



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Uyghur Human Rights in China and Abroad

Panel



Alim Seytoff is the Director of Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service, one of the world's most trustworthy sources of news happening inside China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Prior to RFA, Mr. Seytoff served as the Executive Director for the Uyghur Human Rights Project and is a noted expert on Uyghur issues. He has written many articles on China's treatment of the Uyghur people. His pieces have appeared in The Wall Street Journal among other outlets, and he has been interviewed and quoted by CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC, FOX News, and PBS. Alim holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Xinjiang University and a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Southern Adventist University. He received his master's degree in Public Policy from the Robertson School of Government at Regent University and his J.D from Regent University School of Law.



Rebiya Kadeer is a human rights leader and former businesswoman who was ranked the seventh- wealthiest individual in the People's Republic of China in the mid-1990s. Originally held up as a model of Uyghur success and philanthropy, she fell from the favor of PRC government leaders after she began calling upon the PRC government to change its hardline, repressive policies against the Uyghurs.

Ms. Kadeer was arrested in 1999 while on her way to meet with a U.S. Congressional delegation visiting East Turkestan to investigate the human rights situation there. She was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in March 2000, following a secret trial and was forced to spend two years in solitary confinement. After widespread international attention, she was released from prison in March 2005, ostensibly on medical grounds, and sent to the United States where she obtained refugee status.

Ms. Kadeer has actively campaigned for the human rights of the Uyghur people since her arrival in the United States. In September 2005, Ms. Kadeer founded the International Uyghur Human

Rights and Democracy Foundation in Washington, D.C, which works to promote human rights for Uyghur women and children in East Turkestan. From 2006 to November 2011, she also served as the president of the Uyghur American Association, which works to support the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, democratic means to determine their own political future. In November 2006, she was elected as president of the World Uyghur Congress, which represents the collective interests of the Uyghur diaspora, both in East Turkestan and in countries throughout the world. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, 2007 and 2008.



Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian is a contributing writer at Foreign Policy magazine, where she has covered China for several years. In 2015 Bethany received a fellowship from the International Reporting Project to cover Uighur issues in Xinjiang; her subsequent reporting received an award from the Religious News Association in 2016. Bethany previously lived in China for four years. She is a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii. Her work has also appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Atlantic.



Sophie Richardson is the China director at Human Rights Watch. A graduate of the University of Virginia, the Hopkins-Nanjing Program, and Oberlin College, Dr. Richardson 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 Congress, and she has provided commentary to multiple news outlets. Dr. Richardson is the author of *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence* (Columbia University Press, Dec. 2009), an in-depth examination of China's foreign policy since the 1954 Geneva Conference, including rare interviews with policy makers.

Moderator



Thomas Lum is an Asian Affairs Specialist at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which he joined in 1999. His areas of specialization at CRS include human rights issues in China, China's foreign aid, and U.S. relations with the Philippines, Cambodia, and the Pacific Islands. His publications include CRS reports on Asian policy issues and a book, *Problems of Democratization in China* (2000). Dr. Lum received a BA in Political Economy from the University of California at Berkeley, an MA in Asian Studies from San Diego State University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara.