

US sanctions Chinese officials for 'suppression of Muslims'

The US government on Tuesday placed visa restrictions on Chinese government officials who are involved in the suppression of Muslims in China.

The sanctions target officials and members of the ruling Communist Party of China who are complicit in the abuse of minorities.

The US believes these people are "responsible for, or complicit in, the detention or abuse of Uygurs, Kazakhs or other members of Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang."

China has always rejected accusations that it is bullying Muslims and arrested families, locking them behind bars and barbed wire to convert them to 'communism'.

But the US now says the [Chinese government is a bully](#).

It has in place a highly repressive campaign against Uygurs and the other Muslim ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uygur

autonomous region.

SAUDI ARABIA

The US stance is in contrast to the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince who is said to be in agreement with the Chinese on its 'detention' and 'brainwashing' programme.

The US accused China of putting well more than a million minority Muslims in 'concentration camps'.

But reports in various news outlets say the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman or MBS approves of the Chinese policies.

Saudi Arabia, Russia and 35 other states have written to the United Nations supporting China's policies in its western region of Xinjiang.

This was reported by Haaretz, a Tel Aviv-based newspaper.

A letter says security had returned to Xinjiang and the fundamental human rights of people of all ethnic groups there had been safeguarded.

The letter addressed to the UN was seen by Reuters.

It adds there had been no terrorist attack there for three years and people enjoyed a stronger sense of happiness, fulfilment and security.

The letter was signed by the ambassadors from Saudi Arabia, Russia, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba, Belarus, Myanmar, the Philippines, Syria, Pakistan, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, says Reuters.

End bullying, says the US

“The United States calls on the People’s Republic of China to immediately end its campaign of repression in Xinjiang, release all those arbitrarily detained and cease efforts to coerce members of Chinese Muslim minority groups residing abroad to return to China to face an uncertain fate,” US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo says.