

Debate Pack

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By John Curtis,
Nigel Walker

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The Beijing Winter Olympics and Chinese Government Sanctions

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Background

A debate on a Motion relating to the Beijing Winter Olympics and Chinese Government Sanctions is scheduled to take place on Thursday 15 July 2021 in the House of Commons Chamber.

This debate was selected by the Backbench Business Committee and will be led by Tim Loughton MP.

Awarding of the Games

In July 2015, Beijing was [chosen by](#) the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, becoming the first city to be awarded both the summer and winter Games. Beijing was chosen over the city of Almaty in Kazakhstan.

At the time the human rights NGO, Human Rights Watch, [described](#) the IOC's awarding of the Games to China as a "slap in the face to China's besieged human rights activists".

In June 2015, the IOC's [Report of the 2022 Evaluation Commission](#) looked at both Almaty's and Beijing's bids. The report stated that China's government had provided written assurances on certain human rights elements as part of their bid:

Written assurances were provided regarding the following matters: human rights, the right to demonstrate, media freedom to report on the Games with no restrictions on the Internet, labour rights, displacement and environmental protection. Taking these into consideration, as well as the open nature of the discussions with Beijing 2022 and government authorities and China's experience from organising the 2008 Olympic Games and the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, the Commission is confident that the Government of China would take all necessary measures to ensure the Olympic Charter and Host City Contract would be respected.¹

UK Government criticism of China's human rights record

China remains a human rights '[priority country](#)' for the UK. The Government has repeatedly expressed its "[serious concerns about deepening crackdown by the Government of China on religious and ethnic minorities](#)". In the Foreign Office's [Human Rights and Democracy report 2018](#), the Government said:

There were credible reports (in 2018) of more than one million Uyghur Muslims and members of other ethnic minority groups being held in

¹ IOC, '[Report of the 2022 Evaluation Commission](#)', 1 June 2015, Page 72.

extrajudicial ‘political re-education’ camps, of widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at minorities, and of families detained and children forcibly adopted.²

The UK representative to the UN delivered a [joint statement on behalf of 23 countries](#) on Xinjiang at the Third Committee Dialogue of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in October 2019. The statement said they shared the concerns raised by the Committee in its August 2018 report and called on the Chinese Government to implement the Committee’s eight recommendations, including halting arbitrary detentions. The 23 countries also called on China to allow the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Procedures immediate unfettered, meaningful access to Xinjiang.

At the end of June 2020, The UK joined with 26 other countries in [issuing a statement](#) at the UN Human Rights Council expressing deep concern about the situation in Xinjiang Province. The UK reiterated calls for UN investigators to be allowed access to the region.

House of Commons passes resolution on human rights in Xinjiang

On 22 April 2021, during a debate in the House of Commons on ‘[Human Rights: Xinjiang](#)’, the House [approved](#) the following motion from Nusrat Ghani MP:

That this House believes that Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are suffering Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide; and calls on the Government to act to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide and all relevant instruments of international law to bring it to an end.

The motion is not binding on the Government.

The Chinese embassy in the UK [condemned](#) the passing of the motion, calling on the Government to take concrete steps to respect China's core interests and "immediately right its wrong moves". In a statement it said:

The unwarranted accusation by a handful of British MPs that there is 'genocide' in Xinjiang is the most preposterous lie of the century, an outrageous insult and affront to the Chinese people, and a gross breach of international law and the basic norms governing international relations.³

² Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights & Democracy](#), June 2019, Page 41.

³ [‘UK parliament declares genocide in China’s Xinjiang: Beijing condemns move’](#), Reuters, 22 April 2021.

Calls for boycott of Beijing Games

In September 2020 over 160 human rights advocacy groups delivered a joint letter to the IOC, calling for it to reconsider its choice to award Beijing the 2022 Games in light of China's human rights record. The letter argued that the prestige of the Beijing 2008 Olympics emboldened the Chinese Government to take further actions, including programmes targeting Xinjiang Uighurs and other ethnic policies.

Asked to respond to the letter, the IOC [said through a spokesperson](#) that they remain neutral on global political issues, and that awarding the Olympic Games to a national committee “does not mean that the IOC agrees with the political structure, social circumstances or human rights standards in its country”.

The IOC said it had raised human rights and other issues with China's Government and local authorities, and they had “received assurances that the principles of the Olympic Charter will be respected in the context of the Games”.

UK Government and opposition positions on boycott

In April 2021, the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams MP, at the end of a House of Commons [debate on 'Human Rights in Xinjiang'](#), responded to questions about a potential boycott of the Games, saying:

The Prime Minister has made it clear that we are not normally in favour of sporting boycotts, and of course the participation of the national team at the Olympics is a matter for the British Olympic Association, which is required to operate independently of the Government under International Olympic Committee regulations.⁴

On 6 July, Shadow Foreign Secretary, Lisa Nandy MP, and Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Jo Stevens MP, [called on the Government](#) to “demand that the Chinese Government end the persecution of the Uyghur and allow the UN access to Xinjiang province by 8th August – six months before the start of the Games”. If the Chinese Government did not meet that demand, then the Labour frontbenchers said the Government should not send any officials to the games.

On 7 July a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [spokesperson](#) [said](#) “no decisions have been made”, about sending officials to the Games.

[Asked](#) at Prime Ministers Questions on 7 July 2021, by Tim Loughton MP, whether he would support a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Games, Mr Johnson [responded](#)

⁴ [HC Deb 22 April 2021 \[Human Rights: Xinjiang\]](#).

This country has led the world in condemning human rights abuses in Xinjiang, in putting sanctions on those responsible and in holding companies to account that import goods made with forced labour in Xinjiang. I will certainly consider the proposals debated, but I must say that I am instinctively, and always have been, against sporting boycotts.⁵

Foreign Affairs Select Committee report

Winter Olympics

On 29 June 2021, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee released a report '[Never Again: The UK's Responsibility to Act on Atrocities in Xinjiang and Beyond](#)'.

The Committee, said that if the British Olympic Association (BOA) and competing teams decide not to boycott the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, then the “Government should not attend and should urge others not to do so”, and they “should abstain from sending government officials to any ceremonies or functions”.⁶

It suggested the BOA does not participate in the opening or closing ceremonies, beyond one representative carrying the Union Flag. The Committee also called for UK businesses to not sponsor or advertise at the Olympics, for the Government to encourage fans and tourists to stay away, and to discourage “athletes from supporting or accepting the Chinese government’s propaganda efforts while in-country”.⁷

Calls for representatives of national governments to not attend the Games are often called a “diplomatic boycott”.

Sanctions

The Committee “welcomed” the sanctions the Government imposed in March 2021 on individuals it said were responsible for the atrocities in Xinjiang. The Committee noted, however, that other countries have “gone further” with their sanctions, for example through placing sanctions on Communist Party Secretary of the XUAR Chen Quanguo, who is “widely regarded as the ‘architect’ of the atrocities”.⁸

It also said that for sanctions to be effective, they must be used “in full coordination with allies and against those with whom ultimate responsibility for the Xinjiang atrocities lies”. They further recommended that the Government “intensify efforts to coordinate sanctions with allies to

⁵ [HC Deb 7 July 2021 \[Engagements\]](#).

⁶ House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, [HC 198](#), 8 July 2021, Paras 26-27.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, [HC 198](#), 8 July 2021, Para 28.

consistently sanction senior individuals and entities with the most responsibility for or connection to abuses in Xinjiang”.⁹

US and EU policies

In April 2021, it appeared that President Biden’s administration might be consider a diplomatic boycott of the games, when US state department spokesperson, Ned Price said a boycott was one option “on the agenda” as the Biden administration discussed its approach to China and the Beijing Olympics with allies. Asked at a press briefing if the US was discussing a joint boycott, [Price said](#): “It is something that we certainly wish to discuss . . . A coordinated approach will be not only in our interest, but also in the interest of our allies and partners.”

Later that day, however, a state department official [disputed](#) that Price had said the US had discussed a boycott. “We have not discussed and are not discussing any joint boycott with allies and partners,” the official said.

In May 2018, US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, [advocated](#) a diplomatic boycott of the Games. Giving evidence to a bipartisan congressional hearing on the issue, she said:

For heads of state to go to China in light of a genocide that is ongoing - while you're sitting there in your seat - really begs the question, what moral authority do you have to speak again about human rights any place in the world?¹⁰

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, [told a regular news briefing](#) in Beijing that Pelosi's remarks were "full of lies and false information," and the United States was afraid visiting countries would see China's "vigorous development of human rights".

On 8 July 2021, the European Parliament [passed a non-binding resolution](#) calling for a diplomatic boycott of the Games by the EU, unless China improved its human rights records. The resolution called on EU member states and institutions:

To decline invitations for government representatives and diplomats to attend the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unless the Chinese Government demonstrates a verifiable improvement in the human rights situation in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Region, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and elsewhere in China.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ [‘Pelosi calls for U.S. and world leaders to boycott China's 2022 Olympics’](#), Reuters, 18 May 2021.

Chinese government response

In September 2020, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, was asked in a press conference about the push for the IOC to reconsider Beijing's hosting of the 2022 Games because of "increasing concerns over China's human rights record". Mr Wang [responded](#):

I don't believe the so-called "increasing concerns over China's human rights record" is an objective statement. The fact is that the majority of countries and people in the world recognize the fact that China's human rights conditions are constantly improving and China has achieved notable progress in its human rights cause. At a recent UN Human Rights Council session, most countries voiced approval and support for China's position on issues relating to Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

By linking the so-called human rights issue with the Beijing Winter Olympics in an attempt to pressure China, certain organizations have made the mistake of politicizing sports events. Such behaviour goes against the spirit of the Olympic Charter and disrupts and jeopardizes the progress of the global human rights cause.¹¹

UK Government sanctions on China relating to Xinjiang

On 22 March 2021 the UK Government [announced](#) it was placing sanctions on four Chinese officials and an official body, it labelled as "perpetrators of gross human rights violations taking place against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang". These sanctions were announced in concert with the EU, Canada and the US.

Announcing the sanctions the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, [told the House of Commons](#) "this is one of the worst human rights crises of our time and I believe the evidence is clear, as it is sobering". Mr Raab went on to say

I'm sure the whole House will join with me in condemning such appalling violations of the most basic human rights. In terms of scale, it is the largest mass detention of an ethnic or religious group since the Second World War.

On 26 March China announced it was imposing its own sanctions in response on nine UK citizens, including five MPs and two peers.

The [BBC quoted](#) a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman as saying the UK's decision to impose sanctions "flagrantly breaches international law and basic norms governing international relations, grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, and severely undermines China-UK relations". The spokesman added that the Chinese foreign ministry had summoned the British Ambassador to

¹¹ PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, '[Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's Regular Press Conference on September 22, 2020](#)', accessed 12 July 2021.

China to "lodge solemn representations, expressing firm opposition and strong condemnation".

The BBC also reported that a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, later told a press briefing China was forced to act "in self-defence" in response to UK sanctions "based on lies".

UK Government controls on import of goods from Xinjiang

In January 2021, the Foreign Secretary [announced](#) a series of measures intended to prevent UK businesses from being part of supply chains which include Uighur forced labour. These measures were:

- Guidance on the specific risks faced by businesses with links to Xinjiang, and the unique challenge of conducting due diligence there.
- The introduction of fines for businesses who do not comply with the transparency elements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA).
- Extending the MSA's transparency requirements to the public sector, so that Government bodies exclude suppliers where there is "sufficient evidence" of human rights violations in their supply chains.
- An urgent review of export controls as they apply specifically to Xinjiang, to "prevent the export of any goods that could contribute directly or indirectly to human rights violations in that region".

The review on export controls has yet to be published.

The Foreign Affairs Committee recommended a series of measures on preventing products made by forced labour in Xinjiang from entering the UK, some of the principal ones were:

- the Government should explore the possibility of "banning the import of all cotton products known to be produced in whole or in part in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, in line with WTO rules".
- the Government introduce new legislation that will "create a legal requirement for businesses and public sector bodies to take concrete measures to prevent and remove the use of forced labour in their value chains".
- the Government review the £36m threshold for businesses to be required to produce Modern Slavery Statements, with a view to reducing it.¹²

¹² House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, [HC 198](#), 8 July 2021, Page 28.

UK Government action over Hong Kong

In June 2020 China [passed a national security law for Hong Kong](#), that made it easier to punish protesters and curb free speech, and reduced the territory's autonomy.

The UK Government [responded with](#) three main actions. Firstly, in July 2020, it suspended the UK's extradition treaty with Hong Kong.

Secondly, at the same time, it extended the [embargo on certain military items](#) already imposed on mainland China (in response to the 1989 Tiananmen Square repression), to Hong Kong. It had already in June 2019 [restricted the sale](#) of crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

Thirdly, it announced it would open a new visa route to people from Hong Kong who have British National (Overseas) – 'BN(O)' – status and their close family members. The [Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) visa](#) launched on 31 January 2021.

In November 2020 the Government said [it would consider](#) imposing "[Magnitsky-style sanctions](#)" on Chinese officials in response to the announcement that 12 pro-democracy candidates were being barred from standing in legislative elections.

In April 2021, a cross-party group of over a 100 MPs and peers [wrote to the Prime Minister](#), asking him to impose sanctions on Chinese officials "responsible for the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong". The cross-party group included shadow foreign secretary Lisa Nandy and former governor of Hong Kong Lord Patten.

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Press articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[First The European Parliament, Now The British Parliament To Vote To Boycott Winter Olympics 2022](#)

Forbes

Dr. Ewelina U. Ochab

10 July 2021

[China slams calls by UK MPs to boycott Winter Olympics](#)

Independent

Ahmed Aboudouh

9 July 2021

[U.K. Lawmakers Seek China Winter Olympics Boycott After Pelosi Rallying Call](#)

Newsweek

John Feng

8 July 2021

[UK should push companies to boycott Beijing Olympics over labor abuses, MPs say](#)

Politico

Graham Lanktree

8 July 2021

[Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics: UK government and royals should boycott games over Uighur 'genocide', says Labour](#)

Sky News

Sophie Morris and Siba Jackson

7 July 2021

[Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of genocide?](#)

BBC News Online

21 June 2021

[China's Uyghurs living in a 'dystopian hellscape', says Amnesty report](#)

The Guardian

Sarah Johnson

10 June 2021

[**China slams U.S. call for diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics**](#)

Xinhua
19 May 2021

[**Pelosi calls for U.S. and world leaders to boycott China's 2022 Olympics**](#)

Reuters
David Brunnstrom and Michael Martina
18 May 2021

[**US broaches boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics**](#)

Financial Times
Demetri Sevastopulo and Sara Germano
7 April 2021

[**Boris Johnson talks tough on China following sanctions against UK MPs**](#)

Politico
Stuart Lau
27 March 2021

[**China imposes sanctions on UK MPs, lawyers and academic in Xinjiang row**](#)

The Guardian
Patrick Wintour
26 March 2021

[**Uighurs: China bans UK MPs after abuse sanctions**](#)

BBC News Online
26 March 2021

[**There Are Mounting Calls for a Boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. Will It Be Effective?**](#)

Time
Charlie Campbell
9 March 2021

[**China: Calls for 2022 Winter Olympics boycott doomed to fail**](#)

AP News
3 March 2021

[**Rights groups target sponsors like Airbnb for Beijing Games**](#)

AP News
Stephen Wade
26 February 2021

[Canada's Trudeau, Cabinet abstain from China genocide vote](#)

AP News
Rob Gillies
22 February 2021

[Xinjiang a 'shining example' of China's human rights progress: minister](#)

France 24
22 February 2021

[The UK cannot attend the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in good conscience](#)

The Times
Hassan Joudi
16 February 2021

[At the 11th hour, Trump administration declares China's treatment of Muslims in Xinjiang 'genocide'](#)

Washington Post
John Hudson
19 January 2021

[China Calls Xinjiang Human Rights Violations Claims 'Lie of the Century'](#)

Newsweek
John Feng
29 December 2020

[Raab says UK boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics possible over Uighur abuses](#)

The Guardian
Patrick Wintour
6 October 2020

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Press releases

[UN Human Rights Council 47: Joint statement on the human rights situation in Xinjiang](#)

**UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organisations
(Geneva)**

22 June 2021

This cross-regional joint statement on behalf of more than 40 countries was delivered by Leslie E. Norton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva:

Madame High Commissioner, I have the honour of delivering this cross-regional joint statement on behalf of more than 40 countries.

We are gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang and that there is widespread surveillance disproportionately targeting Uyghurs and members of other minorities and restrictions on fundamental freedoms and Uyghur culture. There are also reports of torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, forced sterilization, sexual and gender-based violence, and forced separation of children from their parents by authorities.

We also share the concerns expressed by UN Special Procedures in their March 29 statement on alleged detention, forced labour and transfers of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities and in a letter published by UN experts describing collective repression of religious and ethnic minorities.

We urge China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers, including the High Commissioner, and to urgently implement the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's 8 recommendations related to Xinjiang, including by ending the arbitrary detention of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities.

Finally, we continue to be deeply concerned about the deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong under the National Security Law and about the human rights situation in Tibet. We call on Chinese authorities to abide by their human rights obligations.

Thank you.

List of countries: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco,

Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United States

Wang Yi Speaks with British First Secretary of State and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on the Phone

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
28 May 2021**

On May 27, 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone conversation with British First Secretary of State and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at the latter's request.

Wang Yi said, President Xi Jinping had phone conversation with Prime Minister Boris Johnson twice last year, charting a course for the development of the two countries' relations. China-UK relations have a deep foundation and strong driving force. China has always attached importance to the international status and role of Britain and is willing to be a partner of a "Global Britain". In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, the trade between China and the UK still bucked the trend to grow upward last year. What's more, China became the UK's biggest single import market in the first quarter of this year, fully demonstrating the resilience and potential of China-UK relations. As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and the UK should fulfill the international responsibilities, step up communication and coordination, work together to tackle global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, maintain world peace and stability, and promote global economic recovery and sustainable development.

Noting that it is an objective reality that there are differences between China and the UK due to their different historical and cultural backgrounds, different stages of development and different perspectives on issues, Wang Yi pointed out, what is important is that the two sides should conduct equal dialogue in the spirit of mutual respect, so as to enhance understanding, dispel doubts, clarify facts and distinguish right from wrong. Microphone diplomacy is not advisable, and "group politics" in particular does not meet the requirements of the times.

Wang Yi also elaborated on China's principled position on issues related to Hong Kong and Xinjiang, stressing that the "one country, two systems" policy is China's basic state policy, which China will unswervingly and consistently adhere to. Everything done by China in Hong Kong is to ensure the stability and long-term outcomes of the "one country, two systems" policy. The efforts to improve the electoral system of Hong Kong SAR is gaining wide support from all walks of the Hong Kong society. Xinjiang-related issues are in essence about combating violent terrorism, separatism and radicalization.

While the Chinese side welcomes foreign visitors to Xinjiang to learn about the real situation, it does not accept the so-called "investigation" based on the presumption of guilt.

Wang Yi indicated, China is ready to continue exchanges with the UK on sensitive issues with an open attitude, yet the British side should respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the development path independently chosen by the Chinese people and China's right to handle its internal affairs without interference.

Raab said that UK-China relations have a deep and solid foundation. Although there are differences between the two sides, the British side is willing to strengthen exchanges and rational communication with China in the spirit of mutual respect and seeking common ground while shelving differences, so as to continuously enhance mutual understanding and let cooperation rather than differences define bilateral relations. The UK lauded the great achievement scored by China in the pandemic battle and is willing to further deepen coordination and cooperation with China across a variety of fields, including public health, the Belt and Road Initiative, economy and trade, and climate change.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Korean Peninsula issue and the situation in Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary call with Chinese Foreign Minister, 27 May 2021

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
27 May 2021**

Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, spoke to Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, on Thursday 27 May.

A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development spokesperson said:

The Foreign Secretary spoke to Chinese State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, today. They discussed the importance of a constructive UK-China relationship to tackle global challenges such as climate change and global health. The Foreign Ministers also discussed a range of foreign policy issues, including the situation in Myanmar, Iran and North Korea.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK's ongoing concern at the situation in Hong Kong and human rights violations in Xinjiang, and underlined the importance of giving the UN's human rights experts unfettered access to Xinjiang.

The Ministers ended their call agreeing that there are opportunities for the two countries to work together, from trade to tackling biodiversity loss, and said they looked forward to further discussions on these issues.

Minister Adams summons Chinese Charge d’Affaires following China’s sanctions

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

26 March 2021

Charge d’Affaires Yang Xiaoguang was summoned to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office following China’s sanctioning of 9 British individuals and 4 entities.

A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

Today the Chinese Charge d’Affaires, Yang Xiaoguang, was summoned to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams MP, made clear Beijing’s decision to impose sanctions on British individuals and entities is unwarranted and unacceptable.

The Minister noted that China has chosen to sanction individuals and entities that are seeking to shine a light on human rights violations and that today’s actions would not distract attention away from those very violations taking place in Xinjiang.

Note: The Charge d’affaires was summoned due to China not currently having an Ambassador in London following the end of the previous incumbent’s tenure.

China’s sanctions on UK citizens: Foreign Secretary’s statement

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

26 March 2021

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has issued a statement on China’s decision to sanction 9 UK citizens.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

It speaks volumes that, while the UK joins the international community in sanctioning those responsible for human rights abuses, the Chinese government sanctions its critics. If Beijing want to credibly rebut claims of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, it should allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights full access to verify the truth.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Announces Sanctions on Relevant UK Individuals and Entities

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
26 March 2021**

The UK imposed unilateral sanctions on relevant Chinese individuals and entity, citing the so-called human rights issues in Xinjiang. This move, based on nothing but lies and disinformation, flagrantly breaches international law and basic norms governing international relations, grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, and severely undermines China-UK relations. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has summoned British Ambassador to China to lodge solemn representations, expressing firm opposition and strong condemnation. The Chinese side decides to sanction the following nine individuals and four entities on the UK side that maliciously spread lies and disinformation: Tom Tugendhat, Iain Duncan Smith, Neil O'Brien, David Alton, Tim Loughton, Nusrat Ghani, Helena Kennedy, Geoffrey Nice, Joanne Nicola Smith Finley, China Research Group, Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, Uyghur Tribunal, Essex Court Chambers. As of today, the individuals concerned and their immediate family members are prohibited from entering the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao of China. Their property in China will be frozen, and Chinese citizens and institutions will be prohibited from doing business with them. China reserves the right to take further measures.

China is firmly determined to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests, and warns the UK side not go further down the wrong path. Otherwise, China will resolutely make further reactions.

UK sanctions perpetrators of gross human rights violations in Xinjiang, alongside EU, Canada and US

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
22 March 2021**

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announces sanctions against Chinese government officials for gross human rights violations in Xinjiang.

- Foreign Secretary announces first UK sanctions against Chinese Government officials
- sanctions target 4 senior officials and the Public Security Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps
- new measures complement action by the European Union, Canada and the United States

The Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has announced sanctions against the perpetrators of gross human rights violations taking place against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, in a move coordinated by the international community.

The UK will, for the first time, impose asset freezes and travel bans against 4 Chinese government officials, as well as a Xinjiang security body, under the UK's Global Human Rights sanctions regime for systemic violations against Uyghurs and other minorities.

The measures come as part of intensive diplomacy by the UK, United States, Canada and European Union to deliver complementary action on Xinjiang. It follows the trend of a growing number of countries holding China to account for its human rights record, with 39 countries signing a joint statement at the UN.

Acting together sends the clearest possible signal that the international community is united in its condemnation of China's human rights violations in Xinjiang and the need for Beijing to end its discriminatory and oppressive practices in the region.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The evidence of widespread human rights abuses in Xinjiang cannot be ignored – including mass detention and surveillance, reports of torture and forced sterilisation.

Working with our international partners we are imposing targeted sanctions to hold those responsible to account.

The UK sanctions will be immediately imposed against:

1. The Public Security Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps – a state run organisation responsible for security and policing in areas administered by the XPCC
2. Zhu Hailun, Former Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
3. Wang Junzheng, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and previously Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
4. Wang Mingshan, Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and former Director of the Public Security Department of XUAR
5. Chen Mingguo, Vice Chairman of the Government of the XUAR, and Director of the XUAR Public Security Department

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's Regular Press Conference
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
22 September 2020

[...] **Xinhua News Agency:** With 500 days to go before the opening of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has lauded Beijing 2022 for being a "historic event" which will make the Chinese capital the first city to host both the summer and winter Olympic Games. How do you respond to that and could you update us on preparation work for the winter Olympics?

Wang Wenbin: China has secured major strategic outcomes in fighting COVID-19. The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games maintains close cooperation with the IOC, the International Paralympic Committee and the International Winter Sports Federations to overcome the impact brought by the pandemic. The preparation is progressing smoothly, which has been highly recognized by the international community including the IOC.

As Beijing becomes the first city in the world to host both the summer and winter Olympic Games, it will be China's major contribution to the International Olympic Movement. Winter sports lovers all over the world are looking forward to the Beijing Winter Games. As the 500-day countdown begins, we will work with all sides to make the Games a wonderful, extraordinary and outstanding Olympic event. We are confident that with the active participation of all sides, the Beijing Winter Games will be a highlight in the Olympic Movement that will enhance exchange and friendship between people of all continents.

Bloomberg: There have been media reports that some have been pushing for the International Olympic Committee to reconsider Beijing's hosting of the 2022 winter games as politicians around the world voice increasing concerns over China's human rights record. We're wondering if the foreign ministry have any response to this?

Wang Wenbin: I don't believe the so-called "increasing concerns over China's human rights record" is an objective statement. The fact is that the majority of countries and people in the world recognize the fact that China's human rights conditions are constantly improving and China has achieved notable progress in its human rights cause. At a recent UN Human Rights Council session, most countries voiced approval and support for China's position on issues relating to Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

By linking the so-called human rights issue with the Beijing Winter Olympics in an attempt to pressure China, certain organizations have made the mistake of politicizing sports events. Such behavior goes against the spirit of the

Olympic Charter and disrupts and jeopardizes the progress of the global human rights cause.

Today marks the 500-day countdown to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing which will be another important contribution of China to the International Olympic Movement. Winter sports lovers around the world are keen to participate in the Beijing Games. Preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games are moving ahead smoothly and have been highly recognized by the international community including the IOC. We are confident that the Beijing Games will be a wonderful, extraordinary and outstanding Olympic event. [...]

[Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Answers Xinjiang-related Question by British Media](#)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

4 September 2020

ITV: ITV news has spoken to a doctor in Turkey who says that she was part of a population control plan run by the Communist Party in Xinjiang. Have Uyghur women there been sterilized and forced to have abortions and does that explain the drop in population among that ethnic community? Some American media say the US is going to pin the label of "genocide" to how China treats Uyghurs in Xinjiang. What's your comment?

Hua Chunying: On Xinjiang, several countries and some people have created so many lies regarding Xinjiang, including those quotations they made. The truth is that they are just actors at someone else's disposal. So whenever you hear that Xinjiang is doing something to its Uyghur population, you should process what you hear through a sieve, eliminating the false and retaining the true.

Since you are interested, I can offer you some information. First of all, it must be pointed out that the claim that China is persecuting the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang is a false proposition. This is a sensational headline concocted by some anti-China forces, another farce designed to smear and discredit China.

There are 56 ethnic groups in China. The Uyghurs are equal members of the big family of the Chinese nation. The Chinese government always protects the legitimate rights and interests of ethnic minorities. China's population policy has long favored ethnic minorities, including the Uyghurs. You mentioned population control. The truth is that the Uyghur population in Xinjiang has continued to grow. In 1978, the population of Uyghurs in Xinjiang was 5.55 million. But according to the latest data, by 2018, it had grown to 12.71 million, more than double the number of 40 years ago. During the 8-year span from 2010 to 2018, the population of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang had a 25% increase of 2.54 million. This increase rate is not only higher than that of the

entire Xinjiang population, but also more than ten times of the growth rate of the Han population over the same period.

Some media disclosed that the US is considering labeling the situation in Xinjiang as "genocide". I just said that the Uyghur population jumped from 5.55 million to 12.71 million. With such an increase in the Xinjiang Uyghur population, how come it is called "genocide"? On the contrary, the eviction, assimilation and slaughter of American Indians in the US history caused their population to drastically drop from 5 million to 250,000. This is what "genocide" is.

I must also point out that most of the materials used by the anti-China forces in some western countries to smear and discredit China's policies on Xinjiang came from Adrian Zenz, a German "scholar". The media has repeatedly disclosed that Adrian Zenz is a key member of the Xinjiang Education and Training Center Research Group set up by the US intelligence agency, making a living from fabricating rumors about Xinjiang and slandering China. He selectively used some data and staged several "actors" to play the role of "witnesses" according to his fabricated "scripts" and "lines". His rumor-mongering and deceitful behavior is contemptible and should be punished by the law. On more facts on the Uyghur population issue, the government of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region held a special press conference. I suggest you watch it carefully.

I would also like to stress that in observing and commenting on China's affairs, one should always base their observations on facts, grasp the real situation, and tell the whole truth apart from biased opinions, still less spreading falsehoods and rumors. In the meantime, we welcome those who truly care about Xinjiang to visit Xinjiang and see with their own eyes how ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, like Uyghur, Kazakh and Han people, are living together in harmony. All the rumors will collapse in the face of the truth.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Latest Remarks on China-UK Relations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
24 July 2020

Q: Not so long ago, the UK and China were talking about "a golden age of China-UK relations". Would you say that now that expression can be accurately used to talk about the state of relations between China and the UK at the moment?

A: Relations between countries should be based on mutual respect, especially with regard to core interests and major concerns, equality and mutual benefit. At the same time, non-interference, a basic norm in international relations, should also be observed. When it comes to China-UK relations, actions matter, not words.

4

PQs

Engagements

07 Jul 2021 | 698 c901

Asked by: Tim Loughton

Last week President Xi cheerily threatened that any foreigners attempting to influence China

“will have their heads bashed...against the Great Wall of steel”.

Of course, he is still in denial about human rights violations and the genocides in Xinjiang and Tibet, as recognised by this House, as a result of which five of us remain sanctioned. Will the Prime Minister therefore support our motion, to be debated in the House next Thursday, calling for a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 winter Olympics—incredibly awarded to Beijing—until and unless this dangerous regime abides by basic international standards of decency?

Answering member: The Prime Minister

This country has led the world in condemning human rights abuses in Xinjiang, in putting sanctions on those responsible and in holding companies to account that import goods made with forced labour in Xinjiang. I will certainly consider the proposals debated, but I must say that I am instinctively, and always have been, against sporting boycotts.

EU External Trade: China

01 Jul 2021 | 23244

Asked by: Nusrat Ghani

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on freezing trade or bilateral trade discussions with China following the sanctions placed on hon. Members of Parliament and the EU's freezing of the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Department for International Trade

China's attempt to silence those highlighting violations of human rights in Xinjiang is unwarranted and unacceptable. The Prime Minister has made clear that the freedom to speak out in opposition to human rights violations is fundamental and HM Government stands firmly with those who have been sanctioned. Whilst the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment is a matter for the EU, the United Kingdom will continue to work alongside the EU and other partners to send the clearest possible signal of the international community's serious concern and our collective willingness to act.

China: Ethnic Groups

01 Jul 2021 | 23242

Asked by: Nusrat Ghani

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the genocide determination by the US Administration in respect of the treatment by China of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

It is the long-standing policy of the UK Government that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent court. The US has a different process that is not linked to a court decision. The UK's approach, shared by many countries around the world, does not prevent us from taking action to address serious human rights violations, as we have done in the case of Xinjiang.

On 22 March, the Foreign Secretary announced that the UK had imposed, under the Global Human Rights sanctions regime, asset freezes and travel bans against four Chinese government officials, as well as the Public Security Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. These measures were taken alongside the US, Canada and the EU, sending a clear message to the Chinese Government that the international community will not turn a blind eye to such serious and systematic violations of basic human rights.

The UK has also led international efforts to holding China to account at the United Nations. On 22 June, a global UK diplomatic effort helped deliver the support of over 40 countries for a statement on Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Council calling on China to grant unfettered access to the region for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We also led the first joint statements on this issue at the UN Human Rights Council in June 2020 and the UN General Assembly Third Committee in October 2019. The growing caucus of international concern reflects UK diplomatic leadership.

Hong Kong: Sanctions

28 Jun 2021 | 20602

Asked by: Lisa Nandy

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has plans to extend Magnitsky-style sanctions to Chief Executive Carrie Lam for alleged suppression of freedom and democratic processes in Hong Kong.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK is deeply concerned about the situation in Hong Kong and the erosion of rights and freedoms and the high degree of autonomy enshrined in the Sino-British Joint Declaration. It is crystal clear that the powers under the National Security Law are being used as a tool to curtail freedoms and punish dissent, rather than keep public order.

We do not speculate on who may be designated under the UK's sanctions regime in the future, but sanctions are just one tool in our arsenal. The UK has already taken a number of actions in response to developments in Hong Kong. These include introducing a new bespoke immigration path for British Nationals (Overseas) (BNOs), suspending our extradition treaty with Hong Kong indefinitely, and extending our arms embargo on mainland China to Hong Kong.

We will continue to stand up for the people of Hong Kong as befits our historic commitment to them, to call out the violation of their rights and freedoms.

China: Uighurs

21 Jun 2021 | 15310

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he (a) has had and (b) plans to have with relevant stakeholders to establish a new process at the UN Human Rights Council to enable an independent international mechanism to investigate crimes under international law and other human rights violations against the Uyghur people in Xinjiang Province in China.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK government has consistently led international efforts to hold China to account for its human rights violations in Xinjiang. We led the first two statements on Xinjiang at the UN and have utilised our diplomatic network to raise the issue up the international agenda. We have been successful in building the international caucus of countries calling out China, with 39 countries supporting a statement at the UN third committee last October.

The Foreign Secretary has also repeatedly urged China to grant urgent and unfettered access to Xinjiang for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights or another independent fact-finding expert. He most recently raised this matter directly with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on 27 May, and in an address to the Human Rights Council on 22 February. We will continue to work closely with our partners and take every opportunity to hold China to account for its violations in Xinjiang in the UN's human rights bodies.

China: Muslims

16 Jun 2021 | 812 c1896

Asked by: Lord Robathan

My Lords, the West has, sadly, very little influence over the policies of China, but we should recall the propaganda triumph that the Berlin Olympics of 1936 gave the Hitler regime, whereas the boycott of the Moscow Olympics in 1980 made them a somewhat damp squib. Could my noble friend encourage other ministries and, indeed, other countries, to look at boycotting the Winter Olympics in China next February?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, as my noble friend is aware from his own insights and experience, I cannot comment specifically on any boycott of the Olympic Games; that is very much a matter for the independent Olympic committee. But I am sure everyone will consider the situation on the ground in any decisions that they make.

Hong Kong: British National (Overseas)

20 Apr 2021 | 914448

Asked by: Richard Holden

What steps the Government is taking to support the citizens of Hong Kong.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are deeply concerned about ongoing events in Hong Kong. The UK has taken clear decisive action in response to China's violations of the Joint Declaration.

We have

- Launched a bespoke immigration route for those with British National (Overseas) status and their family members.
- Extended the arms embargo on mainland China to include Hong Kong.
- and Suspended our Extradition Treaty with Hong Kong indefinitely.

We will continue to raise concerns our with the Chinese and Hong Kong governments, and bring together our international partners to stand up for the people of Hong Kong, to call out the violation of their freedoms, and to hold China to their international obligations.

China: Convictions of Democracy Campaigners in Hong Kong

13 Apr 2021 | 811 c1158

Asked by: Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws

My Lords, may I first take this opportunity to thank the Minister. Within hours of discovering that I had been sanctioned by the Chinese for my work in this House and beyond in relation to the gross human rights abuses perpetrated by the Chinese Government against the Uighurs and the people in Hong Kong, he was a great support.

Can the Minister say whether the decision by the Chinese Government to sanction UK parliamentarians and convict—as we have heard from the noble Lord, Lord Jordan—decent, good pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong will finally lead to the announcement of Magnitsky sanctions on Hong Kong officials? They are clearly responsible for the dismantling of the city's autonomy and for covering up human rights abuses.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I am sure I speak for every Member of your Lordship's House in paying tribute to the noble Baroness and other parliamentarians, as well as others outside Parliament, who continue to raise their voices in the interests of the Uighur community within China.

On the noble Baroness's specific points about Magnitsky sanctions, while I cannot speculate, recently we have taken specific steps against those operating in Xinjiang, as I am sure the noble Baroness acknowledges. As I said earlier to the noble Lord, Lord Jordan, we continue to see what further steps we may take.

China: Treatment of Uighurs and Taiwanese Airspace Incursions

18 Mar 2021 | 811 c444

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of St Albans

What consideration have Her Majesty's Government given to the suggestion of a diplomatic and economic, rather than full-scale, boycott of the 2022 Beijing winter Olympics, in response to China's ongoing repression of the Uighur Muslim minority?

Answering member: Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay

My right honourable friend the Prime Minister has made clear that we are not normally in favour of sporting boycotts. The broader question of the participation of the national team at the winter Olympics is a matter for the British Olympic Association, which is required to operate independently of the Government under the International Olympic Committee regulations.

China: Uighurs

12 Mar 2021 | HL13778

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the motions passed by the Canadian House of Commons on 22 February and Dutch Parliament on 25 February to declare that the treatment of the Uighurs in Xinjiang amounts to a genocide; and what plans they have to make such a determination

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have taken note of the motions passed by the Canadian House of Commons and the House of Representatives of the Netherlands relating to Xinjiang. The Government remains gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the region. We continue to play a leading role in holding China to account, working closely with international partners, including Canada and the Netherlands.

It is the long-standing policy of the British Government that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent court, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies.

China: Uighurs

08 Mar 2021 | 162695

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of sending dignitaries to the 2022 Beijing Olympics in light of the human rights abuses being perpetrated by the Chinese Government in Xinjiang.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK is not normally in favour of sporting boycotts. No decisions have been made about Ministerial attendance at the Beijing Olympics in 2022, or any other Ministerial travel in 2022. Participation of the national team at the Winter Olympics is a matter for the British Olympic Association, who are required to operate independently of the government under International Olympic Committee regulations.

The Government remains gravely concerned about the human rights situation in Xinjiang. We continue to play a leading role in holding China to account for its human rights violations in the region, working closely with international partners, including at the UN.

Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games: Team GB Boycott

02 Mar 2021 | 690 cc101-2

Asked by: Jamie Stone

If he will make an assessment with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of Team GB boycotting the 2022 winter Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The hon. Member will no doubt have heard the Prime Minister highlight that we are not normally in favour of sporting boycotts. Along with that, participation of the national team at the winter Olympics is a matter for the British Olympic Association, which is required to operate independently of the Government under International Olympic Committee regulations.

Asked by: Jamie Stone

I am indeed aware of what the Prime Minister has said. Nevertheless, allies such as the United States and Canada have referred to what is going on in Xinjiang province as genocide. First, does the Minister agree that we should get international condemnation of these ghastly goings on in China? Secondly, in view of what the Prime Minister said, does the Minister agree that we should support those athletes who choose individually to boycott the winter Olympic and Paralympic games, as a demonstration of their opposition to this genocide?

Answering member: Nigel Adams

We are leading international action, including at the UN, to hold China to account. We have led from the front. We have an increasing cohort of countries supporting our statements on the happenings in Xinjiang. This is a matter for the British Olympic Association and the individual sportsmen. The British Olympic Association is required to operate independently of Government, and rightly so, under the regulations set down by the International Olympic Committee. This is a matter for the Olympic organisations and individual sportsmen.

Asked by: Alyn Smith

The malfeasance of the Chinese Government in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong is well documented, and my party supports the offer that has been made to the 5 million Hong Kong citizens of a route to citizenship. However, I would be grateful for an assurance from the Minister that proper preparations and proper funding for the integration of Hongkongers coming to the UK are actually in place, because I am not convinced they are. We cannot let this scheme just be a first-class lifeboat for the rich of Hong Kong; it does need to be properly run through for everybody. Can he commit to a statement to the House in due course explaining how the scheme is being worked through with

the Home Office and the proper funding being allocated to make sure this is open to all Hongkongers?

Answering member: Nigel Adams

That is a very sensible question from the hon. Gentleman. It is absolutely the case that we need to ensure that those British national overseas passport holders who arrive in the UK are treated and greeted well. We welcome the many applications that we have had thus far. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has met the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss exactly the issue the hon. Gentleman raises. It is important that people are given the right support when they arrive in the United Kingdom, and I am sure that further information on such schemes and what has been organised for these people coming from Hong Kong will be announced very shortly.

China: Uighurs

24 Feb 2021 | HL13223

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States about the previous US administration's determination that China has committed genocide in its repression of Uighurs and other minority groups; and what plans they have to make a similar determination.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

In a call on 27 January 2021, the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed cooperation to hold China to its international commitments. The government remains gravely concerned about the human rights situation in Xinjiang. We regularly discuss these concerns and related questions of policy with the US. The UK plays a leading role in holding China to account for its human rights violations in the region, working closely with international partners, including the US.

It is the long-standing policy of the British Government that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent court, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. Competent courts include international courts, such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, and national criminal courts that meet international standards of due process.

Olympic Games: China

23 Sep 2020 | HL8103

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much public funding has been allocated for UK participation in the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing; whether, in the light of reports of serious human rights violations against Uighurs and others, they have made representations to the International Olympic Committee about reconsidering the suitability of Beijing as a host city; and what plans they have to reconsider UK participation if any such violations continue and the host city remains unchanged.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The Government, through UK Sport, is investing £20m into Winter Olympic sports during the current Beijing 2022 funding cycle. UK Sport's current funding figures for Summer and Winter Olympic Paralympic sports can be found here: <https://www.uk sport.gov.uk/our-work/investing-in-sport/current-funding-figures>

Decisions on which cities should host Summer and Winter Olympic Games are matters for the International Olympic Committee.

The British Olympic Association (BOA), a privately funded organisation independent of Government, is responsible for Team GB's participation at Summer and Winter Olympic Games. As the National Olympic Committee (NOC) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the BOA may cooperate with governments, but rule 27.6 of the Olympic Charter states "The NOCs must preserve their autonomy and resist all pressures of any kind, including but not limited to political, legal, religious or economic pressures which may prevent them from complying with the Olympic Charter."

5 Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020](#)

24 Jun 2021 | House of Lords | 813 cc115-131GC

Lords question for short debate on the effectiveness of the Magnitsky-style sanctions issued under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020.

[China's Policy on its Uyghur Population](#)

12 Oct 2020 | House of Commons | 682 cc26-50WH

Motion that this House has considered e-petition 300146 relating to China's policy on its Uighur population.

5.2 Statements

[Chinese Government Sanctions on UK Citizens](#)

14 Apr 2021 | 811 cc1297-1301

The Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): The following Answer to an Urgent Question was given in the House of Commons on Tuesday 13 April.

“The Government stand in complete solidarity with those sanctioned by China. As the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have made clear, this action by Beijing is utterly unacceptable and unwarranted.

The House will recall that on 22 March, the UK, alongside the EU, Canada and the United States, imposed asset freezes and travel bans against four senior Chinese government officials and one entity responsible for the violations that have taken place and persist against the Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. In response, China sanctioned nine individuals and four organisations, including Members of this House and the other place, who have criticised its record on human rights. It speaks volumes that while 30 countries are united in sanctioning those responsible for serious and systematic violations of human rights in Xinjiang, China's response is to retaliate against those who seek to shine a light on those violations. It is fundamental to our parliamentary democracy that Members of both Houses can speak without fear or favour on matters of concern to the British people.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have made absolutely clear the Government's position through their public statements and on 22 March. I also summoned China's representative in the UK to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to lodge a strong, formal protest at China's actions. This Government have been quick to offer support to those who have been sanctioned. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary held private meetings with the parliamentarians named in China's announcement. My noble friend the Minister for Human Rights, Lord Ahmad, met other individuals and the entities that have been targeted. Through this engagement, we have provided guidance and an offer of ongoing support, including a designated FCDO point of contact and specialist briefing from relevant departments.

Just as this Government will be unbowed by China's action, I have no doubt that Members across this House will be undeterred from raising their fully justified concerns about the situation in Xinjiang and the human rights situation in China more broadly. I applaud the parliamentarians named by China: my honourable friends the Members for East Worthing and Shoreham, for Tonbridge and Malling, for Harborough and for Wealden, my right honourable friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green, the noble Lord, Lord Alton, and the noble Baroness, Lady Kennedy, for the vital role they have played in drawing attention to the plight of the Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.

This Government have worked with partners to build the international caucus of those willing to speak out against China's human rights violations and increase the pressure on China to change its behaviour. We have led joint statements at the UN's human rights bodies, most recently joined by 38 countries at the UN General Assembly Third Committee in October, and we have backed up our international action with robust domestic measures. In addition to the global human rights sanctions announced on 22 March, the Foreign Secretary announced a series of targeted measures in January to help ensure that British businesses are not complicit in human rights violations in Xinjiang. The United Kingdom will continue to work alongside its partners to send the clearest possible signal of the international community's serious concern and our collective willingness to act to hold China to account for its gross human rights violations in the region."

Human Rights Update

22 Mar 2021 | 691 cc621-635

The Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Dominic Raab): With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement about the treatment of the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

This is one of the worst human rights crises of our time and I believe the evidence is clear, as it is sobering. It includes satellite imagery; survivor testimony; official documentation and, indeed, leaks from the Chinese Government themselves; credible open-source reporting, including from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International; and visits by British diplomats to the region that have corroborated other reports about the targeting of specific ethnic groups.

In sum, the evidence points to a highly disturbing programme of repression. Expressions of religion have been criminalised, and Uyghur language and culture discriminated against on a systematic scale. There is widespread use of forced labour; women forcibly sterilised; children separated from their parents; an entire population subject to surveillance, including collection of DNA and use of facial recognition software and so-called predictive policing algorithms.

State control in the region is systemic. Over 1 million people have been detained without trial. There are widespread claims of torture and rape in the camps based on first-hand survivor testimony. People are detained for having too many children, for praying too much, for having a beard or wearing a headscarf, for having the wrong thoughts.

I am sure the whole House will join me in condemning such appalling violations of the most basic human rights. In terms of scale, it is the largest mass detention of an ethnic or religious group since the second world war, and I believe one thing is clear: the international community cannot simply look the other way.

It has been two and a half years since the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on China to stop arbitrarily detaining Uyghurs and other minorities in the Xinjiang province. It is over 18 months since the UK led the first ever joint UN statement on Xinjiang at the UN General Assembly's third committee, back in October 2019. The number of countries now willing to speak out collectively has grown from just 23 to 39 as the evidence has accumulated and as our diplomatic efforts have borne fruit. That is a clear signal to China about the breadth of international concern.

Last year, 50 independent UN experts spoke out about the situation in an exceptional joint statement calling on China to respect basic human rights. Last month at the Human Rights Council, I led the calls on China to give the

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet—or some other fact-finding expert—urgent, unfettered access to Xinjiang. Since then, Ms Bachelet herself has reinforced in the clearest terms the need for independent access to verify the deteriorating situation. We regret that, instead of recognising those calls from the international community, China has simply sought to deny them. Chinese authorities have claimed that the legitimate concerns raised are fake news. At the same time, the authorities continue to expand prison facilities, surveillance networks and forced labour programmes. China continues to resist access for the UN or other independent experts to verify the truth, notwithstanding its blanket denials.

For the UK's part, our approach has been to call out these egregious, industrial-scale human rights abuses, to work with our international partners and ultimately to match words with actions. In January, I announced a package of measures to help ensure that no British organisations—Government or private sector—deliberately or inadvertently can profit from human rights violations against the Uyghurs or other minorities, and that no businesses connected with the internment camps can do business in the UK.

Today, we are taking further steps, again in co-ordination with our international partners. Having very carefully considered the evidence against the criteria in our global human rights sanctions regime, I can tell the House that I am designating four senior individuals responsible for the violations that have taken place and persist against the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. Alongside those individuals, we are also designating the Public Security Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. That is the organisation responsible for enforcing the repressive security policies across many areas of Xinjiang. The sanctions involve travel bans and asset freezes against the individuals and asset freezes against the entity we are designating. The individuals are barred from entering the UK. Any assets found in the UK will be frozen.

We take this action alongside the EU, the US and Canada, which are all taking similar measures today. I think it is clear that, by acting with our partners—30 of us in total—we are sending the clearest message to the Chinese Government that the international community will not turn a blind eye to such serious and systematic violations of basic human rights, and that we will act in concert to hold those responsible to account.

As the Prime Minister set out in the integrated review last week, China is an important partner in tackling global challenges such as climate change. We pursue a constructive dialogue where that proves possible, but we will always stand up for our values, and in the face of evidence of such serious human rights violations, we will not look the other way. The suffering of the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang cannot be ignored. Human rights violations on this scale cannot be ignored. Together with our partners, we call on China to end these cruel practices, and I commend this statement to the House.

5.3

Early Day Motions

UK representation at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

EDM 149 (session 2021-22)

7 June 2021

Sir Iain Duncan Smith

That this House notes with concern that the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will take place alongside a rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where Uyghurs and other minority groups are subject to widespread forced labour, sterilization, political indoctrination and arbitrary detention; reaffirms its opinion that Uyghurs and other minority groups in the Uyghur Region are victims of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity; reminds the International Olympics Committee that the Olympic Charter's principles of solidarity and non-discrimination are hard to reconcile with holding the 2022 Winter Games in a country whose Government stands credibly accused of perpetrating Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide; affirms that the International Olympic Committee's desire to stay above politics does not permit turning a blind eye to mass atrocity crimes; urges the International Olympics Committee to initiate an emergency search process for suitable replacement facilities for the 2022 Winter Games; calls on the Government to decline invitations for state officials to attend the 2022 Winter Games so long as Beijing remains the host venue; advises the Government to discourage companies operating in the UK from acting as commercial sponsors for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics; recognises that individual athletes have the right to choose whether to participate in the Olympic Games or not and urges them to think carefully about whether they should take part; and encourages the Chinese Government to work with international partners to take verifiable steps to improve the human rights situation of Uyghurs and other persecuted groups.

Arrests of democrats in Hong Kong

EDM 1319 (session 2019-21)

6 January 2021

Andrew Rosindell

That this House notes with profound concern the sweeping arrests of over 50 democrats in Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Police Force simply for having demonstrated their commitment to democracy by arranging primary elections to inform the process of candidate selection for the now cancelled elections to the Legislative Council; deplores this egregious and heavy-handed clampdown on freedom of expression and basic rights in Hong Kong; reminds the Chinese Communist Party and its puppet administration in Hong Kong that the provisions of the Sino British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong

are a binding international treaty, lodged with the United Nations, and continue to apply; calls for the urgent introduction by Her Majesty's Government of targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for the denial of human rights not only in Hong Kong but also in relation to the Uighurs and Falun Gong in mainland China; deeply regrets the willingness of the European Union, against this background of repression, to confirm an investment agreement with China; and urges the European Parliament to stand firm against this decision and so reiterate its commitment to human rights and democracy.

Hong Kong and Magnitsky-style sanctions

EDM 322 (session 2019-21)

24 March 2020

Andrew Rosindell

That this House notes with profound concern the ongoing breaches by China and its controlled regime in Hong Kong of basic principles of human rights and specifically of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong; welcomes the commitment by Her Majesty's Government to develop a regime for the introduction of Magnitsky-style sanctions to enable it to target those who sanction and cause abuses of human rights overseas; looks forward to the urgent publication of the proposed regime; and encourages the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to begin now to identify those senior members of the Hong Kong Police Force and of the governing Administration of Hong Kong who have approved and permitted its brutal response to what were initially peaceful expressions of legitimate protest so that sanctions can be promptly implemented against them.

6

Further reading

Commons Library briefing papers

[China and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region](#)

Commons Library Debate Pack
CDP-0061 (2021)
20 April 2021

[E-petition 300146 relating to China's policy on its Uighur population](#)

Commons Library Debate Pack
CDP-0102 (2020)
8 October 2020

[UK-China relations: a timeline](#)

Commons Library Briefing Paper
CBP-8988
21 September 2020

[The UK-China relationship](#)

Commons Library Briefing Paper
CBP-9004
14 September 2020

Committee report

[Never Again: The UK's Responsibility to Act on Atrocities in Xinjiang and Beyond](#)

Second Report of Session 2021–22
House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee
HC 198
29 June 2021

Extract: (conclusions and recommendations in **bold**)

2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

26. As part of its efforts to accumulate global power and influence, the Chinese government seeks international recognition. Condemnation of the atrocities in Xinjiang poses a credible threat to China's prestige and soft power, evidenced by the Chinese government's changing narrative on the camps. Public condemnation, not closed-door diplomacy, will have the greatest impact. The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics offer another opportunity

to question the Chinese government's ability to act as a global leader and to 'name and shame' for its crimes in Xinjiang. In oral evidence, the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams MP, declined to give a view, suggesting that this was the competency of the British Olympic Association. Charles Parton, Associate Fellow at RUSI, suggested that an alternative to a boycott of the Winter Olympics would be to "make them cost" in terms of sponsorships, reputation, and prestige.

27. If the British Olympic Association and competing teams decide not to boycott the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the Government should not attend and should urge others not to do so. The Government should suggest the British Olympic Association does not participate in the opening or closing ceremonies, beyond one representative carrying the Union Flag. It should abstain from sending government officials to any ceremonies or functions, strongly discourage UK businesses from sponsoring or advertising at the Olympics, encourage fans and tourists to stay away, and discourage athletes from supporting or accepting the Chinese government's propaganda efforts while in-country.

Sanctions

28. We welcome the Government's decision in March 2021 to impose sanctions on those who bear responsibility for the atrocities in Xinjiang in coordination with the United States, EU, and Canada. Other countries have gone further with their sanctions—for example, through placing sanctions on Communist Party Secretary of the XUAR Chen Quanguo, who is widely regarded as the 'architect' of the atrocities. **For sanctions to be effective, they must be used in full coordination with allies and against those with whom ultimate responsibility for the Xinjiang atrocities lies. We recommend that the Government intensify efforts to coordinate sanctions with allies to consistently sanction senior individuals and entities with the most responsibility for or connection to abuses in Xinjiang.**

European Parliament resolution

[European Parliament resolution of 8 July 2021 on Hong Kong, notably the case of Apple Daily \(2021/2786\(RSP\)\)](#)

Resolution focusing on addressing the deteriorating situation of human rights in Hong Kong, among others, and calling for diplomats to boycott the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

Reports

[“Break Their Lineage, Break Their Roots”: China’s Crimes against Humanity Targeting Uyghurs and Other Turkic Muslims](#)

Human Rights Watch

19 April 2021

[The Uyghur Genocide: An Examination of China’s Breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention](#)

Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy

8 March 2021

[IOC Human Rights Due Diligence in China](#)

Human Right Watch letter to the International Olympic Committee

15 December 2020

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