

**Adrian Zenz [An Analysis of Beijing's "Population Structure Optimization" Strategy in Southern Xinjiang – Testimony for the Uyghur Tribunal]**

Chinese academics and politicians argue that Xinjiang's "terrorism" problem can only be solved by "optimizing" its ethnic population structure. High ethnic minority population concentrations are considered a national security threat. "Optimizing" such concentrations requires embedding substantial Han populations, whose "positive culture" can mitigate the Uyghur "human problem." Scenarios that do not overburden the region's ecological carrying capacity entail drastic reductions in ethnic minority natural population growth, potentially decreasing their populations. Population optimization discourses and related policies provide a basis to assess Beijing's "intent" to destroy an ethnic minority population in part through birth prevention per the 1948 U.N. Genocide Convention. The "destruction in part" can be assessed as the difference between projected natural population growth without substantial government interference, and reduced growth scenarios in line with population optimization requirements. Based on population projections by Chinese researchers, this difference could range between 2.6 and 4.5 million lives by the year 2040.