

Honorable Members of Assemblée nationale, dear guests, and friends of Uyghur People.

I am Dolkun Isa, president of the World Uyghur Congress. On behalf of the Uyghur community worldwide, I want to thank the organisers, but also the politicians in France that worked really hard in the past few years to bring the Uyghur issue to the attention of the French people. This resolution tabled by Mr Alain David of the Socialist Party is extremely important and needed in the current context. Indeed, 7 parliaments around the world, including leading European countries have already voted on a resolution recognizing the Uyghur genocide. France is running behind in this regard, although the civic space has been very active on this matter.

The current situation for Uyghurs inside is very severe. Last month, the independent Uyghur Tribunal in London, after 18 months of assessment of all the evidence available judged that China's atrocities amount to crimes against humanity and genocide. Everything that is unique about the Uyghur people is under attack: our language, culture, religion, history and ethnic identity. The Chinese government is fragmenting our society, imprisoning or disappearing prominent Uyghurs and cutting the social ties within and between communities. By trying to forcibly diminish the Uyghur birth rate in East Turkistan, the Chinese government is trying to alter the demography in the region, and separating families. This has major consequences in the future, entire generations of Uyghurs will be prevented from existing.

Just like any Uyghur in the diaspora, I have lost everything, including my family in East Turkistan. The only news I've heard in the past years are bad ones. In four years, I have learned the death of my mother in a camp, the death of my father, as well as the imprisonment of both of my brothers, as a retaliation for my work as a human rights defender.

France - the country of human rights, which values freedom, dignity, and justice. "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights," according to the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 proclaimed in French National Assembly, the abolition of slavery, was enacted in France in 1848, women rights are one of the main topics in France, children education and protection is a part of fundamental values in France. All citizens have the same value in the eyes of the State.

Uyghurs are not free. They are living under total surveillance, forced labour is widespread and separation of children from families is a horrific reality. Over a million Uyghurs are detained in concentration camps, prisons, and forced labour factories. They are abused, tortured, raped, and even killed. These mass detention camps are designed to cause serious physical, psychological harm and mentally break the Uyghur people. The Chinese state order is to "break our lineage, break our roots, break our connections, and break our origins", those exact words came from top officials of the CCP.

The French government has moral and legal obligations to stop an ongoing genocide. The first step is to acknowledge the crisis and call it what it is: a genocide.

In the past few weeks, many governments have announced that they will diplomatically boycott the upcoming Winter Olympics in Beijing. However, the French Minister of Education announced it won't boycott diplomatically. Meanwhile on October 22, during the UN Third Committee meeting, France led a joint statement signed by 43 countries on the worsening situation in East Turkistan.

It is unacceptable that a democratic country sends government officials to these games when a genocide is taking place in our homeland. This is a tacit approval of this genocidal regime, and France cannot on the one hand condemn Chinese policies and on the other hand participate in these Games that legitimises this very brutal government. France must commit to a diplomatic boycott.

It is high time to hold the perpetrators accountable, and to protect the victims of this genocide by giving them the appropriate platforms to share their stories. China is not a democracy, there is no respect for fundamental freedoms, but the French Republic is a democratic, social, and secular Republic and an example for many countries in terms of equality and freedom. We urge France to take a strong position on the Uyghur genocide, **silence is complicity.**