



Medal of Freedom Awarded to Bhuchung K. Tsering



Bhuchung K. Tsering received VOC's Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, awarded to those who have dedicated their lives to fighting against communism and tyranny.

On June 9, representatives from 15 embassies, 3 delegations, and 42 ethnic and human rights organizations gathered together with leaders of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation for the 16th Annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony & Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Award presentation at the Victims of Communism Memorial on Capitol Hill.

This year, VOC was proud to present the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Bhuchung K. Tsering, a Tibetan American writer, diplomat, and activist. In 1960, Tsering fled his homeland in the wake of the Chinese communist invasion and has since become a tireless advocate for the Tibetan people. During his remarks, Tsering said:

"...the people of Tibet have not lost their hope despite over six decades of Communist control. In 1959, soon after the Chinese communists occupied Tibet, one Indian political leader by the name of Jayaprakash Narayan said, 'Is Tibet lost forever? No. A thousand times no. Tibet will not die because there is no death for the human spirit. Communism will not succeed because man will not be slave forever.'"

—Bhuchung K. Tsering

The extraordinary contributions of advocates like Tsering underscore the profound impact of VOC's mission.

VOC Makes an Educational Impact



(Left) VOC CEO, Ken Pope, gave a lecture to 700+ teachers in Orlando, FL about the history and deadly ideology of communism, and Cuban witnesses Rosa María Payá and Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo told their personal testimonies living under and fighting against the Cuban Communist regime. (Right) Mr. Pope and witnesses Tatiana Menaker and Marina Davidovich educated 700+ teachers in Jacksonville, FL.

Our future is dependent upon today's students—children, teenagers, and college students. That is why at VOC, we focus on educational programming for teachers who are directly impacting students every day. We are seeing an increasing number of U.S. states recognize the importance of educating people of all ages about the history and deadly ideology of communism.

In 2022, VOC began partnering with Departments of Education to formally build the VOC curriculum into public school classrooms. Currently, Florida and Arizona have adopted a requirement to educate about the history and horrors of communism, and several other states are in the process.

VOC was asked by the Florida Department of Education to host plenary sessions for a series of five seminars across the state reaching thousands of educators to train them on the most powerful ways to teach students about the destruction caused by communist regimes. In each city, VOC's CEO Ken Pope hosted a lecture on the history of communism and moderated a panel discussion with two witnesses of communism, such as Channy Chhi Laux, who survived the Cambodian genocide, and Marina Davidovich, who left the USSR in the summer of 1975.

VOC's two blocks were the only plenary sessions for the entire three-day event. Our two sessions were incredibly well received by the teachers in attendance, with numerous questions received during and after each presentation. Our presentation in Pensacola received a standing ovation and the Florida Department of Education has distributed our slideshow presentation on the history of communism to all teachers in Florida. It is clear that VOC's message and mission both resonates and is wanted by teachers in Florida and elsewhere.

By taking our teacher seminar on the road, we have scaled from around 650 teacher alumni to over 3,850 in summer 2023. Our seminar and workshop alumni now reach more than 531,000 students in their classrooms each year and can reach as many as 17 million students over their careers.

VOC Creates Portraits in Patriotism Videos

In addition to on-site seminars in Florida, VOC has worked in partnership with the University of South Florida to produce 16 "Portraits in Patriotism" mini-documentary videos which feature the stories of witnesses of communism and with Arizona State University to develop two similar mini-documentary episodes. These videos will to be used in all public school middle and high school classrooms in each state. By highlighting a wide range of voices in these short and engaging videos, we will reach vastly more younger Americans with our content demonstrating the ugly truth about communism. Below are the stories of three witnesses.

Tatiana Menaker



Tatiana Menaker was born in Leningrad in the former USSR. After music school, she received a masters in Marxist-Leninist Philosophy from Leningrad University and after graduation she played piano for the ballet in Leningrad. She loved to write, but her work was too anti-Soviet to publish, so she joined an underground Christian feminist magazine called "Women of Russia." Due to her participation, Tatiana was arrested. Her family's application to emigrate was rejected, and they became "refuseniks," people deemed disloyal to the Soviet Union.

The struggle to leave lasted 10 years, and the only chance Tatiana had to escape was marriage with a foreigner. She was processed as a refugee and entered the US in 1986 with \$90, two small children, 4 suitcases and limited English. In the US, Tatiana worked as a pianist, a journalist, and started a successful travel business. Currently she is the co-host of a popular YouTube program with thousands of listeners.

Rushan Abbas



In 2018, Rushan Abbas spoke out about the disappearance of her relatives who she believes vanished into China's network of internment camps and forced labor programs. Six days later, Abbas' sister, Gulshan Abbas, who worked as a doctor at a government hospital, and her aunt, disappeared in the Xinjiang region of China. More than five years later, Gulshan is still detained by the Chinese government. "Now it is my job to use my power to save those like my sister, who are no longer free," said Abbas.

Abbas' sister is among the more than 1 million predominantly Muslim Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Kyrgyz and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups the Chinese Communist Party has detained since 2017. Abbas is the founder of Campaign for Uyghurs, dedicated to working with groups in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan, and Turkey to highlight the Uyghur cause.

Representative Quang Nguyen



Representative Quang Nguyen first came to America as a war refugee with a small bag of clothes on his back. Thanks to what makes America the greatest country on earth, he is now a successful small-business owner and prominent public speaker, with a son working in the private sector and a daughter who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy Submarine Force.

Quang is a lifelong Republican whose conservative values have been guided by his personal faith and his first-hand knowledge of both the horrors of communism and the greatness of liberty.

Quang and his wife Mai live in Prescott Valley, and Quang is serving in his second term as the Arizona State House Representative, R-LD1.

Do you know a witness of communism whose story should be told? We would love to feature as many witness stories as possible. Please contact us to discuss further at 202-629-9500.

VOC Experts Speak Around the World

VOC takes our educational materials on-the-road through targeted outreach and lectures—both at the state level and internationally—to engage people with information about the history and horrors of communism. VOC experts like CEO Ken Pope and Director of Academic Programs, Bob Williams, as well as scholarly experts and witnesses of communism who are members of our Speakers Bureau, frequently speak with student groups, teachers, and academic professionals to ensure they know the basic facts about communism.



Bob Williams, VOC Director of Academic Programs, speaks to students from Saint Rita's Catholic School at the VOC Museum in Washington, DC.



VOC's CEO, Ken Pope, spoke at the International Congress of Victims of Communism in Madrid, Spain on April 19-20.

On April 19-20, VOC's CEO Ken Pope attended and spoke at the International Congress of Victims of Communism "Voices for Freedom" in Madrid, Spain, hosted by the Center of Studies, Training, and Analysis at the CEO San Pablo University. The Congress featured testimonies of national and international victims, representatives of associations, and experts on communism with the goal of remembering the past in order to better understand the present and have a vision for the future. During his remarks, Mr. Pope spoke about VOC's work to raise awareness of the consequences of communist ideology and expressed his concern that the real legacy of communism is not taught in schools today.

Just as Mr. Pope mentioned in his lecture in Madrid, VOC is engaging with U.S. states to raise awareness among Americans about the atrocities committed in the name of communism. On March 31, the Georgia State House of Representatives approved a resolution to declare November 7 as "Victims of Communism Memorial Day" in remembrance of and honoring those who have died and suffered under communist regimes. VOC praised the Georgia Legislature for its passage of this important legislation commemorating the victims of communism. In passing HR 588, led by House Representative Matt Reeves, Georgia became the sixth state to officially recognize November 7 as "Victims of Communism Memorial Day" which bears witness to those who have died and suffered under communist regimes. Alabama, Idaho, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Utah, and Virginia have passed resolutions and seven others—Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina—are moving to do the same.

"Victims of Communism know that freedom is not free, and fight the hardest for freedom and the American Dream for our children and grandchildren." —Georgia State Representative Matt Reeves

This initiative follows the signing in 2021 and 2022 by Florida and Arizona respectively of a bill requiring schools teach their students about the crimes of communist regimes. The legislation, which was championed by VOC, requires schools to include in their curriculum a comparative discussion of the political ideologies of communism and totalitarianism with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States. "We look forward to working with the Georgia State Legislature on the passage of this same legislation," said VOC CEO Ken Pope.

Educating Through our Internship Program



Csendike Somogyvári interned at VOC this spring. Her video interview about her experience is available on our YouTube channel.

VOC prides itself on its ability to inspire and grow the next generation of activists and aligned professionals. Through our internship program, many students have worked at our headquarters in Washington, D.C. These interns then join the workforce, carrying with them the important ideas and messages we cultivate at VOC.

This spring, Csendike Somogyvári travelled from Hungary, in cooperation with the Hungarian American Coalition's John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program, to participate as a VOC Development and Coalitions & Fellowship Programs intern. While she was here, she assisted with several events, donor management, and researched new partner organizations. She now holds a prestigious position at The World Bank.

"Several members of my family suffered under communism in Central Europe...I believe that through my work at VOC in the heart of the United States, the story of my ancestors and millions of others live on—their sacrifices have not been in vain. I am grateful to have been part of an organization which commemorates the tragic reality of the past and is paving the way for future generations."
—Csendike Somogyvári

VOC is grateful for our many hardworking interns. They can frequently be found welcoming visitors to the VOC Museum and engaging with guests attending educational events at our museum. Pictured to the right are several of our summer interns, including Ayturk Tashpolat, whose story is featured below.

Ayturk Tashpolat is VOC's Digital Media Intern for this summer. She chose to intern at VOC because she wanted to speak out for the Uyghurs who are currently being detained in concentration camps and those who are suffering under China's communist regime, including relatives of Ayturk.



Ayturk shared her motivation for supporting VOC's mission: "Since 2017 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has arrested millions of Uyghurs and sent them to "re-education" camps. Those millions are not just numbers, but they include children and teenagers who have to spend their best years of youth in the camps, they are women who are being raped and forcibly sterilized, they are men who are tortured, they are people killed simply because of their ethnicity and religious beliefs. All of these people have different stories of struggle, but they are all similarly heartbreaking. As the world's media today is occupied by the CCP's powerful propaganda, it's very difficult to tell others the truth of China's ongoing Uyghur genocide. Thus, as one of the lucky ones who escaped Xinjiang at a young age, I wanted to tell those stories and allow others to have their voices heard.

Working at VOC has given me the chance to reach out to people and tell them about Uyghurs and our struggle. I have had the important opportunity to tell the horrific stories of my relatives and my people. I'm very grateful to be a part of VOC and for this incredible experience."

Václav Havel Exhibit & Conference



The Victims of Communism Museum, supported by its gracious benefactors, was honored to unveil the riveting temporary exhibit, “Václav Havel: From Dissident to President” on May 24. This exhibition delves into the life of Václav Havel, highlighting his transformative roles from a pre-revolutionary dissident and playwright to becoming the first President of the Czech Republic post the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

Havel was not only a renowned playwright, essayist, and philosopher but also an influential voice for human rights, resulting in his imprisonment. His undeniable impact on the political landscape of 1989 helped usher the Czech Republic into NATO, symbolizing a fresh chapter in Czech-American relations. The exhibit showcases key quotations from his pivotal works such as *The Power of the Powerless* (1978), *Letters to Olga* (1980), his speeches at Wenceslas Square (1989) and Joint Address to Congress (1990). These excerpts, along with a chronological narrative of the Czech Republic's history and Havel's life, paint a vivid picture of his remarkable contributions to a democratic Czech Republic. As a highlight, the exhibition features, for the first time in the United States, a bronze model of the Disappearing Man statuary, Prague's Memorial to the Victims of Communism, encapsulating Havel's profound understanding of totalitarianism's impact on human lives.

The exhibit opening featured remarks from Markéta Pekarová Adamová, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Czech Ambassador Miloslav Stašek, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Ambassador Martin Palouš, FIU's Director of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy, exhibit curator Pavel Hájek, and VOC President Ambassador Andrew Bremberg.

Following the exhibit opening, we hosted a seminar on totalitarianism which included presentations by leading journalists, diplomats, and scholars in cooperation with the Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University.



VOC President Ambassador Andrew Bremberg and Markéta Pekarová Adamová of the Parliament of the Czech Republic tour the Havel exhibit.

The Pilecki Report International Pre-Screening



VOC Trustee Ambassador Aldona Woś delivers remarks at The Pilecki Report screening at the Victims of Communism Museum.

VOC continues to be the leading space in Washington, D.C. for those who remember the past atrocities of communism regimes.

In that light, VOC partnered with the Polish National Foundation to help tell the story of Witold Pilecki, a distinguished Polish Army Officer who joined the Polish Resistance Movement in the early days of WWII, and volunteered to infiltrate Auschwitz and report on Nazi atrocities.

In partnership with the Polish Film Institute, VOC hosted the international pre-screening on May 25 of *The Pilecki Report*, directed by Leszek Wosiewicz and Krzysztof Łukaszewicz.

VOC President, Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, kicked off the evening, followed by remarks from VOC Trustee Ambassador Aldona Woś, and Dr. Marcin Zarzecki, Polish

National Foundation President and Chairman of the Board. Professor Piotr Gliński, the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage, delivered a speech virtually.

József Cardinal Mindszenty's Memoirs

On June 16, VOC and the Catholic Information Center hosted author Dr. Daniel J. Mahoney for a presentation, interview, and book signing of József Cardinal Mindszenty's *Memoirs* at the Victims of Communism Museum. The event was nearly at full capacity and 30 books were sold to attendees.

The Hungarian Cardinal, now named Venerable by the Catholic Church, tenaciously defended human dignity and religious freedom against the totalitarian movements and regimes that subjugated east-central Europe during the worst years of the twentieth century.

The book includes a Foreword by Joseph Pearce and an Introduction by Dr. Mahoney. These moving Memoirs reveal the full story of the legendary hero-priest who has come to be regarded as a symbol of Christian and national resistance to communism.



Daniel J. Mahoney presents about József Cardinal Mindszenty's Memoirs.

"He spoke about moving forward with decency, morality, and liberty."

—Daniel J. Mahoney on a speech given by Cardinal Mindszenty after his liberation in 1956, emphasizing his vision of a society built on democratic principles.

VOC Museum Attracts More Foot Traffic



Members of the Air Force Directorate view VOC's permanent exhibits.

VOC frequently hosts groups of students, professionals, and Members of Congress for tours of the Victims of Communism Museum. Following tours for groups of middle school, high school, and college students, we host a presentation by a scholar or witness of communism to provide students with the opportunity to ask questions about what they learned in the museum.

To date, we have hosted museum tours and lectures for over 800 students from six different states and Ecuador. Both students and teachers have been positively impacted by their experience at our museum, with many students especially saying how moved they were by the true stories of witnesses of communism featured in the museum.

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart recently toured the museum with VOC President, Ambassador Andrew Bremberg and VOC Chairman, Dr. Elizabeth Spalding. He is one of many Members of Congress, including Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Rep. Chris Smith, Rep. Maria Salazar, and Rep. Steny Hoyer, to tour the museum. Following his tour, Congressman Diaz-Balart noted:

"I am grateful that the VOC continues to truthfully and effectively ensure that the world never forgets the atrocities and oppression that has occurred due to Communist and socialist tyranny, and which continue to cause immense suffering in places such as Cuba, Venezuela, China, and North Korea. I thank the VOC, particularly its many courageous and renowned staff, trustees, and council members, for their steadfast commitment to exposing the evils of Communism and for continuing to highlight the heroes – past and present – who dare to oppose it."
—Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart

April 20, 2023

Dear People of the Victims of Communism Museum,

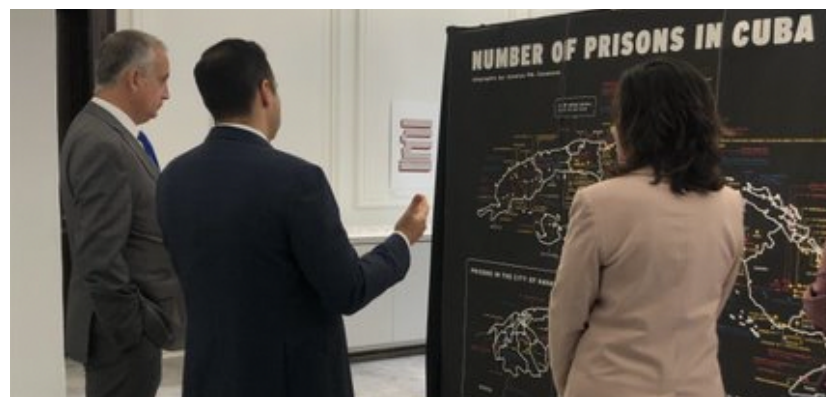
Thank you so much for the wonderful lecture, fun scavenger hunt, and powerful exhibits. We would like to wish you luck on your mission to spread the stories of those whose lives were destroyed by Communism and why Communism is never okay. Your museum was truly beautiful and the stories were so moving. Thank you for sharing with us and the world not only the evil of Communism, Marxism, Socialism, and Facism, but also the personal and individual stories of those whom it affected.

Sincerely,

The 8th Grade Class of Saint Rita Catholic School



Students from The West Perry School in Pennsylvania hear a lecture from VOC Director of Academic Programs, Bob Williams.



Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart tours the museum with VOC President, Amb. Andrew Bremberg, and VOC Chairman, Dr. Elizabeth Spalding.

House Committee Cites VOC in CCP Policy Recommendations

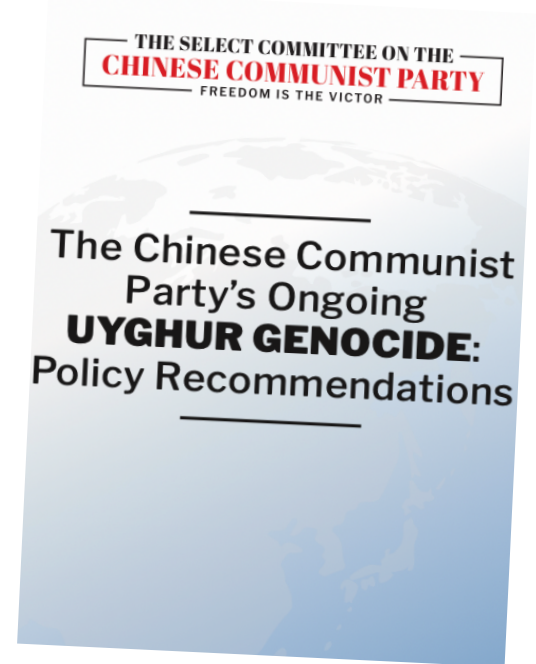
In the latest chapter of VOC's dedicated pursuit of truth, our China Studies team, led by Dr. Adrian Zenz, has been instrumental in revealing the atrocities committed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party has extensively utilized VOC research in their recent report, published in May.

In an effort to combat the ongoing Uyghur genocide, the Select Committee has offered policy recommendations to guide Washington's response against the CCP. These recommendations were adopted directly from VOC's own policy recommendations, which were issued alongside our latest report about coercive labor in the cotton harvest in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Zenz's authoritative testimony exposed how high-ranking CCP officials have been complicit in implementing genocidal policies against the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The report details how the CCP perceives the Uyghur population as a national security threat, leading to oppressive and horrifying measures to diminish their population. Since 2017, an estimated two million Uyghurs and other Turkic or Muslim individuals have been detained in internment camps.

Furthermore, Dr. Zenz's critical research highlighted the precipitous decline in the Uyghur birth rate due to the CCP's extreme measures to prevent births. It is this tireless work that shines a light on the CCP's intensified political paranoia, a revelation that significantly informs their stance on a range of matters, including U.S.-PRC relations.

Additionally, the research of VOC's China Studies team continues to drive news headlines and make waves. On May 9, Politico cited a paper submitted by Dr. Zenz to the *Journal of Communist and Post-Communist Studies* which shows conclusively that the UN's International Labour Organization's (ILO) controls are insufficient to curtail Beijing's use of forced labor. As a result of outlets such as *The Economist* and *The New York Times* reporting on our research, VOC was able to exert pressure on the UN to disinvite Chinese official Erkin Tuniyaz, and also strip China of their "developing country" designation.



VOC Fellow Debates CCP Apologist



On April 5, Dr. Adrian Zenz participated in a live debate in Cambridge, MA, organized by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Abigail Adams Institute, livestreamed to thousands of viewers on YouTube, during which he debated CCP apologist Arnaud Bertrand on whether the American/European or Chinese system produces more stability, prosperity, and freedom.

Dr. Zenz noted that, “after disastrous eras during Mao Zedong’s rule the CCP has by and large provided a system of stable governance that created the conditions for economic growth. The stability is also a primary pillar of legitimacy used by the CCP to justify its absolute rule. However, the stability comes at a major cost.”

VOC Fellow Keynotes Major Transplantation Conference

On April 19, VOC China Studies Research Fellow, Ethan Gutmann, presented to 3,600 heart and lung transplant surgeons at the 43rd International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) Annual Meeting & Scientific Session in Denver, CO regarding forced organ harvesting and procurement in China. Galvanized by VOC's bleeding edge research, ISHLT released a policy and ethics statement on the matter of transparent ethics and state-sponsored organ procurement in China.

During his keynote address, Gutmann, who is also the Co-Founder of the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China, provided evidence gathered by VOC in a 2022 report authored by VOC Fellow, Matthew Robertson, and Dr. Jacob Lavee, director of the Heart Transplantation Unit at the Sheba Medical Centre in Israel, which conclusively demonstrated that Chinese surgeons were executing political prisoners under the scalpel for the purpose of harvesting their organs. Their conclusion relied on over 120,000 Chinese-language medical publications which were published by the very same perpetrators of this crime. Gutmann's field research in Central Asia indicates that detained Uyghurs are currently being exploited as an organ source for the Chinese transplant industry at an estimated minimum of 25,000 per year.

ISHLT banned Chinese transplant publication in 2022 and in 2023, the House voted 413 to 2 to pass the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act, which imposes sanctions on people involved in forced organ trafficking and authorizes the Department of State to revoke the passports of individuals convicted of certain crimes related to organ trafficking.



VOC Fellow Ethan Gutmann presents evidence of forced organ harvesting by surgeons in China during his keynote for the ISHLT Annual Meeting.

VOC Testifies Before Congress on China's Political Prisoners

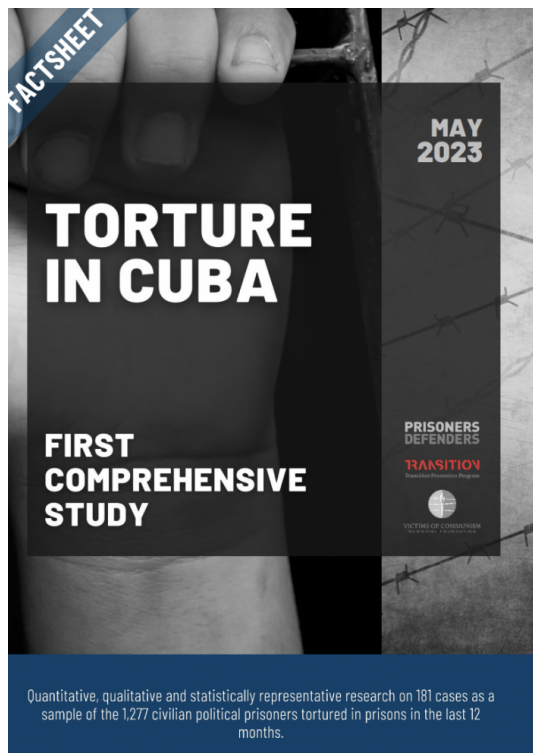


On April 20, VOC President, Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, testified before the U.S. Congress at a public hearing entitled "China's Political Prisoners: Where's Gao Zhisheng?" The hearing was hosted by the 10-member bipartisan House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

During his testimony, Amb. Bremberg highlighted Beijing's widespread persecution of political and religious prisoners in China including Uyghurs, House Christians, Falun Gong, and Tibetans, and provided recommendations for concrete actions to hold the CCP accountable, including sanctions on the perpetrators and decoupling western supply chains that indirectly finance the abuses.

In verbal remarks as well as his written testimony entered into the Congressional Record, Ambassador Bremberg delivered VOC's policy recommendations to counter Beijing's persecution of dissidents including: consistent and clear messaging in calling for the unconditional release of all political prisoners in China at the highest levels, raising these abuses across multilateral organizations and international bodies, publicly declaring that China is committing genocide and crimes against humanity, sanctions on Chinese officials, and full implementation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

VOC Exposes Cuba Regime's Torture In New Report



In a groundbreaking report, VOC partnered with Prisoners Defenders and the Czech Transition Promotion Program to expose the Cuban regime's brutal system of torture targeting democracy activists and political prisoners. The report, "Torture in Cuba," offers an in-depth investigation into the Cuban government's inhumane treatment of democracy activists and political prisoners, setting a milestone in the evaluation of human rights violations in Havana. Reports such as these are an essential part of VOC's work as they equip activists with important information and data which enables their search for justice.

Analyzing the experiences of 181 victims who suffered under the regime's hand in the past year, the findings of this comprehensive report are startling. It has unveiled 15 distinct methods of torture employed by communist officials on victims of all ages and backgrounds and an alarming 80% of the victims endured more than five different types of torture.

While Cuba is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, it continues to flout these international norms with impunity. The domestic criminal legislation in the country has yet to be amended to align with the Convention's requirements, allowing these gross human rights abuses to persist. The Cuban regime continues to weaponize this tactic in violation of basic human rights.

VOC's Latin American Studies Program continues to advocate and actively towards a Central and Southern Latin America free of communist governments. In June, we hosted several key events, including two panels on the human rights violations of political prisoners in Venezuela, a forum on human rights in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and a film screening of "Mujeres que Sueñan un País" which was censored in Cuba and features the testimonies of three Cuban dissidents who were persecuted and forced to live in exile. We also hosted a presentation of our Torture in Cuba report and launched an innovative system to map, analyze, and disaggregate information on political prisoners in Cuba in real time. It is critical to our mission to have a space where dissidents and activists may meet and organize to learn from and encourage one another.

VOC's "Torture in Cuba" report is the most comprehensive examination of Havana's human rights crimes to date, analyzing 181 victims tortured by the regime in the last 12 months utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. The findings are shocking.



We held an event—Plan País Connects: Youth Global Agenda—highlighting the voices of the young Venezuelan diaspora around the world.



Activists from Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela discuss the deterioration of civic spaces in these countries.

Tiananmen Square Massacre Candlelight Vigil

On June 2, for the 34th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, VOC hosted a candlelight vigil at the Victims of Communism Memorial Goddess of Democracy Statue in remembrance of those who were killed or injured in 1989. Chinese students erected the original statue in Tiananmen Square in 1989 during protests against the communist regime in Beijing, which brutally repressed demonstrations resulting in thousands killed or injured. Organizing remembrance events such as these are not only important to honor the fallen, but to recognize those who survived to keep the flame of liberty alive in their hearts.

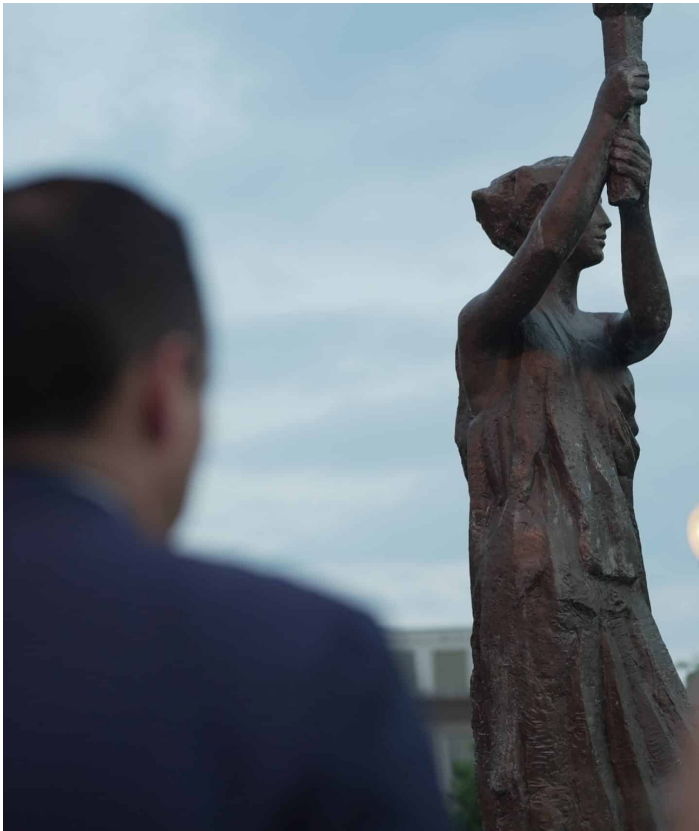
Speakers included witnesses of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, and representatives of the Uyghur, Tibetan, and Hong Kong communities who spoke about the ongoing brutal crimes of the Chinese Communist Party.



Dr. Jianli Yang, Tiananmen Square Massacre survivor and VOC Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom recipient in 2013, delivers remarks at the vigil.



This year's Tiananmen Square Massacre Vigil drew hundreds of supporters to honor the victims killed or injured in 1989.



To our supporters . . .

Thank you! Every event, every meeting, every piece of research we publish about 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. We are immensely grateful for your support.