



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL

10th of September 2018



MEDIA STATEMENT

ANIC Condemns the Ongoing Persecution and Violation of Human Rights Against the Uyghur Muslims by the Chinese Authorities

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) would like to express their shock and sympathies over the treatment given to the Muslims of East Turkistan which are referred to by Chinese authorities as “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.” The individuals in question have faced treatment at the hands of the Chinese Government which has progressively worsened since 1949. This treatment cannot be regarded as anything other than inhumane and unbearable.

Uyghur Muslims have been banned from using their Uyghur language within their schooling and education and have been forcefully compelled to learn and communicate in Chinese. All religious practices such as praying, attending mosques, fasting in the month of Ramadan, wearing Islamic clothing, males growing beard, females wearing hijab are banned.

Uyghur Muslims are likewise banned from giving Islamic names to their newborn and are forced to change their Muslim names when found to possess them.

Thousands of mosques have been destroyed, copies of the Holy Quran and other religious texts have been confiscated and burnt, females are forced to marry those outside of their religion.

Several human rights violations are unfolding in western China where virtually the entire culture of Uyghur Muslims is being effectively criminalized; arbitrary detentions in education camps (which aim to force Muslims to disavow Islam and pledge loyalty to the Communist Party) now reach up to 1 million Muslims in the Xinjiang region. Prisoners are routinely tortured, physically and mentally, in a continual effort to quash religious belief.

Xinjiang cannot be regarded as anything but a totalitarian police state as it is widely cited as one of the most heavily policed places in the world today where smartphones are checked regularly and anyone found with anything relating to Islam is arrested and given many years of imprisonment.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) calls upon the Chinese government and authorities for immediate stop to this oppression and persecution exercised against the Uyghur Muslims, and for the international community to condemn this oppression and to pressure the Chinese authorities for an immediate stop to this injustice and calls upon The Australian government in condemning these brutal and inhuman actions and to play a more significant role in the preservation of human rights.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) also calls upon all Muslims in particular Imams and Muslims leaders and scholars to address this matter and to create more awareness on the suffering and persecution of Uyghur Muslims.

END...