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STATEMENT

IUETO vehemently condemns the Fatah authority of Palestine for its endorsement of China's ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in East Turkistan, as well as its unwavering support for the continued colonization of the region.



International Union of
The East Turkistan
Organizations

Official Statement on Fatah's Endorsement of China's Genocide and Occupation in East Turkistan

By UDTSB, 2023.6.15

The International Union of East Turkistan Organizations (IUETO) vehemently condemns the Fatah authority of Palestine for its endorsement of China's ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in East Turkistan, as well as its unwavering support for the continued colonization of the

region. This endorsement was expressed in a joint statement issued on June 14th during Mahmoud Abbas' visit to Beijing.

By attempting to portray the East Turkistan crisis as a matter of counterterrorism, de-radicalization, and China's internal affairs, Fatah has not only aligned itself with the

wrong side of history, justice, and reality, but it has also indirectly bolstered China's false narratives surrounding its genocidal policies in East Turkistan. This stance directly contradicts the international recognition and definition of China's heinous atrocities in East Turkistan as an ongoing genocide.

For seventy-four years, China has been committing genocide in East Turkistan through its unlawful occupation. The execution of individuals, widespread discrimination, forced assimilation, mass arrests, travel bans, religious restrictions, property seizures, destruction of historical cultural elements, demographic manipulation, and the existence of concentration camps are among the crimes of genocidal proportions being perpetrated by China against the Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim populations of East Turkistan. As representatives of Palestine, a people who have endured their own human rights violations and share a common destiny with the people of East Turkistan, Mahmoud Abbas, and the Fatah

authority should not legitimize the ongoing genocide for political gain.

The International Union of East Turkistan Organizations urgently calls upon Mahmoud Abbas and the Fatah authority to respect the rights of the people of East Turkistan and prevent the whitewashing of China's crimes of genocide and occupation. We implore all nations and international organizations to fulfill their obligations under the 1948 UN Genocide Convention by taking decisive measures to halt the ongoing genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic populations in East Turkistan. Furthermore, IUETO emphasizes the critical importance of solidarity among Muslim nations and the support and endorsement of oppressed Muslim communities, fostering mutual respect and assistance.

With the utmost reverence,

International Union of East Turkistan Organizations

AI Program Flags Chinese Products Allegedly Linked to Uyghur Forced Labor: 'Not Coincidence, It's A Strategy'

By Peter Aitken, Fox News, 2023.6.16

Tech firm Ultra has developed an artificial intelligence-powered tool it believes has helped analysts identify products coming from China through the platform Temu that were created using forced labor, possibly from the Uyghur population.

"We're looking at Temu from the perspective of the Forced Labor Prevention Act," Ultra founder and CEO Ram Ben Tzion told Fox News Digital. "How many things that we don't want are coming into the country using this method, right? The good cases are counterfeit. The worst cases are poor quality.

"I'm quite confident that illicit elements can find themselves going through this platform into the market, so it's time to demand accountability," he added. Ben Tzion's company created the program Publican, which pulls in huge amounts of shipping data to analyze and look for patterns and red flags for any products with potential fraud issues.

Ultra found that the products on Temu would lead to non-indicative names and untraceable company information. But when compared to the same product on sister platform Pinduoduo in China, the company was able to see the

products came from companies in Xinjiang, just eight miles away from known Uyghur detention centers or “cultural centers,” as they are euphemistically called.

Pinduoduo also allegedly bypasses users’ cellphone security to monitor activities on other apps, check notifications, read private messages and change settings.

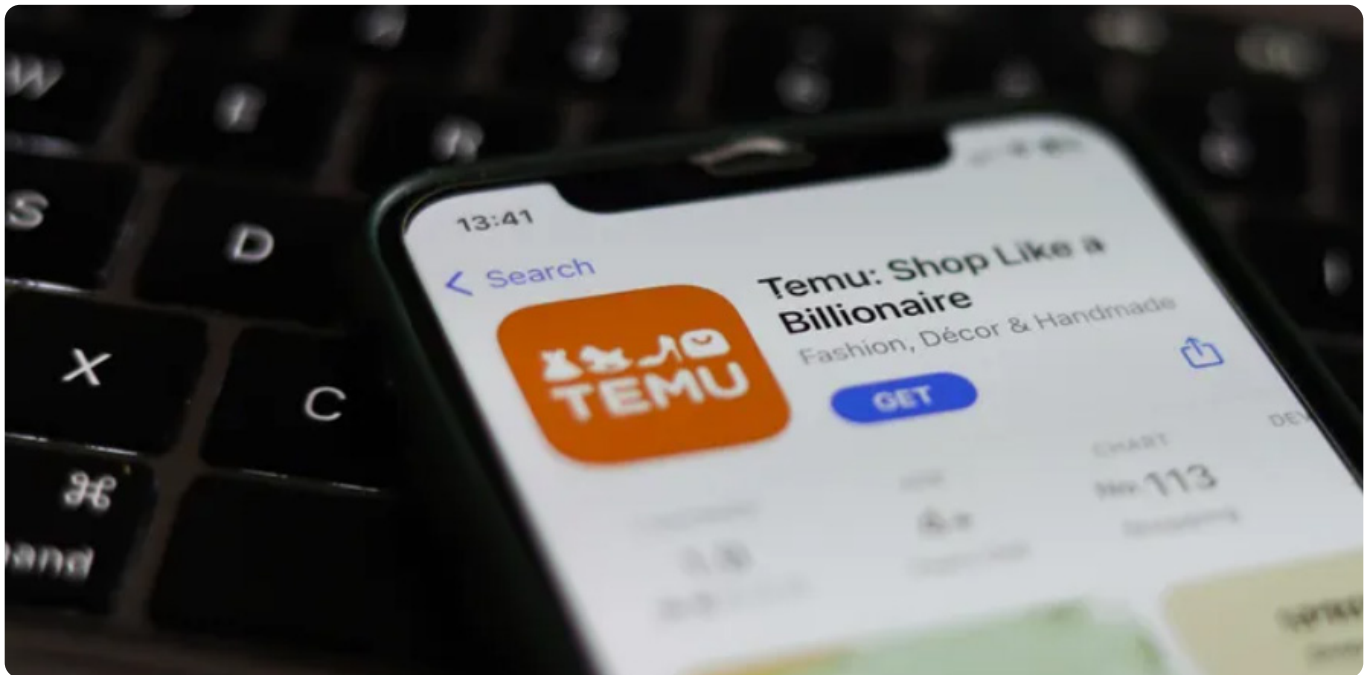
“We have here a variety of products to show that this is not a one-off,” Ben Tzion said. “My conclusion is that these products are possibly or very likely associated with or linked to shops either from Xinjiang or manufactured in Xinjian, and that in itself is a violation of trade policies.”

Ben Tzion theorized that Temu could be an effort to bypass the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), which establishes standards to refuse shipments of goods produced or

other product you can imagine for extremely low prices, such as \$17 wireless earbuds, \$1 “gold” necklaces and \$23 wedding dresses.

The AI, developed and utilized in conjunction with the data analysis, allows Publican to examine immense data sets at incredible speeds to flag products with questionable pricing, quality or authenticity.

“For the data aggregation, it is for partnering patterns, and we do use machine learning and automated inspection capabilities based on third-party models in the analysis of results,” Ben Tzion said. “We automatically obtain information from thousands of publicly available digital sources and analyze it, and that allows us to determine the nature of every company and every product and to flag more than 160 different fraud patterns.”



manufactured wholly or in part in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China.

Temu launched in 2022, developed by China-based PDD Holdings Inc. The app already has over 50 million downloads, with 16 million alone in 2022, making it the second-most used digital marketplace in the U.S. after Amazon. Temu sells clothing, groceries and pretty much any

Ultra was founded in 2016 but only started developing Publican in 2019. The company finally released it in 2021 and started operating in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa, where it was able to flag products that displayed “fraud patterns.”

Ben Tzion identified Temu as a potential source of fraud after seeing the prices for products,

which he claimed just “don’t make sense.”

“I believe that if something is either too good to be true or too cheap to be available, there is a reason behind it,” Ben Tzion explained. “I wanted to see if we would be able to utilize our technology to understand what’s happening here, and what was very visible at the get-go is this is something that was designed to hide the identity of products.

“The bigger picture here, the bigger story here is ... the fact that Temu is, by design, exploiting and undermining the U.S. trade policies and economy,” he stressed, saying there is no mistake that “this is by design.”

“It is always cheap,” he added. “Under de minimis, there are no duties or tax associates, therefore no inspection. Even using the

international postage system is exploiting the U.S. economy ... by design keeping products under tax and regulation thresholds.”

Shipments under \$800 would escape inspection, potentially allowing Chinese companies making direct-to-consumer sales to bypass the UFLPA. This loophole, known as de minimis, prompted lawmakers on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China to look into ways to crack down on such shipments, though no such solution has yet arisen.

“This is why we have taken upon this task to bring it to the attention of both consumers and regulators that it’s not coincidence. It’s a strategy,” Ben Tzion said.

Temu did not respond to a Fox News Digital request for comment by time of publication.

Canada a ‘Dumping Ground’ for Products Made by Forced Labour, Ottawa Promises Crackdown

By Jeff Semple, Global News, 2023.6.13

The Canadian government will introduce legislation next year to eradicate forced labour from Canadian supply chains, the Minister of Labour said Monday.

Seamus O’Regan Jr. made the announcement to mark the United Nations annual World Day Against Child Labour, meant to raise awareness about forced labour practices.

Human rights activists told Global News the promised legislation is badly needed and overdue, citing numerous examples of products linked to forced labour allegations in China’s Xinjiang region, which are widely available for sale in Canada.

“Canada is a dumping ground for products made by the use of Uyghur forced labour,” said Mehmet Tohti, executive director of the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project.

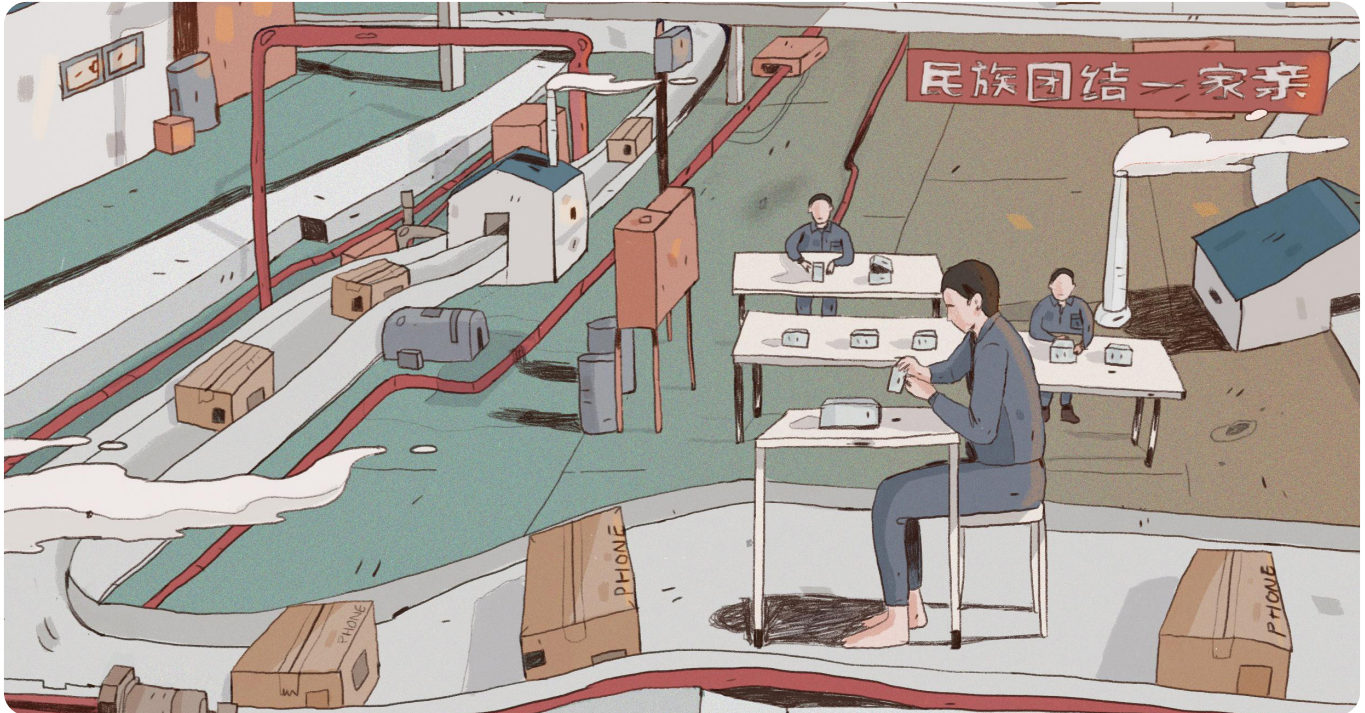
The alleged culprits include one of the world’s most popular fashion brands: Shein, the Chinese online retailer, targets young shoppers with low prices and was the world’s most popular fashion brand last year.

The company is accused of making its billions on the backs of forced labourers.

“We see (the product) is cheap. It is cheap because it is made by forced labour,” Tohti said.

He accused Shein of using cotton produced in Xinjiang, where human rights groups say Beijing is conducting a genocide against Uyghur Muslims involving forced labour camps.

In a written statement to Global News, a Shein spokesperson denied the allegations.



“We take visibility across our entire supply chain seriously, and we are committed to respecting human rights and adhering to local laws in each market we operate in,” the spokesperson said.

“We have zero tolerance for forced labor. We have no manufacturers in the Xinjiang region.”

American journalist Sheridan Prasso of Bloomberg recently put Shein’s claims to the test.

“Ninety per cent of China’s cotton comes from the Xinjiang region. And so for a long time, people have suspected Shein must be using cotton from this region, but nobody had ever proved it,” Prasso told Global News.

Last year, Prasso ordered some cotton items from Shein and hired an independent laboratory in Germany to test the fabric alongside cotton from Xinjiang.

“And what it found was that the cotton from the Shein items that I ordered matched the Xinjiang cotton almost exactly. So it proved that the cotton does come from China’s Xinjiang region.”

The United States is cracking down on forced labour in its supply chain, banning all imports from Xinjiang last year, except in cases where importers can prove with “clear and convincing evidence” that the goods are not produced by forced labour.

Mexico has passed a similar law and the European Parliament wants its continent to follow suit.

But efforts to implement similar measures in Canada have hit a wall. Last year, the Federal Court rejected an application for a general ban on the Canadian importation of all goods from the Xinjiang region.

Meanwhile, Shein recently opened a 170,000-square-foot distribution facility in the city of Markham, Ont., north of Toronto, which will become its “main distribution hub in the country,” according to a company press release.

Over the weekend, a small group of protesters gathered outside the facility, calling for greater transparency from the fashion giant.

“It’s not a company that we want in our own

backyard,” said protester Katie Swailes, a student at McMaster University and a member of local social justice group The Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree’s founder, Shanta Sundarason, told Global News their group was already campaigning against Shein when the retailer set up shop in their hometown.

“We were absolutely horrified, because I’m under the understanding that any goods made by slave child labour are actually prohibited from entering Canada.”

In 2020, Canada banned the importation of all items “produced, in whole or in part, by forced or compulsory labour,” under the revised free trade agreement with the U.S. and Mexico. But to date, no shipments have been seized at the Canadian border (except for one shipment that was seized and later released).

Shein is far from the only company in the activists’ crosshairs.

In a letter to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project provided import records with examples of products from Xinjiang which are sold by retailers across Canada. The list of items includes red dates, gloves and tomato paste.

The tomato paste, sold by Dollarama

under the ‘Tasteful’ brand, is produced by Baoding Sanyuan Food Packing. An archive of the manufacturer’s website shows that before June 2020, the company claimed its tomatoes were from Xinjiang. That potentially problematic reference has since been changed to “northwest region” of China.

In a statement, a Dollarama spokesperson said its “buyers have visited this factory in person and have received an independent third-party social audit report. Dollarama’s purpose is to provide Canadians with access to affordable, safe, quality products, but never at the expense of the dignity, safety or wellbeing of the workers in our supply chain.”

The Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project is calling on the CBSA “to re-determine the tariff classification of these importations,” arguing there is ample evidence to stop imports of tomatoes and cotton from Xinjiang under Canada’s existing legislation.

The CBSA did not respond to a request for comment from Global News for this story, but the federal agency has previously said it’s up to individual businesses to ensure their importations are not produced with forced labour.

China E-Commerce Shipments Would Lose US Tariff Exemption Under Proposed Law

By Katherine Masters, Reuters, 2023.6.14

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers planned to introduce a bill on Wednesday to eliminate a tariff exemption widely used by e-commerce sellers to send orders from China to U.S. shoppers, one of the sponsors said.

The exception, known as the de minimis

rule, exempts imports valued at \$800 or less from tariffs if the items are shipped to individual consumers. The bill would ban such shipments from China immediately upon enactment, sponsor Republican Senator Bill Cassidy said.



Ecommerce sellers such as China-founded, Singapore-based Shein and Temu, a rival owned by PDD Holdings Inc (PDD.O) that operates the Chinese ecommerce site Pinduoduo, are big beneficiaries of the exemption. A federal brief in April said the companies “exploit” de minimis to avoid duties and import illegal items such as those made in China’s Xingiang region with forced Uyghur labor.

A Shein spokesperson said Tuesday the company has no manufacturers in Xinjiang. Temu did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

De minimis shipments have drawn attention at least since 2019, when the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported it struggled to catch unsafe imports because

of the heavy volume of low-value packages. Such shipments rose to 685.5 million in 2022 compared with 410.5 million in 2018, U.S. customs data showed.

The bill’s other sponsors are Republican Senator J.D. Vance and Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin. It was unclear how much traction the proposal would gain. A separate but similar bill by Democratic Representative Earl Blumenauer failed to pass Congress last year.

Under the bill, countries other than China and Russia could keep the exemption by adopting the \$800 threshold for their own tariff-free imports. The bill would only allow private shippers like FedEx (FDX.N), UPS (UPS.N) and DHL to transport de minimis packages and exclude postal services.



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