

HUMAN INSECURITY FOR THE UIGHUR MUSLIMS IN CHINA

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Introduction

Human Security has a very vague and broad definition because it helps the UN respond to a broad range of issues (UN Security Council, 2016)

The goal of human security is to work on a local level to find and identify problems and fix them in the best way possible

Human security is a people centered initiative. There are seven types of insecurities economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, political. This photo essay will focus on the political insecurity of the Uighur Muslims in the Xinjiang region of China (UN Security Council, 2016)

My research question was, what are the human insecurities the Uighur Muslims in the Xinjiang province of China experience?

Methodology

I acquired my pictures from Getty images and online news articles. I plan to use 10-12 pictures in a photo essay showing how the Uighur Muslims lives have changed.

- These photos give people an actual glimpse into the life of Uighur people now that they are being persecuted.
- Research was done by examining readings in the class and news stories on the subject
- Photos straight from the source are very helpful in finding the root of the problem

Literature Review

- Human Security is used to help find insecurities and make them securities
- The broad definition of human Security has led to debate over whether liberation or pro-independence groups can be clasfied as terrorists (Nyadera and Bincof, 2019)
- In China the emphasis on the individual human being that is normally part of human security is replaced by a focus on the bettering of the collective humankind (Breslin, 2015)



UIGHUR MUSLIMS

Uighurs make up about half of the population in the Xinjiang region of China. They are native to the Xinjiang province of China. China sees the Uighurs as a minority group but they are not seen as an indigenous group by the Chinese government.(Matteo. *Getty Images*.)

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UIGHUR HOSPITAL MURAL

This mural is outside of a hospital. Many Uighur families experience soldiers in their homes. The government also tracks Uighurs locations and search history using the citizens' phones.(Baker, *Getty Images*.)



KYRGYZSTAN MEN PLEAD TO THEIR GOVERNMENT

The neighboring country of Kyrgyzstan plead to their government to ask China to release their imprisoned family members. This is also happening all over the world asking to have their imprisoned family members freed. (Oseledko, *Getty Images*)



MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

Uighurs in the camp are forced to attend one of the lessons in the camps. Uighurs are taught Mandarin and made to renounce or criticize their faith. They aren't allowed to leave or not attend the class (Erin Rodewald, 2019)



OUTSIDE OF A RE-EDUCATION CAMP

The Chinese government denied the existence of the camps at first, they eventually changed their message saying they were vocational education centers. More than a million Uighur's are believed to be held in camps like these. UN officials have asked to visit Xinjiang province and the camps but China has denied them access. (Baker, *Getty Images*)

Background Information

- The Chinese government has reportedly imprisoned over one million Uighur Muslims in camps in Xinjiang (Beachum, 2019)
- The government says it is to prevent the spread of extremism in the region.
- Losing the province to secession would take a large amount of land from China. Something the government does not want to happen
- While many people denounce the Chinese government there is nothing anyone can do because of the belief of a nation's sovereignty being so important.

Results

- These pictures help give one a reference of what has been taken from the Uighurs
- Their culture and individuality has been stripped from them in the camps
- If one were to look at the picture titled, "Uighur Muslims" and then look at the picture titled, "Mandatory Attendance", one can see that Uighurs are having their identity and culture changed to fit the communist government's wishes
- In the picture with the mural on it the Chinese government is trying to make it seem as if the army visiting Uighurs is a normal thing. Also that the army needs to check up on the people to keep the other citizens safe
- These pictures show the dangerous precedent China is setting, that people can unwillingly be put in camps and no one will do anything to stop them