



UIGHUR FORCED STARVATION

Prolonged COVID lockdown has left Uighurs across East Turkestan without food. People have taken to social media to show empty fridges and a lack of supplies to survive enforced confinement.

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“Uighurs around the world are shaken by this new iteration of genocide and manufactured starvation in cities like Ghulja. Earlier, we worried about the wellbeing of arbitrarily detained family members in China’s prison camps. But now, we’re worrying about the wellbeing of family members lucky enough to be in their homes. We can’t eat comfortably knowing our loved ones may be starving in this moment,” said Serwi Huseyin, campaign lead at Save Uighur.

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Uighur Muslims in Chinese-occupied East Turkestan have been starving under China’s systemized, state-manufactured forced starvation scheme since early August 2022. A series of COVID policies called “not sustainable” by the World Health Organization allows Chinese officials to withhold access to urgent medical aid and food.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Under a false “zero COVID lockdown” guise, China’s communist government continues its genocide of Uighurs by imprisoning them in so-called quarantine centers.

Uighur families are confined in their homes, while food from their kitchens and refrigerators is confiscated using bogus COVID regulations.

Uighurs are using online platforms to demonstrate how their lives have become unsustainable under such duress. The most impacted are children and the elderly, who are dying daily due to starvation and no access to medicines.

ALARMING VIDEO EVIDENCE

Videos of this brutality surfaced on Chinese social media platform Douyin, devastating global Uighur diasporas.

According to NGOs and human rights experts, Uighurs in East Turkestan are risking their lives by releasing such videos while on the brink of starvation. Uighurs outside the impacted region worry that family member lives may face danger under extreme lockdown measures imposed in cities across East Turkestan.

Global Uighur diasporas have demanded the international community pressures China to stop this new form of genocide—forced starvation carried out using fake reasons of keeping the coronavirus infection in check.



Uighurs in East Turkestan, particularly in Ghulja city, have used social media to complain about the devastating effects of the prolonged lockdown.

For over 50 days, Uighurs in Ghulja city have released videos documenting their harrowing ongoing experience, including;

- Tragic scenes of hungry and sick children;
- Uighur residents confronting community cadres demanding food;
- Protesters on the streets demonstrating against the lockdown and forced starvation;
- Seniors in critical condition and without care;
- Unhygienic quarantine camps;
- Tragic casualties caused by the extreme quarantine.

Additional videos further demonstrate the economic and social impacts of the forced quarantine measures. Ruined crops and fruits, unharvested on time, will cause Uighurs to face severe financial difficulties and food shortages eventually.

CENSORING FREE SPEECH, SUPPRESSED RELIEF

Radio Free Asia (RFA) recorded rare protests in Gulja city's Qara Dong neighbourhood. 617 people who peacefully broke lockdown regulations to protest against forced starvation were arrested.

Priority food donations sent from Turpan and Hotan to extreme lockdown regions, such as Gulja city, failed to reach Uighur homes due to government restrictions.

Since early August, Uighur residents in Ghulja, Turpan, Korla, Hotan, Kashgar, and several other cities in East Turkestan have been forced to follow the government-mandated stay-at-home notice.

Despite low COVID infection rates in the region, these Uighurs depend on community cadres to supply food and medicine. However, videos display parents showing no food for their children, despite repeated pleas to community officials.

There have been death scenes of Uighur children, after their parents could not obtain medical attention due to home confinement. Food items are being forcibly removed after being declared “not disinfected.” Even Uighur livestock are labelled “not disinfected” and killed. Many residents are forced to live in highly unhygienic and crowded quarantine centers, increasing their risk of COVID.

The forced starvation crisis has also intensified family separation, already a human rights issue commonly faced by Uighurs. After their parents were taken to quarantine centres, children left alone risked their lives by climbing into neighbour rooms to seek refuge. In one video, a 16-year-old girl cries hysterically for her mother during a medical emergency. Her mother could not tend to her daughter because Chinese officials took her to quarantine centers.



HUMANITARIAN DEMANDS

Justice For All Canada urges the United States and Canada to enable humanitarian relief through USAID and Global Affairs Canada. Using urgent diplomacy, Foreign Ministers in North America must press for;



PRIORITY SDG

The unconditional release of Uighur family members transported to quarantine centers for minor non-COVID-related illnesses.



PRIORITY SDG

The immediate provision of food and basic necessities for impacted Uighur residents and neighbourhoods.



PRIORITY SDG

The complete shut-down of inhumane quarantine centers in East Turkestan;

Contact

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