

# 2020 Human Rights Impact Report

A Year of Struggle for Justice & Freedom





## Reflections & Note of Gratitude from Taha Ghayyur, Executive Director

When migrants can't qualify for refugee status because of their religion, or when a village is violently attacked due to its community's ethnicity, concerned human rights activists in Canada are one of the first to act. Justice For All Canada is by their side, providing the tools needed to transform attitudes, change policies, and amplify those voices with security and protection.



The year 2020 was defined by risks, change and perilous consequences for diverse groups from dominantly Indigenous, ethnic, and religious minority communities. In a year defined by human rights challenges testing our tolerance, I am thankful for the sincere volunteers, community partners, activists and dedicated donor communities galvanizing our far-reaching advocacy and activism work.

# South Asia-Injustice, discrimination, Genocide

We've witnessed increased authoritarian power in nations like China, which is the only government leading millions of ethnic Uighur Muslims into simultaneous detention, forced indoctrination and repression. The Chinese Community Party has been unmatched in its undermining of international human rights laws and legal standards. Elsewhere, the autocratic government in India promotes discriminatory policies by demonizing Muslim minorities and penalizing those who check their power, such as human rights activists, independent journalists, students, and judges. Despite these evident challenges to human rights, Justice For All Canada has progressed with critical steps towards meeting our 2020 ambitions. After advocating since 2012 against the Rohingya massacre committed by the Myanmar government, the International Court of Justice introduced provisional measures ordering immediate action to prevent further genocide of this ethnic population in the region. Our genocide-focused human rights work also supported both The Gambia's ICJ application against Burma, and Canada's intention to intervene in The Gambia vs. Myanmar.

## Strategic Thinking and Action

We increased our staff count to execute human-rights digital action alerts and organize public rallies, awareness lectures, and effective meetings and discussions with Canadian lawmakers. This included pioneering initiatives to plan and roll out strategic goals for communicating our human rights objectives with greater clarity, mobilizing public support, and forming activist coalitions.

In 2020, Justice For All Canada renewed its message of hope and action to existing and new supporters through a number of initiatives detailed in the following impact report. Our success over the past year is due to the unwavering commitment of our caring donors and partners. As human rights workers, we must keep advancing robust solutions and remain steadfast in our approach against injustice. Together, I feel hopeful in empowering activists and movements to influence global communities in realizing the human rights of their neighbours.

Yours Sincerely,

Taha Ghayyur Executive Director, Justice For All Canada (JFAC)

## 2020 Year in Numbers

**102** EDUCATIONAL INFOGRAPHICS PUBLISHED

18 HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION ALERTS ISSUED

80

INTERFAITH LEADERS, RELIGIOUS CENTRES, IMAMS & MOSQUES ENGAGED

LIVE VIRTUAL EVENTS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS & CO-LECTURES ORGANIZED

# 2500

ONLINE ADVOCACY & PARTICIPATORY CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

120+

HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERFAITH GROUP COLLABORATORS

6

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS SUPPORTED

# 25+

INFORMATIVE PRESS RELEASES & PUBLIC STATEMENTS ISSUED



#### HUMAN RIGHTS

Defending Religious and Ethnic minority beliefs, traditions, cultures, land and livelihood.



#### ACCOUNTABILITY

Challenging crimes against humanity and violent persecution amounting to genocide.



#### JUSTICE

Seeking and demanding justice and accountability for past and present human rights violations.



#### PROTECTION

Safeguarding the lives and advancing the rights and equality of refugees, migrants and displaced peoples.



#### OUTREACH

Amplifying the work of national and global activists on the front lines.



#### FREEDOM

Protecting vulnerable people and communities from inequality, discriminatory violence, abuse and unethical labour practices.

CAMPAIGN	TARGET	OUTCOME
Save Uighur	Uighur Muslims, Turkic Minorities in East Turkestan & refugees.	Ending Uighur genocide by the Chinese Communist Party
Free Kashmir	Kashmiris in Jammu & Kashmir, and India.	Ending the siege, reinstating land autonomy, freeing prisoners.
Burma Task Force	Rohingya Muslims in Burma & Rohingya refugees.	Safe & voluntary repatriation, restored citizenship, safeguarding refugees.
Save India from Fascism	Indian Muslims, and religious & ethnic minorities.	Halting discriminatory citizenship policies, outlawing violence against Muslim religious minorities.
Sri Lanka Task Force	Muslim, Christian and Tamil religious minorities.	Government accountability of past & current discrimination against Muslim minorities.
Solidarity Campaigns	Muslim minorities in France and Canada.	Fighting Islamophobia, promoting equality & rights for Muslim minorities

# **EVENTS**

HUMAN RIGHTS CONNECTIONS, CONVERSATIONS, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS

#### U of T Seminar–Forced Organ Harvesting & Concentration Camps

According to the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China, organs of marginalized groups detained in Chinese prison camps, including Uighur Muslims, are being forcefully harvested.

The tribunal warns that the scale of medical testing of the Uighur Muslims meant they could end up being used as an organ bank. Being one of the first Canadian organizations to highlight this issue, we participated in and promoted a University of Toronto seminar on Forced Organ Harvesting and Concentration Camps.

Alongside our team were Canadian Uighur activists and the coalition Canadians in Support of Refugees in Dire Need (CSRDN).



# **Digital Rally For Kashimr**



Our Free Kashmir campaign gave Canadians an opportunity to participate in a virtual awareness rally concerning the millions of Kashmiris living in fear and uncertainty under the mercy of the Indian military's oppression.

This event represented a global call to action to deliver justice for Kashmiri women, men and children.

This critical region of the world remains a top priority in Justice For All Canada's rights advocacy.

# **Kashmir Film Screening**

# Justice for All

# Tales of Siege

Private Screening and Discussion By Free Kashmir Action

Friday, November 6 8:00 PM EST | Saturday, November 6 6:30 AM Srinagar Time Saturday, November 6 9:00 AM Malaysia

"Tales of Siege" is a documentary about the 2016 unrest in Kashmir, by five journalism students of Kashmir University.

Registration only JusticeForall.org/Events

Watch The Documentary & Join Us For a Facilitated Discussion

Tales of Siege is a Raconteur documentary about the harmful impact arising from the 2016 unrest in Kashmir. 5 Journalism students from Kashmir produced this critical movie about the ongoing siege.

This successful documentary screening was followed by a powerful panellist discussion that engaged local students and activists.

# **Human Rights Lecture**



Public presentation on the Indigenous Muslim minorities of Kashmir and East Turkistan (Xinjiang). The event covered similarities of their persecution, cultural genocide and intensification of human rights violations. The event also helped teach advocacy skills for Kashmiri and Uighur Muslim advocacy.

# **Uighur Public Protest**



Public solidarity protest with members of the Uighur Community at Nathan Philips Square. We joined a successful public appeal that called for the fundamental freedom of religion and thought for Uighur Muslims.

### Making Connections



We joined the Canadian Council of Indian Muslims in consultation with MP Salma Zahid. Together, we addressed concerns about the introduction of discriminatory citizenship laws in India. MP Zahid had been one of the only Canadian leaders consulting with human rights experts to raise awareness of the discriminatory policies. MP Salma Zahid moved forward in sponsoring a petition that requested the Federal Government to condemn India's exclusionary laws and excessive force by the Indian police against religious minorities.



Closing off 2020, Justice For All Canada hosted our highly anticipated Toronto Benefit, #LoveUmmah, which both fundraised and delivered ongoing progress on our campaigns: BurmaTaskForce, SaveUighur, FreeKashmir, SaveIndia, including our solidarity campaign on French Muslims.

# Burma Task Force

In 2020, Justice For All Canada engaged Canadian and American human rights experts and activists in marking 3 years of Rohingya mass genocidal expulsion from their homeland. Our panellists protested neglected Rohingya citizenship, and lack of access to basic education, healthcare, employment, and more. Our virtual rally raised critical awareness on how access to journalists and humanitarian agencies is severely restricted in Burma. We also conveyed to audiences and powerholders that an internet shutdown has been in place in parts of Rakhine and Chin states since June 2019. This opportunity also highlighted that the steady increase of COVID19 exacerbated the risk of hunger and mass fatalities.





### Spotlighting China's Genocide of Uighur Muslims

#### Allegations Against the Chinese Communist Party

In 2020, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute found evidence of more than 380 "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. These detention centres are being run as high-security prisons and coercive training camps with strict discipline and punishments.

#### **Countering Human Rights Violations**

Justice For All Canada strongly criticized China for its inhumane treatment of Muslim Uighur and Turkic ethnic populations. We were one of a few human rights agencies pursuing evidence of crimes against humanity and condemning the Chinese Communist Party for using Uighurs in forced labour systems. In October 2020, Canada's Subcommittee on Human Rights released a statement warning the international community of China's mass detention, inhumane treatment, forced labour, mass surveillance and population control of Uighur Muslims.



#### Pictured—Executive Director Taha Ghayyur, Board Hassan Kazi, MP Garnett Genuis

# Seeking Official Stance Against Genocide from Canadian Government

In 2020, the world took notice of the plight of Uighurs. Over 22 genocide organizations from 5 countries, including 16 academic experts, condemned the genocide crimes against Uighurs, under the Chinese Communist regime.

We joined over 120 human rights and interfaith groups in imploring the Federal Government to uphold its legal obligation as a signatory of the Genocide Convention. Our joint letter demanded concrete action through diplomatic and humanitarian solutions. Justice For All Canada co-led this letter, alongside the Uyghur Rights Advocacy project (URAP). Together, we urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to rally international allies and oppose China's systemic targeting of Uighur Muslims.

This initiative petitioned the Canadian Government to condemn China's abusive and discriminatory policies, including its unlawful surveillance, mass detention, and human rights violations of millions of Uighurs in Xinjiang. We demanded sanctions under the Magnitsky Act, a formal acknowledgement of the ongoing genocide, an end to high-tech surveillance, and the closing of concentration camps.



Calling for Greater Coordination to Enforce Global Sanctions Against Chinese Government



#### Over 120 Canadian Human Rights & Interfaith Groups Sign a Joint Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Demanding Concrete Action on Uyghur Genocide

#### Justice For All Canada Joins 71 International Organizations Calling For Greater Coordination in Global Sanctions Against Chinese Government

Under our Save Uighur campaign, we have long called for sanctions against senior officials of the Uyghur Region Chinese Communist Party.

Holding this important discussion with Canadian MPs representing global human rights agendas in Parliament, it was clear that enforcing Magnitsky-like sanctions against those Chinese officials who designed and executed the Uighur genocide would have been an effective starting point to halt the human rights abuses against Uighurs.

Justice For All Canada co-signed a letter sponsored by advocacy organization Human Rights First. The joint effort campaigned for targeted sanctions against the Chinese Communist government's mistreatment of Uighur Muslims and Turkic ethnic minorities.

The letter was signed by 71 national and international NGOs and Uighur rights groups.

### **#BoycottMulan Campaign**

Justice For All Canada supported several petitions against the release of Disney's 2020 film, Mulan (2000). The live-action production was filmed in Xinjiang, where hundreds of thousands of Uighur Muslims were imprisoned and tortured in concentration camps.

Uighurs and Turkic minorities are still facing crimes against humanity in this region, including mass surveillance, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and forceful involvement in "re-education camps."

Our long-time advocacy and awareness-building helped mobilize Canadians to stand against Disney's disregard of the horrific treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. We utilized our communication platforms to inform Canadians that well after the US circulated numerous credible reports outlining the criminal treatment of Uighurs in Xinjiang, Disney still callously decided to film Mulan not far from internment camps.

The #BoycottMulan digital petition, launched by our Chicagobased head office, amassed over 44,000 signatures from individuals across North America. After thousands of petition signatures, several U.S. politicians called out Disney over the filming of Mulan in East Turkestan.



# Supporting Anti-Genocide **Efforts in Parliament**

We successfully achieved one of our major strategic goals to establish stronger connections with political leaders to rally the Federal Government to respond to global human rights crimes. In 2020, our team held an impactful meeting with MP Garnett Genuis (Deputy Shadow Minister for Human Rights and Religious Freedom).

We discussed our mission to raise awareness about the ongoing oppression of Uighur Muslims, and promote Canada's duty towards its international human rights obligations. Executive Director of Justice For All Canada, Taha Ghayyur, also interviewed MP Garnett on the Canada Today Show, alongside Mehmet Tohti, Executive Director of Toronto-based Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project.

The live segment introduced MP Genuis' petition aimed at achieving a formal genocide declaration from Parliament. The discussion promoted MP Genuis' campaign while encouraging Canadians to sign the petition necessary to bring about the government-level genocide declaration. Justice For All Canada continued supporting this Parliamentary Uighur petition using our wide-reaching platforms.



Garnett Genuis MP

# 9 Members of Parliament Stand for Uighur Muslims and Turkic Minorities

Justice For All Canada believes in the importance of participating in and working towards a human-rights-centric government. Communicating with Members of Parliament has helped us represent and voice the important interests of Canadian Muslims in government. These relationships with Canadian political leadership acts as an educational tool and allows our human rights interests to be heard.

2020 was a historic year for human rights in Canada. 9 Members of Parliament presented their petitions that called on the Canadian government to recognize China's atrocity crimes against Uighurs.

Our team helped promote these petitions and explain why Canadians needed to support this effort by adding their voice. While we thanked the MPs for their respective peace efforts, we also emphasized that significantly more work needed to be done to free Uighurs from repression.



# Reclaiming Canadian Journalistic Integrity

In 2020, The Globe and Mail ran a series of news stories sponsored by China Daily. We immediately alerted newsreaders of the fact that China Daily is the primary English-language propaganda outlet for the Chinese Communist Party. China Daily regularly publishes propaganda articles to portray the Chinese Regime in a positive light. Our immediate action alert on this issue alert raised public awareness by getting hundreds of Canadians to share their concerns with the Globe and Mail. We also publicly and privately informed The Globe of their disregard for the Chinese Government's complicity in deliberate human rights violations of Uighur Muslims.

Spotlighting The Globe and Mail's actions helped set an important precedent for Canadian national media to reject Chinese-Communist sponsored content that cover-up, deny or negate the ongoing genocide and crimes against Uighur communities.



#### Take Action—Stand Against The Globe & Mail Mouthpeice for Chinese Communism

The Globe and Mail newspaper published pro-China articles produced by Chinese state-owned media outlet China Daily. Called the "China Watch" section, the spread featured rosy stories about China. China Daily is an English-language media outlet owned by the publicity department of the Chinese Communist Party. The US State Department designated China Daily a "foreign mission" of the Chinese government. The Chinese regime uses its own media and foreign media to influence public opinion in their favour. "For years, these so-called media outlets have been mouthpieces of the Chinese Communist Party and these Chinese outlets are becoming more aggressive" - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

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#### **State-Sponsored Discrimination of Religious Minorities**

In 2019, the UN voiced its concern that India's new citizenship law was fundamentally discriminatory because it excluded Indian Muslims and Muslim migrants from status and refuge. Justice For All Canada launched a series of campaigns advocating for the protection of Muslims in India, who are increasingly at risk under such policies by the nationalist government. We established ongoing campaigns to stand in solidarity with India's religious minorities and challenge Canada's relationship with the Indian Government.

#### Indian Parliament Protest

India's intolerance of Muslim asylum-seekers means refugees like the Rohingya are forcefully returned to places where they face threats to their lives and wellbeing. We launched a letter-writing campaign to the Indian parliament with our US-based head office, demanding authorities to abide by the UN Refugee Convention.



In 2020, Justice For All Canada strongly protested against India's domicile law and ongoing settlementcolonization in Indianoccupied Kashmir.

Our education content, webinars and newsletters raised awareness about the Indian government's repression against Indigenous Kashmiris.

# **Stand With Amnesty India**



We demanded the Federal government to reassess its trade, defence and counterterrorism relationship with India. Our initiatives also engaged Kashmiri experts in North America to help make a case for the self-determination of communities in Kashmir.

#### Amnesty Advocacy

When Indian authorities attacked Amnesty India for documenting the government's atrocities against Kashmiris, we launched a calling campaign helping Canadians communicate their Kashmir human rights concerns with MPs across the country. This was a unique opportunity to speak with local representatives and remind them of Canada's obligation to act against systemic patterns of state harassment aimed at silencing free speech. Mobilizing communities to learn about and act against human rights violations is imperative in garnering the attention of Canadian lawmakers.

Last year marked the first time in 17 years that the plight of Kashmir was mentioned in the House of Commons. Two petitions were presented in the House of Commons, calling on the Canadian government to take action and stand against India's colonization and longstanding human rights abuses in the region of Kashmir.

MP Yasmin Ratansi sponsored and presented a successful petition in Parliament protesting gross human rights violations and state-sponsored discrimination taking place in Kashmir. Shortly after, MP Scott Duvall presented his petition that called on the Canadian government to condemn India's Domicile Law and its settlement-colonization underway in Jammu and Kashmir.



## Canada's Silence On India's Colonization of Kashmir

Justice For All Canada co-organized a webinar with the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, Just Peace Advocates, and 21 human rights organizations, concerning the plight of Kashmir and its persecuted peoples. The successful discussion engaged academics, legal and human rights experts in urging the international community to intervene following the Indian Government's issuing of two million Domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris. The critical event explored the grave implications of India's colonization of Indigenous Kashmir.

# CANADA'S SILENCE ON INDIA'S COLONIZATION OF KASHMIR

rabble ca justice

# Oct 22, 8 PM ET

AZEEZAH KANJI IMRAAN MIR MALAVIKA KASTURI SIDDIQ WAHID HALEY DUSCHINSKI





# International Solidarity Campaign-France

A group of lawyers, NGOs and religious bodies submitted formal complaints to the United Nations, accusing France of structural Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims since 1989. In 2020, the French government raided Muslim homes, threatened people with expulsion, shut down over 50 Muslim aid groups, and 2 Muslim women were attacked. In response,

Justice For All Canada launched a successful anti-hate campaign for French Muslim minorities. The initiative helped Canadians stand against Islamophobia, violence and hatred in France. The campaign approached Canada's Foreign Minister on behalf of French Muslims. Islamophobia in France holds political significance since France has the largest proportion of Muslims in the Western world.

Stand up for Canadian values of tolerance and respect.

Write to Canada's Foreign Minister and French Ambassador on behalf of Muslims living in France.

# Stand Against Violence, Islamophobia & Hate Speech in France

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Of States #JusticeForAllCanada

Click Here > <u>Action 1: Ask Foreign Minister to Condemn Muslim Raids in France</u> Click Here > <u>Action 2: Demand France Ambassador Raises Issue of Islamophobia with President</u> <u>Macron!</u>



# Advocate.







#### **REACH US TODAY**

JusticeForAllCanada.og

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### **SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGNS**

SaveUighur.ca Save

SaveIndia.ca

FreeKashmir.ca

SriLankaTaskForce.ca

BurmaTaskForce.ca

## **FOLLOW OUR GROWTH**

