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Country : France
Committee : United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
Topic : Addressing the mass detention of Uighur Muslims in China
School : British International School Of Houston

I. Topic Background

Since April 2017, the Chinese government has detained more than 1 million Uighur Muslims into what they have called re-education camps. The Uighurs are a Turkic-speaking group located in Central Asia, and about 12 million live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. China has also been accused of banning religious practices in the region, targeting Muslim religious figures, and destroying both mosques and tombs. Reports of systematic rape inside the camps have been given by various sources as well.

II. Country Policy

France is a semi-presidential, constitutional republic, and, with a population of over 67 million people, it's among the most important nations in the Western world both historically and culturally. The country is bordered with the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, the Alps, and the Pyrenees, making it a geographic, economic, and linguistic bridge between Northern and Southern Europe. France is Europe's largest agricultural producer and one of the world's most powerful industrial nations of the world. The French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has denounced what he called 'institutionalized repression' of the Uighur minority in China. Furthermore, Le Drian has said that documents as well as witness accounts from Xinjiang showed 'unjustifiable practices towards Uighurs, and a system of large-scale surveillance and institutionalized repression'. These so-called 're-education' camps are extensive breaches of human rights, contravening with 14 of the 30 human rights in the United Nations Universal Declaration Of Human Rights. However, the problem extends beyond these camps. In March 2021, the United Nations sent 16 experts on human rights to China to investigate the matter. These experts found that, according to their sources, Uighur workers are subject to abusive living conditions and exploitative working. Furthermore, many of these workers had been forcibly transferred to work in factories, being forcibly employed

in low-skilled and labor-intensive industries, including textile and garment, automotive, and agribusiness sectors. The experts received information connecting more than 150 Chinese and foreign domiciled companies to such allegations of human rights.

III. Proposed Solutions

The French delegation proposes the following solutions to address the challenges: Firstly, the United Nations should be allowed to send human rights experts to these detention camps in Xinjiang to assess their condition. Several UN Committees have requested access to the detention camps in the Xinjiang region to evaluate their accordance to their respective fields. A general UN mission could assess the condition of the camps, making sure that any allegations against them are either disproved or rectified. Secondly, the reason for Uighur unrest should be found and resolved. Chinese officials claim that these camps are made because of separatist and terrorism activities in the Xinjiang region. Therefore, the delegation of France proposes that efforts should be made to find out the causes of the unrest and from there create solutions which meet both China's needs as well as the United Nations'. Finally, the French delegation proposes that China becomes more transparent. Most of the details about the detention camps in Xinjiang and the forced labor of Uighurs are kept from people. If China becomes more transparent, it would be easier for the United Nations to create resolutions to this problem as well as any future problem which arises.

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