

**Apple Shareholder Meeting Question**  
**Sarah Rehberg, Program Coordinator, Free Enterprise Project**  
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I'm Sarah Rehberg with the National Center for Public Policy Research. In recent years, news outlets and independent organizations have reported on allegations that several of Apple's suppliers use forced labor from China.<sup>1</sup> According to these reports, Apple has ties to suppliers participating in labor programs that operate in Xinjiang and are suspected of being part of the genocide<sup>2</sup> against Uyghurs at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.<sup>3</sup>

Although Apple has consistently denied that its supply chain uses forced labor, a congressional commission has nonetheless confirmed these allegations. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China concluded last summer: "The mounting evidence is beyond troubling. Despite persistent assurances from Apple that their supply chains were free of forced labor, we now have evidence that it is tainted."<sup>4</sup> It is now being reported that China asked Russia to delay its invasion of Ukraine until after the Olympics and that despite denials from the Chinese government, that it knew a great deal about Russia's plan to wage war. Yet Apple has cut services to Russia, but not China.<sup>5</sup>

Given the volume of allegations that Apple suppliers use forced labor, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China's findings that Apple's supply chain is "tainted," and the growing accusations of Chinese collusion with Russia, what steps is Apple taking to ensure that its supply chain is free of forced labor and will Apple finally begin to reconsider its relationship with the brutal Chinese regime?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theinformation.com/articles/seven-apple-suppliers-accused-of-using-forced-labor-from-xinjiang>; <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>; <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/multiple-apple-suppliers-accused-of-using-forced-uyghur-labor/>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/12/29/lens-technology-apple-uyghur/>; [https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/alison\\_killing/xinjiang-camps-china-factories-forced-labor](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/alison_killing/xinjiang-camps-china-factories-forced-labor)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.gov/forced-labor-in-chinas-xinjiang-region/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59595952>; <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/biden-admin-announces-sanctions-against-chinese-officials-over-human-rights-n1261745>; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/china-draconian-repression-of-muslims-in-xinjiang-amounts-to-crimes-against-humanity/>; <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/05/01/chinas-algorithms-repression/reverse-engineering-xinjiang-police-mass#>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs-issue-statement-about-forced-labor-in-apple%E2%80%99s-supply-chain-in>

<sup>5</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/03/01/apple-halts-sales-in-russia-bans-propaganda-apps-over-ukraine-war/>