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**Congress of the United States**  
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**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION  
AND CITIZENSHIP  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW - **RANKING MEMBER**  
  
**HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,  
AND NONPROLIFERATION

December 3, 2021

Anthony Capuano  
Chief Executive Officer  
Marriott International, Inc.  
10400 Fernwood Road  
Bethesda, MC 20817

Dear Mr. Capuano,

I am writing to express my immense concern about the Prague Marriott Hotel's recent refusal to allow the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) to hold their annual meeting at the hotel.

Under the guise of "political neutrality," the Prague Marriott Hotel became an extension of the intense persecution against Uyghurs perpetuated by the Chinese government. By shuttering its doors to the WUC, the hotel affiliated itself with the Chinese government's policies toward the Uyghur people.

The World Uyghur Congress is the most prominent and well-respected group of Uyghur leaders dispersed around the world. According to the WUC's mission statement, it was founded in 2004 to "promote democracy, human rights and freedom for the Uyghur people and use peaceful, nonviolent, and democratic means to determine their political future."<sup>1</sup>

In mid-November 2021, the WUC held their annual meeting in Prague. The Uyghur people, alongside other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, face extermination in China through a policy of genocide, yet your company found it untenable to permit the WUC to gather in your company's facilities to advocate for their continued existence as a people in the face of extreme persecution, genocide, and crimes against humanity implemented against them in China.<sup>2</sup>

This is not an isolated incident where Marriott has affiliated itself with China's policies. Rather, this is yet another example on a growing list of instances in which Marriott International has aligned its actions with China's oppressive regime. To use just one example from recent history, Marriott's apology to China in 2018 for listing Taiwan, Macau, Tibet, and Hong Kong as independent countries instead of as Chinese territory included the strong statement, "We do not support separatist groups that subvert the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China."<sup>3</sup> This statement was not referencing any designated terrorist or separatist group. Instead, it adopted China's position that the citizens of these regions had no right to self-determination, despite international legal agreements affirming such a right.

The Chinese government has aggressively campaigned that the Uyghur people – including the World Uyghur Congress – are dangerous extremist separatists. Because of the precedent set by Marriott International to acquiesce to the Chinese Communist Party's demands, the hotel management in Prague could have rationally contrived its decision was necessary to comply with this functional policy.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/introducing-the-world-uyghur-congress/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.axios.com/marriott-uyghur-conference-d6deb429-9b5e-4759-ba10-98d59e81be12.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/12/marriott-apologises-to-china-over-tibet-and-taiwan-error>

Your company's position on whether it views the Uyghur people as separatists is ambiguous and has only been further clouded by your company's recent refusal to allow the WUC to meet at your hotel in Prague. I request that you publicly clarify the policy and position of Marriott International regarding its alignment with China's policy of genocide against ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. Further, I request that you publicly clarify your company's policy toward accommodating individuals, entities, or groups who disagree with the Chinese government.

Finally, given the Chinese government's strong condemnation of the WUC's meeting, I urge you to publicly disclose whether your company was contacted by the Chinese government or its officials in opposition to the WUC's request to meet at the Prague Marriott Hotel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Buck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and last name "Buck" clearly distinguishable.

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress