

# Behind the Olympic boycott

A week after the White House announced a [diplomatic boycott](#) of the Winter Olympic Games on Dec. 6, the [Financial Times](#) ran a front-page story about a drone manufacturer and seven other Chinese companies that were being added to a U.S. blacklist for being involved in the surveillance of the Uyghur Muslim minority. The White House had said that the "ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human-rights abuses" were the reason for the diplomatic boycott.

The same day the FT ran its story, the [New York Times](#) wrote on the front page of its international edition about a secret U.S. military strike that had side-stepped safety rules and killed civilians while launching tens of thousands of bombs and missiles against the Islamic State in Syria in 2014-2019. In all, the NYT said, the U.S. launched 112,000 bombs and missiles against ISIS.

Which is the greater crime against humanity? Human-rights abuses in China, or the "misfortunes of war" in Syria for which no one was apparently punished?

That's a rhetorical question, because at this point at least, the international community is on the side of the White House in terms of moral superiority. The CR and numerous other Western countries are honoring the diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics in one form or another.

The White House announced the Olympic boycott on Dec. 6, but another entity affiliated with the U.S. government started talking about such action much earlier. While he was still president of the National Endowment for Democracy, [Carl Gershman](#) spoke on [June 6, 2019](#), about the atrocities in China and said that steps needed to be taken. "We need to raise this issue of cultural genocide and the concentration camps in the context of China's hosting of the 2022 Winter Olympics. Companies like Adidas, Nike and Coca-Cola need to be told that they shouldn't sponsor these games while the Beijing regime is holding three million Uyghurs in concentration camps and committing cultural genocide. Human-rights organizations are already on top of this issue, and we need to work with them."

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is an "independent, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world." It's federally funded, and its mandate from Congress includes

have received funding from the National Endowment in recent years, but the [U.S. embassy](#) provided money in 2011. One of the Center's founders is Petr Fiala, now the PM, although it said that he has [not been involved in concrete projects](#) for

years. The [CEVRO Institute](#), also closely associated with ODS, isn't listed as a member institute but received [\\$345,479](#) from NED in 2016-2018. Over the years, NED has spent millions of dollars in the CR influencing foreign policy and public opinion.

In announcing that the cabinet would not send any ministers to Beijing, Fiala was rather terse. He merely posted a [tweet](#) saying that the "CR will join with the majority of EU countries and the USA in not sending representatives to the Olympics." He didn't use the word "boycott." Foreign Min. Jan Lipavský did use the word but acknowledged to [Czech TV](#) that no ministers were invited anyway.

As the [NYT](#) and [FT](#) reported, Olympic sponsors are mostly keeping quiet about the boycott because they have too much at stake financially to act politically. The NYT wrote that "the prominence of these multinational companies, many of them American, has taken the political sting out of the efforts by Mr. Biden and other leaders to punish China for its human-rights abuses."

That's the reality of the Sino-American relationship. The U.S. is winning a super-ficial PR battle with the help of a network of local experts and activists funded by NED. At the same time, U.S. moral superiority is under attack from within by people who provide top-secret information to the NYT and other media about the U.S.'s own human-rights abuses.

The Czech Senate called in June of last year for government representatives to attend the Games, because "his presence could be used to legitimize further discrimination, violence and suppression of fundamental rights" in China. Senators also recently [supported a Tibetan call for a boycott](#).

Such action is apparently why no Czech officials (or [Joe Biden](#)) were invited. They stand the moral high ground and shake their fingers at China, while the Chinese march right past them.

## White House adds to blacklist over U

**◆ Biden stands firm on abuse ◆ Bar to US invest**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday announced it will add seven Chinese companies to a blacklist of firms that the U.S. government says have violated human rights in Xinjiang.

The Treasury will place the group on its "China Military-Industrial Complex Companies" blacklist, a program that restricts U.S. companies from doing business with the firms. The Treasury did not respond to a request for comment. It declined to say whether the companies had been added to the blacklist.

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## 'The misfortunes of war'

**◆ Civilian casualties mounted as a U.S. unit fighting ISIS sidestepped safety rules**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A U.S. military unit sidestepped safety rules during a mission in Syria, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 civilians, according to a report from the U.S. military.

The report, released by the Pentagon, says that the unit, the 101st Airborne Division, was conducting a mission in the town of al-Bayraqiyah in the northwestern part of Syria. The unit was ordered to clear the town of ISIS fighters and to destroy their weapons and infrastructure.

The report says that the unit used heavy weapons, including tanks and artillery, and that it fired on civilians who were in the way. The report also says that the unit did not follow the rules of engagement, which require soldiers to take precautions to avoid civilian casualties.

## promoting U.S. interests abroad, but only through programs it funds.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The National Endowment for Democracy is promoting U.S. interests abroad, but only through programs it funds.

The NED is a nonprofit organization that is funded by the U.S. government. It is one of the largest and most influential of the so-called "democracy promotion" organizations in the U.S.

The NED's programs are designed to promote democratic values and institutions in other countries. It does this through a variety of means, including grants, scholarships, and public relations campaigns.