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URAP Bi-Weekly Newsletter April 16-30, 2023

**News:** *URAP team continued its advocacy and awareness-raising campaigning in Ottawa and beyond in multifaceted areas of engagement such as the implementation and the follow-up on the M-62 Motion (the resettlement of ten thousand Uyghur and other Turkic Muslims), Uyghur Forced Slave-labour tainted supply chain (Bills S-204, S-211/243, C-262), FIRA (Foreign Influence Registration Act). The “Clean University” initiative as well as the participation in multiple public and private engagements with the diplomatic missions, policy makers and legislators in Ottawa. Continued its public outreach and media presence. Below are some but not all an important highlight:*

LaPresse quoted Kayum Masimov, URAP’s Project Manager “*Notre crainte, c’est que dans 16 ans, ça va être la même chose. Est-ce qu’on va encore devoir témoigner devant le Parlement ? Est-ce que quelqu’un va nous écouter ?*” [https://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/b3fbd24a-1e00-4fdb-9c58-7174da6baad3|\\_0.html?utm\\_content=screen&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=microsite+share](https://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/b3fbd24a-1e00-4fdb-9c58-7174da6baad3|_0.html?utm_content=screen&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=microsite+share)

The Globe and Mail cited “Mehmet Tohti, executive director of the Ottawa-based Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, who is one of the lead complainants in these cases, says the process has been hampered by “unnecessary” confidentiality rules, along with a failure so far to conduct an investigation into the issues raised” <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-corporate-watchdog-human-rights-complaints/>

Chinese-language media reported on protest in front of the Chinese Embassy held together with multifaith and multiethnic groups protesting the Uyghur Genocide <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvobrVeXPmE>

Addressing the inaction in Canada in regards to supply chain and importation of the Uyghur Forced Slave-labor tainted merchandise URAP’s Director Mehmet Tohti said. “There is also growing concern the U.S. cannot do it alone unless the neighbouring countries like Mexico and Canada take the necessary action.” - <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2023/04/21/is-canada-becoming-a-dumping-ground-for-goods-made-with-uyghur-forced-labour-heres-why-some-are-raising-the-alarm.html>

URAP’s Policy Advisor, long-time ally of the Uyghur plight in Canada Madame Margaret McCuaig-Johnston was cited by Montreal based newspaper on cooperation between Quebec Universities and Huawei <https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2023/04/25/recherches-secretes-avec-huawei>

### Organization Activities:

URAP’s Legal Counsel Sarah Teich and its Director Mehmet Tohti highlighted on several occasions the current deficiencies in tackling the importation of the Uyghur Slave Labor products by CBSA (Canadian Border Services Agency) to US-based stakeholders ([The Coalition to End the Uyghur](#)



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[Forced Slave Labor](https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/uyghur-labor-shein-04182023134725.html)). URAP is actively engaged with the US counterparts in enforcing the CUSMA agreements and raising alarm with the relevant stakeholders. On URAP's advice on the lack of action by the Canadian Customs agency Madame Anasuya Syam, the director of human rights and trade policy at the Human Trafficking Legal Center, mentioned loopholes in the bilateral trade between two states and who later was quoted by the Radio Free Asia saying "*Canada has detained one shipment which was subsequently released after a successful appeal by the importer. Mexico, on the other hand, did announce its import ban on Feb. 23 and will begin implementing it in May. So, the time is ripe for the three countries to convene the trade ministers to ensure that we are aligned.*" <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/uyghur-labor-shein-04182023134725.html>

URAP prepared [Memorandum](#) to this effect was quoted before the US senate emphasising the non-compliance of the CBSA in preventing the importation of the Uyghur Slave Force Labor. On the other hand, acting on information obtained from US partners, URAP was able to compile data on transnational border crossing of merchandise tainted by Slave force labor and use it in the ongoing CBSA lawsuit.

These statements' sentiments were echoed by the Wall Street Journal <https://www.wsj.com/articles/lawmakers-look-for-tough-implementation-of-forced-labor-law-targeting-china-9e9b3e0e> "*CECC members highlighted ways forced labor-tainted goods can enter the U.S., despite calls for [increased compliance](#) from businesses. One is by moving Xinjiang-linked goods through a third country to cloud their origin, a practice the Biden administration has said it would address.*"

In the second half of the month of April, URAP team members had several meetings with the high-level government officials like with the Minister for Foreign Affairs Madame Melanie Joly, the Minister of Immigration MP Sean Fraser, the Minister of Transportation MP Omar Alghabra. MPs who sponsored the creation of the Alliance (below), the Deputy Ministers of the Immigration and Foreign Affairs (on cooperation topics around the implementation of the M-62 Motion), Ambassador of Hungary to Canada, journalists and other NGO activists.

URAP is a proud co-founder of the Alliance of Genocide Victim Communities (AGVC) comprising of, presently, the Uyghur, Tibetan, Rwandan, Tigrayan and Tamil communities. The mission of our NGO is dedicated to preventing and ending genocide through a multifaceted approach that includes awareness raising, advocacy, justice and accountability, education, and evidence collection and documentation. We envision a world where genocide is no longer a threat, and where all people can live in peace, dignity, and freedom. For more information, please consult <https://www.agvcommunity.org/>



The inauguration of the Alliance was held in Ottawa on April 26 in the presence of the MP Zuberi (Liberal) and MP Genius (Conservatives).

The joint Press-Conference can be watch here

<https://www.cpac.ca/episode?id=5df8075b-b4b9-46f9-9dd4-c8ede19e6030>



The Alliance members together with the Uyghur Toronto community held its first campaign event on April 29 in Toronto downtown area

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please refer to <https://www.agvcommunity.org/>



URAP's Director Mehmet Tohti lectured Toronto area youth on the Uyghur Genocide. This event was co-hosted by MP Salma Zahid who thanked @Uyghuradvocacy - in her social Twitter account



Human rights abuses are regularly being perpetrated against the Uyghur people, as more than one million have been detained in camps where many are tortured and forced to abandon their language and religion. With nowhere to turn, many Uyghurs end up as refugees, waiting in limbo to find a country that will take them in.

**They urgently need our help.**

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC), in partnership with Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS), is setting up an emergency campaign to raise funds towards subsidizing three Uyghur families to settle in Canada. These three families

URAP is the proud partner with the Toronto-based “Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center” and JIAS in sponsoring the three Uyghur Refugee families to Canada. For this goal we have organized the online conference with the participation of the ex-concentration camp survivors Mr. Omerbek Ali and Mrs. Kalbinur Siddiq who told participants their experience during their detention.

**Please donate at**  
<https://www.fswc.ca/news/emergency-uyghur-refugee-relief-fund>



URAP's Executive Director Mehmet Tohti was invited by Hungarian Embassy on April 17




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URAP Director met briefly with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada Madame Melanie Joly on April 26 in Ottawa



URAP Director presented a commemorative plaque MP Judy Sgro for her role facilitating the adaptation the M-62 Motion (resettlement of the ten thousand Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim)

  
*The Ambassador of Hungary to Canada  
Her Excellency Mária Vass-Salazar*  
*requests the pleasure of the company of*  
**Mehmet Tohti**  
*on the occasion of the Memorial Day of the  
Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust*  
  
*with remarks by*  
*Ambassador Mária Vass-Salazar*  
*The Honourable Irwin Cotler, PC, OC, OQ (video)*  
*Mr. Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada*  
  
*and*  
*Performances by*  
*Soprano, Floralove Katz - Pianist, Natasha Guiller*  
*Violinist, Natalie Paravolos - Pianist, Ioulia Brechun*  
  
*on, April 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Ambassador's  
Residence*  
*This invitation is non-transferable. Please present your  
invitation upon entry.*  
  
RSVP by April 10, 2023  
Dress code: Business attire  
Email: [mmission.ott@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:mmission.ott@mfa.gov.hu)  
Address: 306 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa

**Updates on M-62** – To answer the most frequently questions in regards to the implementation of the M-62 (resettlement of the Uyghur and other Turkic Muslims) URAP team opened reference link <https://www.urap.ca/m-62> We will be further updating it and provide available information to answer inquiries from the would-be refugee candidates stranded in the third-party states. Please rest assured the URAP will not rest before the full implementation of the Parliament's decision.