Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC)

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Hearing Title: “China’s War on Religion: The Threat to Religious Freedom and Why It Matters to the United States”
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Chairman, Co-Chairman, and distinguished Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is an honor—and a solemn responsibility—to speak on behalf of the tens of millions in China who can no longer speak for themselves. I also wish to extend my deep gratitude to all who continue to defend and uphold the principle of religious freedom.

As a member of the more than ten million Hui Muslims of China, and as a humanitarian advocate and survivor of religious persecution, I appear before you to present a truth that has been systematically concealed: China’s Muslim communities are facing the most severe, widespread, and systemically engineered crisis to their physical survival and basic freedoms since 1949.

I. The CCP’s “Re-engineering Project”: Not Only Suppression, but Erasure

It is long misunderstood that the Chinese Communist Party merely “restricts” religion. This is false.

The CCP is a political organization founded on a commitment to eradicate religion. Its doctrine views organized faith, moral systems, and independent community structures as existential threats to totalitarian control. When it does not yet possess the capacity to destroy religion outright, it restricts it; when it does acquire that capacity, it moves to eliminate it without hesitation—just as it has done to independent NGOs, civic groups, and minority cultures.

Under the veneer of what it calls a “re-engineering project”, the CCP seeks to reshape all religions into ideological appendages of the Party-state.

1. Erasure of Islamic Architecture and Sacred Space

Across Ningxia, Gansu, Qinghai, Yunnan, and other regions, thousands of mosques have had their domes demolished, minarets removed, Quranic inscriptions erased, and Arabic calligraphy scraped away.

Many mosques have been forcibly converted into “cultural plazas,” “civilization practice centers,” or political education sites. Interiors are stripped of religious symbolism; exteriors made to resemble secular government facilities.

This is not mere physical destruction—it is the surgical removal of the Muslim spiritual landscape.

2. Normal Religious Life Criminalized as “Illegal” or “Extremist”

Acts that are entirely normal in Muslim societies are redefined as crimes:
• Fasting during Ramadan
• Teaching the Qur’an privately
• Wearing the hijab or traditional attire
• Growing a religious beard
• Children entering mosques

• Family religious gatherings

These practices may result in police interrogation, fines, detention, or being sent to “re-education camps.”

This is a systematic project to redefine faith as illegality.

3. Destruction of Religious Knowledge: Cultural Eradication

The lifeblood of Hui, Uyghur, Kazakh, and other Muslim communities—the centuries-old Islamic educational tradition—has been deliberately dismantled:
• Imams arbitrarily detained or forced into political indoctrination
• Arabic instruction severely restricted
• Religious texts censored or rewritten
• CCP-approved political reinterpretations of the Qur’an mandated

A people’s deepest moral and cultural inheritance is being uprooted at its source.

4. Repression in Xinjiang Has Not Ended—It Has Become More Hidden

There is a dangerous misconception that repression in Xinjiang has “eased.” The truth: It has not stopped. It has evolved.

What was once mass internment has transformed into totalized surveillance and control:
• Forced labor
• Family separation
• Mosque demolitions
• Ubiquitous digital monitoring
• Birth prevention policies
• “Stabilization” policing systems

Xinjiang today is a laboratory of totalitarian social engineering.

II. My Personal Experience: A Survivor of Transnational Repression

Because of my humanitarian work, my efforts to promote ethnic and religious reconciliation, and my advocacy for persecuted Muslims, I was placed on China’s watchlist.

After I fled China, the repression followed me across borders:
• Surveillance and threats
• Cyberattacks and coordinated bot harassment
• Pressure and intimidation directed at my family
• Abuse of legal systems to wage transnational repression

I possess evidence:
• Hui religious figures imprisoned in secret trials simply for sharing or reposting my social media content
• Minors prosecuted for attempting to contact me
• Cross-border legal actions initiated immediately after I submitted a human rights brief to the United Nations, supported the protection of Najiaying Mosque in Yunnan, and helped international media expose the destruction of thousands of mosques

My uncle—whom I had not spoken to for more than a decade—was coerced into calling me with a message from the authorities: “Turn back before it is too late.”

It is now evident that the CCP is exploiting legal loopholes in the United States to conduct transnational repression. America’s judicial system—ironically a symbol of rule of law—has become one of the CCP’s most effective weapons to burden dissidents with:
• reputational smearing
• endless malicious lawsuits
• crushing legal bills

Meanwhile, here on U.S. soil, I have experienced stalking, intrusions into my residence, online and email threats, and explicit death threats. These are not isolated events—they are part of an ongoing campaign.

III. Digital Authoritarianism: Extending Control to Overseas Muslims

The CCP deploys digital tools and influence operations to intimidate overseas Muslims:
• Monitoring Chinese Muslims abroad through social media
• Coordinated bot attacks and character assassination
• Using family members in China as hostages
• Creating an atmosphere of fear in diaspora communities

A telling example: A respected Islamic scholar visiting Chinese Muslim migrants in Malaysia told them he planned to meet me in the United States. Their reaction was a mixture of excitement and dread. Their fear was simple: if their names appeared alongside mine in a report, their relatives in China would face retaliation.

IV. Religious Tolerance: A Core American Value and a Universal Moral Principle

Christianity
• “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)
• “Judge not, that you be not judged.” (Matthew 7:1)

Buddhism
• The Metta Sutta: “May all beings be happy and secure.”

Islam
• “There shall be no compulsion in religion.” (Qur’an 2:256)
• “We made you nations and tribes so that you may know one another.” (Qur’an 49:13)
• The Constitution of Medina established one of the earliest multi-faith systems of coexistence.

V. Why This Matters to the National Interests of the United States

1. It strikes at the foundation of America’s identity
2. CCP transnational repression violates U.S. sovereignty
3. It weakens America’s standing with the Muslim world
4. Digital authoritarianism is a growing threat
5. Religious oppression fuels radicalization
6. Preventing a global shift toward authoritarianism

Conclusion: Speaking for Those Who Cannot

I speak today:
• to honor those who have been silenced
• to expose an ongoing system of persecution
• to defend the universal right to religious freedom
• to urge the international community to act

If we remain silent today, tomorrow there may be no one left to speak.