

Friday, June 24, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Human trafficking is critical issue that Uyghurs face in the form of modern slavery and forced labor, with over a million Uyghurs in transfer programs and schemes that strip them of their rights and profit Chinese state enterprises and major global brands. Chairman of the PISF Task Force on Human Trafficking, Anne Basham, has been able to successfully bring together Parliamentarians, government leaders, policy experts, and survivors to collaborate on policies and solutions that will work to end human trafficking.

I have advocated for the Uyghur people's basic rights and fight for survival while facing genocide by the Chinese regime. One of the most egregious violations of human rights and examples of human trafficking is the state-sponsored forced labor schemes that have been run in my homeland. Over a million Uyghurs are subject to forced labor programs where they pick cotton, mine quartz, and are sent to factories to create goods that end up in countries all over the world. It is the advocacy work and efforts of Uyghurs that led to the passage of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, a major blow to China's human trafficking regime.

One of the missions of Campaign for Uyghurs is to promote the rights of Uyghur women and youth, and we have worked hard to provide a platform and a voice to Uyghur survivors who have been subject to unimaginable horrors including sexual violence and rape in the camps. We have supported bills including the Uyghur Stop Oppressive Sterilizations Act, which would provide assistance to Uyghur survivors who had faced sexual violence and rape in concentration camps.

The voice of the survivor is incredibly important to the global discussion of human trafficking, and are critical to implementing new solutions to solve it. I would like to end by expressing my appreciation to the Task Force on Human Trafficking for Parliamentary Intelligence – Security Forum for their contribution especially at the intersection of security and human trafficking. There is much work to be done to end human trafficking, particularly in regards to the Uyghur people and the crimes against humanity faced, and I look forward to advancing this mission in a forum with experts and survivors alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rushan", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rushan Abbas
Executive Director, Campaign for Uyghurs