



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the United States of America has held a unique role in our international system by espousing the universal, God-given human rights of all mankind; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Tennessee have long demonstrated a moral willingness to volunteer their voices, hearts, and bodies in the defense and care of others; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the global community has become distinctly aware of the facts demonstrating widespread crimes against humanity, and ethnic and religious minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of Western China; and

WHEREAS, this state-sponsored genocide has been undertaken in the name of the dangerous and brutal ideology of communism which has held China in its grip for over a century; and

WHEREAS, these crimes include the denial of the basic human rights of assembly, speech, worship, and the imposition of arbitrary imprisonment, forced labor, rape and sexual violence, and the severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians; and

WHEREAS, survivors of these crimes have reported torture, internment, and other crimes which the current and previous United States Presidents rightly designated as genocide, such as the racial cleansing of Uyghur population by forced sterilization and abortions on Uyghur women and the separation of Uyghur children from their families, making them victims of a state-sponsored genocide; and

WHEREAS, despite this evidence, the "IOC" today will begin the XXIV Olympic Winter Games of 2022 in Beijing; and

WHEREAS, the three Olympic values which this great tradition were founded upon are "excellence, friendship, and respect" to "promote sport, culture, and education to build a better world"; and

WHEREAS, that such values are wholly incompatible with the oppression and genocide that are currently underway; and

WHEREAS, today will not be the first time the International Olympic Committee has allowed the peaceful transition and brotherhood of internal sport to be co-opted by a genocidal regime;

WHEREAS, we look back with regret upon the Summer Olympics of 1936, hosted by a regime that used the Olympics as a pedestal for propaganda; and

WHEREAS, today, the IOC has repeated these mistakes, permitting the Games to be a cover for evil; and

WHEREAS, a pre-condition to combatting genocide is to acknowledge the truth that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing, and acknowledge that apathy and indifference are the greatest weapon for the perpetrators of genocide; and

WHEREAS, the American people, with a free media and the freedom of expression stand uniquely positioned to lead the world in stating the truth as the atrocities committed by the Olympic hosts of China; and

WHEREAS, to acknowledge this truth does not detract from the thousands of incredible athletes and families for whom this time may reflect the apex of their athletic journeys; and

WHEREAS, this time presents a chance for all Tennesseans to pray for the freedom of the Uyghur people and other ethnic and religious minorities who face persecution at the hands of the Chinese government, to appeal to the better nature of the members of the International Olympic Committee, to consider and remember the corporate sponsors who supported these games, and to ask our American media to not look away from the horrors taking place in Xinjiang;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim February 4–20, 2022, as

A Time of Memorial for the Victims of Genocide in Xinjian, China

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fourth day of February, 2022.



Bill Lee

Governor

Jo Dargatzis

Secretary of State