



## VOC Launches Xinjiang Person Search Tool

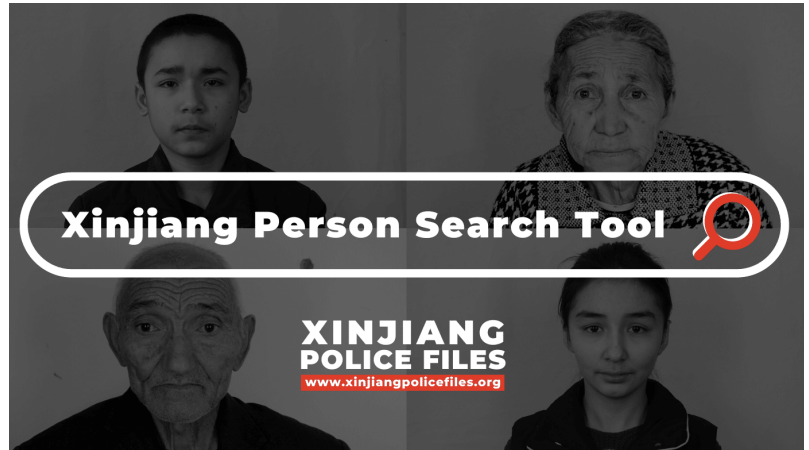
In February 2023, VOC released the Xinjiang Person Search Tool allowing the public to search over 700,000 personnel records contained in the Xinjiang Police Files, the most significant hack of confidential Chinese documents from directly inside Xinjiang police computers. For the first time, the new tool provides concrete information at scale from China's own internal documents including data, images, and information about the sentences, detention status, reason for detention, and whereabouts of hundreds of thousands of victims of the Chinese Communist Party's mass internment and repression of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

With the new tool Uyghurs can now search 5 million records containing data on approximately 750,000 persons from 48 Xinjiang counties, drawing from over 11,000 spreadsheets from the Xinjiang Police Files. The Files are dated from 2017-18, the height of Beijing's "strike hard" campaign that has now swept 1-2 million Uyghurs into re-education camps.

The Search Tool was released as part of a media campaign in partnership with CNN, including a visually powerful digital interactive piece "The Darkness of Not Knowing" that ranked #1 on CNN.com's "More Top Stories" section.



Nuriman Abdureshid (above) was able to locate her family in a forced labor camp using VOC's Person Search Tool.



- > 35,000 Page Views
- > 5,000 + Searches
- > 5,000 Unique Users
- > Users from 5 continents

Also released was a six-minute exclusive documentary that aired on primetime US cable news show "The Lead with Jake Tapper" to an audience of 665,000 live viewers and wide coverage in secondary media in several languages including Radio Free Asia, Germany's Deutsche Welle, Uyghur Times, Croatia's Nacional, CNN Arabic, MSN.com, Netherland's Kanttekening, and Turkey's Kirim Haber Ajansi.

VOC disseminated the Search Tool to our email universe of over 35,000 subscribers, private network of over 200 human rights groups, dozens of international policymakers and legislators, over 200 Uyghur diaspora groups, and made the information available to Chinese citizens behind Beijing's "great firewall" through partnership with the anti-censorship and digital circumvention group GreatFire. Within three weeks of release, the Search Tool generated over 1 million Twitter views, including over 245,000 from a single thread by VOC's researcher Dr. Adrian Zenz and over 200,000 from CNN journalists.

The Xinjiang Police Files are tens of thousands of files obtained through hacking by an anonymous third party directly into police computers in the Xinjiang region and passed to Dr. Zenz at VOC, whose expert team authenticated, analyzed, and released parts of the files in May 2022 in partnership with a media consortium of 14 world-leading outlets including the BBC, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, El Pais, and USA Today.

# VOC Testifies Before Congress on Uyghur Genocide

VOC China Director, Dr. Adrian Zenz, testified under oath before the new House Select Committee on China at a public hearing on Capitol Hill titled “The Chinese Communist Party’s Ongoing Uyghur Genocide” on March 23. During the three-hour hearing—which was live-streamed to thousands of viewers and attended by all 13 Republicans and 11 Democrats on the bipartisan Committee—Dr. Zenz delivered detailed testimony on Beijing’s human rights atrocities in Xinjiang including mass internment, forced labor, and birth rate suppression, as well as the complicity of central Chinese government officials, up to and including Chairman Xi Jinping.

VOC’s 87-page written testimony submitted to the Committee represents the most significant compilation of its China research ever released, synthesizing into a single document the organization’s most seminal papers and releases from recent years.

“Thanks to Dr. Adrian Zenz, a leading scholar on the Uyghur genocide, through his work and research of leaked Chinese government documents including the Xinjiang Papers and the China Cables, [VOC has] played a paramount role in bringing these atrocities to light,” said the Committee’s Chairman Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI).



*VOC's Dr. Adrian Zenz testifies before US Congress on March 23.*

“Dr. Zenz’s research shows how sterilizations per 100,000 people in Xinjiang compared with the nation as a whole: the sterilization rate in Xinjiang is lower between 2010 and 2015, but when the ‘one child policy’ ends, the sterilization rates in China go down, [then] explode and increase in the Xinjiang region,” said Ranking Member Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL). “The mass ending of Uyghur births clearly meets the definition of genocide.”

## VOC Commends Legislation Addressing Organ Trafficking

VOC commends the near unanimous passage by the US House of Representatives on March 27 of new bipartisan legislation—the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act—addressing organ trafficking led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Bill Keating (D-MA). In a stunning 412-2 vote, the House has sent a clear message to regimes that allow state-sponsored organ trafficking that the US will not tolerate these atrocious human rights abuses supported by communist countries. If signed into law, it would represent the strongest legislation ever introduced by any country to combat organ trafficking.

VOC has warned the world about this issue for many years thanks to groundbreaking research by our experts Matthew Robertson and Ethan Gutmann. Their research revealed that the Chinese government has engaged in coercive organ transplant practices over the past two decades, with significant evidence consistent with prisoners of conscience being used as organ sources, and that Chinese doctors have executed prisoners by organ removal, violating the dead donor rule, which forbids extracting transplant organs from living donors, and the injunction against physicians participating in executions.

In addition to producing leading research which has been recognized as expert opinion among policymakers, our experts, Matthew Robertson and Ethan Gutmann, have testified at hearings before US Congress, including a hearing last May for the bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission highlighting Beijing’s organ trafficking of political prisoners, chaired by Rep. Chris Smith.

# Expanded Educational Resources Maximize Impact

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION COURSE



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

As a complement to VOC's online curriculum, *Communism: A History of Repression, Violence, and Victims*, we launched our new course for educators, the VOC Online Teacher Certification, which offers 24 hours of professional development credit across eight lessons.

The online course covers the specter of communism up to the 20th century, focusing on topics from Communism 101 and its ideological foundations to the impact of communist rulers such as Lenin and Stalin, through the Cold War to present communist nations such as China. Each lesson contains video lectures, knowledge checks, supplementary readings, and helpful summaries for teachers to learn from and build upon in their own lesson plans.

The course was built by teachers for teachers. Each lesson centers on a lecture from a leading academic, including VOC's Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding, Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny, Dr. Gregory McBrayer, and Dr. F. Flagg Taylor IV. Relevant readings, both classical and contemporary, are provided for teachers to learn from and download for their students.

***"An entire generation of rising Americans, unaware of the true nature and history of communism, is warming to these failed ideas simply because they are ignorant of the facts. That's why this course is so critical." —Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, VOC President***

In addition to developing new online educational resources for teachers, VOC has expanded our in-person workshops for middle and high school students, and college interns in DC.

Pictured to the right, VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding gives a lecture on the history of communism to the spring class of college-aged interns from both the CATO Institute and The Heritage Foundation. Students toured the Victims of Communism Museum prior to receiving the history lesson.



# Romania to Contribute €3,000,000 to VOC Museum

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation is deeply honored to announce the pledge of €3,000,000 by the government of Romania to the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington, D.C.

“We are incredibly grateful for Romania’s support of the Victims of Communism Museum to help educate American audiences about Romania’s valiant fight against communist oppression,” remarked VOC’s President, Ambassador Andrew Bremberg. “This gift, which was passed in the Romanian Parliament with a broad political consensus, will also serve as an enduring reminder of the power of freedom and help commemorate the more than 100 million victims of communism around the world as we continue to pursue the freedom of the more than 1.5 billion people still living under its oppressive yoke today.”



*VOC President Amb. Andrew Bremberg (left) shakes hands with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă (right) during meetings in Bucharest in February 2022.*

“Romania’s contribution to the Victims of Communism Museum will serve as a foundational gift, enabling the expansion of our physical galleries as well as the launch of our digital Museum experience,” said VOC Chairman and Founding Museum Director Dr. Elizabeth Edwards Spalding. As the bill states, this gift to the Victims of Communism Museum is “necessary in order to be able to tell the whole world that Romania has managed to emerge from the darkness of this totalitarianism, to firmly condemn the crimes of communism, and to honor the victims that the regime has produced.”

*“We must always remember “the horrors, humiliations, underdevelopment, [and] poverty that the communist dictatorships brought in this part of Europe. The sufferings of generations brutally crushed by the mechanisms of communism cannot be forgotten.”*

*—Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă during a meeting with VOC President Amb. Andrew Bremberg and VOC Chairman Emeritus Ed Feulner in Bucharest in February 2022*



*VOC Chairman Emeritus Dr. Ed Feulner and VOC President Amb. Andrew Bremberg meet with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă in Bucharest in February 2022.*

The Victims of Communism Museum is a project of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. To date, the Victims of Communism Museum has received generous support from the governments of Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. VOC is proud to add Romania to this growing list.

# "Cuban Communist Prison" Exhibit

Starting February 1, the Museum opened its second temporary gallery, "Cuban Communist Prison," a visual arts exhibition on Cuban political prisoners. The exhibit reflects the harsh reality that the island has been going through since 1959, where thousands of people have been imprisoned and deprived of their human rights.

The exhibit features collaborations with Cuban artists who have been imprisoned or ostracized for their political views and are now widely recognized internationally for their work.

The exhibition includes supporting materials such as interviews with political prisoners and a timeline of political imprisonment, civil unrest, turmoil, and repression in the country.



*Keylilli de la Mora, protagonist of Tania Bruguera's art performance at the exhibition opening, poses with fellow Cuban witnesses of communism.*



The opening event featured Keylilli de la Mora, a young Cuban recently admitted to the United States as a refugee after being a political prisoner. Her testimonies have also been used to create the exhibition's central work, an immersive and sensory experience with the lived experiences of different Cubans who have faced repression on the island in recent years.

Valia Garzon Art Services produced this exhibition with the support of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.



*Thank you to our sponsors who made this exhibit possible:*

*Raul & Olga Chao  
Havana Club  
Kristina Ritter Loverro  
The Hon. Donald Ritter  
Gisela Norat  
John Suarez  
Drs. Omar & Josefina Vento*

# "War Up Close" Virtual Reality Exhibit

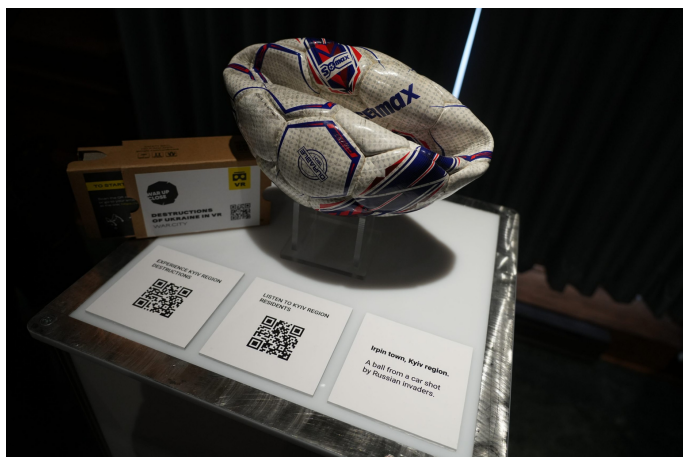


VOC was honored to bring “War Up Close” to the Museum, a project that aims to raise awareness of the scale of devastation in Ukraine and bear witness to the victims of Putin’s brutal war.

This exhibit featured nine thematic installations that bring to life the brutal, bloody, and heartbreaking truth of war up close. Through 360-degree video, photo, VR content, and immersive exhibitions, visitors were faced with the physical remains of destroyed buildings and objects from across Ukraine and virtually transported to the cities torn apart by Putin’s invasion.

The project was initiated by experts from Discover.ua and FreegenGroup. Mykola Omelchenko, a photo journalist with years of experience and the first Google Trusted Photographer in Ukraine, has embarked on photo shooting for the War Up Close.

This exhibit will also travel to Warsaw, Paris, and Brussels after its time at VOC.



*A ball from a car shot by Russian Invaders in the Irpin Region, Ukraine.*



*Mykola Omelchenko, photo journalist and organizer of the "War Up Close" exhibit, being interviewed at VOC.*

# 40th Anniversary of Ronald Reagan's Evil Empire Speech



*Mark Tooley, Dr. Eric Patterson, Nina Shea, and Elliott Abrams speak about Ronald Reagan's aspirations for religious freedom.*

On March 8, VOC hosted a commemoration event on the 40th Anniversary of Ronald Reagan's Evil Empire Speech at the Victims of Communism Museum. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute of Religion and Democracy, the Religious Freedom Institute, and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. Dr. Lee Edwards, Reagan biographer and VOC Founding Chairman provided opening remarks followed by a video address from Anthony R. Dolan, the Chief Speechwriter at the Reagan White House.

The two event panels—comprised of distinguished scholars from all four co-hosting organizations as well as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Institute of World Politics, and the Center for Religious Freedom—focused on the key events of the Reagan administration and the paradigm shift in foreign policy that ultimately led to the demise of the Soviet Union, as well as the spiritual impact of President Reagan's speech on American Christians as well as those living behind the Iron Curtain and around the globe.

***"Exactly 40 years ago today, Reagan described the Cold War not as a strategic or economic or political conflict, but as a war between good and evil... No American President had ever called the Soviet Union what it truly was—an evil empire." —Dr. Lee Edwards, VOC Founding Chairman***



*On March 8, Fox & Friends' Rachel Campos-Duffy streamed live from the Victims of Communism Museum with VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding and Elliot Berke of the Evil Empire Speech Memorial Foundation.*



*On March 4, American History TV toured the Victims of Communism Museum with VOC Chairman and Museum Founding Director, Dr. Elizabeth Spalding.*

# Knights of Liberty: Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Saint John Paul II, and President Ronald Reagan

This year's annual Polish Studies Conference focused on the history and legacy of three towering figures — Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Saint John Paul II, and President Ronald Reagan — who valiantly fought against the oppressive force of communism.

The conference brought together distinguished scholars, historians, and political leaders to discuss the lasting impact of these three champions of freedom. Throughout the event, speakers emphasized the significance of Cardinal Wyszyński's unwavering resistance to communist tyranny in Poland, including his courageous defense of religious freedom and his instrumental role in the formation of the Solidarity movement. Additionally, participants celebrated the transformative moral and spiritual leadership of Saint John Paul II, whose advocacy for human rights and social justice played a pivotal role in the eventual collapse of communism in Europe.



*Clark Judge, Former Speechwriter and Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush, speaks on a panel about the partnership between President Reagan and Pope John Paul II.*

***"The cultural and spiritual resistance were the tools of resistance that communism cannot hope to hold." —George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center; Author; Lecturer; VOC Academic Council Member***



*Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears speaks at VOC's Knights of Liberty Conference.*

VOC was honored to host Winsome Earle-Sears, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Virginia, at the conference. VOC is working with Mrs. Earle-Sears to introduce legislation in the state requiring that curricula teaching about the legacy and history of communism be included in Virginia State Public Schools.

To date, Florida and Arizona have adopted this curricular requirement and VOC has partnered with their State Departments of Education to produce video documentary testimonies featuring the stories of witnesses of communism to be used in all public school classrooms in these states.

**This event was made possible by the Polish National Foundation, as well as our generous event sponsors:**

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Julianne Condrey  
John Czop  
Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D.  
Andrew R. Rokita Jr.*

## 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 immensely grateful for your support.