

CONFRONTING ATROCITIES IN CHINA:

THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE UYGHUR CRISIS

June 6-7, 2019
Washington, DC

Opening Ceremony: U.S. Capitol Building
Conference: George Washington University



CENTRAL ASIA
PROGRAM



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UHRP
UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

The World Uyghur Congress in cooperation with the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), Uyghur American Association (UAA) and the Central Asia Program (CAP) at George Washington University present:

CONFRONTING ATROCITIES IN CHINA: The Global Response to the Uyghur Crisis

(Eventbrite Registration required)

Opening Ceremony: June 6, 9:00-12:30
U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Room HVC-201

Conference: June 6, 14:00-18:00 & June 7, 9:30-18:00
Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St NW (State Room)



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PROGRAM**



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ASSOCIATION**
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UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

Conference Background:

The Uyghur population has faced human rights abuses at the hands of the Chinese government for many years, but since 2017, China has operated an extensive network of internment camps stretching across East Turkistan (the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China) that function to socially re-engineer the Uyghur population and erode the most basic elements of the Uyghur identity. The camps exist as the logical conclusion of decades of Chinese policy designed to undermine Uyghur identity and expression.

Thus far, despite extensive coverage and reporting on conditions in the region, the international community has been tremendously cautious in their approach with China on the issue. Although some states and international organizations have spoken out strongly on the abuses, little by way of concrete action has been achieved which would force China to change course.

The conference includes speakers from various backgrounds and disciplines to discuss and address a number of key open questions on how best to galvanize further support for Uyghurs, to mount a coordinated campaign to pressure China to close the camps, ensure accountability for those responsible for ongoing abuses, and adopt measures to safeguard fundamental rights.

Speakers will be urged to take a solutions-based approach to the question: How can the international community work together to oblige China to close the political indoctrination facilities and moves towards respecting the fundamental rights of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims?

About the Organizers:

World Uyghur Congress

The World Uyghur Congress is an international organisation that represents the collective interest of the Uyghur people both in East Turkestan and abroad. The WUC was established in April 2004 in Munich, Germany, after the East Turkestan National Congress and the World Uyghur Youth Congress merged into one united organisation. The main objective of WUC is to promote the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, nonviolent, and democratic means to determine the political future of East Turkestan. The WUC has been supported in part by the National Endowment for Democracy.

Uyghur Human Rights Project

The Uyghur Human Rights Project was founded in 2004 with a supporting grant from the National Endowment for Democracy as a human rights research, reporting and advocacy organization. The organization focuses on promoting human rights and democracy for Uyghurs living in East Turkistan.

Uyghur American Association

The Uyghur American Association is based in Washington, DC that works to promote the preservation and flourishing of a rich, humanistic and diverse Uyghur culture, and to support the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, democratic means to determine their own political future. The UAA has undertaken the Uyghur Human Rights Project for the purpose of promoting improved human rights conditions for Uyghurs and other indigenous groups in East Turkistan (the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region), on the premise that the assurance of basic human rights will facilitate the realization of the community's democratic aspirations.

George Washington University Central Asia Program

The Central Asia Program (CAP) at George Washington University promotes high-quality academic research on contemporary Central Asia, and serves as an interface for the policy, academic, diplomatic, and business communities. The Central Asia Program focuses on the wider Central Asian space, which includes the five post-Soviet Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan), Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Xinjiang, Mongolia, as well as the Volga-Ural region, Kashmir, and Balochistan.

Confronting Atrocities in China: The Global Response to the Uyghur Crisis

Wednesday, June 5

Venue: Uyghur Human Rights Project, 1602 L St. NW, Suite 613, Washington D.C. 20036

18:00 – 21:00	Conference Reception Guests and speakers are invited to a reception at the UHRP offices on the 9 th floor to speak together and enjoy light refreshments and Uyghur food.
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Thursday, June 6 (Morning)

Venue: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Room HVC-201

09:30 – 10:00	Registration Guests should meet outside the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center where they will enter ahead of the opening ceremony.
10:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dolkun Isa, President, World Uyghur Congress• David Ranz, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State on behalf of the Honorable Alice G. Wells, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs• Ambassador Sam Brownback, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom• Congressman Jim McGovern• Congressman Brad Sherman• Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy• Peter Chang, Ombudsman, Taiwan• Congressman Chris Smith [video message]• Senator Marco Rubio [video message]• Csaba Sógor, former Member of European Parliament• Norman Baker, Former UK Minister of State at the Home Office• Ralph Bunche, Secretary General, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)• Paul Strauss, US Shadow Senator• Moderator – Omer Kanat, Director, Uyghur Human Rights Project
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (Congress Canteen)

Thursday, June 6 (Afternoon)

Venue: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC 20052 (State Room)

14:00 – 15:15	Survey of Evidence
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	<p>The panel will serve to set out the available evidence on the camp system based on academic research and information gathered from various sources on the ground and from abroad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Adrian Zenz, Independent Researcher • Harald Maass, Journalist • Shawn Zhang (Remote), Student Researcher • <i>Moderator: Rushan Abbas, Campaign for Uyghurs</i>
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Chinese Community Mobilisation</p> <p>Speakers will focus on how the Chinese advocacy community has been, and could be, responding to the Uyghur issue, to offer solidarity and a mutual approach going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xiaorong, Scholar • Uerkesh Davlet (Wu'er Kaixi), Dissident Activist & Tiananmen Student Leader • Bob Fu, President, ChinaAid • Darren Byler, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington • <i>Moderator: Ilshat Hassan, Uyghur American Association</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 18:00	<p>Academic Perspectives</p> <p>The academic community, from various backgrounds, will speak from different perspectives on the camps, and work to flesh out solutions going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Roberts, Assoc. Prof. & Director, Int'l Dev. Studies, George Washington University • Donald Clarke, Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School • Vanessa Frangville, Senior Lecturer, Université libre de Bruxelles • Timothy Grose, Assistant Professor of China Studies, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology • <i>Moderator: Nicole Morgret, Uyghur Human Rights Project</i>
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner – Erkin's Uyghur Cuisine and Tea Bar (2412 Wisconsin Avenue NW Washington, DC 20007)

Friday, June 7

Venue: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC 20052 (State Room)

09:30 – 11:00	<p>Perspectives & Solutions from Civil Society</p> <p>Various representatives from civil society will speak on their own work on the issue as well as how best to approach advocacy primarily in Europe and North America going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulrich Delius, Director, Society for Threatened Peoples • Lucia Parrucci, Advocacy & Training Coordinator, Unrepresented Nations and
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	<p>Peoples Organization (UNPO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Boyajian, Director of Advocacy, Freedom House • Francisco Bencosme, Asia Pacific Advocacy Manager, Amnesty International • Lea Perekrests, Deputy Director, Human Rights Without Frontiers • <i>Moderator: Sophie Richardson, China Director, Human Rights Watch</i>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Witness Testimony</p> <p>Several witnesses will testify based on their personal experiences with the camp system as well as relatives of those detained or gone missing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolkun Isa, President, World Uyghur Congress • Mihrigul Tursun • Ferkat Jawdat • <i>Moderator: Zubayra Shamseden, Uyghur Human Rights Project</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (George Washington University)
14:00 – 15:15	<p>International Legal & Political Perspectives</p> <p>Representatives from various backgrounds will focus on the most effective legal responses to the treatment of Uyghurs and how the international community can support these approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gianni Tognoni, Secretary General, Permanent Peoples Tribunal • Michael Polak, Barrister, Church Court Chambers • Kyle Matthews, Executive Director, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University • <i>Niury Turkel, Attorney & Uyghur Human Rights Project Board Chair</i>
15:15 – 16:30	<p>Media Approaches</p> <p>Given that journalists have been at the forefront of uncovering facts on the ground in the region, panelists will speak about their experiences covering the issue and how best civil society can leverage this critical coverage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marco Respinti, Director-in-Charge, Bitter Winter • Harald Maass, Journalist • Mustafa Akyol, Senior fellow at the Cato Institute • Merve Sebnem Oruç, Journalist • <i>Moderator: Alim Seytoff, Director, Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee Break
16:45 – 18:00	<p>Concluding Session, Concrete Actions Going Forward</p> <p>Speakers will bring together many of the ideas presented throughout the conference from various disciplines to develop a strategic approach going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shahrezad Ghayrat, Project Assistant, World Uyghur Congress

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Irwin, Program Manager, World Uyghur Congress• Ryan Barry, Project Coordinator, World Uyghur Congress• Erkin Sedik, Engineer, NASA• <i>Moderator: Louisa Greve, External Affairs Director, Uyghur Human Rights Project</i>
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19:00 – 21:00	Dinner – Ankara (1320 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036
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Speaker Biographies:

Rushan Abbas

Founder and Executive Director of Campaign for Uyghurs, Rushan Abbas started her activism work while she was a student, participating in the pro-democracy demonstrations at Xinjiang University in 1985 and 1988. Since her arrival in the United States in 1989, Ms. Abbas has been an ardent campaigner for the human rights of the Uyghur people. Ms. Abbas was the Vice President of Uyghur American Association for two terms and the former reporter at Radio Free Asia. Under her organization, Ms. Abbas introduced and led the “One Voice One Step” Uyghur women’s movement.



Mustafa Akyol

Mustafa Akyol is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute’s Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, where he focuses on the intersection of public policy, Islam, and modernity. A Turkish journalist and author, he is a regular contributing opinion writer for the New York Times since 2013, and has been a regular opinion columnist for Turkish publications such as Hurriyet Daily News, and for the Middle-East focused Al-Monitor.com. Akyol is the author of *Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty* praised by The Financial Times as “a forthright and elegant Muslim defense of freedom.” He is also the author of *The Islamic Jesus: How the King of the Jews Became a Prophet of the Muslims* and of six books in Turkish, including *Rethinking the Kurdish Question*.



Norman Baker

Norman Baker is a former minister in the British government, firstly for three and a half years at the Department for Transport then for a year as deputy to Theresa May in the Home Office. He was a Liberal Democrat MP between 1997 and 2015. He has a strong interest in both human rights and in the environment and has served on the UK Parliament’s Human Rights Committee. Until last year he had for many years been President of Tibet Society, the world’s longest established Tibet support organisation. He is a published author, a regular columnist and broadcaster, and a singer-songwriter who has issued three albums.



Francisco Bencosme

Francisco Bencosme is the Asia Pacific Advocacy Manager at Amnesty International USA. Francisco has testified before Congress and has provided media commentary on multiple outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. In 2018, Francisco was named one of The Hill’s Top 2018 Lobbyist for their campaign on Myanmar Rohingya issues. Before joining AIUSA, he served as a

Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he assisted Democratic Senators on issues related to East Asia/Pacific, South Asia, and State Department/USAID oversight. Francisco also served as the President of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and as a board member of the Foreign Affairs Congressional Staff Association. Francisco is also a Truman Security Fellow, a Penn-Kemble Fellow, and an International Career Advancement Program alum. Francisco received his Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a graduate certificate from the USAF Air University, and his B.A. from Wake Forest University.



Annie Boyajian

Annie Wilcox Boyajian is Director of Advocacy at Freedom House, and leads Freedom House's advocacy to the U.S. government and collaboration with American human rights groups. Prior to joining Freedom House, she spent seven years on Capitol Hill, working in both the Senate and the House. During her time on the Hill, Boyajian focused on foreign policy, human rights, and appropriations issues, and served most recently as a Legislative Director. She has worked extensively on freedom of expression and freedom of religion issues, and holds a Master's degree in International Affairs: U.S. Foreign Policy from American University's School of International Service. Her Master's research project focused on China's influence on African media.



Ralph Bunche

Ralph is the General Secretary of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and the Executive Director of our Dutch and US foundations. A lawyer by profession, Ralph has advised or represented governments, businesses and grassroots movements, including UNPO member peoples past and present, on international law and business and human rights matters worldwide. He joined the UNPO after serving in senior management positions for Fair Trials, the global criminal justice watchdog that focusses on extradition and other international criminal cooperation instruments, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, for whom he managed the human rights and rule of law portfolio in Kosovo.



Darren Byler

Darren Byler is a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington. His research focuses on Uyghur dispossession, culture work and "terror capitalism" in the city of Ürümqi, the capital of Chinese Central Asia (Xinjiang). He has published research articles in *Logic*, *Asia-Pacific Journal*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Central Asian Survey*, the *Journal of Chinese Contemporary Art* and contributed essays to volumes on ethnography of Islam in China, transnational Chinese cinema and travel and representation. He has provided expert testimony on Uyghur human rights issues before the Canadian House of Commons and writes a regular column on these issues for *SupChina*. In addition, he has published Uyghur-English literary translations (with Mutellip Enwer) in *Guernica* and *Paper Republic*. He also founded and edits the digital humanities art and politics repository *The Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia*, which is hosted at livingotherwise.com.



Donald Clarke

Donald Clarke is a professor at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in Chinese law. In addition to his academic work, he founded and maintains Chinalaw, the leading internet listserv on Chinese law, and writes about Chinese law at The China Collection blog. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Ulrich Delius

Ulrich Delius is Director of the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), a Germany based international human rights organization, promoting the rights of ethnic nationalities and religious minorities. A former STP Asia Desk officer, he has been working for more than three decades on ethnic nationality issues, religious freedom and human rights in China. He started in the 1980ies to promote a dialogue between the Chinese democracy movement and Uyghurs, Tibetans and Mongolians. He has published many human rights reports on the situation of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Tibetans, Mongolians, Falun Gong, the Chinese Democracy Movement, internet freedom and writers in prison.



Vanessa Frangville

Vanessa Frangville is currently Senior Lecturer and Chair holder in Chinese studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium. She is also the director of EAST, centre for East Asian Studies at the ULB. Her previous research dealt with discourses on ethnicity and nation building in modern and contemporary China, with a special focus on cinema and “ethnic minority” film. She is currently working on online and offline Uyghur youth activism in Europe.



Dr. Bob Fu

Dr. Bob Fu is a life member of Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and founder/president of China Aid (est. 2002). China Aid is an international NGO with a mission to advance religious freedom and rule of law for all in China. A campus student leader during the Tiananmen Square Democracy movement in 1989. He has a Ph.D in the field of Religious Freedom from St. John’s College, Durham University in the United Kingdom. His autobiography is called God’s Double Agent. He is editor in chief of Chinese Law & Religion Monitor Journal. As president of CAA, Bob has testified before both chambers of US Congress, US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China(CECC). He has testified before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, UK and Dutch Parliaments as well as the EU Parliament. He regularly brief and advise both the Executive and Legislative branches of US and other western governments about religious freedom and human rights in China.



Louisa Greve

Ms. Louisa Greve serves as UHRP’s director for external affairs. She is an expert on human rights in China and an experienced non-profit advisor. Her first visit to East Turkestan was in 1988, and she has traveled and worked in China since 1980. She is currently Washington Fellow for CSW, a UK-based advocacy group promoting freedom of religion or belief for all peoples and faiths. Ms. Greve was formerly Vice President for Programs and East Asia Director at the National Endowment for Democracy, with previous experience at Special Olympics International, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the United Nations Development Program. Ms. Greve has served on the Amnesty International board, the Virginia Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the International Advisory Committee of the Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China. She is the author of several book chapters on ethnic issues and human rights in China, and has testified before Congress on democracy in Asia.



Timothy Grose

Timothy Grose, PhD is an assistant professor of China Studies at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. His research on Uyghur ethno-national identities and their expressions of Islamic piety has been published in the China Journal, Journal of Contemporary China, and Foreign Policy and featured in the Economist, the Atlantic, and CNN. His book on Uyghur boarding schools, Negotiating Inseparability, was published by Hong Kong University Press in October 2019.



Dolkun Isa

Dolkun Isa is the President of the World Uyghur Congress and Vice President of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). He was a former student-leader of pro-democracy demonstrations at Xinjiang University in 1988 and founded the Students’ Science and Culture Union at the university in 1987 working on programs to eliminate illiteracy, promote science and lead other students in East Turkestan. He was then dismissed from university. After enduring persecution from the Chinese government, Isa fled China in 1994 and sought asylum in Europe, and became a citizen of Germany in 2006. He has since been presenting Uyghur human rights issues to the UN Human Rights Council, European Parliament, European governments and international human rights organizations. He has worked to mobilize the Uyghur diaspora community to collectively advocate for their rights and the rights of the Uyghurs in East Turkistan.



Wu’er Kaixi

Wu’er Kaixi, a Uyghur national, was born in Beijing, China on February 17th, 1968. In 1988 he was admitted to Beijing Normal University, where he studied education administration. In April 1989, he was instrumental in initiating a Beijing student movement for democracy and freedom that galvanized the world. One of the most influential student leaders, he maintained a leading role throughout what became known as the Tiananmen Student Movement, and which ended when it was brutally suppressed by the Chinese government on June 4th. His impassioned meeting with Chinese Premier Li Peng before the crackdown was watched on televisions throughout China and the world, making Wu’er Kaixi a household name in



China and a representative student leader internationally. After the June 4th massacre Wu'er Kaixi was listed No 2 on China's list of 21 most wanted student leaders. With the help of sympathizers in China and Hong Kong, he escaped from China via Hong Kong to France. In Paris Wu'er Kaixi and his colleagues in exile founded the Federation for a Democratic China (FDC), of which he was elected as the founding vice president. With his Tiananmen colleague Shen Tong, Wu'er Kaixi continues his pro-democracy activities as Co-Chairman of the Democracy for China Fund (DCF). He now lives in Taiwan, where through his magazine and newspaper columns and regular television appearances he has become a political commentator and social activist.

Omer Kanat

Omer Kanat was born in Ghulja city in East Turkistan and current Executive Committee Chairman of the World Uyghur Congress. He helped found UHRP in 2003, as well as the World Uyghur Youth Congress, where he served for two terms as President from 1996 to 2000. He helped found and has served as the Vice-President of the World Uyghur Congress since 2006, prior to taking up the position of Director of UHRP in 2017, Mr. Kanat simultaneously served as the International Outreach Coordinator for the World Uyghur Congress, Director of the International Uyghur and Human Rights and Democracy Foundation (IUHRDF) and Vice-President of the Uyghur-American Association. From 1999 to 2009 Mr. Kanat was the Senior Editor of Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service, and served as the Editor and later Senior Editor of Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty's Tajik Service. Mr. Kanat is fluent in English, German, Uyghur, Turkish, Persian, Tajik, Dari, Uzbek, and is functionally proficient in the Kyrgyz and Kazakh languages.



Ilshat Hassan Kokbore

President of the Uyghur American Association; records information management profession, who currently works for the federal government as a contractor. Before he came to the U.S. Ilshat H. Kokbore was a lecturer at Shihezi Tech College in Shihezi, East Turkistan (Xinjiang Uyghurs Autonomous Region, in Chinese). Ilshat H. Kokbore Graduated from Dalian Tech University 1988 with a major in chemical engineering. He has been a Uyghur language and chemical engineering subject lecturer for 15 years in Shihezi Vocational Teacher Training College. He published academic articles in local newspapers, magazines; and giving lectures in medical college, adult education college; he was a certified Chinese Uyghur language interpreter/translator in Uyghur region; have done numerous court, legislative translation and interpreting assignment. Due to political prosecution he was forced to flee for survival, leaving behind elderly parents, and family with a teenage son in 2003.



Harald Maass

Harald Maass is a German-based journalist focussing on international topics. For more than a decade he covered China and North-East Asia as a correspondent for major German newspapers. He studied Journalism and Sinology in Munich, Beijing and Hong Kong and holds a PhD in International Politics from Berlin University. He recently published an investigative report about the surveillance state and re-education camps in Xinjiang, for which he travelled three weeks through the region and interviewed former inmates of camps and their relatives. The report was published in Germany, Switzerland and UK.



Kyle Matthews

Kyle Matthews is the Executive Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University. He joined MIGS as Lead Researcher of the Will to Intervene Project in 2008 and was appointed Senior Deputy Director in 2011. At Concordia he founded the Raoul Wallenberg Legacy of Leadership project as well as the Digital Mass Atrocity Preventing Lab, which works to counter online extremism and study how social media platforms are being used as a weapon of war. His work focuses on human rights, international security, the Responsibility to Protect, global threats, and social media and technology, and global cities. He works closely with the Canadian All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and has advised Members of Parliament on issues related to international peace and security. He previously worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where he was posted to the Southern Caucasus (Tbilisi), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) and Switzerland (Geneva). Prior to that he worked for CARE Canada in Albania and later at its headquarters in Ottawa, where he managed various humanitarian response initiatives and peace-building projects in Afghanistan, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.



Nicole Morgret

Nicole Morgret is the Uyghur Human Rights Project's Project Coordinator. She has extensive experience living overseas, and a background that includes work on political campaigns, in NGOs and as a teacher. Before joining UHRP she spent four years in China, including several in Nanjing earning her Master's degree from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center. Her undergraduate degree is from the American College of Thessaloniki.



Merve Sebnem Oruc

Merve Sebnem Oruc is a political commentator and a columnist mostly focusing on interstate relations, Middle East politics, Turkish foreign affairs, Muslim world and Turkic peoples. She currently lives in Turkey. She pens a column for English-language Daily Sabah regularly since 2014. She was the Head of Online of Turkish state-owned TV channel TRTWorld, which is established in 2015. She founded the channel's online division. She has written columns, articles, analyses for several newspapers and web sites both in English and Turkish for five years.



Lucia Parrucci

Ms. Lucia Parrucci graduated from the University of Bologna in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs at completed her master's degree in Development and International Cooperation at the University of Siena with first class honours. Since 2018, she is a member of the Steering Committee of the Political and International Science Department of University of Siena. Ms. Parrucci served as a collaborator for the Laogai Research Foundation Italy for more than a year and starting from January 2016, has been working at the UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization) mainly focusing on human rights violations in China.



Lea Perekrests

As the Deputy Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF), Lea Perekrests has worked on Chinese human rights issues for the past three years. She has specifically worked with Chinese religious communities including Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, Church of Almighty God members, as well as Christians from house churches. In addition to this work, Lea and the HRWF team have compiled a 'Freedom of religion or belief prisoners database' which currently details the legal cases of approximately 2,000 prisoners in China.



Michael Polak

Michael practices in criminal law, public law, and human rights law, in both the international and domestic spheres. As well as defending in trials for serious criminal offences in the domestic courts, Michael also carries out private prosecutions, a unique specialism which allows those who have been the victim of crimes to hold those responsible to account when the authorities fail to act. Michael has conducted research on a cases before an international criminal tribunal in the Hague as well as spending time at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia. Michael international practice focusses on international legal assistance, the assistance of foreign nationals and lawyers who get into trouble around the world. In this area Michael has represented clients in Belarus, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and the Middle East. Michael's international practice also includes public international law where he has advised marginalised tribal groups who have had their human rights infringed. He also has experience making applications to remove INTERPOL Red Notices and has written for Westlaw on the law in this area as well as advising UK based human rights organisation about the current universal jurisdiction provisions in English law.



Marco Respinti

Marco Respinti is an Italian professional journalist, essayist, translator, and lecturer. He has contributed and contributes to several journals and magazine both in print and online, both in Italy and abroad. One of his books, published in 2008, concerns human rights in China. A Senior fellow at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, a non-partisan, non-profit U.S. educational organization based in Mecosta, Michigan, he is also a founding member as well as Board member of the Center for European Renewal, a non-profit, non-partisan pan-European educational organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands. He serves as Director-in-Charge of The Journal of CESNUR and Bitter Winter. In May 2019, at the International Book Fair of Turin, Italy (the second largest book fair in Europe), he received the annual FIRMA (International Festival of Religions, Music, and Arts) media award for a journalism promoting religious liberty.



Sophie Richardson

Sophie Richardson is the China director at Human Rights Watch. A graduate of the University of Virginia, the Hopkins-Nanjing Program, and Oberlin College, Dr. Richardson is the author of numerous articles on domestic Chinese political reform, democratization, and human rights in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Vietnam. She has testified before the European Parliament and the US Senate and House of Representatives. She has provided commentary to the BBC, CNN, the Far Eastern Economic Review,



Foreign Policy, National Public Radio, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. Dr. Richardson is the author of *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence* (Columbia University Press, Dec. 2009), an in-depth examination of China's foreign policy since 1954's Geneva Conference, including rare interviews with policy makers.

Sean Roberts

Sean R. Roberts is an Associate Professor of the Practice of International Affairs and Director of the International Development Studies program at The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. Dr. Roberts is an anthropologist by training and wrote his dissertation at the University of Southern California on the Uyghurs of Kazakhstan and their interaction with China's Uyghurs. In addition to his academic work, he has done substantial work in the field of international development, primarily on democratization and human rights in the former Soviet Union and especially in Central Asia. Dr. Roberts has published numerous articles in academic journals, edited volumes, and in policy-oriented publications, both about political development in Central Asia and about the Uyghurs. He also frequently provides commentary to major news outlets on these subjects, and he is currently writing a book on the impact of the war on terror on Uyghurs.



Dr. Erkin Sidick

Dr. Erkin Sidick was born in the city of Aksu in East Turkistan (aka Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region), located in the north-western part of China. After earning his BS degree in Electrical Engineering at Xinjiang University, he worked as a teacher and a research associate in China and Japan until 1988. Dr. Sidick earned his master's degree in Physics in May 1990 from California State University at Northridge, and his PhD degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis on nonlinear optics in 1995 from the University of California Davis. After engaging in research at UC Davis and Sandia National Laboratories (CA) as a post-doc for one and a half years on laser traps and nonlinear optical devices, he worked in 3 different high-tech companies in Silicon Valley of California in Research and Development as well as in managerial roles in various fields of optics, especially on passive optical components. He joined the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in January 2004. He is currently working as a Senior Optical Engineer on various space telescope projects. He has co-authored over 100 publications including journal papers, book chapters, and conference presentations, and has 3 patents.



Alim Seytoff

Alim Seytoff is the Service Director for Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service, previously the Executive Director for the Uyghur Human Rights Project. In 1999, he started his career at RFA as a Production Coordinator and Broadcaster. Alim has written many articles on China's human rights violations of the Uyghur people. He has been published in a number of prominent news sources, including The Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera, World Policy Institute, Asia Times, The Huffington Post, Index on Censorship, and China Rights Forum. He has been frequently interviewed and/or quoted by CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC, Fox News, PBS, Voice of America, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Christian Science Monitor, and the newswires. He has testified several times before the US Congress and has briefed both White House and State Department officials on China's human rights violations of the Uyghur people. Alim holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Xinjiang University and a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Southern Adventist University. He has a master's degree in Public Policy



from the Robertson School of Government at Regent University. Alim received his Juris Doctor degree from Regent University School of Law in 2006 and is a licensed attorney.

Gianni Tognoni

Doctor of medicine and surgery, since 1969 he has undertaken basic, clinical, epidemiological and public health research in some of the most critical fields of medicine, such as cardiology, intensive therapy, neurology, psychiatry and oncology, publishing results in more than 600 articles in the most prestigious international journals and being responsible for leadership in various departments. Among his activities he is a WHO consultant for the selection of essential medicines, founding member of the international society for independent information on pharmaceuticals, coordinator of projects on community epidemiology in countries in Central and Latin America, as well as some in Africa. From his collaboration with the second Russell Tribunal to scientific activities he has actively worked in the fields of human rights, right to health, and rights of peoples. Since its establishment in 1979, he has been Secretary-general of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal.



Nury Turkel

Nury Turkel is a U.S.-based Uyghur rights advocate and attorney at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington D.C., where he specializes in litigation, government enforcement, and regulatory compliance. Turkel was born in a re-education camp in China's Xinjiang region, and has been advocating for the rights of the Uyghur people in the region. Turkel is the former president of the Uyghur American Association (UAA) as well as the former executive director of the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), an organization that is committed to promoting human rights and democracy. Turkel serves as a prominent voice for the Uyghur people by urging international action against the repression of the Uighur people, such as international sanctions against Chinese government officials who actively participate in the abuse of human rights. Turkel holds a J.D. from American University Washington College of Law, and has been featured in various media outlets such as BBC, Financial Review, and PRI as well as foreign policy forums.



Adrian Zenz

Adrian Zenz is an independent researcher and supervises PhD students at the European School of Culture and Theology, Korntal, Germany. His research focus is on minority education, public recruitment and state securitization in Tibet and Xinjiang.



Shawn Zhang

Shawn Zhang is a recent graduate of University of British Columbia law school JD program. He also holds a Master's degree in East Asian Studies from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor's degree in Chinese literature from Peking University.



Accommodation:

For those prearranged and travelling from out of town, you will be staying from June 5-8 at the Virginian Suites, 1500 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209. Phone: +1 703-522-9600.

Airport Pick-Up Contacts:

For those travelling from out of town, we have arranged an airport pickup service. The contact person for this service will be **Ablikim Idris**: +1 (650) 450-1950 who will meet guests at IAD, DCA or BWI.

About Erkin's Restaurant

On June 6, speakers will eat at one of several Uyghur restaurants in the DC area, Erkin's Uyghur Cuisine and Tea Bar. The restaurant serves Uyghur food prepared by Uyghur chefs with a great deal of knowledge about ancient recipes from Uyghurs stretching back centuries.



Additional Contact Information:

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