

# Architects of the Uyghur Genocide:

## Understanding the Government Structure of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

contact@uyghurrightsmonitor.org

### Executive Summary

Who is behind the genocidal policies in the Uyghur region? How are these policies planned, directed, and implemented? At the regional level, government agencies instigate, facilitate, and finance the whole-scale system of surveillance, mass internment, arbitrary detention, torture, forced labor, and all primary forms of rights violations in the Uyghur region. Chinese officials in those institutions are architects of the genocide. The top officials involved in planning, decision-making, and implementation of the genocidal policies in the Uyghur region hold positions mainly in the Party Committee, People's Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corp (XPCC). At the heart of the decision-making process is the Communist Party of China (CPC) Xinjiang Standing Committee, members of which hold various positions at central, regional, and local levels.

### Regional Architects of Genocide and "Multiple Hats" in the CPC Xinjiang Standing Committee

The top officials that are involved in planning, decision-making, and implementation of the genocidal policies in the Uyghur region hold positions mainly in the Party Committee, People's Government, and XPCC. At the heart of the decision-making process is the CPC Xinjiang Standing Committee, members of which hold various positions at central, regional, and local levels.



\* Updated on June 2023

## Understanding the Governance Structure of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

**The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Communist Party Committee** is elected by the People's Congress of the XUAR. It receives directions from and reports annually to the Central Committee of the CPC and implements resolutions passed by the Regional People's Congress. The Committee is the *key decision-making body* in the region that is responsible for developing the party's propositions into local regulations through legal procedures. Its scope of responsibilities also includes ideological and cultural propaganda; appointment and management of cadres; placements to important local state agencies and/or state-owned enterprises; and strengthening the leadership of the United Front work, among others. Its subdivisions include the General Office of the Party Committee of the XUAR of the CPC, CPC XUAR Party Committee Organization Department, Propaganda Department of CPC XUAR Party Committee, CPC XUAR Party Committee United Front Work Department, XUAR Party Committee Political and Legal Committee, etc.

**The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region People's Government** is the *executive organ* of the People's Congress of the XUAR. It is composed of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary-General, the Director of the Department, and the Director of the Committee and reports to the People's Congress of the XUAR and the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the XUAR and the State Council of the People's Republic of China are responsible for and report on the People's Government's work and exercise administrative powers by the law over the government. The main functions of the People's Government include implementing the resolutions of the People's Congress and formulating and implementing national socio-economic development plans and budgets. The People's Government of XUAR's subdivisions include the General Office of the People's Government of XUAR, Development and Reform Commission, Department of Education, XUAR Ethnic Affairs Commission (Religious Affairs Bureau), Civil Affairs Department, Human Resources and Social Security Department, etc.

**The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC)** is a *paramilitary settler colonial and corporate conglomerate* that implements a separate plan from the XUAR government in the region. It is theoretically led by both the central government and the XUAR government but acts as an independent body within the region. XPCC is a unique system at the intersection of government, military, and enterprise. Zhongguo Xinjian Jituan (China Xinjiang Group) carries out its main economic activities. It has its own political, economic, and judicial systems and, in practice, directly reports to the central government. XPCC can be described as a "state within a state" that plays a significant and central role in genocidal policies implemented in the region since 2016, utilizing its repressive apparatus to marginalize, persecute, and exploit Uyghurs and other Turkic groups in the region. The United States government has sanctioned XPCC, and XPCC-made products are banned from entering the US market because of its evidenced involvement in systemic rights violations in the region. Similar to other regional-level organizations, XPCC has its own Disciplinary Committee, Political and Legal Committee, Organization Department, Propaganda Department, United Front Work Department, and other departments.

### Who Are at the Top?

The top officials who are involved in planning, directing, and implementing the genocidal policies in the Uyghur region hold positions mainly in the Party Committee, People's Government, and XPCC. Some officials hold multiple positions, such as the Secretary of the Party Committee, holds the position of the First Political Commissar of the XPCC, and the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee, who is also the Chairman of XPCC corporation – *China Xinjian*. In practice, the highest-ranking official in the Uyghur region is the Secretary of the Party Committee, who is directed by the

Central Committee and serves as the First Political Commissar of the XPCC. Four Deputy Secretaries of the Party Committee report to him, one of whom is the Chairman of XUAR.