



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[6 February 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Value of China's Fight against Terrorism and Extremism**

Terrorism is the common enemy of humanity, and the target of joint action by the international community. China's fight against terrorism and extremism is an important part of the same battle being waged by the international community; it is in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to combat terrorism and safeguard basic human rights. The fight against terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, is based on the reality in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, and the rest of the country, while drawing on the experience of other countries. The government prioritizes safeguarding the fundamental interests of all ethnic groups. Starting by addressing deep-seated problems, China has worked to explore effective and law-based approaches to counterterrorism and de-radicalization to protect people of all ethnic groups from the scourge of terrorism and extremism, and identified successful experiences and effective measures.

Combating terrorism in accordance with the law and protecting human rights. Fighting terrorist activities and protecting lives and property are fundamental to protecting human rights. Terrorist activities were once frequent in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, destroying local peace, order, unity, and progress, and showing callous disdain for the people's right to life, health, development and other basic human rights. In the face of terrorist atrocities, the local government has launched preventive and punitive countermeasures in accordance with the law and perseveres with deterrence against terrorist forces, maximizing its efforts to protect basic human rights from terrorism and extremism. No violent or terrorist activities have occurred in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, for more than six years; the number of criminal cases and public security cases has fallen significantly; the infiltration of extremism has been curbed, and peace and harmony has returned to society. At the same time, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has paid special attention to human rights protection in its counterterrorism effort, preventing any violation of human rights caused by counterterrorist measures. To this end, the local government has enhanced legislation on counterterrorism, so as to keep its counterterrorism activities within the law and punish acts of terrorism in accordance with the law. It has made every effort to ensure that its counterterrorist measures do not infringe the basic rights, interests and freedoms of local ethnic groups as endowed by the law, and that normal social order is maintained.

Counterterrorism does not target any specific region, ethnic group or religion. It is stipulated in the Counterterrorism Law of China that "In counterterrorism work, citizens' freedom in religious belief and ethnic customs shall be respected, and any discrimination based on regions, ethnic groups, religions and other grounds shall be prohibited." Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, is inhabited by multiple ethnic groups composed of believers in multiple religions. In the course of counterterrorism and de-radicalization, the local government forbids any organization or individual from using religion to split the country, spread religious extremism, incite ethnic hatred, undermine ethnic unity, disturb social order, harm citizens' physical or mental health, hinder the implementation of the country's administrative, judicial, educational and cultural systems, or harm national security, national interests, public interests and civil rights and interests. It prevents ill-intentioned people from using religion or religious activities to create disorder or commit crimes.

The local government also abides by the policies and stipulations in the Constitution, other state laws and administrative regulations concerning freedom of religious belief. In the course of counterterrorism and de-radicalization, the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, have their freedom of religious belief fully protected. Citizens are entitled to choose to be religious believers or non-believers, and no organization or individual may force citizens to believe in a religion or not, nor discriminate against believers or non-believers. Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, attaches equal importance to services and management in addressing religious affairs.

The local government has worked to enhance the training of religious staff, expand channels for them to acquire religious knowledge, and improve the conditions of venues for religious activities, so that the religious sentiments, beliefs and needs of believers are fully respected.

Maintaining stability and improving the standards of living. Safeguarding and improving people's lives contributes to public wellbeing and social harmony and stability. Some areas in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, were severely disturbed by terrorism and the infiltration of religious extremism. For this reason, some people cannot speak, read or write in standard Chinese, have a weak understanding of rule of law, and have difficulty finding employment through a lack of employable skills. As a result, such people are more inclined to be incited or coerced into criminality by terrorist and extremist forces. The in-depth implementation of anti-terrorism and anti-extremism work has resulted in social stability and continuous improvement of people's lives in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, vigorously promoting all-round human development. The people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, are leading a new life. They pursue a cultured way of life, and consciously resist religious extremism. More than ever before, ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, are united and live in harmony, and popular support for counterterrorism, maintenance of stability and de-radicalization is increasing. The people of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, are full of hope for a better future.

The fight against terrorism and extremism is the common responsibility of the international community and essential to the protection of human rights. While shaking off the shadow of violence and terrorism, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, has also created a historic opportunity for its all-round development and people's happiness. Through the concerted efforts of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, the integrated development of modernization of agriculture and animal husbandry, informatization, digitalization and intelligence of industry has been accelerated, and the service industry has played an increasingly prominent role in economic growth. The social harmony and stability, sustained economic development and continuous improvement of people's livelihood in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, as well as the growing sense of gain, happiness and security of the people of all ethnic groups are a powerful response to the lies of anti-China forces in the United States of America and the West.

The double standards adopted by the United States of America and the West on the issue of human rights are in accordance with their hegemony of human rights discourse in the world. The choice of evaluation criteria and how to evaluate the human rights situation in different countries depends on geopolitical considerations, and their own political needs rather than real human rights protection. The United States of America and other Western countries only one-sidedly emphasize specific rights related to their own interests, while ignoring the practical efforts made by other countries in human rights protection. In fact, by cracking down on the "three evil forces" (namely, ethnic separatism, religious extremism and violent terrorism) in accordance with the law, there has been no violent terrorist incident in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, over the past five consecutive years, and the right to life, health and development of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (UAR), China, have been effectively protected.

As far as the protection of human rights is concerned, no country has the right to impose its own ideology, political and cultural traditions on other countries. Human rights have never been a set of Western concepts imposed on others, but a value system that is universally recognized by the human community and reached according to the prevailing conditions of human society. Human rights should never be used as a tool for individual countries to pursue geopolitical strategies and export ideologies, but rather it should serve as a basis for consensus-based dialogue on an equal footing between civilizations and cultures. As the Charter of the United Nations calls for, countries should "practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors." This is the only way through which the world can embrace real peace and development.