

“Strangling Supply, Exploiting Labor”: New Report Reveals China’s Five-Year Plan in Xinjiang

Global Rights Compliance (GRC), a foundation advancing accountability and justice through international law, today released a major new report today that details the impacts of China’s new Five-Year Plan on the Uyghur community and forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) – and broadcasts the ambitions of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to continue to dominate global critical and rare earth mineral supply chains.

“Strangling Supply, Exploiting Labor: Inside China’s Five-Year Plan in Xinjiang,” shows that the Five-Year plan released by China this month plans to keep Xinjiang at the center of energy, mineral, and high-tech production, and to expand forced labor systems.

Authored by renowned Uyghur researcher **Nyrola Elimä** through GRC’s Forced Labor Program directed by **Samir Goswami**, the report – based on an analysis of official CCP documents – finds that China is intensifying its exploitation of Uyghur people in Xinjiang to maintain control over global mineral supply chains. “The system of coercive labor allocation applied to minority communities in Xinjiang will continue under the 15th Five-Year Plan at greater scale, with deeper institutional foundations, and with more sophisticated technological enforcement – through a mechanism explicitly designed to be permanent and irreversible,” **Elima said.**

GRC’s analysis comes at a pivotal time before the U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in May.

“China’s plans to dominate semiconductors, clean energy, and artificial intelligence are all dependent in part on Xinjiang – for both its critical minerals, and the cheap, repressed forced labor used to extract them,” **said GRC’s Goswami.** “Maximizing the impact of the repressive forced labor programs is central to the Chinese government’s plans – with major implications for both human rights and the ability of U.S. businesses to compete with China. U.S. leadership should raise

these issues with their Chinese counterparts in advance of the Presidential meetings in May.”

Among the report’s key findings:

- China's goals in semiconductors, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing all depend on upstream raw materials, and Xinjiang is being deliberately positioned to supply them.
- The Plan aims to concentrate industrial development and employment absorption in southern Xinjiang – the area with the highest Uyghur population density and the most extensively documented record of forced labour. Every policy applied to Xinjiang, such as employment, economic development, education, culture, becomes an instrument of social control and ideological re-engineering.
- Industrial electricity in Xinjiang costs about 2.7 cents per kWh, far below roughly 7.5 cents in the U.S. and 22 cents in the EU. Given that power accounts for 40 to 60 % of processing costs for materials like titanium, magnesium, and lithium, this price disparity creates a significant competitive barrier for Western producers.
- Advanced technology systems, including U.S. military capabilities and AI, are heavily dependent on Chinese lithium-ion batteries, much of which rely on raw materials including lithium and graphite, sourcing from Xinjiang., China holds a strategic lever over these critical technologies – and they can’t dominate this production without exploiting the labor of Uyghur people.
- The 15th Five-Year Plan will accelerate close monitoring, surveillance and re-intervention for Uyghurs who refuse to participate will continue throughout the 2026 to 2030 period.

Global Rights Compliance is a leading analyst of Chinese state-imposed forced labor in the Uyghur region. In June 2025, the organization released a previous report, [“Risk at the Source: Critical Mineral Supply Chains and State-Imposed Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region”](#) uncovering global supply chains’ extensive exposure to minerals mined and processed in the XUAR.

Goswami and Elimä are both available for interviews to discuss the report and its findings. To schedule, please contact Alice Hickson: ahickson@westendstrategy.com, +1-203-505-2854.