

# WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PRESS

*7 - 13 November 2022*



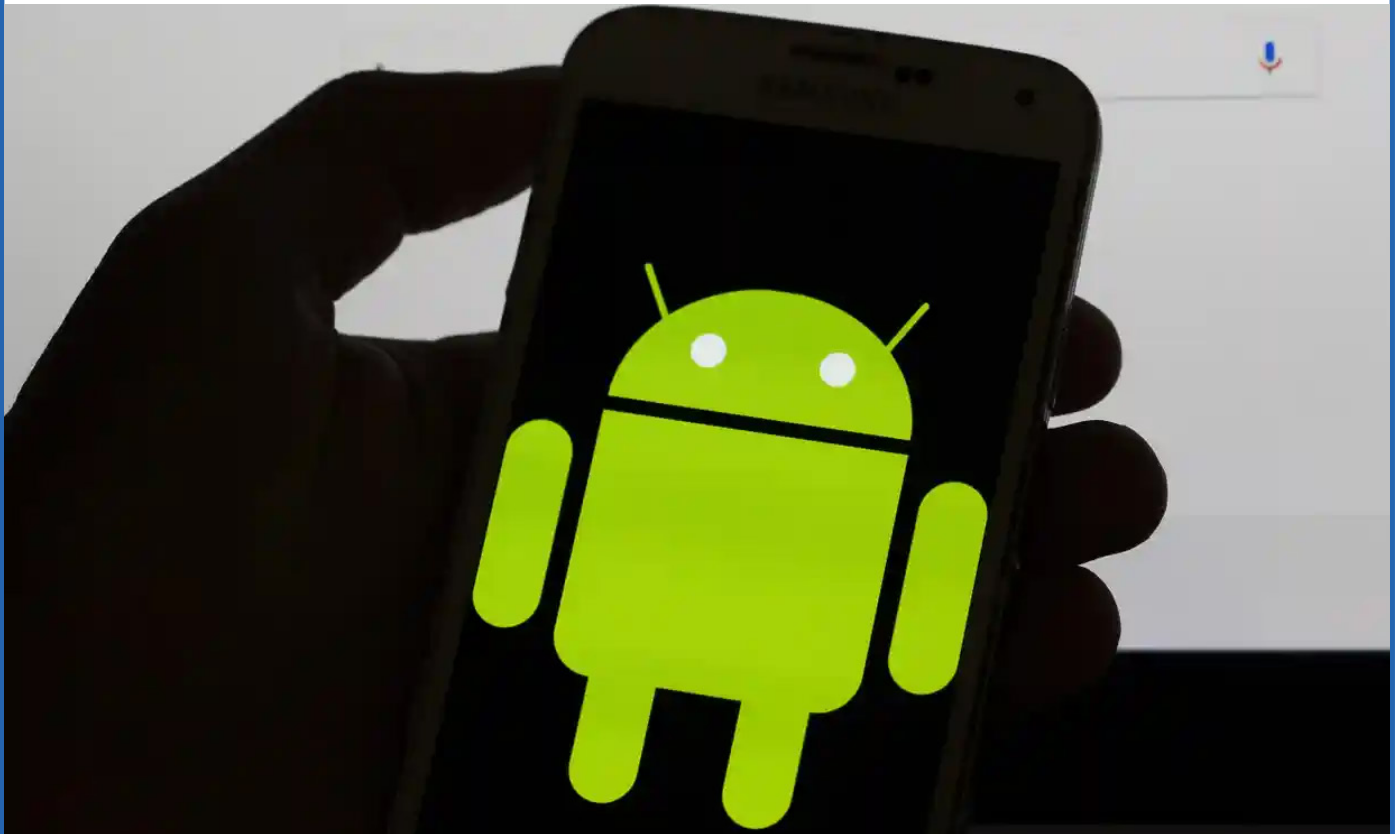
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## Spyware Targets Uyghurs by ‘Masquerading’ as Android Apps – Report

By The Guardian, 2022.11.10

Cybersecurity researchers have discovered a spyware campaign that is targeting Uyghurs by “masquerading” as Android apps including messaging services, prayer time apps and dictionaries, according to a new report by the cloud security firm Lookout.

The spyware, which researchers say is connected to a Chinese government-backed hacking group, can be used to track people who use services that may be considered a “pre-crime” or are seen by China as indications that someone is engaging in or will engage in religious extremist or separatist activities. “Pre-crime” activities include using a virtual private network (VPN) or sharing any kind of religious content and can lead to being

detained in a re-education camp.

The surveillance campaign primarily targets Uyghurs in China, according to the report, but there is also evidence that those behind the campaign were looking to target Uyghurs in Muslim-majority countries like Afghanistan or Turkey. Turkey is home to the largest Uyghur diaspora outside of Central Asia with an estimated 50,000 Uyghurs living there.

China’s mass surveillance apparatus and its targeting of Uyghurs has been well documented in the past few years. Several Chinese surveillance and camera companies have been placed on the US entity list for complicity in human rights violations. Some

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of these firms have filed for patents for, developed or planned to develop features that would allow them to detect or set up alerts when someone who is Uyghur is detected. The UN has also found that China is responsible for “serious human rights violations” against Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

In a statement to Bloomberg, Liu Pengyu, spokesperson at the Chinese embassy in Washington, said: “We oppose wild guesses and malicious slurs against China,” and that the country opposes “all forms of cyber-attacks”.

Researchers say many of the apps with this spyware, which they have named Badbazaar, collect device data including location; contacts; call logs; wifi information; and can also record phone calls and take pictures. The researchers also found that newer iterations of Moonshine, an Android exploit first discovered in 2019 by the University of Toronto’s research group Citizen Lab, implement spyware in popular apps including WhatsApp and Telegram as well as “versions of Muslim cultural apps, Uyghur-language tools, or prayer apps”.

The Android apps mimicking existing services are typically found on unofficial

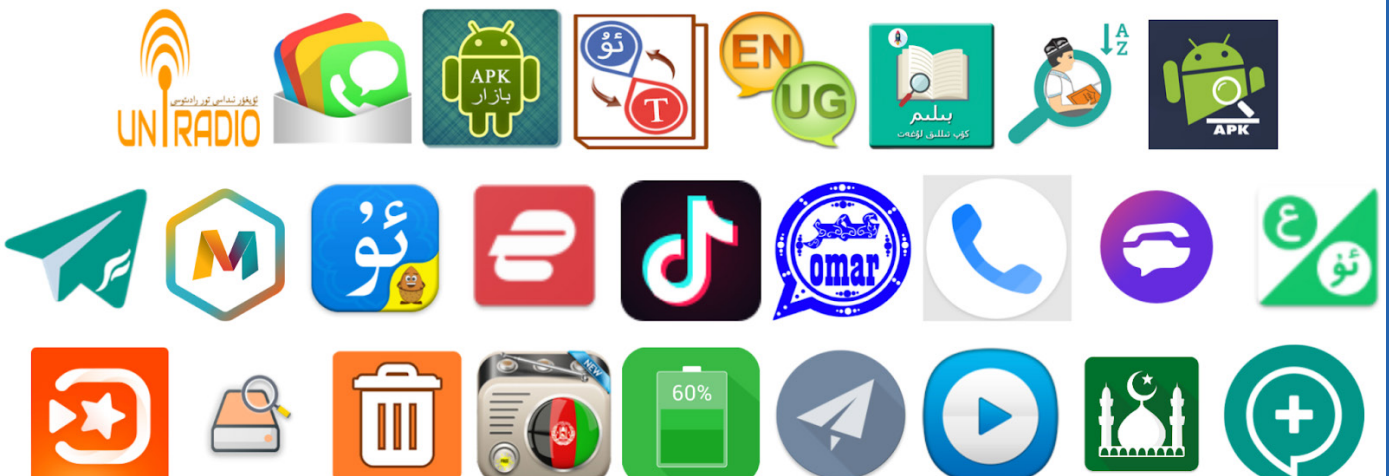
app stores because Google Play is blocked in China, according to the report, and also spread through messaging services including Telegram.

Kristina Balaam, a staff threat intelligence researcher at Lookout, said this was one of the more sophisticated “malware families” they had seen because in addition to collecting extensive data on people, the apps they are either custom-building or infecting are fully functional.

“Even cases where the threat actor has built a custom application, like a third-party app store that they’re claiming will let you download, say a legal language dictionary or other translation tools or prayer applications, they’re actually fully built-out applications,” Balaam said.

“Or in the case of a Trojanized version of Telegram, you can log in with your actual Telegram account because it truly is Telegram,” she continued. “It has just been Trojanized by the threat actor to also install surveillance functionality to your device and collect information on who you’re speaking to, your contacts, photos and GPS data.”

The threat actors – malicious groups or individuals responsible for the security





threats – are able to do this by using “the same source code from the legitimate app” to build the fake app, “it still talks to the server and lets you sign in,” Balaam said.

A Telegram spokesperson, Remi Vaughn, said Telegram had not been compromised and that the report was referring to malicious apps pretending to be official.

“It is not possible for Telegram or any app to protect users if they download apps from unofficial app stores or third-party websites,” Vaughn said in a statement.

Balaam agreed that there was little companies can do to shut down these threat actors

“because they tend to be quite nimble with how they pivot to new platforms to distribute this malware”.

“So I think one of the things that unfortunately we just have to do as consumers is be especially wary of the applications that we’re downloading,” she said. “It’s hard if you’re within China because you don’t have access to some of the official app stores like Google Play. Otherwise, it’s pretty important to not download applications from social media, or applications that are being shared through something like one of these Telegram channels.

## East Turkistan Day: Protests Erupt in Bangladesh Against Chinese Oppression of Uyghur Muslims

By ANI, 2022.11.12

On East Turkistan Day, protests erupted in Bangladesh against the persecution of Uyghur Muslims by the Chinese government and Beijing’s expansionist attitude.

Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country, shows its solidarity with the Uyghur Muslims of Xinjiang, local media reported.

The Bangladesh Muktijoddha Mancha on Saturday staged a protest against the persecution of Uyghur Muslims by the Chinese government and demanded the release of 1 million prisoners from China’s minority community.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Mancha protested in front of the National Museum, Shahbag, near Dhaka University, Dhaka, from noon to 3 pm.

Around 600 participants participated in the protest, carrying banners against Chinese killing and oppression of Uyghur Muslims, their religious persecution, and forced labour and demanding the release of 1 million Uyghurs, including women, from Chinese jails.

The demonstrators explained the Chinese expansionist attitude in Bangladesh, significantly delaying and increasing the cost of Chinese projects (like the Dhaka-Kurigram 6-lane highway and Transmission line expansion of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.), not employing any foreign skilled technicians in these projects, neglecting security precautions for labour used in these projects and pushing Bangladesh towards



a debt trap like Sri Lanka. Around 1000 onlookers observed the program.

A bicycle rally was organized by BBSS Welfare Association. The rally started from Hatirjheel in Dhaka and ended at United Hospital via Gulshan-2. Students of different schools and colleges, journalists, leaders and activists of political parties took part in the demonstration.

Organisation Bangladeshi organised a motorcycle rally. The rally started from the New Market area of Chittagong city at 4 pm and after passing through various locations of the city including Rifle Club, Tulshidham, Boudha Mandir and Cheragi Pahar, it ended at Chittagong Press Club, several media reports said.

About 150 protesters wearing Tee shirts and



Tawfiq Ahmed Tafsir, General Secretary of BBSS led the event. While addressing the gathering, Ahmed said that East Turkistan was never a part of China and condemned the Chinese actions and atrocities against minorities.

Meanwhile, in Chittagong, Sacheton Nagarik Samaj, Nagorik Oikyo and Al-Ettehad Islamic

placards highlighting atrocities on Uyghur Muslims, Human rights violations by China etc participated in the event.

This condemnation of the Chinese government on international platforms and in different countries via protests comes in the wake of a UN report highlighting “serious human rights abuses” — and potential



crimes against humanity — committed by the Chinese government in Xinjiang.

The Jagrata Muslim Janata also condemned China for illegally occupying East Turkistan, the land of innocent Uyghur Muslims. In Narayanganj city of Bangladesh, protesters were carrying banners and placards and organized a Human Chain and protest rally to support the cause of Uyghur Muslims.

They criticised China for its inhuman actions, maltreatment of Uyghur minorities and continued occupation of East Turkistan.

Protesters urged the people of Bangladesh to support Uyghur Muslims and condemn China for its illegal activities.

Meanwhile, in Gazipur, Sanchetan Nagarik Samaj organised a protest rally and human chain to condemn the illegal occupation of East Turkistan by China and extended support to the just demand of Uyghur Muslims. Protesters urged participants to spread awareness among the people of Bangladesh on the Uyghur issue and the double standards being adopted by China.

## BRUSSELS DECLARATION

# IUF INTERNATIONAL UYGHUR FORUM

### 9-10 November 2022 - Brussels

The International Uyghur Forum was successfully completed in Brussels, Belgium on November 9-10 hosted by the World Uyghur Congress, Hasene International and the International Union of East Turkistan Organisations. We express our gratitude to the esteemed speakers and all of our guests at the Forum, who have made practical and productive contributions to our programme and drew attention to China's brutal human rights violations, which have continued since the beginning of its occupation of East Turkistan, and which today constitute crimes against humanity and genocide, and by pointing out the urgent steps that must be taken in the political, legal and social fields.

The International Uyghur Forum in Brussels evaluated the following ongoing issues in East Turkistan:

East Turkistan has been subjected to exploitation and assimilation during its 73-year Chinese occupation. In this process, East Turkistan has been exposed to genocidal and brutal crimes aimed at the mass annihilation of the Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic Muslim peoples in the region.

In 2014, concentration camps, police state order, forced sterilisation, the targeting of East Turkistan's peoples' ethnic and religious identities, forced labour schemes, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests,

extrajudicial detentions and executions, travel bans, isolation of the region, destruction of the demographic regional structure through the resettlement of Chinese people into the region, and other genocidal policies have been planned, managed, and executed by the central government of the Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and particularly Xi Jinping.

Reports and documents published by research institutes, human rights organisations, and news agencies from around the world have documented the ongoing genocide in the region in all of its characteristics and details.

On August 31st the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued an independent assessment on the human rights violations in East Turkistan. It concluded that the Chinese policies targeting the ethnic and religious identities of the Uyghur and other peoples in East Turkistan have now reached proportions that “may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity”, and it made recommendations to the international community, including to the UN member states, private sector and international organisations.

In 2021, after having assessed all ongoing human rights violations in East Turkistan based on documents and witnesses, the Uyghur Tribunal in London came to the conclusion that the crimes committed in the region are genocidal and constitute crimes against humanity, and that the Chinese government under Xi Jinping was accountable for them.

The US, Canadian, British, Belgian, Dutch, Czech, Lithuanian, Irish, and French

parliaments have all recognised that the Chinese government is committing genocide in East Turkistan. The European Parliament has recognised that the Chinese government’s actions in East Turkistan constitute crimes against humanity and a high risk of genocide, while the German Parliament’s Human Rights Commission issued a statement describing that Chinese actions in East Turkistan fulfil all five criteria of the Article 2 of the UN Genocide Convention (CPPCG).

The policies implemented by China in East Turkistan and its current practices constitute crimes of genocidal nature that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Rome Statute, the UN Charter, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Annexes on the Abolition of Slavery, requiring that legal and practical steps be taken to end these violations and restore the rights of the people of East Turkistan.

Institutions and individuals living outside East Turkistan and acting as representatives of the people of East Turkistan call on the international community, organisations and the business community to take concrete action for the protection of fundamental human rights, for the end to the genocide and the creation of a free society in East Turkistan.



**Considering all of the issues raised, we, as the International Uyghur Forum, call upon all of our participants and relevant parties to take immediate action on the following:**

1. The steps recommended in the report on human rights violations in East Turkistan issued by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should be taken urgently.
2. The UN Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, and other UN bodies should acknowledge the ongoing genocide in East Turkistan and take the necessary action against China, which has been committing genocide in violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the UN Charter.
3. At the UN, a commission of inquiry or a special rapporteur should be established to investigate the genocide in East Turkistan.
4. Institutions and organisations operating outside of East Turkistan should be supported and on behalf of its people recognised as official representatives.
5. All countries, in their bilateral relations with China, should take the necessary effective steps to stop the Uyghur genocide by wielding all political and diplomatic means in accordance with the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
6. Following the European Parliament's June resolution recognising crimes against humanity and a serious risk of genocide, the European Commission should urgently introduce new legislation with the aim to end these atrocities, and strengthen its proposals on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and forced labour import ban.

7. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and all its member states should recognise the genocide in East Turkistan, take action to stop it, and allow the representatives of East Turkistan to join the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in observer status.

8. To stop the genocide in East Turkistan, UN member states should engage with relevant UN agencies as well as their own countries to take the necessary legal and political steps against China in accordance with the Declaration of Human Rights, to which it is a party, and against all parties involved in the genocide.

9. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) should launch an urgent investigation in the genocide in East Turkistan, prosecute individuals, corporation, institutions, organisations and state officials who are directly or indirectly linked to China and the crime of genocide, and, as a result, issue clear and strong decisions with sanctioning power.

10. Sanctions should be imposed on Chinese companies that are directly or indirectly involved in forced labour of Uyghurs and others; international investment funds for these companies should be halted; imports of products produced through forced labour from China should be prohibited, and international companies that benefit from slave labour and forced labour methods should be held accountable.

11. International companies that supply technologies used by China to commit genocide in East Turkistan should stop doing so, and international sanctions should be imposed on those who do not.



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12. Human rights organisations, the European Court of Human Rights and other non-governmental organisations should take a united and clear stance to end the human rights violations taking place in East Turkistan, take effective steps, and carry out their work on East Turkistan in consultation and co-operation with the organisations that represent East Turkistan.

13. International and national news agencies and journalists, especially Muslim news outlets, should put genocide in East Turkistan on their agenda, and by frequent news reporting on this issue they should provide reliable information and also should contribute to raising awareness and provoking reaction on this matter at an international level.

**Dolkun İsa**

President of WUC

**Mesut Gülbahar**

Chairman of Hasene Int.

**Hidayetullah Oguzhan**

President of IUETO



## The People of East Turkistan in Turkiye commemorate 'East Turkistan Islamic Republic'

The people of East Turkistan in Turkiye celebrated the formation of the First (1933) and Second (1944) East Turkistan Islamic republics on November 12. Thousands of people attended the commemoration organized by the International Union of East Turkistan Organizations.

