



NEWS RELEASE

David Kilgour Is Global Humanitarian Leader of the Year

Mehmet Tohti Awarded Service to Humanity Award

Two Ottawa-based human rights activists have been awarded global humanitarian awards by the human rights group Canadians in Support of Refugees in Dire Need (CSRDN), a coalition of professionals - lawyers, physicians, politicians, journalists, activists, humanitarians and dedicated Canadians from all walks of life working collectively to end oppression and injustice..

David Kilgour, a human rights activist, author, former lawyer, politician and Canadian cabinet minister was awarded the Global Humanitarian Leader of the year award.

Mehmet Tohti, a Uyghur-Canadian activist and executive director of the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project in Ottawa, was awarded the Service to Humanity Award.

Both awards recognize outstanding individuals, organizations and programs that uphold the principles of peace, justice and mercy, irrespective of race, colour or religion.

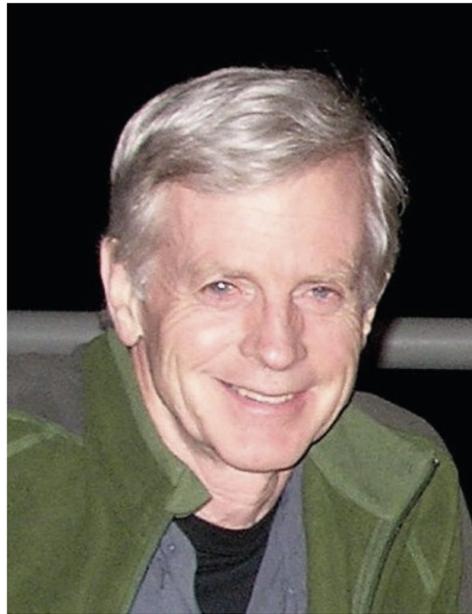
Mr. Kilgour, who served as an MP in the Canadian parliament for nearly 30 years and held the position of Secretary of State for Africa and Latin American, and subsequently for Asia, was recognized for “standing up against injustice” and especially for “bringing to light the forced organ harvesting occurring on an industrial scale in China.”

“David has been an exemplary leader using his knowledge, skills, talents and diplomacy to end wholesale murder,” said Dr. Aliya Khan, the CSRDN co-chair.

Mr. Tohti, who has campaigned for the rights of Uyghurs in China for over a decade and was a co-founder and vice-president of the World Uyghur Congress, was recognized “for dedicating his life to serving his people and humanity.”

“Mehmet has been an outspoken advocate for those without a voice who are being tortured in concentration camps,” CSRDN board member Hugh Dohrety said.

Both men have been active in urging the Canadian government to condemn China’s forced detention and persecution of nearly two million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims. They were instrumental in winning support from all Canada’s political parties for a unanimous parliamentary resolution declaring China’s treatment of its Uyghur minority population a genocide.



For any further information, please contact: Hugh Doherty - 416-525-4463 or Iman M'Hiri – iman@csrdn.org