



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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June 15, 2021

Christopher Nassetta, CEO
Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.
7930 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102

Dear Mr. Nassetta,

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), our nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, I write to call upon Hilton Corporation to immediately cancel any plans to build a luxury Hilton Hotel in Xinjiang's Hotan region in China, where a genocide of Uyghur Muslims is taking place. This weekend, The Telegraph [reported](#) that China is building a new commercial center—including a luxury Hilton Hotel—on a plot of land where a mosque was initially bulldozed and desecrated.

As you may know, the Chinese government has transformed Xinjiang into a repressive high-tech surveillance police state that has criminalized the practice of Islam and being Muslim – having arrested 1 to 2 million of Xinjiang's Uyghur Muslim minority inhabitants, and detaining them in barbed wired concentration camps for no other reason than practicing their Islamic faith.

According to a [report](#) released this June by Amnesty International, Uyghurs face systematic, and state-organized “mass internment and torture amounting to crimes against humanity.” More than 50 former Uyghur concentration camp detainees detailed illegal mass imprisonment, torture, and persecution. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is subjecting Uyghur Muslims to a constant indoctrination campaign as well as physical and psychological torture.

The Chinese government has also engaged in a series of egregious human rights abuses that have been well documented by other prominent institutions including Human Rights Watch and the U.S. State Department.

The State Department's 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices clearly [states](#) that the Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang are subjected to forced sterilization, coerced abortions, a more restrictive application of China's birth control policies; rape; torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained; forced labor; and draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or beliefs.

In 2020, two Uyghur rights groups filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court against the leadership of the Chinese government for the crimes of committing genocide and human rights violations, including the allegation of stealing organs from Uyghur Muslims by force.

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In August 2019, CAIR [called](#) for the cancellation of NBA exhibition games in China and the closure of training centers in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region following the league's criticism of Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey for tweeting in support of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

In July 2020, the American Muslim community welcomed the NBA's public response to Tennessee U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn's letter inquiring about the NBA's operations in Xinjiang, whereby the NBA pledged that it is no longer involved in any activities in the region. Hilton should and must make the same pledge.

Hilton has a unique opportunity to take a clear stance against China's structural human rights abuses and Islamophobia and to set an example for other prominent corporations. By ignoring China's genocide of Uyghur Muslims and continuing to do business in Xinjiang, American corporations would be sending a clear message that it does not support international human rights.

You must stand on the right side of history by announcing that Hilton will be canceling this project and ceasing all operations in the Uyghur region of China until its government ends its persecution of millions of innocent people.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Edward Ahmed Mitchell, Esq.
National Deputy Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations

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