

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**  
Inquiry into Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Uyghur Forced Labour)  
Bill 2020, Public Hearing, 2020 - 2021

**QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written**

**003 – Public Hearing 27 April 2021**

**Topic: Xinjiang - FM Representations**

**Senator Eric Abetz**

**Question**

Has the foreign minister raised it with her Chinese counterpart, on what occasions?  
Has Australia or the FM raised it in international fora like the Human Rights Council?

**Answer**

Australia has been clear and consistent in expressing our grave concerns about the growing number of credible reports of severe human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

On 23 March, Foreign Minister Payne joined New Zealand Foreign Minister Mahuta in expressing the two Governments' grave concerns about human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Minister Payne reiterated Australia's deep concerns in a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Blinken on 13 May 2021.

The Foreign Minister raised the Australian Government's concerns about Xinjiang directly with her Chinese counterpart, State Councilor Wang Yi, at their last three meetings.

Minister Payne also raised Xinjiang in her Human Rights Council (HRC) dignitary address in September 2020.

Australia consistently raised concerns about Xinjiang in our national statements at each of the past eight sessions of the HRC, including the most recent 46th session in March 2021.

Australia was one of 39 countries that joined a statement delivered in the UNGA Third Committee in New York on 6 October 2020 regarding the situations in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet.

Australia was one of 28 countries that joined a statement in the HRC on 30 June 2020 conveying concerns about Xinjiang and Hong Kong, and calling for China to allow independent access to the region.