

We are gathered here, today, to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Urumqi Massacre. On July 5th, 2009, Uyghur students gathered for a protest at the People's Square, in Urumqi, China. They called upon the government to provide answers and resolutions to the unsolved homicides at a toy factory in Shaoguan City where 18 Uyghurs were killed and more than 300 injured. They also called upon the government for equal treatment with respect to employment and to end the anti-uyghur hiring discrimination for new graduates. The peaceful protest was intercepted by the Chinese government which had sent armed troops to dissolve the demonstration. Although we do not have an official death toll, as many as 1000 Uyghur protesters were killed and many more injured by the Chinese authorities. The East Turkistan Association of Canada strongly condemns China's bloody crackdown of the Urumqi demonstration in 2009. Furthermore, the Chinese government has been treating Uyghurs and the Turkic population of East Turkestan with disdain and hostility for decades since they invaded the region in 1949. Since 2017, it reached an unprecedented level of oppression. China is targeting several millions of Uyghurs for political and cultural indoctrination by detaining the population in concentration camps, the largest mass incarceration since the holocaust. The entire world grieved after the horror of the Nazi extermination camps, reassuring itself to "never again" allow and witness the horrors of another Holocaust; another ethnic cleansing. But never again is happening again! Why has the promise of "never again" proven so difficult to honor? Call on the oppressor of Uyghurs and speak up against these mass killings. Canada cannot be silent on this ongoing genocide. Stand up against this genocide, ethnocide and demand to liberate the concentration camps and prevent a 21st century holocaust! My religion, my choice! My culture, my choice! My freedom, my choice! Silence helps no one !!! Silence feeds tyranny!!!!