

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ROUNDTABLE

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Pompeo,

As you approach final determination and decision on imposing 2018 sanctions against human rights abusers under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, we write as an informal and diverse group of non-governmental organizations and individuals who are scholars, religious leaders, and human rights advocates to strongly urge you to designate the following individuals for serious human rights abuses: Chen Quanguo, the current Communist Party Secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), or East Turkestan, and subordinates, XUAR Political and Legal Committee Secretary Zhu Hailun (朱海仑); XUAR armed police commander Zhou Jianguo (周建国); and the former commander of the XUAR armed police Guan Yanmi (管延密).

Since he became XUAR's party chief in August 2016, Chen Quanguo has directed and supervised a well-documented campaign of oppression targeting Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities under the guise of combating terrorism. Chen has instituted pervasive surveillance measures in the Uyghur Region—collecting DNA and biometric information, restricting religious observance, and instituting the forced detention of an estimated 800,000 to 2 million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in so-called “re-education” camps. In the meantime, the persecution of other religious communities, including Falun Gong and The Church of Almighty God, escalated significantly in East Turkestan.

The crimes associated with this campaign include unlawful detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, religious persecution, forced labor, and sexual assaults. Chen's crimes and those of his subordinates have been thoroughly documented by the United Nations, multiple human rights organizations, and international journalists, and amount to cultural and religious genocide.¹

Chen is also responsible for atrocities committed against Tibetans during his tenure as the party chief of the Tibet Autonomous Region. Shortly after taking up his position in August 2011, Chen repressed religious freedom in Tibet by implementing a new security policy which divided urban centers into grids, giving the authorities the means to systematically surveil all activities within

¹ UNCERD: Concluding observations on the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic reports of China (including Hong Kong, China and Macao, China)

the area, and instituting new biometric identification cards. In his first meeting with senior officials in Tibet, Chen vowed to ban the “Dalai clique” from participating in the selection of the next Dalai Lama, thus interfering with hundreds of years of Tibetan Buddhist traditions. Chen’s repressive policies and gross violations of the Tibetan’s human rights led to incredible desperation, causing 155 Tibetans to set themselves on fire to protest the abuses they faced.²

Placing Chen Quanguo and the aforementioned senior officials on the list of sanctioned individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act will send an unmistakable message that the United States stands with the people of East Turkestan and Tibet, and the persecuted communities, and will meet China’s horrifically abusive policies with resolve. We urge you to implement such sanctions with all due haste.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Greg Mitchell
Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Roundtable
President, The Mitchell Firm

ORGANIZATIONS

CHINA AID

THE CHURCH OF ALMIGHTY GOD

CITIZEN POWER INITIATIVES FOR CHINA

FALUN DAFA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON DC

STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET INTERNATIONAL

UYGHUR ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

21WILBERFORCE

BITTER WINTER MAGAZINE

BOAT PEOPLE SOS

CENTER FOR PLURALISM

CESNUR (CENTER FOR STUDIES ON NEW RELIGIONS)

² CECC: Special Report: Tibetan Self-Immolation - Rising Frequency, Wider Spread, Greater Diversity

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY NATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN VIETNAM

CSW UK

HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT FRONTIERS (BRUSSELS)

LANTOS FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & JUSTICE

VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP (VPEF)

Individuals

With title and organization for identification purposes

Hammad Ahmad
Imam
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Rev. Nguyen Cong Chinh
Chairman
Vietnamese People's Evangelical Fellowship (VPEF)

Willy Fautré
Human Rights Without Frontiers (Brussels)

Dr. Mike Ghouse
President
Center for Pluralism

Thomas Marsh
Sculptor

Scott Morgan
President
Red Eagle Enterprises

Andy Swarna
President
Great Truth

Hanh Thai-Tang
Vice Chair of Exterior Affairs
The Junior Sacerdotal of Caodai Religion

Travis Weber
Vice President for Policy
Family Research Council