coverage regarding human rights abuses in the region. Reports continue to estimate that over one million of the 12 million strong population of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang have been detained at some point, with the US government recently suggesting that the figure was as high as three million.
- New Zealand has raised our concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang directly with China in bilateral engagements, including Prime Minister Ardern during her meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in April. We have also raised our concerns at the Human Rights Council in Geneva during China's Universal Periodic Review in November 2018. We are currently considering New Zealand's engagement in other bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

OUT OF SCOPE

Background

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

New Zealand's engagement on Xinjiang

5. In 2018, New Zealand raised our concerns about the treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang during bilateral meetings, ranging from officials' level human rights discussions in Beijing to the Prime Minister's meeting with Politburo Member and Party Secretary Li Xi (Wellington, September 2018). Our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review in the UN Human Rights Council (November 2018) called for protection of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including for ethnic Uighurs, and supported the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) recommendations to address and halt extrajudicial detentions in Xinjiang¹. This year, New Zealand public concern regarding the treatment of Xinjiang's Muslim minorities was refocused and heightened by the 15 March terrorist attacks in Christchurch, which occurred just two weeks ahead of Prime Minister Ardern's inaugural visit to China.
6. Prime Minister Ardern raised New Zealand's concerns directly with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang during her visit s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

7. s6(b) to sign a letter addressed to the Human Rights Council President and High Commissioner on Human Rights, to be delivered on 8 July during the current session of the Human Rights Council. The letter is consistent with our earlier UPR statement, expressing global concerns regarding Xinjiang, and calling on China to respect human rights and to implement the CERD recommendations. s6(a)
s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)

North Asia Division, MFAT

¹ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Concluding observations on the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic reports of China (including Hong Kong, China and Macao, China), 30 August 2018

June 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

From: BEIJING

Sent: Tuesday, 6 November 2018 1:42 a.m.

To: BEIJING; NAD; UNHC

Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; CEO; DCE; DS AAG; DS MLG; DS EMA; UNHC; AMER; EUR; AUS; ARD; WASHINGTON; LONDON
CANBERRA; OTTAWA; NEW YORK; GENEVA; FM.NAB (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail);
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MEA

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: XINJIANG UPDATE: CHINA PUSHES BACK AHEAD OF GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS
REVIEW

HANDLING

National Assessments Bureau: s6(a), s9(2)(g)(ii)

Defence: International Branch

SUMMARY

- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

China's s6(a)

describes 'voluntary vocational education centres' enabling those affected by extremist thought to realise that "life can be so colourful".

- China's s6(a) asserts that these 'centres': are effective (no violent attacks in the past 21 months); build on international best practice (UNGA's resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy); and serve as a "constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism", while balancing human rights considerations.
- Xinjiang will be a central issue at China's Universal Periodic Review in Geneva tomorrow (6 November). s6(a)

- We are seeking bilateral opportunities to engage with China on Xinjiang, s6(a) meetings with a range of officials from the Chinese Communist Party, state, and government-organised NGOs (GONGOs).

REFERENCE

s6(a)

- [Universal Periodic Review: advance questions to China](#)
- [FORMAL MESSAGE: POSTSCRIPT: XINJIANG RE-EDUCATION CAMPS 'LEGALISED', 12 OCTOBER 2018](#)

s6(a)

ACTION

For information

REPORT

1. China s6(a) re-education camps in Xinjiang, in which up to a million members of Xinjiang's Uyghur population are reportedly being detained – BEI's FMs of [9 October](#) and [12 October](#) refer. Having initially denied the existence the camps, China s6(a)

as 'voluntary vocational education centres'. The most in-depth articulation of China's s6(a) is an [extended interview in Xinhua](#) on 16 October with Xinjiang Chairman (governor equivalent) Shohrat Zakir, who described the centres as being equipped with ping-pong tables, volleyball courts, and film-screening rooms; where each air-conditioned room has its own TV, nutritious meals are provided "free of charge", and ethnic customs are respected.

2. Chairman Zakir's key messages, upon which China's official statements have subsequently been based, are as follows:

- **China's policies in Xinjiang are working:** Over the past 21 months [under Party Secretary Chen Quanguo], no violent terrorist attacks have occurred in Xinjiang. With effective counterterrorism efforts, Xinjiang's economy is steadily growing, with tourism numbers rapidly increasing.
- **China's policies build on international best practice,** and respond to UNGA's resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Accelerating legislation of anti-terrorism efforts to strictly prevent and combat violent terrorist crimes according to law, China is combining the fight against violent terrorist crimes with the protection of human rights.
- **Vocational training centres:**
 - **Purpose:** To remove the environment that breeds terrorism and religious extremism, thereby preventing violent terrorist activities from happening.
 - **Content:** Trainees learn China's common language (Mandarin Chinese) to improve their communication abilities, gain modern scientific knowledge and enhance their understanding of Chinese history, culture and national conditions. Gaining legal knowledge cultivates trainees' awareness of nation, citizenship and rule of law. Vocational learning also helps trainees find employment upon graduation.
 - **Effectiveness:** Many trainees previously affected by extremist thought, have now realised that "life can be so colourful". Vocational centres focus on trainees' mental health. Trainees have enhanced national consciousness, civil awareness, awareness of the rule of law and the sense of community of the Chinese nation. They have also been able to better tell right from wrong and resist the infiltration of extremist thought.
 - **International importance:** Xinjiang's vocational education serves as a constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism.

s6(a)

3. In the lead up to Chairman Zakir's interview, China sent numerous official Chinese media – for example, China Daily, People's Daily, Global Times and CCTV/CGTN – to Xinjiang as part of a domestic and international public relations campaign. Chinese journalists visited 'voluntary vocational education centres', and interviewed 'trainees'

receiving free lessons in subjects such as baking, sewing, cosmetology and woodworking. Interviewed 'trainees' mimicked the official narrative: "If I wasn't here studying, I don't even want to imagine where I'd be. Maybe I would have followed those religious extremists into a life of crime. The government and party found me in time and saved me."

4. In addition to this media campaign, China is using its network of embassies, government-organised NGOs (GONGOs), and China-led international organisations s6(a)

- In Pakistan, the Chinese Embassy recently publicised a meeting it held with a group of Uyghurs, during which Chinese diplomats explained that, "Xinjiang's anti-terrorism struggle has achieved significant results, and the Xinjiang region is now stable."
- In Kazakhstan, the Xinjiang Cultural Exchange Group recently hosted a forum, with participants including local think tanks, NGOs and overseas Chinese. Officials from Xinjiang briefed participants on the Xinjiang's development, ethnic and anti-terrorism policies, and stability.
- The China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has spoken out in defence of China's policies in Xinjiang. SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov noted that terrorism could not be defined by "nationalities, geographical adherence or religion"; and that China's contributions to the fight against international terrorism were "big and rational".

International reaction: media

5. Despite this, international media remains highly critical of China's policies in Xinjiang, with increasing evidence contradicting China's official narrative. Recent examples include:

- AFP reports that government procurement tenders for the Xinjiang camps include: riot shields and helmets, pepper spray, tear gas, net guns, stun guns, electrified batons, billy clubs, spears, handcuffs and spiked clubs known as "wolf's teeth".
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has used satellite imagery to identify and document the expansion of 28 camps in Xinjiang. Its empirical data demonstrates that since early 2017, the 28 facilities expanded their area by more than 2 million square metres - more than 700,000 square metres over the last three months alone. BBC has also conducted a similar investigation.
- Anthropologist and Xinjiang specialist Darren Byler published research on the government's mobilization of more than a million Chinese citizens to "occupy" the homes of local minorities, living alongside them as "family relatives" to shape their behaviour.

6. New Zealand media is also increasingly covering the issue, with Prime Minister Ardern being asked about Xinjiang at the post-Cabinet press conference on 29 October (transcript [here](#); see also [Newsroom article](#)).

International reaction: 'likeminded' governments

7. A number of governments are pushing back s6(a) using public statements, and private diplomatic representations:

- UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told parliament on 30 October that British diplomats who visited Xinjiang had confirmed as "broadly true" reports of mass internment camps for Uyghur Muslims.
- s6(b)
- The EU External Action spokesperson (EEAS) made a statement on 26 October on the situation in Xinjiang. (This has also been reposted by a number of EU member states):

The revision by the Chinese authorities of the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Regulation on De-extremification" highlights the deteriorating human rights situation in Xinjiang. There are credible reports of mass detentions in political "re-education camps" affecting Uighurs and other minorities; of mass surveillance; of restrictions on travel; and of Uighurs abroad allegedly being returned to China involuntarily.

These revisions run counter to the recommendations provided by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which call on China to change its policy in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

In this context, the EU expects China to respect freedom of religion or belief, and freedom of expression, as well as the rights of persons belonging to ethnic or national minorities, as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory.

- The Canadian Embassy in Beijing delivered on 2 November a letter signed by 18 ambassadors requesting a meeting with Xinjiang Party Secretary Chen Quanguo. The signatories were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. s6(b)

8. s6(a), s6(b)

Access to Xinjiang: journalists

9. The Xinjiang authorities continue to restrict access to the region. Journalists from Canada, Netherlands and Finland report being harassed while trying to visit Xinjiang in last few weeks. Police met the journalists at the airport upon arrival, and even flew back to Beijing with several of them afterwards. Upon returning to Beijing, the journalists were called in by MFA – responsible for foreign journalists' accreditation – for a "cup of tea", pressing them on what they were doing in Xinjiang. The journalists subsequently noted they had been followed more frequently in Beijing than previously. Journalists who have written about Xinjiang without visiting the region have also received more attention from MFA, and being followed, after publication.

Access to Xinjiang: diplomats

s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

China's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 6 November

16. China's UPR at the Human Rights Council in Geneva tomorrow (6 November) provides a multilateral opportunity for New Zealand to express its concerns on Xinjiang. A number of countries, including New Zealand, are planning to recommend that China implement the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) recommendations on Xinjiang. Ahead of the UPR, 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US) have also submitted Xinjiang-related advance questions to China – complete list attached. For example, the UK asked:

"When will the Government implement the recommendations made by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding Xinjiang Autonomous Uyghur Region, including to: halt the practice of detaining individuals who have not been lawfully charged, tried, and convicted for a criminal offence in any extra-legal detention facilities; immediately release individuals detained under these circumstances; eliminate travel restrictions that disproportionately affect members of ethnic minorities; and provide statistics on the numbers of those held involuntarily in the past 5 years?"

COMMENT

s6(b), s9(2)(g)(i), s6(a)

ENDS

China-New Zealand relationship OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

Human rights, OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang

- New Zealand closely monitors human rights in the region. New Zealand does, and will continue to, raise with China at all levels the importance that we attach to universal human rights standards, and our interest in seeing these upheld.
- OUT OF SCOPE

s9(2)(g)(i) New Zealand recognises China's sovereignty over Xinjiang. We share concerns expressed by the international community regarding the treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang.

- s9(2)(g)(i) New Zealand raises our concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang directly with China in bilateral engagements, including Prime Minister Ardern's meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in April, and at the Human Rights Council, including our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review last year and the letter we co-signed alongside 21 other

countries addressed to the Human Rights Council President and High Commissioner for Human Rights in July.

OUT OF SCOPE

Released under the Official Information Act

OUT OF SCOPE

North Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
June 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang

Objective

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

Key Messages

• OUT OF SCOPE

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• New Zealand also accepts China's sovereignty over Xinjiang. We share concerns expressed by the international community regarding the treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang, as set out in our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in November last year.

• OUT OF SCOPE

•

Background

1. OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang ('autonomous regions' in western China) occupy 30 percent of the country's territory and are rich in natural resources. Both are predominantly non-Han Chinese, with the largest ethnic groups being OUT OF SCOPE Muslim Uighurs ("wee-ger") respectively. Both have seen economic development from China's 'Open Up the West' policies over the last two decades, s6(a)

2. s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

Xinjiang

5. Over the past decade there have been violent incidents involving fatalities, in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China, which the Chinese authorities have traced to 'East Turkistan separatists'. Following the 9-11 attack in New York, the United Nations designated the East Turkistan Islamic Movement as a terrorist organisation, s6(a)

6. Since the appointment of Chen Quanguo as Xinjiang Party Secretary in 2016, s6(a)

New security and mass surveillance technologies have been adopted, including advanced facial-recognition and harvesting of mobile phone data. In the course of 2018 it became clear that China had established a network of large-scale "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. Up to 1 million people are estimated to have been detained in these camps.

7. China presents its efforts as a success, arguing that there have been no major violent outbreaks reported for almost two years. China's ethnic Han majority (93% of the population) show little objection to government actions targeting Xinjiang's Uighurs.

s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

9. In August 2018, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination CERD issued a report calling on the Chinese government to release all Uighurs currently being held in 're-education camps' in Xinjiang. Subsequently, China recalibrated its official narrative, describing the re-education camps as 'voluntary vocational education centres' for those affected by extremist ideologies.

10. During China's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council in November 2018, China asserted that the detention camps were effective in stopping violent attacks and were a "constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism", while balancing human rights considerations.

11. Earlier this year China began inviting selected embassies and media to visit Xinjiang. But international criticism continues unabated, led most recently by Turkey which is the first Muslim country to demand that China respects the human rights of the Uighurs and close the camps. s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a)

s6(a)

13. With international concern heightening in recent months, and following your meetings with Guangdong Party Secretary Li Xi in September 2018 and Premier Li Keqiang in November 2018 to whom you voiced concerns about the Uighurs, we referred to the Report on China by the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (on Xinjiang) in our statement on China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in November (see separate Human Rights brief). New Zealand is continuing to take further opportunities to raise its concerns including in private bilateral discussions.

New Zealand Embassy, Beijing, March 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

Media lines

Situation in Xinjiang/reports of Uighur detention camps

- New Zealand closely follows human rights issues in our region, and we are aware of concerns about the situation in Xinjiang.
- The New Zealand Government raises human rights issues with the Chinese Government. We explain the importance that New Zealand attaches to human rights standards. Regular discussions also occur at officials' level including on the situation in Xinjiang.
- We have raised concerns about Xinjiang in high-level meetings [e.g. with Politburo Member and Party Secretary of Guangdong Li Xi, and Premier Li Keqiang at the East Asia Summit (in Singapore in November 2018)] and our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in November 2018.

OUT OF SCOPE

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8	Communications relating to UNHRC letter	Various

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s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

REPORT

The year to date

s6(a)

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will gradually return to normal, and in this process Xinjiang will finally bid farewell to large-scale bloody terrorist activities.”

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s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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s6(a), s6(b)

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s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a)

COMMENT

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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Xinjiang

Key points

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OUT OF SCOPE

Background

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

New Zealand's engagement on Xinjiang

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6. Prime Minister Ardern raised New Zealand's concerns directly with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang during her visit [s6(a)]

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[s6(a)]

[s6(a), s6(b)]

North Asia Division, MFAT

¹ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Concluding observations on the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic reports of China (including Hong Kong, China and Macao, China), 30 August 2018

June 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

From: BEIJING

Sent: Tuesday, 6 November 2018 1:42 a.m.

To: BEIJING; NAD; UNHC

Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; CEO; DCE; DS AAG; DS MLG; DS EMA; UNHC; AMER; EUR; AUS; ARD; WASHINGTON; LONDON
CANBERRA; OTTAWA; NEW YORK; GENEVA; FM.NAB (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail);
FM.Defence (Seemail); ISED; SEA; HONOLULU; ...ARF POSTS; ...EAS POSTS; ...MEA POSTS; ...EUROPEAN POSTS;
MEA

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: XINJIANG UPDATE: CHINA PUSHES BACK AHEAD OF GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS
REVIEW

HANDLING

National Assessments Bureau: s6(a), s9(2)(g)(ii)

Defence: International Branch

SUMMARY

- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

China's s6(a)

describes 'voluntary vocational education centres' enabling those affected by extremist thought to realise that "life can be so colourful".

- China's s6(a) asserts that these 'centres': are effective (no violent attacks in the past 21 months); build on international best practice (UNGA's resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy); and serve as a "constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism", while balancing human rights considerations.
- Xinjiang will be a central issue at China's Universal Periodic Review in Geneva tomorrow (6 November). s6(a)

- We are seeking bilateral opportunities to engage with China on Xinjiang, s6(a) meetings with a range of officials from the Chinese Communist Party, state, and government-organised NGOs (GONGOs).

REFERENCE

s6(a)

- Universal Periodic Review: advance questions to China
- FORMAL MESSAGE: POSTSCRIPT: XINJIANG RE-EDUCATION CAMPS 'LEGALISED', 12 OCTOBER 2018

s6(a)

ACTION

For information

REPORT

1. China s6(a) re-education camps in Xinjiang, in which up to a million members of Xinjiang's Uyghur population are reportedly being detained – BEI's FMs of 9 October and 12 October refer. Having initially denied the existence the camps, China s6(a)

as 'voluntary vocational education centres'. The most in-depth articulation of China's s6(a) is an extended interview in Xinhua on 16 October with Xinjiang Chairman (governor equivalent) Shohrat Zakir, who described the centres as being equipped with ping-pong tables, volleyball courts, and film-screening rooms; where each air-conditioned room has its own TV, nutritious meals are provided "free of charge", and ethnic customs are respected.

2. Chairman Zakir's key messages, upon which China's official statements have subsequently been based, are as follows:

- **China's policies in Xinjiang are working:** Over the past 21 months [under Party Secretary Chen Quanguo], no violent terrorist attacks have occurred in Xinjiang. With effective counterterrorism efforts, Xinjiang's economy is steadily growing, with tourism numbers rapidly increasing.
- **China's policies build on international best practice,** and respond to UNGA's resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Accelerating legislation of anti-terrorism efforts to strictly prevent and combat violent terrorist crimes according to law, China is combining the fight against violent terrorist crimes with the protection of human rights.
- **Vocational training centres:**
 - Purpose: To remove the environment that breeds terrorism and religious extremism, thereby preventing violent terrorist activities from happening.
 - Content: Trainees learn China's common language (Mandarin Chinese) to improve their communication abilities, gain modern scientific knowledge and enhance their understanding of Chinese history, culture and national conditions. Gaining legal knowledge cultivates trainees' awareness of nation, citizenship and rule of law. Vocational learning also helps trainees find employment upon graduation.
 - Effectiveness: Many trainees previously affected by extremist thought, have now realised that "life can be so colourful". Vocational centres focus on trainees' mental health. Trainees have enhanced national consciousness, civil awareness, awareness of the rule of law and the sense of community of the Chinese nation. They have also been able to better tell right from wrong and resist the infiltration of extremist thought.
 - International importance: Xinjiang's vocational education serves as a constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism.

s6(a)

3. In the lead up to Chairman Zakir's interview, China sent numerous official Chinese media – for example, China Daily, People's Daily, Global Times and CCTV/CGTN – to Xinjiang as part of a domestic and international public relations campaign. Chinese journalists visited 'voluntary vocational education centres', and interviewed 'trainees'

receiving free lessons in subjects such as baking, sewing, cosmetology and woodworking. Interviewed 'trainees' mimicked the official narrative: "If I wasn't here studying, I don't even want to imagine where I'd be. Maybe I would have followed those religious extremists into a life of crime. The government and party found me in time and saved me."

4. In addition to this media campaign, China is using its network of embassies, government-organised NGOs (GONGOs), and China-led international organisations s6(a)

- In Pakistan, the Chinese Embassy recently publicised a meeting it held with a group of Uyghurs, during which Chinese diplomats explained that, "Xinjiang's anti-terrorism struggle has achieved significant results, and the Xinjiang region is now stable."
- In Kazakhstan, the Xinjiang Cultural Exchange Group recently hosted a forum, with participants including local think tanks, NGOs and overseas Chinese. Officials from Xinjiang briefed participants on the Xinjiang's development, ethnic and anti-terrorism policies, and stability.
- The China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has spoken out in defence of China's policies in Xinjiang. SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov noted that terrorism could not be defined by "nationalities, geographical adherence or religion"; and that China's contributions to the fight against international terrorism were "big and rational".

International reaction: media

5. Despite this, international media remains highly critical of China's policies in Xinjiang, with increasing evidence contradicting China's official narrative. Recent examples include:

- AFP reports that government procurement tenders for the Xinjiang camps include: riot shields and helmets, pepper spray, tear gas, net guns, stun guns, electrified batons, billy clubs, spears, handcuffs and spiked clubs known as "wolf's teeth".
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has used satellite imagery to identify and document the expansion of 28 camps in Xinjiang. Its empirical data demonstrates that since early 2017, the 28 facilities expanded their area by more than 2 million square metres - more than 700,000 square metres over the last three months alone. BBC has also conducted a similar investigation.
- Anthropologist and Xinjiang specialist Darren Byler published research on the government's mobilization of more than a million Chinese citizens to "occupy" the homes of local minorities, living alongside them as "family relatives" to shape their behaviour.

6. New Zealand media is also increasingly covering the issue, with Prime Minister Ardern being asked about Xinjiang at the post-Cabinet press conference on 29 October (transcript here; see also Newsroom article).

International reaction: 'likeminded' governments

7. A number of governments are pushing back s6(a) using public statements, and private diplomatic representations:

- UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told parliament on 30 October that British diplomats who visited Xinjiang had confirmed as "broadly true" reports of mass internment camps for Uyghur Muslims.
- s6(b)
- The EU External Action spokesperson (EEAS) made a statement on 26 October on the situation in Xinjiang. (This has also been reposted by a number of EU member states):

The revision by the Chinese authorities of the "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Regulation on De-extremification" highlights the deteriorating human rights situation in Xinjiang. There are credible reports of mass detentions in political "re-education camps" affecting Uyghurs and other minorities; of mass surveillance; of restrictions on travel; and of Uyghurs abroad allegedly being returned to China involuntarily.

These revisions run counter to the recommendations provided by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which call on China to change its policy in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

In this context, the EU expects China to respect freedom of religion or belief, and freedom of expression, as well as the rights of persons belonging to ethnic or national minorities, as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory.

- The Canadian Embassy in Beijing delivered on 2 November a letter signed by 18 ambassadors requesting a meeting with Xinjiang Party Secretary Chen Quanguo. The signatories were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. s6(b)

8. s6(a), s6(b)

Access to Xinjiang: journalists

9. The Xinjiang authorities continue to restrict access to the region. Journalists from Canada, Netherlands and Finland report being harassed while trying to visit Xinjiang in last few weeks. Police met the journalists at the airport upon arrival, and even flew back to Beijing with several of them afterwards. Upon returning to Beijing, the journalists were called in by MFA – responsible for foreign journalists’ accreditation – for a “cup of tea”, pressing them on what they were doing in Xinjiang. The journalists subsequently noted they had been followed more frequently in Beijing than previously. Journalists who have written about Xinjiang without visiting the region have also received more attention from MFA, and being followed, after publication.

Access to Xinjiang: diplomats

s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

China's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 6 November

16. China's UPR at the Human Rights Council in Geneva tomorrow (6 November) provides a multilateral opportunity for New Zealand to express its concerns on Xinjiang. A number of countries, including New Zealand, are planning to recommend that China implement the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) recommendations on Xinjiang. Ahead of the UPR, 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US) have also submitted Xinjiang-related advance questions to China – complete list attached. For example, the UK asked:

"When will the Government implement the recommendations made by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding Xinjiang Autonomous Uyghur Region, including to: halt the practice of detaining individuals who have not been lawfully charged, tried, and convicted for a criminal offence in any extra-legal detention facilities; immediately release individuals detained under these circumstances; eliminate travel restrictions that disproportionately affect members of ethnic minorities; and provide statistics on the numbers of those held involuntarily in the past 5 years?"

COMMENT

s6(b), s9(2)(g)(i), s6(a)

ENDS

China-New Zealand relationship OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

Human rights, OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang

- New Zealand closely monitors human rights in the region. New Zealand does, and will continue to, raise with China at all levels the importance that we attach to universal human rights standards, and our interest in seeing these upheld.

• OUT OF SCOPE

s9(2)(g)(i) New Zealand recognises China's sovereignty over Xinjiang. We share concerns expressed by the international community regarding the treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang.

- s9(2)(g)(i) New Zealand raises our concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang directly with China in bilateral engagements, including Prime Minister Ardern's meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in April, and at the Human Rights Council, including our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review last year and the letter we co-signed alongside 21 other

countries addressed to the Human Rights Council President and High Commissioner for Human Rights in July.

OUT OF SCOPE

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OUT OF SCOPE

North Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
June 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang

Objective

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

Key Messages

• OUT OF SCOPE

• New Zealand also accepts China's sovereignty over Xinjiang. We share concerns expressed by the international community regarding the treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang, as set out in our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in November last year.

• OUT OF SCOPE

Background

1. OUT OF SCOPE Xinjiang ('autonomous regions' in western China) occupy 30 percent of the country's territory and are rich in natural resources. Both are predominantly non-Han Chinese, with the largest ethnic groups being OUT OF SCOPE Muslim Uighurs ("wee-ger") respectively. Both have seen economic development from China's 'Open Up the West' policies over the last two decades, s6(a)

2. s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

Xinjiang

5. Over the past decade there have been violent incidents involving fatalities, in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China, which the Chinese authorities have traced to 'East Turkistan separatists'. Following the 9-11 attack in New York, the United Nations designated the East Turkistan Islamic Movement as a terrorist organisation. [s6(a)]

6. Since the appointment of Chen Quanguo as Xinjiang Party Secretary in 2016, [s6(a)]

New security and mass surveillance technologies have been adopted, including advanced facial-recognition and harvesting of mobile phone data. In the course of 2018 it became clear that China had established a network of large-scale "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. Up to 1 million people are estimated to have been detained in these camps.

7. China presents its efforts as a success, arguing that there have been no major violent outbreaks reported for almost two years. China's ethnic Han majority (93% of the population) show little objection to government actions targeting Xinjiang's Uighurs.

[s6(a)]

[s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)]

[s6(a)]

9. In August 2018, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination CERD issued a report calling on the Chinese government to release all Uighurs currently being held in 're-education camps' in Xinjiang. Subsequently, China recalibrated its official narrative, describing the re-education camps as 'voluntary vocational education centres' for those affected by extremist ideologies.

10. During China's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council in November 2018, China asserted that the detention camps were effective in stopping violent attacks and were a "constructive attempt for the international community in countering terrorism and eradicating extremism", while balancing human rights considerations.

11. Earlier this year China began inviting selected embassies and media to visit Xinjiang. But international criticism continues unabated, led most recently by Turkey which is the first Muslim country to demand that China respects the human rights of the Uighurs and close the camps. [s6(a), s6(b)]

[s6(a)]

s6(a)

13. With international concern heightening in recent months, and following your meetings with Guangdong Party Secretary Li Xi in September 2018 and Premier Li Keqiang in November 2018 to whom you voiced concerns about the Uighurs, we referred to the Report on China by the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (on Xinjiang) in our statement on China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in November (see separate Human Rights brief). New Zealand is continuing to take further opportunities to raise its concerns including in private bilateral discussions.

New Zealand Embassy, Beijing, March 2019

Released under the Official Information Act

Media lines

Situation in Xinjiang/reports of Uighur detention camps

- New Zealand closely follows human rights issues in our region, and we are aware of concerns about the situation in Xinjiang.
- The New Zealand Government raises human rights issues with the Chinese Government. We explain the importance that New Zealand attaches to human rights standards. Regular discussions also occur at officials' level including on the situation in Xinjiang.
- We have raised concerns about Xinjiang in high-level meetings [e.g. with Politburo Member and Party Secretary of Guangdong Li Xi, and Premier Li Keqiang at the East Asia Summit (in Singapore in November 2018)]_and our statement during China's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in November 2018.

OUT OF SCOPE

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From: NAD
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 12:59 PM
To: GENEVA; BEIJING; NAD; UNHC
Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); DS AAG; DS
MLG; CEO; DCE; NEW YORK; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; TOKYO; AUS; OTTAWA;
FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.P/S Trade (Seemail); FM.NAB (Seemail)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: s6(a)
XINJIANG LETTER

Security Classification:

Summary

s6(a)

Action

s6(a)

Report

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)

Released under the Official Information Act

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s6(a), s6(b)

ENDS

From: GENEVA

Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 1:54 a.m.

To: BEIJING; GENEVA; NAD; UNHC

Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; CEO; DCE; NEW YORK; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; TOKYO; AUS; OTTAWA; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.P/S Trade (Seemail); FM.NAB (Seemail)

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: s6(a)

XINJIANG LETTER

Summary

s6(a), s6(b)

Action

For information

Report

We sought an update today from colleagues in Geneva on publication of the two letters to the Human Rights Council (HRC) on the human rights situation in Xinjiang s6(a), s6(b)

2 Both letters - the first expressing concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang (co-signed by New Zealand and 21 countries) and the subsequent letter supporting China's approach in Xinjiang (co-signed by 37 countries) - s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a), s6(b)

From: BEIJING

Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:27 p.m.

To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC

Cc: ...CHINA POSTS; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; CEO; DCE; NEW YORK; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; TOKYO; AUS; OTTAWA; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.P/S Trade (Seemail); FM.NAB (Seemail)

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: s6(a)

XINJIANG LETTER

OUT OF SCOPE

Summary

s6(a)

s6(a)

The remainder of this email thread is out of scope

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From: BEIJING

Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 8:04 p.m.

To: BEIJING; GENEVA; NAD; UNHC

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

Summary

- The Xinjiang letter is being described by the Chinese Foreign Ministry (MOFA) and the (English language) state media as a case of “Western” bias against China focused on Xinjiang.
- Its Spokesperson characterised the letter as interference in China’s internal affairs. Signatory countries (not named publicly by the Spokesperson) were biased against China, ignored its threats from terrorism, and politicised human rights. China opposed this and had made “stern representations” to the countries involved.
- Editorials and articles in Xinhua and the English language newspapers have also dwelt on the bias of “those Westerners” who lacked empathy for China and heeded “one-sided” “Western” news reports.
- Not all the news items have named the signatory countries. The Chinese language state media has so far not published articles on the letter.
- The harder-line state tabloid *Global Times* quotes an academic on the “gun rampage in New Zealand” as an example of “some developed countries ... instead of focusing on solving their own problems, [they] criticise China’s policies in Xinjiang”.

Report

MOFA

1.China publicly responded to the Xinjiang letter thorough the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson yesterday, 11 July. In moderately strong language the Spokesperson focused his response on interference in China’s internal affairs (using the term “foreign interference”) and criticised the signatory countries for showing bias against China, ignoring its threats from terrorism and politicising human rights. Interestingly, the response did not name the “certain countries that wantonly ... smeared China”. s6(a)

2.The relevant extract from the transcript of the MOFA Spokesperson follows:

Question: Yesterday 22 countries wrote a letter to the UN Human Rights Council criticizing China's Xinjiang policy. President Caputova of Slovakia criticized China's human rights record after a meeting with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. British Foreign Secretary Hunt in a forum expressed concerns over the "deteriorating" human rights situation in China. How do you respond to those remarks?

Answer: In this letter, certain countries wantonly criticized and smeared China in total disregard of the truth. By blatantly politicizing the issue of human rights, they have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs. We deplore and resolutely oppose that. We have made stern representations to those countries. We urge them to respect facts, reject bias, stay committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and stop politicizing the issue of human rights and interfering in China's internal affairs under the pretext of Xinjiang-related issues.

As we repeatedly emphasized, Xinjiang affairs are China's internal affairs. They are a matter of China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. On Xinjiang-related issues, no one is in a better position to judge than the Chinese government and people. They brook no foreign interference. Faced with severe threats of terrorism and extremism, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has taken a series of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures according to law, including the establishment of vocational education and training centers. Those measures have turned the situation around. In the past more than two years, not a single violent and terrorist incident took place in Xinjiang. The region now enjoys social stability and unity among all ethnic groups. People there are living a happy life with a stronger sense of fulfillment and security. They endorse the government's policies and measures wholeheartedly.

We also invited many groups of foreign diplomats, journalists, experts and scholars to visit Xinjiang and see with their own eyes the place as it is. All of them said the Xinjiang they saw was completely different from what had been described by Western media. We also offered invitation to the UN High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights. We welcome those with a truly objective and fair attitude to visit Xinjiang. But at the same time, we oppose any foreign forces that interfere in China's internal affairs and undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the pretext of Xinjiang-related issues.

Now on the Slovak president's tweets, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has just paid a visit to Slovakia. He and Slovak leaders had candid and in-depth exchange of views on issues of mutual concern, including China-Slovakia bilateral relations. You can find more details in our press release.

President Caputova commended China's major progress in development. She said that Slovakia attaches high importance to its relationship with China. She emphasized that Slovakia respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will stay committed to the one-China principle. Taking the 70th anniversary of

diplomatic ties as an opportunity, both sides agreed to enhance mutual political trust, communication and cooperation for a sound and stable bilateral relationship on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

State Councilor Wang Yi talked about China's human rights, ethnic minorities and religious policies. He shared China's enormous achievements in these areas as well as relevant facts. The two sides agreed to conduct equal-footed and constructive dialogue on the basis of mutual respect. The visit has realized its intended purpose of carrying forward friendship, reconstructing mutual trust and promoting cooperation.

On the statement by the British Foreign Secretary, frankly speaking, I have not seen Mr. Hunt's remarks. But I have noted that currently in the UK, competition for the Conservative Party leadership is ongoing. Many are working on their campaigns with an eye on the Conservative leadership and then perhaps the new Prime Minister. This is Britain's domestic affairs. But I hope certain people in the UK, including Mr. Hunt, will refrain from making China an issue in their campaigns to win voters. Such calculations will be in vain.

State media

3.State media (English language) carried two editorials today on the letter. *China Daily's* editorial - "*West viewing Xinjiang through prism of bias*" - referred to "those Westerners" who believed the "one-sided" reports on Xinjiang of "Western" journalists or pro-independence Uygurs. The editorial criticised the lack of empathy, and "a double standard", of the ambassadors of the 22 countries (without naming the countries) and UN human rights officials for the Chinese aspiration of a terrorism-free Xinjiang.

4.The harder-line state tabloid *Global Times* took a similar line about bias. Its editorial today - "*22 nations biased on governance of Xinjiang*" - named the "eighteen European countries, plus Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand" who signed the letter. In addition a front-page article quoted an academic on the "gun rampage in New Zealand" as an example of "some developed countries ... instead of focusing on solving their own problems, [they] criticise China's policies in Xinjiang".

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

6.The news items mentioned above are available in the attached document.

[ENDS]

<u>China refutes joint letter criticizing Xinjiang policies</u>	Xinhua, July 11	Extract: The letter, addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, disregards the facts, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang told a press briefing. The Chinese side has lodged solemn representations with the countries, Geng said, urging the relevant countries to respect the facts, abandon prejudice, abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and stop politicizing human rights issues and using the issue of Xinjiang to interfere in China's internal affairs.	Signatory countries not mentioned
<u>Letter about human rights in Xinjiang called groundless effort to smear China</u>	China Daily, July 12	Extract: A letter issued by 22 countries criticizing human rights conditions in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region ignores the truth and makes groundless accusations and attempts to smear China, Beijing said on Thursday.	"The countries, including Britain, France and Germany" NZ not mentioned
<u>West viewing Xinjiang through prism of bias: China Daily editorial</u>	China Daily, July 12 Editorial	Extract: It seems as if what those Westerners, who always point accusing fingers at China for what it has done and is doing in Xinjiang, want to see this region being plagued by terrorist attacks. It seems as if they consider a Xinjiang plagued by violence as the one respecting human rights and a peaceful Xinjiang the one lacking any respect for human rights. They need to develop their empathy with China by putting themselves in Chinese people's shoes. If their sympathy always goes to those willing to take innocent people's lives, we have more than enough reason to tell them that their sympathy is misplaced.	Signatory countries not mentioned
<u>Double standards hinder counter-terrorism work</u>	Global Times, July 12	Extract: China issued on Thursday a stern response to countries which signed a joint letter to the UN criticizing China's policies in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with observers saying their criticism is based on groundless guesswork and double standards on human rights issues would hinder the global counter-terrorism work.	"The 22 countries include 18 European countries, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand."
<u>22 nations biased on governance of Xinjiang Global Times editorial</u>	Global Times, July 12 Editorial	Extract: The West cannot represent the world. The West should do some self-examination for being exclusive and setting themselves against vast number of developing countries. Chinese people know how to best govern Xinjiang. Improving Xinjiang's conditions concerns all Chinese people, including residents of Xinjiang, and only Chinese people will spare no effort to do it. We will listen to Western countries' advice. But these countries are making themselves unwelcome if they act as China's teacher and force China to do	"Eighteen European countries, plus Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand sent an open letter on Wednesday to the UNHCR"

		things.	
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From: GENEVA
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 4:53 AM
To: BEIJING; GENEVA; NAD; UNHC
Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(a) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-xinjiang-rights-exclusive/exclusive-western-countries-rebuke-china-at-u-n-for-detention-of-uighurs-idUSKCN1U51E1>. Although the initial article from Reuters does not refer specifically to New Zealand, a later press release by Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/07/10/un-unprecedented-joint-call-china-end-xinjiang-abuses> names all 22 countries who signed the letter. The Reuters article has been picked up by the BBC and (together with the HRW press release) is being actively retweeted by human rights groups.

s6(b)

From: BEIJING
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 11:18 a.m.
To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC
Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

SUMMARY

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

s6(b)

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

ENDS

From: GENEVA
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 1:10 a.m.
To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC
Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK
Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(b)

ENDS

From: GENEVA
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 6:43 p.m.
To: NAD; GENEVA; UNHC
Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

Thanks your confirmation that New Zealand should sign up to the letter to the President of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on the human rights situation in Xinjiang. s6(a), s6(b)

2 Attached for your information is a copy of the signed letter, which was delivered to the President of the Human Rights Council this afternoon. The letter was signed by the Permanent Representatives of 22 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, Austria, Ireland and Spain. s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)

5 We will send through any updates/feedback from the Chinese mission in Geneva s6(a), s6(b)

ENDS

From: NAD

Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 2:48 a.m.

To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

Thank you for your update.

s6(a), s6(b)

s6(a)

From: GENEVA

Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 4:53 AM

To: NAD; GENEVA; UNHC

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

i(a), s6(b)

ENDS

From: NAD

Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 8:32 a.m.

To: GENEVA; UNHC; NAD

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(b)

From: GENEVA

Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 6:50 AM

To: UNHC; GENEVA; NAD

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

6(b)

s6(a), s6(b)

ENDS

From: UNHC

Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 7:18 a.m.

To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; BEIJING; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(b)

s6(b)

s6(a), s6(b)

ENDS

From: GENEVA
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 5:26 AM
To: NAD; GENEVA; UNHC
Cc: CEO; CANBERRA; BEIJING; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(b)

From: NAD
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 7:00 a.m.
To: GENEVA; NAD; UNHC
Cc: CEO; CANBERRA; BEIJING; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(a)

From: GENEVA
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 5:13 AM
To: NAD; UNHC; GENEVA
Cc: CEO; CANBERRA; BEIJING; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

s6(b)

s6(b)

From: NAD

Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 7:04 a.m.

To: GENEVA; UNHC

Cc: NAD; CEO; CANBERRA; BEIJING; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

Thank you for your update on the proposed letter to the President of the Human Rights Council on Xinjiang.

s6(a), s6(b)

From: GENEVA

Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 6:56 AM

To: UNHC

Cc: NAD; CEO; CANBERRA; BEIJING; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; GENEVA; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: PROPOSED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON XINJIANG

Summary

s6(a), s6(b)

Action

Grateful advice whether New Zealand can sign up to the proposed letter in time for its planned delivery on 8 July.

Report

s6(a), s6(b)

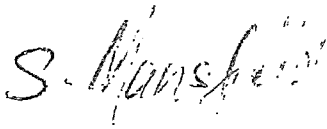
s6(a)

To the President of the Human Rights Council,

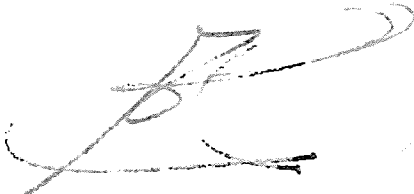
We, the undersigned, have the honour to transmit herewith a joint letter on behalf of the undersigned states.

We would be highly appreciative if you could kindly circulate the present letter and the annex thereto and record them as a document of the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council, to be published on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Signed



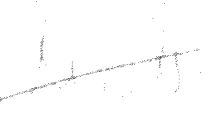
Ms Sally Mansfield
Permanent Representative
of Australia



HE Mr Geert Muylle
Permanent Representative
of Belgium

HE Ms Rosemary
McCarney
Permanent Representative
of Canada

HE Mr Morten Jespersen
Permanent Representative
of Denmark




HE Mr Andre Pung
Permanent Representative
of Estonia

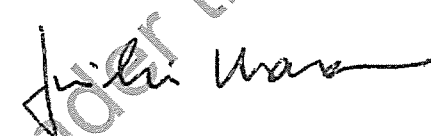
HE Ms Terhi Hakala
Permanent Representative
of Finland

HE Mr François Rivasseau
Permanent Representative
of France

HE Mr Michael Freiherr
von Ungern-Sternberg
Permanent Representative
of Germany




HE Mr Harald Aspelund
Permanent Representative
of Iceland



HE Mr Junichi Ihara
Permanent Representative
of Japan

HE Mr Janis Karklins
Permanent Representative
of Latvia

HE Mr Andrius Krivas
Permanent Representative
of Lithuania



HE Mr Pierre-Louis
Lorenz
Permanent Representative
of Luxembourg

HE Ms Monique Van
Daalen
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands




HE Ms Jillian Dempster
Permanent Representative
of New Zealand

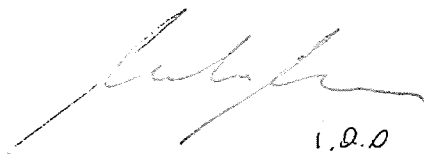
HE Mr Hans Brattskar
Permanent Representative
of Norway

HE Ms Veronika Bard
Permanent Representative
of Sweden

HE Mr Valentin Zellweger
Permanent Representative
of Switzerland



HE Mr Julian Braithwaite
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern
Ireland

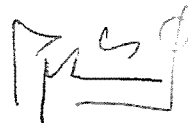


i.o.o
HE Ms Elisabeth Tichy-
Fissleberger
Permanent Representative
of Austria



HE Mr. Michael Gaffey
Permanent Representative
of Ireland

P.D



HE Mr. Cristobal
Gonzalez-Aller-Jurado
Permanent Representative
of Spain

Released under the Official Information Act

Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner,

We, the co-signatories to this letter, are concerned about credible reports of arbitrary detention in large-scale places of detention, as well as widespread surveillance and restrictions, particularly targeting Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, China.

We recall China's obligations as a member of the UN Human Rights Council to "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and fully cooperate with the Council."

We recall the 2018 concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in its review of China, which expressed concern about disturbing reports of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities. We also share concerns expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and by several UN Special Procedures mandate holders in this regard.

We call on China to uphold its national laws and international obligations and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief, in Xinjiang and across China. We call also on China to refrain from the arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang.

We welcome China's acceptance of a Universal Periodic Review recommendation to respond positively to a country visit request by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and urge China to allow meaningful access to Xinjiang for independent international observers, including for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We further call on China to implement the related recommendations in the concluding observations of CERD. We ask the High Commissioner for Human Rights to keep the Human Rights Council regularly informed.

We request that this letter be recorded as a document of the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council and that it be published on the OHCHR website.

From: NAD

Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 2:25 p.m.

To: BEIJING; GENEVA; NAD; UNHC; AMER

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); DS AAG; DS MLG; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail); AUS; TOKYO; CEO; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; NEW YORK

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: XINJIANG

Summary

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

Report

OUT OF SCOPE

OUT OF SCOPE

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

(ENDS)

Released under the Official Information Act

From: GEELS, Deborah (NAD)
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 7:01 p.m.
To: s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: MEDIA; KING, Ben (DS AAG); HEWSON, Brian (NAD); GOULD, Jacinta (NAD); EDLSON, Madison (NAD)
Subject: TPs for Xinjiang statement New Zealand signed

Hi both

The Xinjiang letter (attached) we signed is getting a bit of coverage in global media, including The Guardian, New York Times and CNN

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/11/more-than-20-ambassadors-condemn-chinas-treatment-of-uyghurs-in-xinjiang>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/10/world/asia/china-xinjiang-rights.html>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/11/asia/xinjiang-uyghur-un-letter-intl-hnk/index.html>

Here are some reactionary TPs for the PM in case of media enquiries:

[If asked] about the letter New Zealand co-signed last week alongside 21 other countries expressing our concerns about the situation in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The letter was addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council and High Commissioner for Human Rights based in Geneva.

- We remain concerned about reports that the situation on the ground in Xinjiang remains unchanged. s9(2)(g)(i)
- New Zealand strongly supports UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council. We have spoken previously about our concerns regarding the situation in Xinjiang in the Human Rights Council during China's Universal Periodic Review process last November.
- We will continue to raise our concerns directly with China. I raised New Zealand's concerns about the situation in Xinjiang with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang during my visit to China in April.
- As we have discussed on many occasions, our relationship is mature enough that we can manage differences constructively and in a mutually respectful manner.

Deborah Geels

Divisional Manager
North Asia Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

E deborah.geels@mfat.govt.nz

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz

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