
Senate committee expands investigation into forced Uyghur labor in BMW China supply chain

Description

The head of the US Senate Finance Committee, Senator Ron Wyden, has launched an investigation into BMW after the company was found to have imported vehicles into America containing banned Chinese parts. The investigation was prompted by concerns that these components were manufactured under forced labor conditions by people from China's Uyghur minority group. BMW has stated that they have taken measures to stop the importation of affected products, following a report that revealed at least 8,000 BMW Mini Cooper cars with banned parts had been imported into the US. Other car manufacturers named in the report include Jaguar Land Rover and Volkswagen.

The US Congress passed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) in 2021 to prevent the import of goods from China's Xinjiang region, where most Uyghurs reside. Chinese firm Sichuan Jingweida Technology Group (JWD), which was found to have produced components in the banned parts, was added to the UFLPA Entity List in December 2023. China has faced criticism for its treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, with allegations of mass detentions and human rights abuses. However, Beijing has denied these accusations, denouncing the UFLPA as harmful to the rights of people in Xinjiang. Senator Wyden has requested BMW to clarify whether they are still importing vehicles with components produced by JWD, with a response deadline of 21 June.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Importation** // (noun): The act or process of bringing goods or services into a country from abroad.
2. **Components** // (noun): Individual parts or elements that make up a larger system or object.
3. **Forced Labor** // (noun): Work or services that are extracted from a person under threat or coercion.
4. **Denouncing** // (verb): Publicly declare to be wrong or evil.
5. **Accusations** // (noun): Claims that someone has done something wrong or illegal.
6. **Clarify** // (verb): Make a statement or situation less confused and more comprehensible.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the process of obtaining or buying something?

Option: Expand

Option: Resilience

Option: Acquire

Option: Regulatory

2. Which term means to protect or guard against an attack or criticism?

Option: Institutional

Option: Dependable

Option: Defend

Option: Scandal

3. What process confirms that a product or service meets certain requirements or standards?

Option: Importation

Option: Forced Labor

Option: Allegations

Option: Certification

4. Which economic factor represents the percentage charged for borrowing money?

Option: Inflation Target

Option: Policy

Option: Unemployment

Option: Interest Rate

5. What term refers to the act of bringing in goods from another country?

Option: Components

Option: Importation

Option: Forced Labor

Option: Denouncing

6. Which economic concept describes a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money?

Option: Accuser

Option: Clarify

Option: Inflation

Option: Economists

7. What term is used to describe assertions or accusations that someone has done something illegal or wrong without proof?

Option: Criticizing

Option: Innocence

Option: Bouquet

Option: Allegations

8. What term refers to a course of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual?

- Option: Accusing
- Option: Inflation Target
- Option: Policy
- Option: Viral

9. Who is a person or thing that influences someone or something?

- Option: Accusations
- Option: Influencer
- Option: Forced Labor
- Option: Denouncing

10. What term describes the ability to withstand or recover from difficult conditions?

- Option: Regulatory
- Option: Resilience
- Option: Acquire
- Option: Expand

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ industry deals with the design development manufacturing marketing and selling of motor vehicles.

12. The company issued a statement _____ the use of forced labor in their supply chain.

13. The article was harsh in _____ the government's handling of the crisis.

14. The suspect maintained his _____ throughout the investigation and trial.

15. The new product release created a _____ among consumers leading to long queues at stores.

16. It is important to consider the _____ in which a statement was made to fully understand its meaning.

17. The authorities received numerous _____ regarding the company's environmental practices.



18. The political _____ rocked the nation and led to several resignations.

19. The company was accused of using _____ in its overseas factories.

20. The opposition party kept _____ the government of corruption.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Customers value products that are trustworthy and reliable.

22. Government agencies play a crucial role in setting and enforcing industry standards.

23. The meme spread rapidly across social media platforms and became a sensation overnight.

24. The spokesperson held a press conference to explain the company's position and clear up any confusion.

25. The engineers focused on testing each of the individual parts that make up the final product.

26. Experts in the field of economics analyze trends and forecast future developments.

27. The revelation of financial misconduct led to a public outcry and tarnished the company's reputation.

28. The witness pointed at the defendant in the courtroom and made serious allegations.

29. The government introduced a new set of guidelines to address environmental concerns.

30. As the central bank raised the borrowing costs increased for consumers and businesses.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Acquire 2. Defend 3. Certification 4. Interest Rate 5. Importation 6. Inflation 7. Allegations 8. Policy 9. Influencer 10. Resilience

Gap-Fill: 11. automotive 12. denouncing 13. criticizing 14. innocence 15. frenzy 16. context 17. inquiries 18. scandal 19. forced labor 20. accusing

Matching sentence: 1. dependable 2. regulatory 3. viral 4. clarify 5. components 6. economists 7. scandal 8. accusing 9. policy 10. interest rate

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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