

Calls to the boycott of "Mulan" filmed in part in Xinjiang multiply

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Disney's film "Mulan," which has just been eded at Disney+, is the subject of calls to the boycott to protest against the filming of certain scenes in China's Xinjiang region, where Beijing is accused of Uighur rights violations.

The \$200 million overproduction, based on the legend of a Chinese warrior, had already been the subject of controversy last year.

Liu Yifei, the Chinese-American star who stars in the story, then expressed support for Hong Kong police, accused by the pro-democracy countryside of suppressing demonstrations.

But a new controversy recently emerged. Last week, during its broadcast on the Disney+ platform, at the end of the film, in the credits, Disney addressed "a special thank you" to government agencies in the Xinjiang region of northwest China.

These include the public safety office of Turpan, a city east of Xinjiang where several Uighur political re-education camps are located, according to human rights associations.

The department run by the Chinese Communist Party in this region is also the subject of thanks.

Prior to this new controversy, activists from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand had started a social media movement labeled #BoycottMulan.

Called the Milk Tea Alliance, this movement is the result of the association of activists who denounce Beijing's authoritarianism.

- Problem film -

This group particularly emphasized the similarity between actor Tzi Ma, who plays mulan's father, with Chinese President Xi Jinping. And he called militant Agnes Chow "true Mulan" after her arrest in August.

Since the film's broadcast on Disney+, the phenomenon has expanded, especially in the United States and Europe. On Twitter, Joshua Wong, who embodies the pro-democracy movement for international opinion, called for boycotting "Mulan" the "people who love freedoms."

Amnesty International claims that this overproduction was shot in a region of China where Uighurs are interned in camps.

Rights advocacy groups, journalists and academics have denounced the detention of members of the Uighur Muslim minority, as well as mass arrests and forced sterilizations.

For Isaac Stone Fish of the Asia Society, a center specializing in U.S.-China relations, this film is "arguably Disney's most problematic film" since "Song of the South."

When he left in 1946, he had provoked numerous criticisms that reproached him for spreading racist clichés and idyllically painting the slave plantations of the old southern United States.

From Melbourne, Badiucuo, a dissident Chinese artist residing in this city, works on a drawing that would depict Mulan as the guardian of one of Xinjinang's internment camps.

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"This poses a real problem and there are no excuses," he told the AFP, highlighting the existence of "evidence demonstrating what is happening in Xinjiang."

Baduicao accuses Disney of "double discourse," adhering to movements against social injustice in the West, such as MeToo and Black Lives Matter, while closing his eyes to how China violates rights.

This new version of "Mulan", which premiered in cartoons in 1998, has known other incidents.

Its big-screen premiere, scheduled for spring, was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. So Disney decided to release it exclusively, starting September 4, on its video-on-demand platform.

It will premiere this week in theaters in China, where Disney+ is not available.

In August, Hollywood was accused, in a report published by the Pen America organization, of self-censorship to allow his films to reach the gigantic Chinese market.

Questioned by the AFP, Disney has not yet responded to the request for comment.

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