

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
ROUNDTABLE

The Mitchell Firm  
42020 Village Center Plaza  
Stone Ridge, VA 20105

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Apostolic Palace  
00120 Vatican City

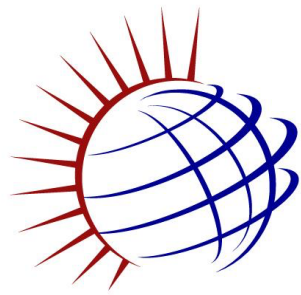
We write as an informal coalition of individuals and organizations to call on the Holy See to recognize the serious implications of any agreement with the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Communist Party's continuing war on religion is routinely conducted by means of crimes against humanity. We respectfully suggest that exemplary leadership by the Catholic Church is essential to resolving this tragic situation.

The Chinese authorities have declared their intention to rewrite all religious texts, including the Bible and the Qur'an, to "reflect socialist values" as defined by Chinese Communist Party Secretary Xi Jinping. Not only is the regime committing the ongoing genocide of the Uyghur people, it is also continuing its brutal oppression of Tibetans, Mongolians, citizens of Hong Kong, and all who speak out for human rights including the right of religious believers to practice their faith.

On September 26, 2018 Pope Francis sent a message to the Catholics of China, saying that the Church's aim "in the dialogue with civil authorities is that of 'building a relationship based on mutual respect and deeper understanding'".

While the People's Republic of China has never been truly open to religious practice, in the two years since this message the attitude of authorities in China toward religious freedom has deteriorated significantly. The Beijing regime has no interest in a genuine dialogue with religious believers, and it is painfully apparent that the regime has no respect for the sanctity of any human life. The regime not only persecutes house-church Protestant Christians and "underground" (i.e. faithful) Catholics but imprisons millions of Uyghur Muslims in concentration camps and has been credibly accused of singling out prisoners of conscience who are Falun Gong practitioners for organ harvesting prior to execution.

A decision by the Holy See to regularize the status of the Catholic Church in China by giving official recognition to the government-established and government-controlled "Catholic Patriotic Association" would not only exacerbate the hardships of the Catholic clergy and believers who have courageously resisted the government's pressure to join this organization, but would also increase the suffering of other



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persecuted religious believers by allowing the regime to tout the agreement as a seal of approval for the regime's approach to religion.

We therefore implore the Holy See not to cede the Beijing government any control over the Church in China. We respectfully request that the Holy See not renew its agreement with the People's Republic of China at least until such time as the authorities discontinue their campaign of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other grave human rights violations against religious believers.

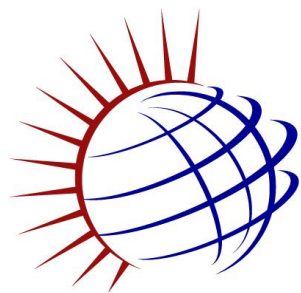
With great concern,

International Religious Freedom Roundtable

### **Organizations**

Alberta Uyghur Association  
Association for the Advancement of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Vietnam (AAFoRB-VN)  
Athenai Institute  
Australian Uyghur Association  
Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association  
Austria Uyghur Association  
Belgium Uyghur Association  
Boat People SOS  
Buddhist Solidarity Association  
Build Human Rights for Montagnards  
Campaign for Uyghurs  
Campaign to Abolish Torture in Vietnam  
Canadians in Support of Refugees in Dire Need (CSRDN)  
China Against the Death Penalty  
China Aid  
Christian Freedom International  
Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
The Church of Almighty God  
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office  
Citizen Power Initiatives for China-公民力量  
Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in

Asia (CAMSA)  
Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam  
Committee on the Present Danger: China  
Con Dau Parishioners Association  
Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberte de Conscience  
Dutch Uyghur Human Rights Foundation  
East Turkistan Association of Canada  
East Turkistan Immigrants Association  
East Turkistan National Awakening Movement  
East Turkistan Union in Europe  
Faith & Liberty D.C.  
Free Uyghur Student Coalition  
Freedom2Care  
GPF Kurdistan  
Humanitarian China  
Institute of China Studies (ICS)  
International Christian Concern  
International Christian Foundation for Democracy  
International Support for Uyghurs  
Islamic Council of Christmas Island, Australia  
Islamic Council of Queensland, Australia  
Islamic Council of Victoria  
Islamic Society of South Australia



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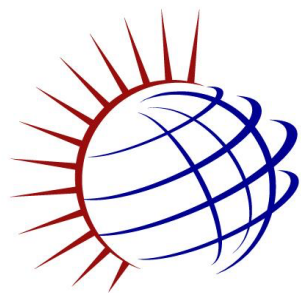
Japan Uyghur Association  
Jubilee Campaign USA  
Junior Sacerdotal Council of the Cao Dai  
Religion  
Justice for Uyghurs  
Keep Taiwan Free  
The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty  
Minaret Foundation  
Minh Van Foundation  
Montagnards Stand for Justice  
Muslims for Progressive Values  
The Nation's Mosque  
Patmos Institute  
People's Empowerment Foundation, Thailand  
Save the Persecuted Christians  
South Asia Minorities Alliance Foundation  
Students for a Free Tibet  
Sydney Uyghur Community  
Stichting Vietnam Human Rights Foundation

Tasmanian Muslim Association, Australia  
United Macedonian Diaspora  
United Muslims of New South Wales, Australia  
Uyghur Academy  
Uyghur Academy Australia  
Uyghur Academy USA  
Uyghur Academy Europe  
Uyghur American Association  
Uyghur Association of Victoria, Australia  
Uyghur Freedom Forum  
Uyghur Human Rights Project  
Uyghur Projects Foundation  
Uyghur Rally  
Vancouver Uyghur Association  
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation  
Vietnam Coalition Against Torture  
Vietnamese Women for Human Rights  
World Uyghur Congress

### **Individuals**

Teng Biao, Human Rights Scholar and Lawyer,  
United States of America  
Dr. Erkin Sidick, United States of America  
Dr. Rishat Abbas, United States of America  
Dr. William Devlin, CEO, Redeem, United  
States of America  
David A. Keene, Editor-at-Large, The  
Washington Times, United States of America  
Imam Dr. Talib M. Shareef, USAF-Retired  
Fr. Joseph K. Grieboski, Senior Fellow, The  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute  
Greg Mitchell, Chair, International Religious  
Freedom Forum  
Leigh Cummins, United States of America  
Chaplain Rev. Nguyen

Hailong Liu, China  
Kirsten Barak, Madison, MS, USA  
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Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., Canada  
Tanaaz Mistry, Singapore  
Fiza Farheen, India  
Md Azhar, India  
Elizabeth M. Wu, United States of America  
Roma Hashime, United Kingdom  
Yosra Kamel, Egypt  
Rija Qureshi, United States of America  
Ashraf Kapoor, India  
Isma Zafar, United Kingdom  
Mahmut Anwar, Australia  
Aliya Abdukadir, Australia  
Daniela Wong, Panama



## INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ROUNDTABLE

Amreen Shaikh, India  
Roha Abrar, Canada  
Mevlana Kreka, Switzerland  
Rebecca Azad, United Kingdom  
Michelle Seul-Ahmed, United Kingdom  
Mukhshif Sharik, United States of America  
Hamid Gharagozloo, International Organization  
to Preserve Human Rights  
Luis Lopez, United States of America  
Michael Hartman, United States of America  
Mohammad Rahman, United Kingdom  
Maheen Shakil, United States of America  
Sonu Adal Khan, India  
Georgia Allen, Belfast4Uyghurs, Northern  
Ireland  
Alina Hasan, United States  
Elizabeth Yore, Yore Children  
Professor Thomas Kellenberg, Executive  
Director at Notre Dame Washington Program,  
United States of America  
David Anderson, M.P. Canada (retired), Founder  
and Believer [freetobelieve.ca](http://freetobelieve.ca)  
Frank J. Gaffney, President, Save the Persecuted  
Christians  
Farahnaz Ispahani, Senior Fellow, Religious  
Freedom Institute Washington, DC  
Scott Morgan, United States of America  
Dan Tran, Chair of All Charitable Foundation,  
United States of America  
Paul Nguyen, Catholic, United States of  
America  
Peter Trinh, Former Catholic Seminarian and  
victim of persecution in Vietnam, United States  
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Tien Nguyen, United States of America  
Hien T Ngo, Catholic, Chair Committee for  
Religious Freedom in Vietnam, United States of  
America

Minh V Nguyen, United States of America  
Kyle Olbert, United States of America  
Rushan Abbas, United States of America  
Trang Khanh Tran, United States of America  
Tuan Nguyen, Catholic, United States of  
America  
Van Ngo, Catholic, United States of America  
Pastor A Ga, Former Victim of Religious  
Persecution in Vietnam  
Julie Millsap, United States of America  
Gail Helt, United States of America  
Abdulahakim Idris, United States of America  
Ziba Murat, United States of America  
Abibul Osman, United States of America  
Stuart Morgan, Australia  
Dara Davigne, United States of America  
Reverend Mario Felix Lleonart Barroso of the  
Patmos Institute, United States of America  
Matthew Wiszowaty, United States of America  
Aasiya Shafeek, India  
Rabbi David Rosen, International Co-President,  
Religions for Peace, Jerusalem  
Ahmad Omar bin, Singapore  
Bryn Marie Bowen, United States of America  
Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, Laureate of 2011 Asia  
Democracy and Human Rights Award, United  
States of America  
Vincent Liem Ly, Catholic, United States of  
America  
Le-Anh Nguyen, Catholic, United States of  
America  
Le-Phuong Nguyen, Catholic, United States of  
America  
Van Nguyen, Catholic, United States of America  
Uyen Lu, human rights advocate, Netherlands  
Keyim Yasin, Australia  
Hai-y Le, United States of America