

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 14, 2020

Mr. Robert Chapek
Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Robert Iger
Executive Chairman
The Walt Disney Company
114 Fifth Avenue, #13
New York, NY 10011

Dear Mr. Chapek and Mr. Iger:

On September 4, 2020, the Walt Disney Company (Disney) released a new, live-action remake of the film *Mulan*.¹ Part of the new movie was filmed in China, specifically the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), where “Uighur Muslims have been detained in mass internment camps.”² Despite universally-recognized abuses occurring in Xinjiang, the film credits offered special thanks to over a dozen Chinese institutions that assisted with filming, including four Chinese Communist Party (CCP) propaganda departments in the XUAR. These credits include the Turpan Municipal Bureau of Public Security, a CCP-run agency actively facilitating and orchestrating human rights abuses and the genocide of the Uyghur people.³ Last October, the Trump Administration put the Bureau “on a blacklist forbidding U.S. companies to sell or supply products to them.”⁴

The CCP is systematically working to exterminate the presence of Uyghur culture and religion by incarcerating over a million people.⁵ Recently uncovered evidence shows the CCP is also conducting mass forced sterilizations of women, forced abortions, and utilizing mandatory invasive birth control measures to reduce family size among the Uyghur people.⁶ Utilization of

¹ *Mulan*, DISNEY MOVIES (2020), <https://movies.disney.com/mulan-2020>.

² Amy Qin and Edward Wong, *Why Calls to Boycott ‘Mulan’ Over Concerns About China Are Growing*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 8, 2020), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/08/world/asia/china-mulan-xinjiang.html>.

³ *Id.*; Editorial Board, *What’s happening in Xinjiang is genocide*, WASH. POST (July 6, 2020), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/whats-happening-in-xinjiang-is-genocide/2020/07/06/cde3f9da-bfaa-11ea-9fdd-b7ac6b051dc8_story.html.

⁴ Qin and Wong, *supra* note 2.

⁵ Stephanie Nebehay, *U.N. Says it has credible reports that China holds million Uighurs in secret camps*, REUTERS (Aug. 10, 2018), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-rights-un/u-n-says-it-has-credible-reports-that-china-holds-million-uighurs-in-secret-camps-idUSKBN1KV1SU>.

⁶ *China Suppression of Uighur Minorities Meets U.N. Definition of Genocide, Report Says*, (Jul. 4, 2020) NPR, transcript available at <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/04/887239225/china-suppression-of-uighur-minorities-meets-u-n-definition-of-genocide-report-s>.

CCP agencies perpetrating this genocide, such as the Turpan Municipal Bureau of Public Security, implicitly supports such crimes. Disney's decision to film *Mulan* in Xinjiang and use CCP-run entities is inapposite and counters the company's commitment to "provid[e] comfort, inspiration, and opportunity to children and families around the world."⁷

Perhaps more surprising than Disney's decision to film *Mulan* in Xinjiang is its recent contemplation to put a moratorium on all filming in the state of Georgia.⁸ Disney appears to have taken a firm stand against the lives and rights of the unborn in favor of the right of the CCP to commit genocide against the Uyghurs and force sterilizations on Uyghur women. Disney's eagerness to partner with CCP groups engaged in such atrocities while taking jobs out of the state of Georgia is disturbing.

As a Republic founded on the self-evident truth that people are endowed with certain inalienable rights, our country stands with those around the world who face religious persecution.⁹ The United States condemns violations of religious freedom and promotes religious freedom around the world.¹⁰ It is incumbent upon one of America's most admired companies to do the same.¹¹

Given Disney's public thanks of the CCP-run entities in its *Mulan* credits, we request a staff-level briefing by September 21, 2020 to address its decision to film in Xinjiang. The briefing should also answer the following questions:

1. Does the Walt Disney Company agree the treatment of Uyghur minorities in Xinjiang constitutes genocide?
2. Does the Walt Disney Company condone the treatment of Uyghur minorities in Xinjiang?
3. Prior to filming parts of *Mulan* in China did the Walt Disney Company discuss other possible filming locations for that part of the movie?
4. Did anyone in the Walt Disney Company express concern over filming in Xinjiang?
5. Who made the final decision to proceed with filming in Xinjiang?
6. Did the Walt Disney Company sign any contracts or agreements with any of the CCP-run agencies listed in the *Mulan* credits?

⁷ See Social Responsibility, available at <https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/social-responsibility/>.

⁸ Lisa Richwine, *Disney CEO says it will be 'difficult' to film in Georgia if abortion law takes effect*, REUTERS (May 29, 2019), available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-abortion-walt-disney-exclusive-idUSKCN1T003X>.

⁹ See International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 104-292, § 2 (1998) (finding that the United States prizes a legacy of religious freedom, which is a universal human right, and articulating that it is the policy of the United States to condemn violations of religious freedom and to promote the fundamental right to freedom of religion abroad.); see also Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, Pub. L. No. 114-281, (2016) (amending and strengthening the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ World's Most Admired Companies, FORTUNE, available at <https://fortune.com/worlds-most-admired-companies/>.

7. What, if anything, did the CCP-run agencies listed in the *Mulan* credits provide the Walt Disney Company in exchange for receiving special thanks in the film credits?
8. Did the CCP assert or ask for any editorial or content control in exchange for filming parts of *Mulan* in China?
9. Does the Walt Disney Company support the recently passed “Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”?

In addition, please be prepared to explain the disparity between threatening a boycott of Georgia over pro-life laws while continuing to film in China where Uyghur women are being sterilized.

This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



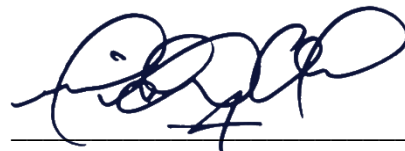
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Committee on Oversight and Reform



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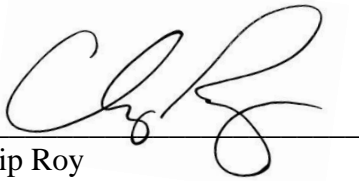


Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy

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Chip Roy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Harley E. Rouda, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment