



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Free Hong Kong  
see pages 4-5

# WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

## President Invites Dissidents to Oval Office

On November 7, 2019, in concert with President Trump's third annual Presidential Message on the National Day for the Victims of Communism, VOC organized a delegation of victims and dissidents to meet with the president in the Oval Office.

They included Grace Jo, a North Korean defector and the Vice President of North Korean Refugees in the USA; Sirley Ávila León, a Cuban activist who suffered a machete-attack for her criticism of the Castro regime; Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh, a Vietnamese blogger who was imprisoned by the communist regime for her online activism; and Daniel Di Martino, a college student from Venezuela who has firsthand experience living under the brutal Maduro regime. The visit concluded with brief remarks by VOC Executive Director Marion Smith, Vice Chairman of our Board of Trustees Amb. Aldona Wos and each of the dissidents.

### Triumph of Liberty Gala Dinner

On November 8, 2019, VOC hosted the Triumph of Liberty Conference and Gala Dinner to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. We honored dissident pastor and former President of Germany (2012-17) Joachim Gauck with our Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, assembled the first Triumph of Liberty Symphony Orchestra to perform "Ode to Freedom," Leonard Bernstein's 1989 take on the Finale of Symphony No. 9 by Ludwig van Beethoven, and produced a special exhibit on the Berlin Wall seen by tens of thousands of people in Union Station. *See pages 2-3.*



*Left to right: VOC Board Vice Chairman Amb. Aldona Wos, Vietnamese dissident blogger Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh, North Korean defector and Vice President of North Korean Refugees in the USA Grace Jo, President Donald Trump, Cuban human rights activist Sirley Ávila León, and Venezuelan college student Daniel Di Martino.*

**"On this National Day for the Victims of Communism, we remember the more than 100 million people who have died as a result of communist oppression. Today, we renew our commitment to helping secure for all people a future of peace and prosperity founded on the core tenets of democracy—liberty, justice, and a deep respect for the value of every human life."**

**– President Donald Trump**

# Former President of Germany Honored as Dissident Hero



VOC Chairman Dr. Lee Edwards (left) and Executive Director Marion Smith (right) present 11th President of Germany and dissident pastor H.E. Joachim Gauck with the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom.



Gauck is widely revered as a hero of the post-communist transition and reunification of East & West Germany.



A poster from Gauck's 1990 election campaign declaring "Freedom: we wanted it, we'll shape it."



Gauck leads a peace prayer in the 1980s, a weekly event that helped initiate popular resistance to the communist regime.



After the Berlin Wall fell, Gauck oversaw the dissolution of the East German secret police, the Stasi.



In his acceptance speech Gauck said: "Freedom, human rights, and the dignity of the individual are not exclusively Western values but values for which people all over the world yearn."

At our Triumph of Liberty Gala Dinner held on November 8, 2019 in Washington DC's Union Station, we awarded our Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to His Excellency Joachim Gauck, the revered dissident hero of former East Germany. As a Lutheran pastor behind the Iron Curtain, Gauck led weekly prayers for peace in East Germany that helped initiate popular resistance to the communist regime and eventually gave rise to the protest demonstrations in 1989. A co-founder of the New Forum opposition movement, Gauck was elected to the first free East German parliament in 1990 and oversaw the dissolution of the Ministry of State Security. From 2012 to 2017, he served as the 11th president of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In his acceptance speech, he said:

**"We East Germans experienced support and received inspiration during times of oppression. When today I receive a prize that has also been awarded to Pope John Paul II and Václav Havel, I remember the extent to which those two men and what they stood for helped us in times of fear and impotence.**

**And what about today? In our free societies, we ourselves should be sensitive to the plight of people suffering from oppression. Their courage is an inspiration even to those of us who now live in freedom. I am thinking of the brave young people in Hong Kong, for instance. I admire them.**

**Let us never forget that freedom, human rights, the dignity of the individual—those are not exclusively Western values but values for which people all over the world yearn."**

# Triumph of Liberty Conference & Gala Dinner

## Triumph of Liberty Symphony Orchestra

We assembled the first Triumph of Liberty Symphony Orchestra to perform “Ode to Freedom” based on Leonard Bernstein’s 1989 performance of the Finale of Symphony No. 9 by Ludwig van Beethoven. We were pleased to feature Janice Chandler-Eteme, soprano; Kimberly Sogioka, mezzo; Won Whi Choi, tenor; Kevin Short, bass-baritone; the National Philharmonic Chorale & George Mason University Singers with conductor Dr. Stan Engebretson; and the Triumph of Liberty Symphony Orchestra directed by Simeone Tartaglione.



## Conference on Legacy of 1989

On November 8, we convened a two-panel conference gathering 14 renowned scholars, dissidents, journalists, and policymakers to discuss the legacy of the events of 1989 and the ways in which the governments and peoples of Russia, China, Germany, and Eastern Europe have sought to come to terms with their histories.

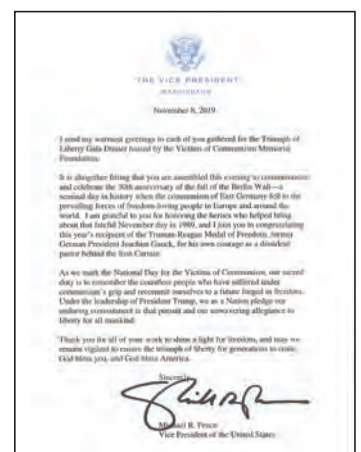
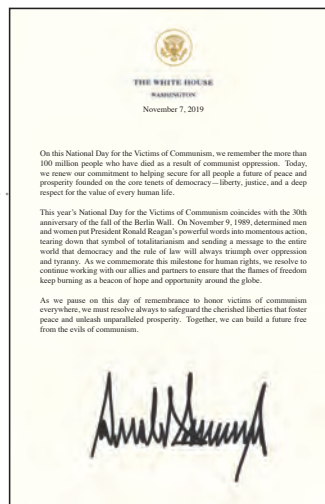
## Berlin Wall Exhibit in Union Station

We produced a special exhibit featuring the stories of 10 victims of communism who died trying to cross the Berlin Wall. The exhibit debuted in Washington, DC’s Union Station from Nov 6-12 where it was seen by 150,000 people, then was displayed for several weeks in the main entrance of The Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.



## Presidential Message

For the third year in a row, President Donald Trump issued a message declaring November 7 National Day for the Victims of Communism. Vice President Mike Pence also sent us a personal letter, joining us in celebrating this landmark anniversary, congratulating Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom laureate Joachim Gauck, and commending the work of VOC and our many supporters.



# Working on Capitol Hill for a Free Hong Kong

On September 18, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation hosted the Hong Kong Human Rights Forum on Capitol Hill in support of those fighting to maintain the city's freedoms. The Forum gathered policymakers, human rights advocates, and congressional staffers to hear a diverse group of voices from Hong Kong, including student leaders, journalists, social workers, and artists sharing their experiences on the front line.

Speakers included Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), sponsor of the Cruz-Markey Hong Kong Policy Reevaluation Act of 2019; Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), co-sponsor

of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act; Badiucao, a Chinese-Australian political cartoonist, artist, and rights activist; Dr. Dan Garrett, an author, photographer, and political scientist focusing on Chinese security politics; and activists from the front lines of the Hong Kong protests.

Rep. Sherman announced, "We have legislation [The Stand Up for Hong Kong Resolution, The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, PROTECT Hong Kong Act] pending in Congress. I expect it will be passed soon." It was passed two weeks later.



*Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) delivers keynote remarks recounting his own family's struggle to escape tyranny in Cuba.*



*VOC's Director of Public Relations Ashlee Davis (left) and Director of Government Relations Kristina Olney (center) stand with Hong Kong protesters. The protesters remained masked to conceal their identity and prevent repercussions by the Communist Party.*



*Exiled Hong Kong dissident artist Badiucao unveils a flag he designed for the protests.*



*Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) announced legislation to support the people of Hong Kong.*



**"We have legislation [The Stand Up for Hong Kong Resolution, The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, PROTECT Hong Kong Act] pending in Congress. I expect it will be passed soon." – Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)**

# T-Shirt Campaign Shames NBA Leadership for Censorship



VOC's t-shirt campaign won instant support from hundreds of NBA fans.



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)



Sen. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)



Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) and Hong Kong politician Nathan Law (left).



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)



VOC's t-shirts were worn at NBA games across the country, including Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New York City.

On October 4, Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey tweeted “Fight For Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong” in support of the city’s pro-democracy protests. Beijing responded by cancelling millions of dollars in NBA revenue from Chinese sponsorships and TV fees, and by threatening to end all business dealings with the NBA. Morey buckled under pressure from the NBA leadership, recanted, and deleted his tweet within three days—a chilling example of the NBA and many American businesses’ willingness to appease China’s totalitarian communist leaders.

In response, just hours before the NBA’s October 9 preseason game between the Washington Wizards and the Chinese team Guangzhou Long-Lions, VOC designed and printed 1,000 “Free Hong Kong” t-shirts. Ahead of the game, our staff positioned themselves outside the Capital One Arena and passed out the shirts to hundreds of fans, who wore them at the game to defy NBA self-censorship and show support for the human rights and democratic freedoms of Hong Kong’s citizens.

Our campaign was mentioned in over 58 media outlets—print, TV, and radio—and quickly gained massive attention on social media. It was promoted by many Members of Congress including Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ted Cruz (R-TX). After we made the t-shirts available online, we found ourselves shipping thousands of orders across the country to lovers of basketball and freedom, who replicated our campaign in other cities including Los Angeles and New York City.



## Join the fight

Get your own t-shirt today by donating \$15 or more. To order, contact us at: 202.629.9500 or [info@victimsofcommunism.org](mailto:info@victimsofcommunism.org)

# Fifth Annual China Forum Conference in US Capitol

On September 26, we convened prominent economists, international relations scholars, congressional staffers, journalists, policymakers, and human rights advocates to attend our fifth annual China Forum. The goal of the China Forum is to help Americans understand the nature of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and key issues in US-China relations.

Kyle Bass, Founder of Hayman Capital Management, noted that the only thing keeping the CCP afloat today is foreign investment. Bill Browder, Founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, spoke about his campaign to persuade Congress to adopt the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, which imposed visa sanctions and



*Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) delivered remarks highlighting multiple counts of human and religious rights abuses perpetrated by the CCP.*

asset freezes on those involved in the detention, ill-treatment, and death of Sergei Magnitsky (as well as in other human rights abuses).

The Global Magnitsky Act represented the greatest human rights tool since the Helsinki Accords, as it empowered free governments to sanction individuals responsible for human rights abuses. The free world appears to be on the verge of taking the next step, which is to target foreign companies whose support of governmental actions makes the abuses possible.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) delivered a lunchtime keynote on the similarities between the Soviet Union and today's Chinese Communist Party, the ongoing persecution of Tibetans, Uyghur Muslims, and Buddhist monks, and his recent efforts in the Senate to secure the release of Liu Xia, the widow of Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

He closed his talk by saying “America does have a responsibility to speak out, to highlight dissidents, to call out human rights abuse, to identify, isolate, and shame tyrants.”



*Kyle Bass, founder of Hayman Capital Management, explains how China depends on foreign investment to keep its economy afloat and oppress its own people.*



*Left to right: President for the International Campaign for Tibet Matteo Mecacci, VOC China Studies Senior Research Fellow Dr. Adrian Zenz, Hong Kong politician and activist Nathan Law, Senior Director at the Project 2049 Institute Ian Easton and VOC Director of Government Relations Kristina Olney. This panel addressed the CCP's oppression and expansionism in the periphery of “Greater China,” including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang.*



*VOC's Senior Research Fellow Dr. Adrian Zenz presents his research exposing CCP human rights abuses against Uyghurs in Xinjiang.*

# Exposing How US Dollars Fund Oppression in China

**“We’ve been in a Cold War with China for the last twenty-some-odd years, and we just realized it a couple of years ago. . . . Our country has just woken up to the various ways China has been fighting and using our own tools against us.” – Kyle Bass, Founder of Hayman Capital Management**



*Kyle Bass, Bill Browder, and Marion Smith discuss the risks run by US and Chinese businesses indirectly funding China's human rights abuses.*



*Above: VOC's Director of Latin America Programs, Dr. Carlos Ponce, explains the CCP's use of "debt diplomacy" in Latin America, whereby it invests in public infrastructure abroad in exchange for support of its geopolitical agenda, including de-recognizing Taiwanese sovereignty.*

*Left: Hong Kong politician and activist Nathan Law.*

# Local St. Louis Commission Launches Billboard Campaign

On October 3, we launched VOC's first local commission to combat Marxist misinformation groups in St. Louis, MO, and bring our national mission to the local community.

As a city with a long history of welcoming immigrants, particularly those coming from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia as political refugees, St. Louis has been chosen as an ideal location to establish VOC's first local commission, VOC-STL. "One hundred million people have been killed by communist regimes within 100 years, and we are committed to making this known across the United States," said Executive Director Marion Smith. "Research indicates that American millennials are widely misinformed about communism and the crimes committed in its name," Smith notes, and VOC is working to reverse this trend by telling the truth and educating the public about communism.

In March 2019, Marion Smith spoke with local business owner Cheri Elder in St. Louis, whose antique store was vandalized with symbols of communism, including a hammer and sickle, along

with the acronym "MLM," representing the communist political philosophy of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. In addition to this vandalism, a number of organizations and online discussions indicate the rising support of communism and the use of its symbols to advance extremist politics at the local level.

The commission launched with a local billboard campaign featuring powerful facts and sobering testimonials from survivors of oppressive communist regimes. "Many people, including young Americans, are unaware of this history," Smith explains, "and therefore are open to the glorification of its symbols."

Since its congressional authorization in 1993, VOC has continued its commitment to education. "The St. Louis commission is a significant development, and the foundation is a sophisticated operation with a history of success and a distinguished leadership team," says Local Commission Director Kim McGrath. McGrath, who is also Democratic Central Committeewoman of the City of St. Louis, will lead VOC-STL along with a team of volunteers and has already begun working with



*VOC-STL director Kim McGrath attended our Gala Dinner with her husband as honorary guests.*

prominent community leaders, veterans, and local organizations. In March, nearly 200 people turned out for the VOC educator workshop and screening of *Ashes in the Snow*, a film based on an award-winning novel about a young Lithuanian artist exiled to Siberia under Stalin's rule. Followed by a celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day in Swansea, IL, this event marked an exciting beginning to a long-term effort.

VOC-STL will locally advance the mission of VOC to educate citizens about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism.



*In October 2019, St. Louis became the first city to establish a VOC Local Commission.*



*VOC-STL ran a billboard campaign exposing the truth about communism in strategic locations along high-traffic highways.*

## Interested in supporting a VOC Local Commission in your city?

Visit [victimsofcommunism.org/local-outreach](https://victimsofcommunism.org/local-outreach) to complete an application.  
A member of our team will reach out to see if your city is a good fit.

# Fourth Annual Collectivism Poll Gains Wide Media Attention

On October 29, VOC released its fourth annual report on generational attitudes toward socialism, communism, and collectivism conducted by YouGov.

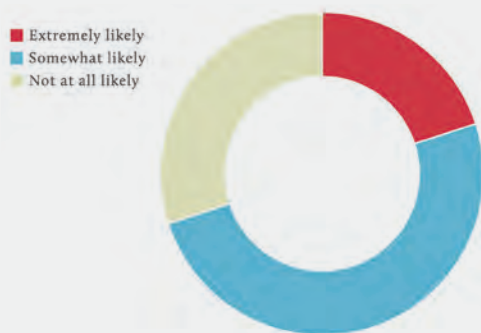
This year's study showed increased support for communism (36%) among Millennials compared to 2018. Positive opinions of capitalism took a steep decline from 2018 to 2019, with only one-in-two millennials (ages 23-38) and Gen Z (ages 16-22) having a favorable

opinion of capitalism. Meanwhile, some 70% of Millennials say they are likely to vote socialist.

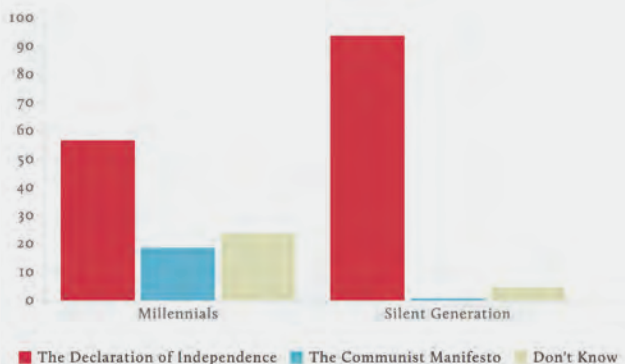
"The historical amnesia about the dangers of communism and socialism is on full display in this year's report," said Marion Smith, Executive Director of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. "When we don't educate our youngest generations about the historical truth of 100

million victims murdered at the hands of communist regimes over the past century, we shouldn't be surprised at their willingness to embrace Marxist ideas. We need to redouble our efforts to educate America's youth about the history of communist regimes and the dangers of socialism today." Our poll was cited in over 80 media publications including Axios, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, Fox News, *The Washington Times*, and *The Hill*.

**70% of Millennials say they are likely to vote socialist.**



**Only 57% of Millennials believe the Declaration of Independence better "guarantees freedom and equality" over *The Communist Manifesto*.**



## IN THE MEDIA



### Marion Smith on Varney & Co.

On August 15, VOC Executive Director Marion Smith appeared on Fox Business's Varney & Co. for the second time to discuss the police crackdown on protesters in Hong Kong and the threat that the Chinese Communist Party poses to the city's fledgling democracy.

"We're in a new Cold War. Hong Kong, like Berlin before it, is the first battle."

Marion Smith • August 15, 2019

"30 Years After the Berlin Wall's Collapse, Americans Don't Understand Communism's Dangers"

Marion Smith • November 8, 2019



### WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Communism and Religion Can't Coexist"

Marion Smith • August 30, 2019

"Communist Cuba Enslaves Physicians"

Marion Smith • December 25, 2019

"After 70 Years, Communist China Is Weaker Than It Seems"

Marion Smith • September 30, 2019

NATIONAL REVIEW

# Educating Future Generations on the Perils of Communism

## Clemson University: Lecture on Socialism's Flaws

On September 20, VOC Director of Academic Programs Dr. Murray Bessette delivered the Clemson Institute for the Study of Capitalism's inaugural Family Weekend Lecture, entitled "Why Not Socialism?" laying bare the chasm between socialism's promises and its realities.



## Great Bay Community College: Witness to Mao's China Shares her Story

On December 6, VOC ally and witness Lily Tang Williams shared her personal story of growing up in Maoist China. The students in the China's Modern History class were transfixed by the harrowing details of her story, and many remained after class to ask more questions. There have already been requests to have her return to give a similar talk next semester.



## Princeton University: Exposing the Plight of the Uyghurs

On November 20, VOC hosted a panel providing an overview of the current status of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, separating cold facts from Chinese Communist Party lies. Panelists included VOC Senior Fellow in China Studies Dr. Adrian Zenz, Co-Director of the Woodrow Wilson School's Center for International Security Studies Dr. Aaron Friedberg, Uyghur human rights activist Rushan Abbas, and VOC Academic Council Member Dr. Flagg Taylor.



## University of Kentucky: Discussing Venezuela's Future

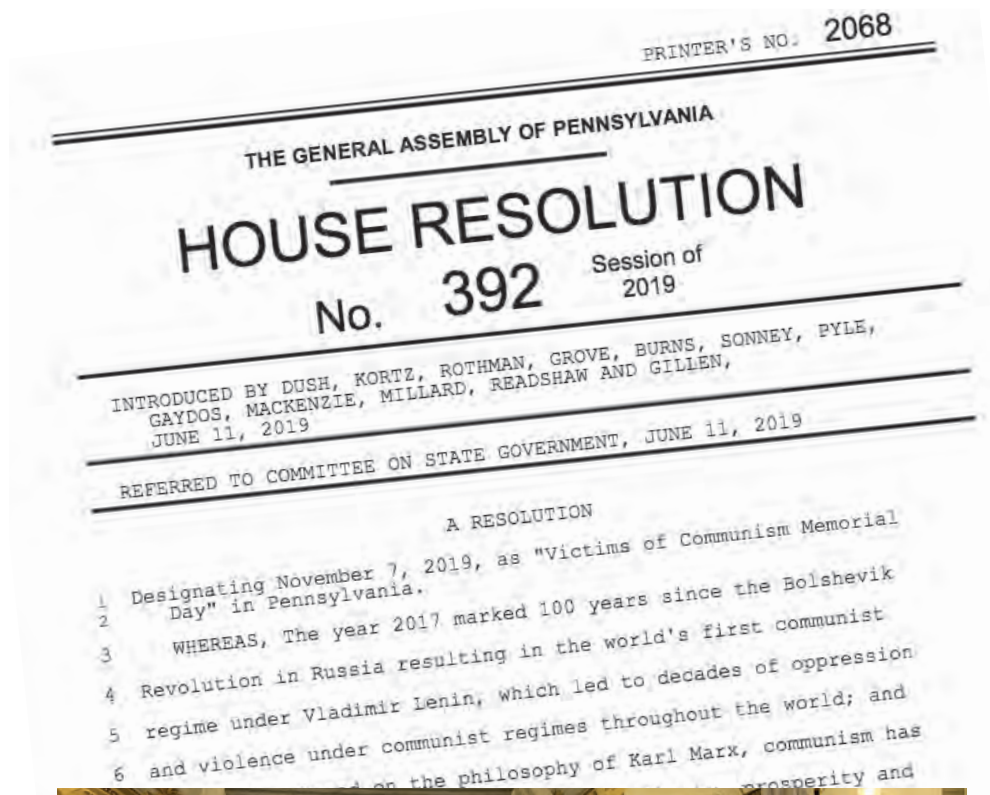
On October 24, Dr. Murray Bessette moderated a panel to discuss the struggle for freedom in Venezuela. Panelists included VOC Director of Latin America Programs Dr. Carlos Ponce, Venezuelan dissident Daniel Di Martino, and Venezuelan lawyer and political activist Francisco Marquez Lara.

# Pennsylvania Becomes Fifth State to Adopt VOC Day

On October 28, VOC Director of Government Relations Kristina Olney traveled to the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, PA, to witness a floor vote on a bill to commemorate November 7 as Victims of Communism Memorial Day, which passed by a vote of 167-30. VOC met with multiple backers of the bill, including original sponsor Rep. Cris Dush (R), to discuss the legislation and the Foundation's other initiatives. Pennsylvania is one of 11 states that have either introduced or passed VOC Memorial Days in their legislatures, including Alabama, Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.



State Rep. Cris Dush (R) discusses the importance of memorializing those who suffered under communism.



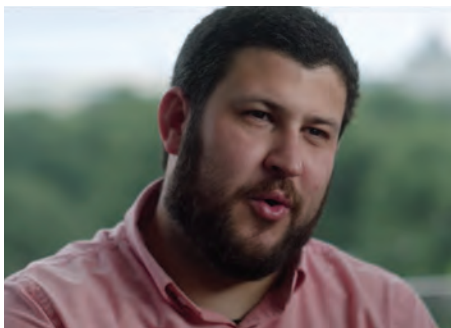
Uyghur Human Rights Project Executive Director Omer Kanat addresses media after the signing of the VOC Memorial Day Bill in the Pennsylvania Statehouse.

## VOC Brings Film Tour to Capitol Hill

On November 13 VOC and the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) co-hosted a film screening on Capitol Hill of bestselling author Ruta Sepety's *Ashes in the Snow*, which tells the story of a 16-year-old artist and her family being deported from Lithuania to Siberia amid Stalin's brutal dismantling of the Baltic Region. Following the screening was a panel discussion on the experience of Baltic victims of the Soviet and Nazi regimes. Panelists were Co-Chair of the House Baltic Caucus Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL), *Ashes in the Snow* film director Marius Markevicius, VOC Executive Director Marion Smith, and JBANC Managing Director Karl Altau.



# Witness Project Releases Three Powerful New Episodes



**David Smolansky**

**Country** - Venezuela

**Release Date** - May 1, 2019

Smolansky is the former mayor of El Hatillo, a municipality of Caracas, and a third-generation victim of communism. His grandparents fled the Soviet Union for Cuba in 1927, his father fled to Venezuela in 1970, and now he himself has had to flee his home. Smolansky's successful efforts as mayor to reduce crime earned him an invitation to an official forum on security led by Maduro, where he called for the release of political prisoners from El Hatillo. In retribution, and after he refused to suppress protests in his constituency, the regime stripped him of his mayoral office. Soon after, the regime's political police pursued Smolansky, who had already fled to the US. He continues to advocate for a free Venezuela and was recognized by President Trump in February 2019 at a rally in Miami, FL.



**Daniel Novacovici**

**Country** - Romania

**Release Date** - October 17, 2019

Growing up during the transition between the royalist and communist governments, Novacovici, inspired by Radio Free Europe, started an underground group with his brother and friends, distributing anticommunist leaflets and supporting dissidents with supplies. He was arrested in 1959 and sentenced to five years of hard labor in the rice fields of Romania on a "floating gulag" on the Danube, where he suffered routine torture and beatings. He and his family eventually fled to France as political refugees in 1980. In exile, he formed an organization to expose oppression and human rights abuses in Romania. He continues to advocate against communism here in America.



**Ji Seong-ho**

**Country** - North Korea

**Release Date** - November 1, 2019

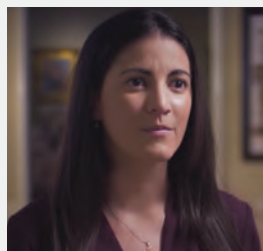
As a child during a famine in 1996 caused by the North Korean regime's devastating economic mismanagement, Ji tried to steal coal to sell and buy food for his family and was crushed by a train after he fainted from malnourishment. He underwent a three-hour surgery without anesthesia to remove his left leg and hand. Facing discrimination for his disability, he defected with his brother and they escaped into China, where Ji trekked over 6,000 miles to Thailand with nothing but the wooden crutches his father made for him. After he reunited with his brother in Thailand, the South Korean embassy flew both of them to Seoul.

## Watch Witness Project Episodes on YouTube: [youtube.com/vocvideos](https://youtube.com/vocvideos)

Witness Project is an award-winning video series telling the stories of men and women who have seen the brutal effects of communism firsthand. These short documentaries give a human face to the staggering number of victims—more than 100 million in 100 years—and help viewers grasp the human cost of socialism and communism. Witness episodes have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on social media and screened at dozens of public events across the US and internationally.



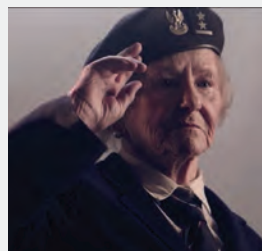
*Anastasia Lin, Chinese-Canadian beauty queen*



*Rosa María Payá, Cuban democracy advocate*



*Dániel Magay, Hungarian Olympic fencer*



*Wanda Wos Lorenc, Polish freedom fighter*



*Nal Oum, Cambodian doctor*

# VOC Senior Fellow Breaks Explosive 'China Cables' Story

In October 2019 Dr. Adrian Zenz, a leading expert on Beijing's minority policies in Tibet and Xinjiang, joined VOC as a Senior Research Fellow in China Studies. That same month, he testified at a public hearing for the Congressional-Executive Commission on China—the official government entity tasked with monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses in China—on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) mass internment camps and use of forced labor in Xinjiang. Then, on November 24, Dr. Zenz published an op-ed in *The New York Times* revealing explosive new details about the CCP's systematic campaign of cultural genocide against the Uyghur people.

Dr. Zenz also testified on December 10 before the US House Foreign Affairs Committee. That morning, VOC partnered with the Uyghur Human Rights Project to host a Policy Forum on Capitol Hill, at which Dr. Zenz released his latest groundbreaking research detailing the extent of forced labor practices in Xinjiang and the CCP's long-term strategy to subdue an entire people. Other panelists were renowned Uyghur poet and film director Tahir Hamut, George Washington University professor Dr. Sean Roberts, and Uyghur human rights advocate Nury Turkel.

Since joining VOC, Dr. Zenz has been mentioned over 240 times in over 120 media outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and the *BBC*, and has conducted broadcast interviews with NPR, Bloomberg, and CNN, as well as top German newswires Deutsche Welle and Tagesschau.



Dr. Adrian Zenz, VOC Senior Research Fellow in China Studies, joined CNN's "Connect the World" to discuss leaked Chinese government documents detailing brutal human rights violations in Xinjiang.



On October 17, Dr. Adrian Zenz testified at a public hearing of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. His testimony focused on CCP use of forced labor in Xinjiang.



**“Thanks to these new document disclosures, we now have hard evidence that in addition to implementing a vast internment program in Xinjiang, the Chinese Communist Party is deliberately breaking up families and forcing them into poverty and a form of indentured labor. For all its efforts at secrecy, the Chinese government can no longer hide the extent of its campaign of repression in Xinjiang.”**

*Dr. Zenz's groundbreaking research on CCP human rights abuses in Xinjiang was featured in the New York Times on November 24, 2019.*



# Polish Fellows Conduct New Research, Expand High School Curriculum



## Dr. Jakub Tyszkiewicz

**Education** - PhD, University of Wrocław

**Research Topic** - US policy toward the Catholic Church in Poland during 1945-1989.



## Maria Juczevska

**Education** - MA, Institute of World Politics

**Research Project** - Adapted her research on Polish Intelligence hero Witold Pilecki into a middle and high school curriculum module.



## Dr. Anna Draniewicz

**Education** - PhD, University of Bradford

**Research Topic** - How Polish cult films helped overthrow communism in Poland.

## Excerpts from a Presentation by VOC Polish Studies Fellow Maria Juczevska



*The 20th-century history of Poland is the story of freedom's suppression by the forces of Nazism and communism, both of which systematically carved Poland in half after the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which allowed the Soviets and Nazis to partition and seize Poland.*



*Polish intelligence operative Witold Pilecki was a distinguished military hero during the early 20th century who sought to document German atrocities at Auschwitz and was later killed by the Soviets during a show trial for "working for foreign imperialists."*

## Accomplishments in 2019 — Thanks to Our Loyal Supporters



**40,308**

Facebook Fans



**33,832**

Twitter Followers



**4,092**

Instagram Followers



**43,083**

Email Subscribers



**100,651**

Video Views



**51**

Op-Eds



**65**

TV & Radio Interviews



**479**

Media Mentions



**50**

New Teacher Alumni



**6**

Teacher Road Workshops



**8**

Research Fellows



**1**

Oval Office Meeting



**4**

Congressional Testimonies



**4**

Medals of Freedom



**71**

Roll Call of Nations Wreaths



**37**

Public Events



**156,115**

Visitors to Exhibits



**1**

Local Commission Launched



**4**

Republicans at Public Events



**7**

Democrats at Public Events



**5**

States Enact VOC Law



**6**

States Introduce VOC Law

### To our supporters . . .

Thank you! Every event, every meeting, every counter-challenge we make to communism's horrible influence, every boost to dissident truth-telling—every bit of VOC's work as reported in this newsletter—is made possible by the generosity of our donors who value our mission: *To educate future generations about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism.* We are grateful for your support.

# 30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall



*Eleventh President of Germany and dissident pastor Joachim Gauck makes a gesture of unity after accepting his Medal of Freedom.*



*VOC's Triumph of Liberty Gala Dinner on November 8, 2019 in the Main Hall of Union Station in Washington, DC.*



*Left to right: VOC Executive Director Marion Smith, H.E. Joachim Gauck, and the winner of our High School Essay Competition, Luke Cacic, a senior at Northport High School in Northport, NY.*



*Left to right: VOC Chairman Dr. Lee Edwards, H.E. Joachim Gauck, VOC Executive Director Marion Smith, and VOC Board Vice Chairman Amb. Aldona Wos.*



*Over 200 musicians and singers comprised the Triumph of Liberty Symphony Orchestra performance recreating Leonard Bernstein's famous 1989 performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony after the fall of the Berlin Wall.*

SAVE THE DATE:

TRIUMPH OF  
LIBERTY  
GALA DINNER  
&  
TRUMAN-REAGAN  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
CEREMONY

Union Station  
Washington, DC

NOVEMBER 19, 2020