

Leaked documents show details of Xinjiang clampdown - *NY Times*



A security camera is placed in a renovated section of the Old City in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China

Reuters | Beijing

A trove of leaked Chinese government documents reveals details of its clampdown on Uighurs and other Muslims in the country's western Xinjiang region under President Xi Jinping, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday.

United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang in a crackdown that has drawn condemnation from the United States and other countries.

The documents, which the newspaper said were leaked by "a member of the Chinese political establishment," show how Xi gave a series of internal speeches to officials during and after a 2014 visit to Xinjiang following a stabbing attack by Uighur militants at a train station that killed 31 people.

The report said Xi called for an "all-out 'struggle against terrorism, infiltration, and separatism' using the 'organs of dictatorship,' and showing 'absolutely no mercy.'"

The documents show that

the Chinese leadership's fears were heightened by terrorist attacks in other countries and the US drawdown of troops from Afghanistan.

It is unclear how the documents totalling 403 pages were gathered and selected, the newspaper said.

Beijing denies any mistreatment of the Uighurs or others in Xinjiang, saying it is providing vocational training to help stamp out Islamic extremism and separatism and teach new skills.

China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment from Reuters on Sunday.

The documents show how officials were given talking points to explain to returning university students that their family members had been taken away for training, and how the programme faced pushback from some local officials, the report said.

They also show that the internment camps expanded quickly after Chen Quanguo was appointed in August 2016 as the party boss of the region, the report said. Chen had taken a tough line to quell restiveness against Communist Party rule during his previous posting in Tibet.

Duterte to VP: keep secrets or lose your 'drugs tsar' post

● Duterte has reacted with fury to a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the killings

● Robredo, who was elected separately to Duterte, has long been a critic of his flagship campaign

Reuters | Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to remove the vice president from her "drugs tsar" post if she shared state secrets with foreign individuals and entities.

The warning, which the president made in a television interview, came a few days after he offered Leni Robredo a lead role in his brutal war on drugs, which she later accepted to reassess a campaign she said was fraught with senseless killings.

Robredo, a political rival of the popular Duterte, said on Oct. 23 that international help, including from the United Nations and International Criminal Court (ICC), should be sought if the government refused to change tack and stop abusive police.

"Revealing State secrets to foreign individuals and entities as well as welcoming those who have trampled the country's sovereignty would be damag-



President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice-President Leni Robredo stand at attention for the national anthem during the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) graduation ceremony in Camp Castaneda, Silang town in Cavite city, south of Manila, Philippines

Revealing State secrets to foreign individuals and entities as well as welcoming those who have trampled the country's sovereignty would be damaging to the welfare of the Filipino people

SPOKESMAN SALVADOR PANELO

ing to the welfare of the Filipino people," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement on Sunday.

"She may not realise it but she

could be treading on dangerous ground. It could be an overreach of the granted authority, hence the reminder," Panelo said.

Duterte has reacted with fury to a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the killings and responded to a preliminary examination by the ICC by pulling the Philippines out of the organisation.

Human rights experts at home and abroad are incensed by thousands of deaths in what police say were sting operations that resulted in shootouts.

Activists dispute those accounts and accuse police of executing suspects based on weak intelligence. Police reject that.

In an interview with GMA News aired on Saturday, Duterte said he would fire Robredo as co-chair of an inter-agency on

drugs if she shared classified information because certain matters should be kept with the government.

Robredo met with the officials from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), community-based advocacy groups and US Embassy last week to discuss the drug problem, which she has said must be tackled from a health and social perspective, including prevention and treatment rather than a largely police-centred approach.

Robredo, who was elected separately to Duterte, has long been a critic of his flagship campaign, arguing that thousands of urban poor have been killed, with no sign of progress towards dismantling major drugs networks. She had no immediate comment on Duterte's remarks.

Robredo, 54, accepted the offer to co-lead the drugs crackdown that has prompted activists to call for international intervention, even though she suspected her rival's administration would try to thwart her progress.

But Panelo dismissed those concerns as baseless and said the president's latest remarks were meant to remind Robredo of the "imperatives as well as the limits" of her role.

"Other pessimists contend... the president had begun clipping her wings so as not to fulfil her mandate. Such speculations are unfounded and they are unproductive as well", Panelo said.

Stents no better than drugs for many heart patients - US study

● Current guidelines recommend patients with severe narrowing of their arteries have heart bypass surgery or a stent implanted to restore blood flow

● Stents are tiny tubes that keep the artery open after blockage-clearing angioplasty

Reuters | Chicago

Many patients with severe but stable heart disease who routinely undergo invasive procedures to clear and prop open clogged arteries would do as well by just taking medications and making lifestyle changes, US researchers reported on Saturday.

If adopted into practice, the findings could save hundreds of millions of dollars a year in healthcare costs, researchers said.

The \$100 million government-backed study, presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) meeting in Philadelphia, is the largest yet to look at whether procedures to restore normal blood flow in patients with stable heart disease offers an added benefit over more conservative treatment with aspi-



Many cardiologists are reluctant to change practice in part because patients who get stents to keep the artery open report feeling better right away,

rin, cholesterol-lowering drugs and other measures.

At least two prior studies determined that artery-clearing and stenting or bypass surgery in addition to medical treatment does not significantly lower the risk of heart attacks or death compared with non-invasive medical approaches alone.

Many cardiologists are reluctant to change practice in part because patients who get stents

to keep the artery open report feeling better right away, experts said.

NYU Langone cardiologist Dr. Judith Hochman, who chaired the study, estimated that some 500,000 new patients a year are diagnosed with stable coronary artery disease, in which heart arteries narrowed by fatty deposits cause periodic angina, or chest pain, typically after exercising or emotional distress.

"There's always been a fear that if you don't do something quickly, they will have a heart attack or drop dead," Hochman said. The 7-year, 5,179-patient ISCHEMIA study did not show a significant benefit from that course of action.

"For those with mild or no

chest pain, there's really not a role for immediately stenting," Hochman said.

Just eliminating unnecessary stenting procedures could save the US healthcare system \$570 million annually, said Stanford University School of Medicine cardiologist and study co-chair Dr David Maron. He estimates the cost per stenting procedure at about \$25,000 and bypass surgery at \$45,000.

"I would hope this would change practice," said Dr. William Boden of the VA New England Healthcare System, another study author. "We are wasting a lot of money."

The main goal of the trial was an overall reduction in deaths, heart attacks, hospitalization for unstable chest pain or heart failure and resuscitation after cardiac arrest.

On these measures, the addition of stenting or bypass surgery to reroute blood flow around the arterial blockage was no better at reducing the adverse events than medical therapy alone. The invasive treatments did result in better symptom relief and quality of life in those who had frequent chest pain.

The findings do not apply to all heart patients, including those with blockages in the left main coronary artery, Hochman said. And, she added, "if you're having a heart attack, stents save lives."

Man kills wife, three young sons in San Diego home



Officers at the scene of the shooting

Reuters

Three young boys and two adults were fatally shot and another boy was wounded in a domestic dispute that escalated into a shooting on Saturday in southeastern San Diego, police said.

Police responded to a home in the Paradise Hills neighborhood where they found a 3-year-old boy along with mother and father dead inside early Saturday morning. Three other boys, ages 5, 9 and 11, were taken to a hospital where two of them died, San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said during a news conference.

"When the officers arrived on the scene, they were able to look into one of the windows and see a small child inside covered in blood," San Diego Police Lieutenant Matt Dobbs said.

The third boy who was taken to the hospital underwent emergency surgery, Dobbs said.

After the mother obtained a restraining order against the father on Friday, the couple got in an argument on Saturday morning. After shooting the family, the father turned his handgun on himself, Dobbs said. Police did not release the names of the victims.

The findings do not apply to all heart patients, including those with blockages in the left main coronary artery