

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write out of alarm over reports indicating that the Chinese government is currently undertaking a draconian campaign to forcibly sterilize and detain Uyghur and other ethnic minority women in western China. As you are aware, this systemic torture and violation of human rights is one aspect of the Chinese government's broader genocide against the Uyghur, Kazakh, and other minority groups within the People's Republic of China.

According to investigative reporting by *the Associated Press*, the Chinese government is forcing thousands of minority women to undergo pregnancy checks, gynecological exams, forced insertions of intrauterine devices, and abortions.<sup>1</sup> In addition to police raids, women are also threatened with or punished with exorbitant fines or detention if authorities believe that they have 'too many' children. In detainment, women are beaten, forcibly rendered sterile through injections or oral medication, or forcibly given abortions. These actions are part of the Chinese government's goal to decrease the birth rate among minority groups in China and to cause severe trauma in order to stifle these communities.

The freedom for individuals to have children and to make autonomous choices about their bodies are foundational human rights. Any efforts to hold China accountable for its genocidal campaign against minorities must address these horrific instances of abusing women and revoking their autonomy.

On Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, you tweeted that "The United States condemns the use of forced population controls against Uyghur and other minority women and calls on the CCP to cease its campaign of repression. History will judge how we act today".<sup>2</sup>

What actions do you and the State Department plan on taking in light of this reporting?

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<sup>1</sup> "China cuts Uighur births with IUDs, abortion, sterilization", *The Associated Press*, June 29, 2020.

"<https://apnews.com/269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>

<sup>2</sup> @SecPompeo, Twitter.com, 3:04 PM, June 29, 2020. Accessed 4:30 PM, June 29, 2020.

<https://twitter.com/SecPompeo/status/1277679368958066688?s=20>

We look forward to your prompt response. We are prepared to undertake further legislative action to answer this genocidal campaign by the Chinese government.

Sincerely,



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
U.S. Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS  
U.S. Senator