

REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

RT Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

19 March 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Re: Human rights sanctions for abuses in Xinjiang

We write first with our congratulations on the launch of the United Kingdom's global human rights sanctions regime last July. In the past year, the UK has taken decisive, much-needed action against many perpetrators of serious human rights abuses across the world. REDRESS commends the UK Government for its commitment to using sanctions as a tool for deterring such violations.

However, the UK Government must demonstrate the will to apply sanctions consistently in cases where individuals are committing gross abuses. This includes the imposition of sanctions on those involved in significant, well-documented abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

In November 2020, REDRESS submitted a [dossier of evidence](#) to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, calling for sanctions designations for senior Chinese officials and entities linked to the grave violations in Xinjiang. The dossier contained extensive evidence from numerous credible authorities that document human rights violations against Uyghur and other minority populations in Xinjiang since late 2016. The submission was supported by more than [20 UK members of](#) the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China.

As we noted then, the UK has used its sanctions power to respond to some of the most pressing human rights crises of today. The situation in Xinjiang so far has been a conspicuous omission. Several months later, this remains true.

The UK's closest partners on foreign policy are taking strong action to condemn human rights violations in Xinjiang through targeted sanctions. The United States designated six individuals and two entities in July 2020. The European Union is expected to announce designations on Monday 22 March 2021. On the basis of credible information about extrajudicial detentions and forced labour, the UK Government has announced measures to help ensure that British organisations are not complicit in abuses in Xinjiang. While these measures signal that the UK is aware of ongoing violations, they fall well short of the steps taken by the UK's partners, and the government's own guidance, which demand the use of sanctions.

PATRONS

The Honourable Louise Arbour CC, GOQ
Professor Michael Bazylar (USA)
Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP
Dato' Param Cumaraswamy (Malaysia)
Edward Datnow FRCS
Anthony Foulger
Dr Inge Genefke MD, D.M.Sc.h.c (DK)
Lord Harries of Pentregarth
Dame Rosalyn Higgins DBE QC
Lord Judd
Leah Levin OBE
Caroline Moorehead OBE, FRSL
Professor David Weissbrodt (USA)
Dame Vivienne Westwood DBE RDI

TRUSTEES (LONDON)

Paul Lomas (Chair)
Professor Bill Bowring
Sherman Carroll Ph.D, MBE (Hon.)
Professor Helen Duffy
Professor Sir Malcom Evans, KCMG, OBE
Willa Geertsema
Phillip Hodgson
Kirsten McIntyre
Rev. Nicholas Mercer
Baroness Vivien Stern

TRUSTEES (THE NETHERLANDS)

Paul Lomas (Chair)
Willa Geertsema
Rianne Letschert

LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Professor Michael Bazylar
Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC (Hon)
Michael Birnbaum QC
Joanna Glynn QC
Professor David Harris CMG
Professor Lorna McGregor
Professor Geraldine van Bueren
Professor David Weissbrodt

FOUNDER AND HONORARY PRESIDENT

Keith Carmichael

DIRECTOR

Rupert Skilbeck

REDRESS LONDON

87 Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5HJ, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7793 1777 Fax: +44 (0)20 7793 1779
info@redress.org
Registered Charity N. 1015787
A Limited Company Registered in England Number 2274071

REDRESS NEDERLAND

Alexanderveld 5, office 3.19, 2585DB
The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 708 919 317
info.nederland@redress.org
Registered with the Chamber of Commerce,
file number 66793319

Incorporated as a Not-for-Profit corporations
in the State of New York (No. 13-4028661)
In Special Consultative Status with
the United Nations (ECOSOC)

 redress.org

 [@REDRESSTrust](https://twitter.com/REDRESSTrust)

 [/theREDRESSTrust](https://www.facebook.com/theREDRESSTrust)

Designating Chinese officials and entities for violations in Xinjiang may have repercussions, but the UK should uphold its commitment to protect global human rights in all cases, whether difficult or easy. The UK cannot turn its back on the Uyghur and other minorities in Xinjiang who continue to suffer gross human rights abuses. Rather, the UK Government should stand with its key allies, and impose targeted sanctions on key individuals and entities responsible for the situation in Xinjiang.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rupert Skilbeck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rupert Skilbeck
Director, REDRESS