

Interactive webchat: Responding to Chinese Repression in Xinjiang



**RESPONDING TO
CHINESE REPRESSION
IN XINJIANG**

AUGUST 7 AT 9:00AM EDT
[FACEBOOK.COM/STATEDRL](https://www.facebook.com/STATEDRL)

-Social Media Package-

- **Date/time:** Aug. 7th, 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. EDT (Washington, DC time)
- **Event page:** www.facebook.com/StateDRL
- **Shortened link:** [FB.com/StateDRL](https://fb.com/StateDRL)
- **Language:** English
- **If hosting a viewing group:** Please confirm with [Simon van Steyn](#)
- **Promotional materials and Speaker bios:** <http://bit.ly/2Zawvih>

Description:

The Chinese government's repression of Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region of China is extensive and well-documented. The Chinese authorities' tactics include: the suppression of Uighur language and customs, banning Islamic practices, economic discrimination and travel restrictions; and the mass detention of Uighurs in internment or "re-education" camps.

As part of an effort to draw attention to these abuses, the U.S. Department of State will host an interactive webchat featuring a journalist, human rights advocates, and a senior State Department official who have worked extensively on this issue. In this discussion, they will help us understand what is happening in China—and how we can hold the Chinese government to account for its actions.

The panelists will discuss a number of topics, including:

- The mass detention of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.
- Increasing use of surveillance technology.
- Repression of religious and cultural expression.

- Chinese disinformation on the issue.
- How people, organizations, and governments can add their voices and efforts to the international community's condemnation of China's campaign of repression.

The speakers will also answer viewer questions and links to resources will be provided. This Facebook Live webchat will take place on Wednesday, August 7, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. EDT at [Facebook.com/StateDRL](https://www.facebook.com/StateDRL).

Time Zone: 9:00 a.m. EDT can be converted to your time zone here: <http://bit.ly/2UrTRBS>

Hashtags/Handles:

- [#Uighurs](#) [#Uyghurs](#) [#FreeUighurs](#) [#Xinjiang](#) [@RadioFreeAsia](#) [@SophieHRW](#) [@nuryturkel](#)
- Dept. of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor [@StateDRL](#)

Panelists:



Sophie Richardson is the China director at Human Rights Watch. She 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.

Dr. Richardson has provided commentary to the BBC, CNN, 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](#). [@SophieHRW](#)



Nury Turkel is a U.S.-based Uyghur rights advocate in Washington D.C. 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 Chairman of the Board of the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) and the former president of the Uyghur American Association (UAA). Turkel serves as a prominent voice for the Uyghur people by urging action against the repression of Uyghurs. [@nuryturkel](#)



Alim Seytoff is the Director of the Uyghur Service at Radio Free Asia (RFA). He previously served as the Executive Director for the Uyghur Human Rights Project. In 1999 he started his career at RFA as a Production Coordinator and Broadcaster. Throughout his career has written many articles on China's human rights violations of the Uyghur people.

Seytoff has been frequently interviewed/quoted by CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC, Fox News, PBS, Voice of America, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Foreign Policy, Christian Science Monitor, and the newswires.



Scott Busby (moderator) serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC, where he oversees the Bureau's work on Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Multilateral and Global Affairs, including U.S. engagement on human rights at the United Nations, disability rights, LGBTI rights, internet freedom, business and human rights, and International Labor Affairs.

Previously, he served as Director for Human Rights on the National Security Council in the White House from 2009 to 2011 where he managed a wide range of human rights and refugee issues. From 2005 to 2009, he was Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sample Social Media Posts

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[Post anytime]

- The Chinese government has waged an extensive campaign to repress the culture and religion of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region of their country. While this has been widely reported by international media, the world must do more to hold China to account for these human rights abuses.

Join us for a Facebook Live webchat to hear from expert journalists and human rights advocates about what is happening on the ground in Xinjiang. They will discuss China's mass detention of Muslim minorities in sprawling internment camps, the ramping up of high-tech surveillance, and the Chinese government's wide-spread disinformation campaign to cover up what is really taking place in Xinjiang.

Join the conversation and ask the experts your questions by going to www.Facebook.com/StateDRL on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 9:00 a.m. EDT (Washington, DC time). #Uighurs #Xinjiang

- On July 16-18th, the U.S. Department of State hosted the 2nd Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, where the United States invited government and civil society leaders from around the world to discuss the current global challenges and threats to religious freedom. Among the many horrific examples we discussed, the Chinese government's systemic repression and detention of more than one million Uighurs and members of other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang for practicing their faith is among the worst. Unfortunately, much of the world remains unaware of this increasingly bleak reality.

To learn more about the Chinese government's abuse of human rights in Xinjiang—and how people, organizations, and governments can respond to the repression—join a Facebook Live webchat on August 7th at 9:00 a.m. EDT. Hear from a panel of experts and ask your questions: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL. #Uighurs #Xinjiang

- The Chinese government's use of high-tech surveillance makes everyday life for #Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in #Xinjiang an "open-air prison." Chinese officials forcibly live in Uighur homes, track their every movement, and involuntarily collect DNA samples and biometrics. Learn more about this and other tactics the Chinese authorities are using to repress Muslim minorities during a live webchat featuring expert journalists and human rights advocates. Add your voice to the conversation: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL.

[Post morning of Aug. 6, day before event]

- Tomorrow, join us at 9:00 a.m. EDT (Washington, DC time) for a discussion with journalists and human rights advocates about how the world can respond to the Chinese government's increasing repression of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region of China. To join the discussion and share your questions with the panel, go to www.Facebook.com/StateDRL. We hope you'll participate in this important conversation.

[Post Aug. 7, immediately before live event]

- Today at 9:00 a.m. EDT, a panel of experts will discuss the Chinese government's wide-spread persecution of Uighurs and Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, China—and how the world can respond. To learn more about what the world can do to hold China accountable for one of the worst human rights crises on our times, join the discussion during a live webchat: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL. #Uighurs #Xinjiang

Twitter

[Post anytime]

- On August 7, a panel of experts will discuss the Chinese government's repression of Uighurs & Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. To learn about what the world can do to hold #China accountable, join the discussion at 9:00 a.m. EDT: Facebook.com/StateDRL. #Xinjiang #Uighurs #Uyghurs
- On August 7, journalists & human rights advocates will share insights & answer your questions about responding to the Chinese government's use of mass detention, surveillance, and disinformation to repress Muslim minorities in #Xinjiang: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL #Uighurs #Uyghurs
- Chinese authorities have institutionalized ethnic, linguistic, and religious discrimination against #Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups in #Xinjiang. Hear what the world can do to address these human rights abuses during a live webchat on August 7: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL.
- Join us live on Aug. 7 at 9:00am EDT to hear @SophieHRW @nuryturkel and Alim Seytoff of @RadioFreeAsia discuss responses to the Chinese government's ongoing repression of #Uighurs and Muslim minorities in #Xinjiang. Ask your questions live at: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL
- The Chinese government's repression and mass internment of #Uighurs and other Muslim minorities abuse universal and inalienable human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights articles 3, 10, 12, and 18. Learn more during a live webchat: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL

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minorities in Xinjiang. To learn about what the world can do to hold #China accountable, join the discussion at 9:00 a.m. EDT: www.Facebook.com/StateDRL. #Xinjiang #Uighurs #Uyghurs

[Post Aug. 7, at the beginning of the live event]

- LIVE NOW: Join a discussion with journalists and human rights advocates on how the world can hold the Chinese government accountable for its campaign of mass detention, surveillance, and disinformation in #Xinjiang. Go to www.Facebook.com/StateDRL #Uighurs #Uyghurs