

November 30, 2021

Mr. A.G. Sulzberger
Chairman and Publisher
The New York Times
242 West 41st Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Sulzberger:

I write to alert you to what will no doubt be yet another historic stain on the *New York Times*' record if found to be true. As you are aware, your paper has a long history of covering up brutal atrocities. In 1933, the *New York Times*' Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Walter Duranty dismissed widespread famine in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, including Ukraine. We may never know why the *New York Times* and its man in Moscow felt the need to cover up Josef Stalin's atrocities intended to silence and wipe out millions of peasants, but it seems that history is repeating itself.

For unknown reasons, the *New York Times* appears to have intentionally withheld documents that directly linked top Chinese Communist Party officials, including General Secretary Xi Jinping, to the ongoing genocide of Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In those now-released "Top Secret" transcripts – documents that the *New York Times* has allegedly had in its possession since at least 2019 – Xi explicitly authorized changing local counterterrorism laws, rounding up and sentencing Uyghurs, the use of forced sterilization, and the use of slave labor in Xinjiang.

More than 100 years ago, the *New York Times* promised, "to give the news impartially, without fear or favor, regardless of party, sect, or interests involved." The paper has failed that test by covering up Xi's direct involvement in the genocide.

I am under no illusion that you will demand an investigation into your paper and hold accountable those that carried water for Xi, but America and those Uyghurs unjustly suffering in prison and slave labor camps in Xinjiang deserve answers. Please submit, in writing, responses to the following:

1. Who made the decision not to release the full documents that someone risked their life to obtain and give to the *New York Times* in a desperate attempt to save people's lives in Xinjiang?
2. Why did the *New York Times* choose to misleadingly characterize Xi's policy goals as simply counterterrorism and blame the atrocities on mid-level Communist Party members when you had documents laying out Xi's actual genocidal goal?

3. Did the *New York Times* have any discussions or communications with the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese Government about any of the 403 pages it received? If so, did the *Times* make any deal or concessions to withhold the release of any of the documents, including Xi's speech about what he wanted to do in Xinjiang?
4. Did anyone at the *New York Times* reevaluate that decision after the Trump and Biden administrations determined that the atrocities being committed in Xinjiang constitute crimes against humanity and genocide?
5. Will the *New York Times* commit to release the remaining approximately 86 pages of the document?

For a newspaper that spent four years suggesting the duly elected leader of the free world was a Russian agent hell-bent on destroying America, the protection of a brutal dictator ordering genocide is simply astounding. To highlight the absurdity, the *New York Times* wrote countless articles elevating the conspiracy theory that the Russian government held "kompromat" over President Trump – and did so based on little more than hearsay and a document that has now been widely debunked.

By contrast, it looks as though the *New York Times* covered up proof that Xi sanctioned the total destruction of a people. No words of apology will erase your paper's complicity in the ongoing genocide, but at the very least, you should end the censorship of your reporters and allow the full details to come out impartially, without fear or favor.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator