

## **The Question of Arbitrary Imprisonment and Forced Labour of Uyghur Muslims in China**

In recent years, reports have emerged regarding the treatment of the Uyghur Muslim minority by government forces in the People's Republic of China. Concerns have been raised that the Uyghurs are being subjected to arbitrary trials and convictions and relocated to "re-education" camps that involve forced labour and maltreatment, sanctioned by the central Chinese authorities.

Indeed, a report by the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights says: "allegations of patterns of torture, or ill-treatment, including forced medical treatment and adverse conditions of detention, are credible, as are allegations of individual incidents of sexual and gender-based violence."

The Council on Foreign Relations has determined that: "Most of the people who have been detained are Uyghur, a predominantly Turkic-speaking ethnic group primarily in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang. Beyond the detentions, Uyghurs in the region have been subjected to intense surveillance, forced labor, and involuntary sterilizations, among other rights abuses."

It will be the task of the SCSHT to determine the truth of these claims, and if they do bear weight, to consider appropriate actions and solutions.