

Right now, up to two million Uyghur people are being tortured, raped, and forced into physical labor in internment camps located in the Xinjiang region of China. Mothers, daughters, sons, fathers, best friends, all taken away from their homes and detained in internment camps and facilities where they will suffer like no other. Beginning in 2017, the Uyghur people, made up mostly of Muslims, have been placed into what the Chinese government calls “re-education camps.” But in reality, these torturous internment camps are the Uyghur people’s worst nightmares.

The estimated 380 internment camps for Uyghur people are run similarly to high-security prisons but include manual labor and mass assault including systematic rape and beatings, forced sterilization, and other forms of abuse and torture as well, some of which is too graphic to state. Like the Holocaust, the Chinese government has felt threatened by the Uyghurs, and therefore has continuously committed a mass genocide murdering and abusing millions of lives.

The Chinese government and its leaders have denied all allegations of these camps presently, even though the American government and many news sources have obtained first-hand accounts and other evidence such as photographs of inside the camps that strongly support these claims. This can be closely compared to how Nazi Germany at the time spread many fallacies and propaganda to cover up the ongoing genocide. Because this propaganda was so believable, the general public of other countries such as America continued to live with no idea of what was truly happening to the Jewish people of Europe. One would hope that with modern-day technology that wouldn’t be an issue, but that is most definitely not the case.

In order to actually combat a problem, we must be fervent about spreading awareness and hope that the government we are supposed to trust will take action, which has not happened whatsoever. Although some politicians have addressed the Uyghur genocide briefly, no one has taken steps towards a solution.

As a Jewish American woman, thinking about modern-day genocides is certainly something that keeps me up at night, especially imagining the horrific abuse that women of all ages in the camps have to endure on a daily basis. The idea that we are sitting back and watching history repeat itself is disappointing and gives me very little hope for religious and ethnic minorities' safety.

When discussing the Holocaust we often repeat the phrase "Never Again", so why is this happening again? Why is nobody doing anything about yet another genocide intending to eradicate and torture an ethnoreligious group? To me, the words "Never Again" not only apply to prevent an event involving the Jewish people such as the Holocaust from happening again but also to make an effort to stop other genocides and injustices as well. I know that if I could go back and do something about the Holocaust, I would, but we can't let the same thing happen to the Uyghur people. It is not too late to take action; it never is. This genocide will have lasting effects on the Uyghur people, but if we act now it could lessen the consequences.

"Their goal is to destroy everyone," says former detainee Tursunay Ziawudun in an interview with BBC. If you truly stand with the Jewish community in the message "Never Again", I strongly implore you to pay attention to history blatantly repeating itself and not let this genocide get away from us like the others, because they will destroy everyone.