

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations
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April 12, 2022

The Honorable Rashad Hussain
U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Hussain,

I am writing on behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, asking that your office join American Muslims, American Uyghur Muslims, and other Turkic minority groups in calling on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to halt its planned extradition of four Uyghurs to China, including a 13-year-old girl, where they are likely to be persecuted for their faith and ethnicity.

As part of Sunday and Monday's demonstrations, CAIR joined several advocacy groups, including Free Uyghur Now, Uyghur American Association, Campaign for Uyghurs, and Uyghur Human Rights Project to stage protests outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's embassy in Washington D.C, and consulates in New York and Los Angeles, to call on the Kingdom to halt its planned deportation of Uyghurs to China.

Among those detained are Hemdullah Abduweli, an Uyghur Muslim religious scholar, and his friend Nurmemet Rozi, both of whom visited Saudi Arabia to perform the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. In November 2020, the two men were detained by the Saudi government. Amnesty International also reported that Saudi police arrested Rozi's former wife Buhelqiqemu Abula and their 13-year-old daughter on Thursday.

Free Uyghur Now initially received information that one of the men was set to be deported to China on Monday. The group has learned, however, that this deportation did not happen as scheduled, and it could still happen at any time. If deported, they are all likely to be subjected to imprisonment, torture, and death by Chinese authorities, who are engaged in a cultural genocide of Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim ethnic groups.

In January, CAIR joined more than 70 Uyghur, interfaith, and human rights organizations to send letters to the Saudi government calling on them not to deport Abduweli and Rozi to China.

Time is now of the essence, and we respectfully request that you use the authority of your office to publicly demand the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to not deport these, or any other Uyghur Muslim or other Turkic minority, to China.

Instead, the United States government should be proactively requesting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately release all Uyghur Muslim and other Turkic minority detainees in their custody, including the four mentioned in this letter.

In addition, we ask that you coordinate with the U.S. Department of State to offer to resettle these four Uyghur Muslims in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Robert S. McCaw
CAIR Director of Government Affairs Department