

October 2022

Mr Gerd Voss
Head of Social Responsibility Communications,
Volkswagon
Gerd.voss@volkswagon.de

Dear Mr. Voss,

I am writing to express my extreme concern over Volkswagen's corporate presence in Xinjian, China, and direct or indirect involvement in Uyghur forced labour.

As a Jewish person, my people's experience of internment, forced labour and of religious and ethnic persecution shows us the importance of the right to hold and express our beliefs freely, to live in dignity and to be treated with humanity.

The horror stories of what is happening to the Uyghur people in China tragically parallel those of our ancestors. Just as it was then for the Jews, today, the atrocities being inflicted upon the Uyghur people are undoubtedly calculated and systematic policies of China's government. International corporations, including your own, have been made co-conspirators by China's government, whether they are aware and willing participants or not.

Given the history of Volkswagen's activities during Second World War, it is disconcerting to hear that, in addition to your suppliers, one of Volkswagen's factories is in Urumqi, the heart of the Xinjiang region, where the suffering of the Uyghur people is most prolific. Additionally, a Volkswagen display and component supplier – whether direct or indirect – Hefei Highbroad Advanced Material Co. Ltd (possibly under subsidiaries Hefei Fuying Photoelectric Co. Ltd or BOE Technology Group Co. Ltd) is using thousands of Uyghur forced laborers in their factories as a part of their "poverty alleviation" programmes. Your involvement directly or indirectly has wide-ranging consequences for the Uyghur people, your corporation, shareholders, and customers.

As the head of the Volkswagen corporation, it is imperative that you consider the reputational, economic, and legal risks of involvement with entities that engage in human rights abuses, including but not limited to, forced labor in the manufacture of goods intended for domestic and international distribution. It is no longer enough to do thorough "due diligence," internal or third-party audits, or even to abandon the Xinjiang region to root out and eliminate problematic practices from your manufacturing and supply chains.

It is time for Volkswagen to stand on the right side of history and urgently end Uyghur forced labour in its supply chains and business presence in Xinjiang. I urge you to lead the necessary changes so that Volkswagen can cleanse itself of the stain of association with yet another regimen committing genocide on its people.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE and NAME PRINTED

[Date]

Mr. Kasper Rørsted
CEO Adidas Group
kasper.rorsted@adidas-group.com

Dear Mr, Rørsted,

Re: removal of supply chains linked to Uyghur slave labour

I am writing to express my extreme concern over Adidas' corporate presence in the Uyghur Region (Xinjian), China, and direct or indirect involvement in Uyghur forced labour and ask that you fully remove your global supply chains out of China because of high risk that your products profit from Uyghur and other Turkic groups slave labour.

Such slave labour forms part of a widespread persecution of the Uyghurs in, what a letter by [76 international Faith Leaders](#) calls, a "potential genocide" by the Chinese Government, and which an [Independent Uyghur Tribunal](#) determined meets the legal definition of genocide in its December 2021 judgement.

As a Jewish person, my people's experience of internment, forced labour and of religious and ethnic persecution shows us the importance of the right to hold and express our beliefs freely, to live in dignity and to be treated with humanity.

I know you have come out with a [statement on your website](#) on the company's zero-tolerance approach towards forced labour. However evidence from Ethical Trading Initiative and the Fair Labour Association, also presented to the US Congress, shows that "companies cannot rely on normal due diligence activities to either confirm—or rule out—the presence of forced labour." As a company that exports a significant volume of cotton-based products to global markets, Adidas has a responsibility to apply a recently agreed single global standard set by the [US Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act](#). In addition, the company should refrain from re-exporting, and attempting to sell in other markets, any goods denied entry to the US under the Act.

As your customer, I do not want to run the risk of wearing products manufactured by Uyghur slave labour. I am sure you too do not want this for your customers. It would fulfil neither your zero tolerance statement nor your corporate obligations to respect human rights as defined in the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

As a supporter of human dignity and social justice, I ask you to show moral leadership of the apparel industry by responding to the Uyghur persecution through moving your supply chains out of China until their persecution stops.

Yours sincerely,

My nearest Adidas store is: