

XXXV
TECMUN



Security Council

Delegate,

“Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement”.

-Golda Meir.

Do not subordinate yourself into the context you reside in. This is your opportunity to prove yourself that with your research, ideas and words, you can and will change the world someday. The wiser you get, the more you realize the society in which we live is far from being perfect. And what a world in crisis needs is people who are willing to raise their voice against injustices, violence, inequality, phobias, etc.

This model is a representation of what is actually happening around the globe and we decide to ignore because we reside in a position of privilege where we assume we cannot be touched; little do we know, that can change in a matter of seconds. So take advantage of your privilege and the opportunities that are brought upon you. Because, if you decide to ignore a problem, you are becoming a part of it, so fight with all you have for what you believe in. Anyone can take away anything from you but your power to raise your voice.

Delegate, this is your chance to think outside of the box, to break your standards, to be yourself, to beat the system, to express your unique, creative ideas and to get out of your comfort zone. It might get scary and nerve-racking at times, but don't let those thoughts stop you from expressing yourself, because unconfidence, hesitation and fear will always be the hardest things to overcome, but doing so, will always bring the best outcomes. I expect you to trust the model and yourself completely, to learn a variety of topics, to come out with another perspective of what is happening around the globe and with the ability to analyse and solve these problems in the best way possible.

Finally, cease this moment, fight the problem, make the difference. Delegate, I trust you and your capability, because you are here for a reason, because there is a spark in you waiting to be lit and this might be your only chance. Remember the world is in the hands of the youth; and if we do not learn how to take profit of this and make it a better place, then no one will. Find yourself in these experience, open your mind and believe in yourself, in what you can bring to the model and the impact it will leave on people, because I assure to you, I do.

President Nuria Vidal Castillo
President of the Security Council
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Background of the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations. Its objective is to seek and maintain international peace and security. The Council is formed by five permanent (United States of America, People's Republic of China, French Republic, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and ten non-permanent members -selected biannually by the General Assembly. Created in 1945, after The Second World War, the UNSC seeks the prevention of future conflicts and looks forward to the development of friendly relations amongst countries, the cooperation in solving international conflicts, the promotion of respect for human rights and to mediating the actions of nations.

Faculties

The Security Council's faculties (which work to bolster the committee's objective) are:

- Investigate disputes or situations threatening international security;
- Recommend methods of adjusting disagreements and terms of settlement;
- Formulate plans for establishing a system to regulate armaments;
- Determine the existence of a threat and recommend actions;
- Call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- Take military action against an aggressor;
- Exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations.

Topic A

Prevention mechanisms for peace and security due to constant attacks from terrorist groups in the African Sahel region

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Introduction

The security emergency due to terrorist violence, such as bombings, shootings, and explosions has been spreading across the Sahel region of Africa; a 5,000 kilometer belt of land below the Sahara Desert which embraces from Africa's Atlantic coast to the Red Sea. Attacks held by the terrorist groups *Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin* (JNIM), al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), among others, along with the persistent violence in public roads threaten civilians and regional security forces. The members of the G5 Sahel (Republic of upper Volta [Burkina Faso], Republic of Chad, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Republic of Niger), a regional association that deals with matters of development and security, have taken an immediate response. Nonetheless, the incapacity of security forces to provide safety and protection has caused indignation among portions of the population, as there are still multiple extremist strikes in the African Sahel Region.

Conflict background

After the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's forty-two-year regime, as a result of the Libyan Civil War in 2011, extremist attempts located in Mali arose, resulting in jihadist groups and weaponry entering the northern Mali border, clashing with already existing groups of different ethnic and religious belonging; consequently generating tension that led to an armed conflict. This has escalated to central Mali and widespread to other countries of the G5 Sahel. By the reason of the regime shift in Libya and the subsequent uprising in Northern Mali in 2012, the African Sahel region's security situation has worsened. In Mali, armed jihadist and rebel groups emerged in areas neglected by national authorities. The lack of state presence, bankruptcy and unemployment have facilitated the groups' recruitment in areas that had been left to fend¹ for themselves. These actions promoted rebel groups and violence to arise and it has ever since spread from the north to the central areas of the country throughout 2018 and 2019, resulting in the conflict advancing to bordering countries such as Burkina Faso and Niger.

William Linder, a former CIA officer running a risk consultancy and having served in West Africa, aforesaid "Violent extremists have extended their areas of control and have enhanced their ability to generate income through gold, while state actors remain poorly positioned to do anything about it" (Linder, 2019). Having lost territory in the

¹ **Fend:** To defend.

Middle East, Al Qaeda and the Islamic State have been expanding to Africa, exploiting gold mines. The African Sahel region possesses numerous gold mines, serving to extremists as a funding method, a material for explosives, a hideout and as lands to stage attacks on. Rebel groups affiliated² to terrorism take possession of gold mine-filled lands in Burkina Faso. Interviews and data on the attacks showcase that besides attacking industrial operations, extremist forces are taking control over the gold market (worth around two billion dollars) in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. According to Burkina Faso's government, informally produced gold is often smuggled³ to bordering countries avoiding taxes and, then, flown to refineries and sent to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Switzerland and India.

Terrorism in the African Sahel Region

In Burkina Faso, the number of terrorist assaults has risen three-fold in the region, especially in the northern part of the country, declared by the United Nations (UN) as the critical sector. The constant attacks and uncontrolled violence forces have driven hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes leading to dissatisfaction, as well as violent confrontations amongst these armed groups in the Gao, Ménaka and Timbuktu regions, resulting in self-militants and civilians badly injured or even dead. The compound of conflicts between ethnic groups, clashes between farmers and herders⁴ and the persistent terrorism, brings an unprecedented level of violence to Burkina Faso. There are numerous aggressions of this matter, such as the attack held on a mosque in the town of Salmossi, on October 11th, 2019. The attack left 16 people dead and two injured, as well as the fatal attacks on the military camp of Koudougou on August 19th, 2019, leaving 24 soldier casualties.

Islamic extremist groups in the Sahel region such as *Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen* aspire to establish Islamic law in the region and to attack western interests. Numerous threats, like kidnapping for ransoms⁵, robbery, violence, amongst others, are arising from the insecurity. Since 2009, tourists, construction employees, humanitarian workers and diplomats have all been held hostage for several years, some of them being murdered; thus becoming a main way of financing. Terrorist groups have proven

² **Affiliated:** Being in close formal or informal association.

³ **Smuggle:** To import or export (goods) secretly in violation of the law.

⁴ **Herders:** A person whose job is to take care of a group of animals such as sheep and cows in the countryside.

⁵ **Ransom:** Money that is paid to a somebody so that they will set free a person who is been kept as a prisoner by them.

capability of traveling long distances to carry out attacks, operating mainly in bordering areas of Mali, Mauritania Niger and Algeria, meaning frontier security amongst the G5 Sahel lacks adequate mechanisms. In 2014, French troops operated in the African borders, focusing on terrorism related peacekeeping maneuvers⁶; however, in 2015, jihadist violence forced an immediate exit-strategy from said group.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

As a response to the terrorist attempts in Mali, the Security Council issued the creation of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in 2013. The project's initial objective was to establish peace through humanitarian aid, not to fight extremism and organized crime. As a result of this mission, both north and south Mali have regained communications, civilians have been rescued and conveyed to a safe haven⁷, security methods on borders have increased, and democratic elections managed to be held during the conflict. Also, MINUSMA signed the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, result from the Algiers Process in 2015, in an effort to “guarantee a definitive solution to the crisis in Northern Mali” (United Nations, 2015), in addition to re-establish control over the centre of the country.

Nonetheless, MINUSMA still faces challenges that menace further advancement. This mission requires one billion dollars annually and is currently the deadliest assignment in peacekeeping's history, with nearly two hundred soldiers assassinated since 2013. UN peacekeepers are retiring from the mission, as well as those from the Netherlands who have been ordered to withdraw. As reported by the Secretary-General on the report issued on October 1st, 2019. Seeing as in the same year, violence caused by jihadist groups has tripled all across the Sahel region despite the MINUSMA efforts.

MINUSMA, along with the African Union, has been a critical support base to the Joint Force: a specialized investigation unit that goes along within national jurisdiction in order to address cases related to terrorism and organized crime. In June 2019, MINUSMA began constructing arrangements to provide food supplies to all squads belonging to the Joint Force, ensuring that the Force and other partners were held

⁶ **Maneuvers:** A plan, action or movement that is used to give somebody an advantage.

⁷ **Safe haven:** A place where an individual can go to be safe from danger and attacks.

⁸ **Peacekeeping:** The active maintenance of a truce between hostile states, communities, factions, etc., esp. by external military forces.

accountable⁹ for the delivery of the supplies to their respective areas of operation outside Mali. On October the 3th, 2019, MINUSMA received a request for fuel and combat supplies from seven units of the Force located in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and the Niger, for the time of October to December. The petition made, included 34,800 packages for combat and 428,600 liters of fuel and lubricants, for an estimated of 1.28 million dollars. This year, MINUSMA participated in more than a dozen humanitarian and aid-support missions with multiple forces in favor of the resolution of this conflict.

Terrorist attacks in the African Sahel Region affecting bordering countries and developed countries

In neighboring Burkina Faso, thousands have been displaced in the northern provinces bordering with Mali. The expanding level of violence developed by non-State armed groups and security forces has often got the civilian population being caught in the middle of attacks or armed conflicts. In the North East Nigeria, the ongoing armed conflict between asymmetric violent groups and security forces continues to affect bordering countries and has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. In Cameroon, violence caused by Boko Haram has driven out around 228 thousand Cameroonians in areas surrounding Nigeria. Simultaneously, Cameroon is dealing with a separate conflict in a different region of the country. Niger, Cameroon and Chad have all been drawn into the conflict with terrorism. Although Boko Haram is no longer a unified movement, one of its factions, the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) has been growing and contributing to the increasing violence in the region since August, 2018.

Mahamat Saleh Annadif (head chief of MINUSMA), in an interview, made July the 6th 2019, commented "As the president of Mali used to say: Mali for the moment is a dam¹⁰; if it gives in, it risks invading the rest of Africa as well as Europe" (Saleh, 2019). Annadif also commented about the way the Sahel region has become an open military arsenal; more than sixty million weapons are circulating within its territory. The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security pointed out that if the permanent members of the Security Council (People's Republic of China, French Republic, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America), also known as the Permanent 5 as well as the European Union don't take

⁹ **Accountable:** Chiefly of persons (in later use also organizations, etc.): liable to be called to account or to answer for responsibilities and conduct; required or expected to justify one's actions, decisions, etc.; answerable, responsible.

¹⁰ **Dam:** A barrier to obstruct the flow of water.

action, extremism will continue spreading worldwide. These armed rebel jihadist groups migrate to different countries threatening international peace and security.

A report issued by the G5 Sahel on November 11th, 2019, has proven that the organization continues to face constant struggles in securing peace as proven by recent attacks in the region.

In accordance with Resolution 2391, international partners continued to mobilize in support of the G5 Sahel. The attack of 30 September on the Force's base in Boulikessi, Mopti region, central Mali, inflicted heavy casualties¹¹. The terrorist group Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) claimed responsibility for the attack" (Security Council, 2019).

Increasing cases are being presented as time passes and the situation in this region does not appear to be bettering. On October 7th, 2019, the Security Council called for a meeting to discuss the severity ¹²of the matter. On this forum, multiple opinions and points of view were taken into consideration, however the debate did not conclude with a Resolution. The Russian Federation aforesaid that the international and domestic community should be focusing their resources on current resolutions as well as the 2171 Resolution on prevention of armed conflicts and methods to creating and exceeding results on operations for the prevention of armed conflicts.

Previous measures taken to enhance peace and security

The Security Council has made several efforts to ensure peace and security in the Sahel Region. One of the most prominent attempts was the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, which involved the integration of members of the signatory¹³ armed groups into the Malian Security and Defence Forces. Measures to improve the socioeconomic development of the North of Mali were also taken by the United States of America. These efforts are a fraction of the priority measures that take part on the Resolution 2480 (2019), which recognizes the asymmetric attacks held by terrorist groups in the North and the escalation of intercommunal¹⁴ violence in the Centre as a security priority to the Security Council and the Mali government.

In other measures, the G5 Sahel, having an impact on the Mediterranean region and the European Union (EU) Member states, drove these actors to launch a range of support measures. The EU has mobilized commitments of more than 100 million euros, two

¹¹ **Casualty:** [countable] a person who is killed or injured in war or in an accident

¹² **Severity:** the fact or condition of something being extremely bad or serious

¹³ **Signatory:** A government bound with others by a signed convention.

¹⁴ **Intercommunal:** Occurring or existing between two or more communities.

civilian capacity building missions and one military training mission in Niger. On June 18th, 2018, the EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini, organized the annual EU meeting along with the G5 Sahel in order to strengthen the actions to target terrorism, a common problem on need of solutions. This meaning, the EU, the Security Council and the G5 Sahel have settled terrorism as a common enemy in need to be confronted and eradicated. The European Union seeks to deploy the so-called “integrated approach” which seeks to address complex problems simultaneously from several perspectives, adding flexible adjustments over time where necessary through the G5 Sahel. This measure increases effective action, including frontiers, retaining and controlling jihadist acts within certain areas. The EU has further contributed with 100 million euros, predestined¹⁵ to the total budget of the G5 Sahel Force battling against extremism, of more than 400 million euros.

The African Union commissioner on security noted that the organism will be taking military response, as well as bettering the governance and the justice system in making sure that development and political engagement are raised, furthermore reinforce that youth unemployment is a key challenge in the topic. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger agreed, in 2017, to set up the 5,000-strong G5 Sahel joint counter-terrorism force, aimed to train 5,000 troops to work alongside the P5 troops and peacekeepers deployed by the United Nations. However, the lack of funding and training, alongside poor equipment, have hobbled¹⁶ the G5 Sahel initiative.

¹⁵ **Predestined:** to destine, decree, determine, appoint, or settle beforehand.

¹⁶ **Hobble:** To make difficult, to slow down.

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Topic B

Measures to prevent the construction and utilization of re-education centers in Xinjiang, China, due to the international risk this represents to muslims.

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Introduction

The *Uighurs* are muslims culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations, who, after briefly declaring their independence in 1949, were brought under the control of the communist China, resulting in the creation of Xinjiang, an autonomous region which holds more than ten million *Uighurs*. The region of Xinjiang is one of the most remote, and lowly populated provinces in China, and mostly depends on the practice of agriculture, forming part of the Silk Road¹⁷. The practice of Islam is a key characteristic of the *Uighur* identity, and there are notable cultural similarities between them and neighboring countries, such as the Kazakhs, as well as the Turks. They are defined as Sunni Muslims, which, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, are “the mainstream and traditionalist branch of Islam as distinguished from the minority denomination, the Shi‘ah” (n.d). The islamophobia¹⁸ present within the Han Chinese (an ethnic group indigenous to China), leads to growing discomfort and discriminating acts towards the muslim community in the country.

Extremist activists claim that *Uighur* activities (religious, cultural and commercial) have been gradually curtailed¹⁹ by policies imposed by President Xi Jinping. A mass migration of Han Chinese to Xinjiang began making *Uighurs* a minority, and produced a reshape in the lifestyle of such community. Distressed by the Han Chinese migration, *Uighurs* began violenting and protesting for their independence. As a result, China began applying restrictive security measures such as facial recognition cameras, monitoring devices, amongst others. The Chinese government accuses muslims of being extremists, and plotting bombs as a result of an independant idea. The creation of “vocational training centers” or “re-education centers” in Xinjiang began in 2017. These centers are school-like buildings in which more than one million *Uighurs* are kept in order to prevent terrorism and religious extremism through education. China denies it is detaining muslims, and has used propaganda such as TV shows and realities showcasing *Uighurs* studying willingly in the centers. The Chinese government has been taking mayor actions such as destroying mosques, prohibiting the practice of Islam and forcing *Uighurs* into going against their beliefs.

Background

¹⁷ **Silk Road:** An ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean Sea extending some 6,400 km (4,000 mi) and linking China with the Roman Empire.

¹⁸ **Islamophobia:** Unreasonable fear or dislike of, and prejudice against, Muslims or Islam.

¹⁹ **Curtailed:** To stop something before it is finished, or to reduce or limit something.

Posterior to the region of Xinjiang being incorporated into China in the late 1800s, the East Turkestan Independence movement arose promoting the region's autonomy. The movement led to the development of two short-lived republics: The Islamic Republic of East Turkestan, between 1933 and 1934, and the East Turkestan Republic, active from 1944 to 1946. Xinjiang came under complete control of communist China in 1950. Han Chinese individuals started fleeing into the region, becoming two-thirds of the Xinjiang population, thus making the *Uighurs* a minority. Given tensions between the two groups, mainly due to their social and cultural differences, the *Uighurs* became the main subjects of islamophobia in China.

The generalization of the idea that all muslims are participants of extremist groups has caused a considerable impact within the People's Republic of China. This cultural and humanitarian situation originated by the anti-Muslim movement is directly attributed to the ruling Communist Party's atheism ideology, model of the Han Chinese supremacism. Nowadays, Chinese anti-Muslim attitudes and harsh policies are not the byproduct²⁰ of communism. They can be traced back historically to Han Chinese chauvinism²¹, which first emerged during the early Qin Dynasty²².

Throughout China's imperial history, the term *Hui* was often used at different times to refer to and also derogate²³ the adherents of monotheistic faiths such as Islam, Judaism and even Christianity. This led to ethnic and religious tensions, and gave rise to popular anti-Muslim and chauvinistic attitudes amongst Han Chinese, including efforts to include the word *Hui* into Chinese society. Resulting on the encouragement on the elimination of Muslims and the Islam from the empire. This historical pattern of Han Chinese chauvinism and *Hui*-phobia has continued up to the present. Currently, the presence of the Internet and social media within China has contributed to a resurgence of anti-Muslim ideals, actions and policies. The internet and social media have become major platforms for fomenting and spreading accusations against Muslims and their so-called dishonest loyalty to China. Islam increasingly came to be regarded as a threat to the People's Republic of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Han supremacism²⁴ and outright hostility toward Islam and Muslims

²⁰ **Byproduct:** Something that is produced as a result of making something else.

²¹ **Chauvinism:** The strong and unreasonable belief that your own country or race is the best or more important.

²² **Qin Dynasty:** The dynasty (= a series of rulers all from the same family) that ruled China between 221 BC and 206 BC.

²³ **Derogate:** To talk about or treat someone or something in a way that shows you do not respect him, her or it.

²⁴ **Supremacism:** The belief that a particular type or group of people should lead or have control over other types or groups of people because they believe they are better.

has since flourished; particularly on two major Chinese social media platforms: The micro-blogging site *Sina Weibo* (2009), and the multi-purpose messaging application WeChat (2011).

During 1912, in the Republic of China, civilians of the Qin Empire, including Muslims, were meant to be treated as equal nationals, especially under the Beiyang government (1913 to 1928). For instance, during the nation-building efforts of the 1930s, Chinese political and legal attacks against Muslim nationals were rare. Muslims actively participated in the Chinese nationalist movement, and many earned prominent political positions in the republic before its collapse in 1949. The creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and the subsequent military re-conquest of Xinjiang and Tibet, effectively ended the equalitary treatment Muslims received. Instead, the Chinese Communist regime implemented the Soviet "minority nationalities" (or *minzu*) model throughout the new People's Republic of China. Under this archetype²⁵, China's ethnicities were classified into 56 distinct ethnic nationalities (with the largest groups being Han Chinese), of which ten are officially classified as Muslims. For China's Communists, the Han Chinese were generally seen as socially and culturally more advanced than the fifty-five other non-Han minority nationalities. These Muslim minorities are spread throughout China, but the majority are focused in the *Uighur* homeland of Xinjiang.

Since 1949, the diverse cultures and religions of China have been increasingly incorporated into this People's Republic of China framework of minority nationalities. In the communist ideology, the different nationality groupings were in principle meant to be equal to one another, despite Han Chinese (over 91 % of the total population) being the dominant ethnic group. However, in 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the formation of Central Asian Muslim republics, overtly²⁶ anti-Islamic attitudes started to come back in China. By the late 1990s, new geopolitical dynamics in Central Asia began to translate into hostile Chinese debates and policies towards *Uighurs*, particularly in Xinjiang. The Chinese started making an explicit link between the Islamic religion and the so-called "three evil forces" of separatism²⁷, extremism and terrorism.

Chinese Muslims in the XXIst century

²⁵ **Archetype:** A typical example of something, or the original model of something from which others are copied.

²⁶ **Overtly:** In a way that is done or shown publicly or in an obvious way and not secret.

²⁷ **Separatism:** The belief held by people of a particular race, religion, or other group within a country that they should be independent and have their own government or in some way live apart from other people.

The People's Republic of China's state media published positive propaganda focused on Islam, including stories telling how Muslims have benefited from the Communist Party's rule. No further explanation to the destitute²⁸ conditions Muslim ethnic groups were facing was given by the Chinese government. The surge of anti-Muslim hostility was partly triggered by ethnic rioting²⁹ and attacks on Party police in Xinjiang in 2009, and a subsequently harsh government crackdown³⁰ on *Uighurs*. Driven too by a rising levels of grassroots³¹ Han Chinese spreading their chauvinistic ideals.

The development of social media and online anti-Islamic activism in China has contributed along with other factors—like misinformed and selectively censored State media, and the import of ultra-right ideologies from abroad—to the generation of a broad-based, popular Han Chinese anti-Muslim movement on diverse Internet platforms. These unreliable anti-Islamic sources on social media not only crowd out official Party sources, but also generate and broadcast their own coverage about Islam and Muslims. This, further influences the Party-State's policy by letting them gain means and popularity, especially at local levels in the western regions, where officials appear to be unable to distinguish between the Party line and opinion on Islam and online hate speech.

Infractions by the People's Republic of China's government against ethnic minority groups

Since 2014, *Uighurs* on the Xinjiang area have been suffering of extensive control over their religious, cultural and social life. The Chinese government has increased police surveillance to watch out for signs of religious extremism, which include owning books about *Uighurs*, growing a beard or having a prayer rug. According to BBC investigations and interviews to *Uighurs*, the government has also installed cameras in the homes of Islamic citizens. The 18th article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; [...] either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." (United Nations, 1948). The behaviours presented by the Chinese government as a prevention mechanism for terrorism are escalating from religious discrimination, to a more severe crime by the creation of the so-called "Counter-extremism Training Centers", in which at least the 45 % of *Uighurs* on the western Xinjiang region are being held against

²⁸ **Destitute:** Without money, food, a home, or possessions.

²⁹ **Rioting:** Noisy, violent and uncontrolled behaviour by a group of people in a public place, often as a protest.

³⁰ **Crackdown:** A situation in which someone starts to deal with bad or illegal behaviour in a more severe way.

³¹ **Grassroots:** The ordinary people in a society or an organization, especially a political party.

their will. Some of the detainees have been reported to endure physical and mental torture to suppress radical religious beliefs and separatist movements.

The Xinjiang re-education camps, which as of 2019 were officially called “Vocational Education and Training Centers”, are based on a violation to the article seven of the Declaration of Human Rights which states that “all are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination” (United Nations, 1948). These camps are reported to operate outside the legal system, as stated by multiple officials through the Radio Free Asia (RFA). Many of the citizens have been retained without any trial nor charges against them. Authorities stated, from villages in Hotan, in southern Xinjiang, through the RFA, how ethnic minorities were being held in these camps for the claimed purpose of countering extremism.

A post made by the Analdeau Agency newspaper, showcased *Uighur* escapees’ testimonies, in which they explained how they were forced into drinking alcohol as well as eating pork, strictly forbidden behaviours in Islam religion. Some were receiving unknown medicines, while others were driven to attempt suicide. There have also been several reported unspecified deaths to newspapers and radio channels such as the BBC, RFA, Newsweek News among others, by guards or witnesses. Previous detainees have commented to the Independent newspaper cases of sexual torture, forced abortions, use of contraceptive devices, sterilization, and rape. Such is the case of Gulzira Mogdyn, a 38-year-old ethnic Kazakh and Chinese citizen, who was detained in Xinjiang, and was forced to undergo two abortions after being raped multiple times by Han Chinese. Ushan Abbas, of the Campaign for *Uighurs*, claims that the actions of the Chinese government amount to genocide, according to United Nations definitions laid out in the Genocide Convention.

Impact on the international community

Many countries view the actions taken by the People's Republic of China as a severe violation of Human Rights; however only the United States of America has condemned³² these actions. Robert O’Brien, President Donald Trump's new national security advisor, aforesaid "I've been to the genocide museum in Rwanda. You hear ‘never again, never again is this going to happen,’ and yet there are reeducation camps with over a million people in them.” (O’Brien, 2019). O’Brien also expressed that the economic blocking between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China will not be resolved if it

³² **Condemn:** To criticize something or someone strongly, usually for moral reasons.

continues being so secretive about the “re-educational centers”. The decision of China to create these centers as a prevention mechanism is a threat to international security due to the spreading of the idea that all Muslims are extremists and all Islam followers have terrorist ideals (O’Brien, 2019). The United States’ Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, declared that:

The United States calls on the People's Republic of China to immediately end its campaign of repression in Xinjiang, release all those arbitrarily³³ detained, and cease efforts to coerce³⁴ members of Chinese Muslim minority groups residing abroad to return to China to face an uncertain fate. (Hansler, 2019)

Within Pompeo’s statement, it was announced that Visa restrictions would be applied on Chinese government officials, as well as on every official suspected of abuse in the re-education centers. Other nations, such as the Republic of Turkey and New Zealand, aforesaid that they had discussed this problem, but have not taken further actions on the subject. This inaction³⁵ on the part of other nations is caused by the great economic impact China has on the international economy. Therefore, few countries are willing to put a good relation with the People's Republic of China at risk. Actions by countries such as Geneva have been taken; where nearly two dozen countries joined at the United Nations Human Rights Council to debate about the camps in China and the urge to close them. However, no country was held accountable for the organization and procedure of said meeting.

³³ **Arbitrarily:** In a way that is based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason.

³⁴ **Coerce:** To persuade someone forcefully to do something that they are unwilling to do.

³⁵ **Inaction:** Failure to do anything that might provide a solution to a problem.

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