



May 6, 2021

Hon. Antony Blinken  
U.S. Secretary of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, we have been horrified by the Chinese government's escalating repressive actions against its own citizens.

We denounce the treatment of the Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang in the strongest terms. We join with hundreds of human rights organizations in condemning the incarceration of more than a million Uyghurs in re-education camps, forced dislocation of thousands of families, evidence of rape and sexual violence, child labor and forced labor, persistent religious persecution, forced sterilization and deployment of Orwellian surveillance technology.

In the face of this horrific behavior, we ask you to go beyond your observation that indeed genocide has been committed against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang. We understand the relationship between America and China is tense, and constantly evolving. No doubt you are constantly considering the impact of that relationship on trade, energy and regional security. But no less important is the necessity of keeping an unwavering focus on China's extensive and growing violations against human and worker rights, from Xinjiang to Hong Kong, that continue to undermine international norms and standards.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten  
President, American Federation of Teachers

RW : vyt opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

