

# Christian, Muslim, Jewish Leaders Unite to Support China's Persecuted Uyghurs

posted by Rob Kerby, Senior Editor | 1:31 pm Thursday June 30, 2011

China's persecution of the Uyghurs, nine million Turkic-speaking Muslims, will be the focus of an inter-faith conference in Toronto on July 5.

Most of the Uyghurs live in Xinjiang, a vast desert region of Western China.

The group "One Free World International" will host the 7-9 p.m. event at Catch The Fire Church, formerly known as Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, to raise awareness and support for the Uyghur community. Speakers will include members of the Canadian Parliament and leaders from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities

"Our main goal is to bring awareness to the situation in East Turkistan and the plight of the Uyghurs living under Chinese colonial rule," said One Free World's founder, the Rev. Majed El Shafie, who is an Egyptian Christian. "We will also promote and bring attention to the urgent needs of the Uyghur refugees."

Two years ago, on July 5, 2009, several thousand Uyghurs, mostly university students, peacefully gathered in the Xinjiang capital city of Urumqi to protest what they charged were the longstanding discriminatory policies of the Chinese government towards the Uyghurs and the repression of their religious, political, educational, linguistic and economic rights.

Chinese security forces used lethal force on the demonstrators, leading to hundreds dead and thousands injured in what has been described as the deadliest outbreak of violence in China in years.

Chinese authorities continue to pursue and arrest people in connection with the 2009 event, even hunting Uyghur refugees who have left China, said El Shafie.

"Millions of Uyghurs have been killed since China invaded East Turkistan," he said, "however the world remains silent. It is time for us to unite and stand together. It is time for our voices to be heard. Religious persecution of any kind is unacceptable."

## Comments



[Yolvas Uyghur](#)

posted June 30, 2011 at 3:47 pm

I am writing to express my deepest appreciation to all the organizers of the interfaith dialogue on July 5 for focusing on the plight of the Uyghur people under China's colonial rule. Please accept my heartfelt thanks to the leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim who initiated this conference and all other cosponsors. We cannot thank you enough for hosting this conference on the second anniversary of Urumchi Massacre, which took place on July 5 2009 in which hundreds of peaceful Uyghur protesters were killed and tens of thousands arrested by Chinese security forces.

Please expose the China's brutal rule in East Turkestan and its genocidal policies against the indigenous Uyghur population and let the whole world know the real nature of Chinese rule. Please urge the government and parliament of Canada and all human rights and religious groups to support the peace-loving Uyghur people for their freedom, human rights and democracy. Only when the international community support the Uyghurs publicly and condemn China's state terrorism against Uyghurs, will there be peace for the Uyghur people. Please also help Uyghur refugees in Canada and other countries who need the urgent support of the Western governments. Many authoritarian countries neighboring China has deported Uyghur refugees recognized by the UNHCR to China and subsequently executed by China. In late May, Kazakhstan deported Uyghur refugee Ershidin Israel and whose situation is unknown.

Thank you for your kind assistance and May God bless you all.

Yolvas Uyghur



[Henrietta22](#)

posted July 2, 2011 at 12:20 pm

Yolvas Uyghur, I hope someday you will have complete freedom to worship as you desire.



[Zaramart-kippot](#)

posted July 3, 2011 at 6:19 am

We proclaim the brotherhood of Muslims, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and atheists, all who believe and pray, and all who don't believe and don't pray



[Sydney Uighur](#)

posted July 4, 2011 at 10:10 am

I am so glad to see the international organisations start to take action against the Chinese persecution in the Uighur region. Thanks for paying attention to our cause. Freedom for all oppressed human beings of the world.