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UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF TO BEGIN CONTENTIOUS CHINA VISIT

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The UN human rights chief was on Monday (May 23) due to begin a six-day trip to China that takes in the remote Xinjiang region, stirring fears over access and the propaganda value the visit offers to the Chinese Communist Party.

The tour by Michelle Bachelet marks the first by the UN's top rights official in nearly two decades and comes as Beijing stands accused of widespread abuses of Muslims in far-western Xinjiang.

The ruling Communist Party is alleged to have detained more than 1 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities there under a years-long security crackdown the United States calls a "genocide".

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