

WASHINGTON (D.C.) INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON BEIJING GENOCIDE AGAINST UYGHURS IN XINJIANG

Notes for Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., advisor to International Support for Uyghurs
(ISU) in Canada.

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Ottawa Muslims, Jews and Christians protesting Uyghur genocide at embassy of China (source: www.david-kilgour.com)

Thank you for doing this event in Asian Heritage Month, in part because it allows all of us again to urge that harassment anywhere of persons of origin in Asia cease immediately. Such citizens in Canada, America or anywhere cannot be blamed for crimes committed by the Communist Party in Beijing.

Since 2006, David Matas and I from Canada have been studying and criticizing actions by Beijing against China's minorities, using eye-witness refugees, statistics and many sources. Initially, we focused primarily on atrocities against the Falun Gong community, but it is now clear that Tibetans, Christians and Uyghur Muslims are also victims, with blatant racism being an added factor in the persecution of Uyghurs. Fortunately, much of the responsible international community is now responding.

Following similar motions by the Canadian and Dutch parliaments and an official decision by the Biden and previous U.S. administrations, and a growing body of opinion from legal experts and scholars, U.K. M.P.s last

month voted unanimously to recognise the atrocities perpetrated against the predominantly Muslim Uyghur people in China as a genocide.

BBC World News reported on May 12 that Uyghur imams are being targeted in China's Xinjiang crackdown. It indicated that more than 1,040 of them have been detained, and 18 have died in detention or shortly after. One was Nurgazy Malik, editor-in-chief of a state-approved religious magazine who died in detention in November 2018.

The BBC added: "At least 304 of the clerics were sent to prison, rather than to the network of 're-education camps'. The punishments reflect the harsh nature of Xinjiang justice: 96% sentenced to at least five years, and 26% to twenty years or more, including fourteen life sentences. The specific targeting of imams supports allegations that China is attempting to break the religious traditions of the Uyghurs and assimilate them into Han Chinese culture..."

This past week, the United States, Germany and Britain, joined by co-sponsors Canada, Australia, New Zealand and about 50 national governments in all attended a virtual event at the United Nations over the Government of China's treatment of Uyghurs and people from other mostly Muslim groups in Xinjiang. Comparisons with "Theresienstadt", the hybrid concentration camp and ghetto established by the Nazi SS in Czechoslovakia during WW2, come to mind.

"We will keep standing up and speaking out until China's government stops its crimes against humanity and the genocide of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang," US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the event. She added, "In Xinjiang, people are being tortured. Women are being forcibly sterilised,"

Amnesty International Sec.-Gen. Agnes Callamard said there are an estimated one million Uyghurs and predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities being arbitrarily detained.

Barbara Woodward, the British ambassador to the UN, told the meeting there was "evidence of mass arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and incidences of torture. There are further reports of widespread forced labour and sterilisation...We are here today to face these facts. And to ask

China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office.”

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) on Thursday published new research based on official Chinese data indicating that coercive policies on the part of Beijing had led to an “unprecedented and precipitous drop in official birth-rates” in Xinjiang since 2017. ASPI says the birth rate in the region has fallen by 48.74 percent in the two years following the introduction of the Communist Party’s “strike-hard” campaigns against so-called “illegal births” in the region.

Human Rights Watch concludes that last year repression was being “[turbocharged by technology](#)” with people selected for detention through algorithms flagging connections, travel patterns or wearing a headscarf.

“We appeal to China to respect the Universal Declaration of human rights and we asked China to tear down the detention camps,” German ambassador Christoph Heusgen added. “If you have nothing to hide, why don’t you finally grant unimpeded access to the High Commissioner for Human Rights?” he asked.

At the launch of its Annual Report on the state of religious freedom around the world this past week, the US State Dept. accused China of turning Xinjiang into an “[open-air prison](#)”.

The current *Economist* (May 8-20) notes that to offset the withering criticism over Xinjiang the Chinese government has “marshalled vast resources, including official media, think tanks, diplomats and security organs, and spent billions of dollars over the past decade.”

The truths being told today might not set free for now any victims in China, but all of us must continue to voice them. (The account we heard from a mother today, who is a Uyghur from Kazakhstan, of her year under torture by police until Sept. 2018 in Urumqi prisons is probably the most inhuman chronology I’ve ever heard.) For example, at various PRC embassies and business locations across Canada, Muslims, Jews, Christians and non-religious persons have been protesting what is happening to Uyghurs in China. We plan to continue as soon as the COVID lockdowns are lifted.

Thank you. (www.david-kilgour.com)