

September 21, 2021

H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Ms. Sanda Ojiambo
Executive Director & CEO
United Nations Global Compact
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

RE: Request to De-list Hilton Worldwide from United Nations Global Compact for Egregious Complicity in Cultural Erasure of Uyghur Muslims, Other Turkic Minorities

Dear Secretary-General Guterres and Executive Director Ojiambo:

On behalf of the undersigned houses of worship, Uyghur rights groups, Muslim advocacy organizations, and human rights groups based in the United States and around the world, we write to request the United Nations de-list Hilton Worldwide as a participant in the United Nations Global Compact over its violations of the compact's principles. Hilton Worldwide has entered into an agreement - one that it could easily terminate - to license the construction of a Hampton by Hilton hotel on the site of a bulldozed mosque in the Uyghur region of China.

The United Nations Global Compact, a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, is "a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption." It has more than 13,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories in more than 160 countries.

In June, *The Telegraph* first reported on the story that Hilton Worldwide has licensed to Huan Peng Hotel Management the rights to build a Hampton by Hilton hotel on the site where the Uyghur Muslim Duling Mosque was bulldozed in 2018, in the Hotan prefecture of the Uyghur region of China. The local landowner came into possession of the site after China destroyed the mosque and forced the sale of its land.

Hilton Worldwide has responded by unapologetically taking no responsibility citing its corporate franchise model "limits Hilton's involvement in the development and management of properties." However, Hilton could terminate its franchise agreement with Huan Peng Hotel Management for "adversely reflect[ing] upon or affect[ing] in any manner the reputation, goodwill, or business" of the hotel. Disappointingly, Hilton Worldwide has chosen to not execute the termination clause of its franchise agreement with Huan Peng Hotel Management.

Hilton Worldwide has made its decision clear. The hotel chain is going to prioritize profits over being complicit in China's genocide and cultural erasure of Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic minorities.

The plan to build a Hampton by Hilton hotel over the site of the Duling Mosque is part of a larger campaign by China to cover up its ongoing genocide of Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic minorities and widespread destruction and damage of [16,000 mosques](#) in the Uyghur region of China.

As China continues to commit genocide and crimes against humanity, it has enlisted companies like Hilton Worldwide and Huan Peng Hotel Management to obscure its crimes of displacing and detaining Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic minorities and attempting to erase their presence through the destruction of culturally historic sites of worship like the Duling Mosque.

The Chinese government is currently perpetrating a genocide against Uyghur Muslims. China has detained over one million Muslims in concentrations camps. According to various human rights groups, China subjects Uyghur prisoners to forced labor, rape, forced abortions and sterilization, and other forms of torture designed to erase their cultural and religious identity.

On March 30, the U.S. Department of State published its [2020 Human Rights Report](#), confirming the United States' determination that China's atrocities against Uyghur Muslims and other Turkic minorities is an act of genocide and crime against humanity.

As you know, the first two principles of the United Nations Global Compact relate to the importance of corporate support for human rights:

***“Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and **Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.”*

By first agreeing to license a hotel on the site of a bulldozed Uyghur mosque in China, and by refusing to drop that licensing agreement despite widespread condemnation of its actions, Hilton Worldwide is clearly in violation of United Nations Global Compact principles.

Hilton Worldwide is both failing to protect internationally proclaimed human rights and is complicit in human rights abuses.

We therefore urge you to immediately begin the process required to drop Hilton Worldwide as a participant in the United Nations Global Compact.

By de-listing Hilton Worldwide from the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations will establish the precedent that companies which aid in the coverup of genocide are not immune to repercussions.

We are available to meet with representatives from the United Nations to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Organizations in the #BoycottHilton Coalition include:

- Uyghur Human Rights Project
- World Uyghur Congress
- Campaign for Uyghurs
- Free Uyghur Now
- Justice for All
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
 - American Muslim Alliance (AMA)
 - American Muslim for Palestine (AMP)
 - Baitulmaal for Relief and Development
 - Burmese Rohingya Association of North America (BRANA)
 - Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
 - Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
 - Dar Alhijrah Islamic Center
 - Downtown Islamic Center – Chicago (DIC)
 - Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)
 - International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)
 - Islamic Association of North America (IANA)
 - Islamic Center of Chicago Western Suburbs (ICW)
 - Islamic Center of Detroit (ICD)
 - Islamic Community Center of Illinois (ICCI)
 - Islamic Center of Naperville (ICN)
 - Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
 - Islamic Leadership Council of New York
 - Islamic Shura Council of Southern California (ISCSC)
 - Mercy Without Limits (MWL)
 - Mosque Foundation (MF)
 - The Mosque Cares (Ministry of Imam W. D. Mohammed)
 - Muslim American Society (MAS)
 - Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
 - Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
 - Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest (MFPNW)
 - New York Majlis Ashura
 - North America Imams Federation (NAIF)
 - Together We Serve (TWS)
 - United Muslim Relief (UMR)
 - United Hands Relief (UHR)

International Organizations:

Justice and Liberties for All Committee (France)
Muslim Council of Britain (England)
Belgium Uyghur Association (Belgium)