

The logo for 'SAFE HAVENS' is a rectangular graphic with a pink-to-white gradient background. The words 'SAFE HAVENS' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within the graphic.

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Safe Havens - Freedom Talk #4 **Freedom Talk@Uyghur PEN**

Following three successful panel talks reflecting on different cases all around the world, **Safe Havens Freedom Talks** welcomes the speakers who will come together in a conversation around restrictive Chinese government policies on China's Uyghur ethnic minority in Uyghur Autonomous region (East Turkistan) in a panel discussion titled **Never Again**.

The event is produced in collaboration with **Uyghur PEN** and it will be live streamed on Monday, 23 November at 2.30 pm CET on

www.rorelsernasmusem.se

<https://www.facebook.com/rorelsernasmuseum/>

<https://vimeo.com/480310651>

In the panel, **Dolkun Isa** (President, World Uyghur Congress), **Jewher Ilham** (Associate, Worker's Rights Consortium), **Kaiser Al Özhun** (President of International Uyghur PEN centre) and **Nury Turkel** (Commissioner on the US Commission on International Religious Freedom) with **Sairagul Sauytbay** and **Razigul Asim** as witnesses of the Chinese genocide policies will have a conversation. The panel "**Never Again**" will be moderated by **Dr. Rune Steenberg**.

Note that you will be able to ask questions to the panel during the conversation, through our facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/rorelsernasmuseum/>

Since 2014, the Chinese government has employed sophisticated surveillance technology in the Uyghur Autonomous region (East Turkistan), primarily to monitor China's Uyghur ethnic minority. China has also created internment camps where it has detained more than million Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Hui, and members of other Muslim groups, as well as some Uyghur Christians, in specially built internment camps or converted detention facilities in Xinjiang and subjected them to forced disappearance, political indoctrination, torture, psychological and physical and psychological abuse, including forced sterilization and sexual abuse, forced labor, and prolonged detention without trial because of their religion and ethnicity. The whereabouts of hundreds of prominent Uyghur intellectuals, doctors, journalists, artists, academics, and other professionals, in addition to many other citizens, who were arrested or detained remained unknown.

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About The Talks

Our new programming series **Safe Havens - Freedom Talks** series is closely connected to the annual global Safe Havens conference which we have organized in Malmö since 2013, and in Cape Town, South Africa in 2019. The Freedom Talks series will on a monthly basis focus on issues regarding threats towards artistic freedom, free press and intangible heritage. Guests in the Freedom Talks series are highly knowledgeable and prolific actors in the global Arts Rights Justice sector – fighting for artistic freedom.

You will be able to watch live-streamed versions of the talks through our website and social media channels, and step by step we will open for an audience and on-site participants when the Covid -19 risks and restrictions are over. Keep your eyes open in our channels for updates. The talks will be in- or translated to English.

The speakers @Uyghur PEN



Dolkun Isa, Panellist

Dolkun Isa is a former student-leader of the pro-democracy demonstrations at Xinjiang University in 1988. After enduring persecution from the Chinese government, Isa fled China in 1994 and sought asylum in Europe, and became a citizen of Germany in 2006. In November 1996, he played an important role in establishing the World Uyghur Youth Congress in Germany and served as Executive Chairman and President. In April 2004, he also played an important role in the establishment of the World Uyghur Congress through the merger of the East Turkestan National Congress and the World Uyghur Youth Congress and was elected General Secretary. He has since been presenting Uyghur human rights issues to the UN Human Rights Council, European Parliament, European governments and international human rights organizations. Dolkun Isa is the current President of the World Uyghur Congress. He has worked to mobilize the Uyghur diaspora community to collectively advocate for their rights and the rights of the Uyghur population in the Uyghur Autonomous Region in China. He was recognised for his efforts in raising awareness of the human rights situation facing the Uyghur people and for calling for greater democracy and freedom in China by receiving the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's Human Rights Award on 30 March 2016. In 2017, he was elected as the Vice-President of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO), of which the World Uyghur Congress is a member. In this capacity, he works with other marginalised or unrepresented peoples to collectively strive for democracy, freedom and respect for basic human rights.

Photo retrieved from: <https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/staff/dolkun-isa/>

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Jewher Ilham, Panellist

Jewher ilham graduated with a B.A from Indiana University in May of 2019 in political science, Near Eastern languages and cultures, and Central Eurasian studies. As an advocate for her imprisoned father, she testified before the U.S. Congressional-Executive Committee on China, wrote op-eds in the New York Times, met with a number of government officials including former Secretary of State John Kerry, and received numerous awards worldwide on behalf of her father. In 2015, she recounted her experiences in her book, Jewher Ilham: A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father (University of New Orleans Press). She was invited to be the key speaker at the 2019

Ministerial to advance religious freedom hosted by Pompeo, the Secretary of State. During the week of the 2019 Ministerial to Advance religious freedom event, she was also invited to the White House to speak to the President on the Uyghur issue. Following that, she had the opportunity to speak at the UN general assembly on the atrocities the Chinese government is committing on the Uyghurs. In December 2019, Jewher accepted the Sakharov Prize on behalf of her father and urged the European Parliament to take a stand and hold the Chinese government accountable. In 2020, she was invited to be the key speaker at the Geneva summit to discuss the Uyghur plight. She is currently working at the Workers' Rights Consortium as an associate/Project to Combat Forced Labor. She is also assisting on a documentary film about Uyghurs as well as to continue to advocate on behalf of her father.



Kaiser Al Özhun, Panellist

Artist (MA), cultural anthropologist (PhD). He works as a digital designer and developer. He was born in Atush in East Turkistan (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region China). He obtained his first and second degree in fine art and art history. He earned his PhD on cultural anthropology from The University of Debrecen - Faculty of Arts and dissertation title is "Uyghur identity through pictures and textual analysis". He is one of the founding members of the PEN international Uyghur Centre. He wrote the Uyghur PEN Centre's constitutions and principles and he was the first elected president of Uyghur PEN Centre and second

time elected Uyghur PEN president in October 2020 . During his presidency Kaiser has successfully organised more than fifteen regional and international PEN conferences and congresses in Sweden, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Crimea - Ukraine, Turkey, Hungary, Mongolia and France. All conferences topics mostly focused on freedom of expression, translation and minority languages. The PEN International Ural-Altay PEN's solidarity network has been established and run by him since 2011.

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Nury Turkel, Panellist

Nury Turkel is the first U.S.-educated Uyghur-American lawyer and human rights advocate. He was born in a re-education camp at the height of China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution and spent the first several months of his life in detention with his mother. He came to the United States in 1995 as a student and was granted asylum in 1998. In May 2020, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) appointed Turkel as a Commissioner to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). In September 2020, Turkel was named one of the TIME 100 Most Influential People in the World. Turkel received an M.A. in International Relations and a J.D. from the American University in Washington, DC. Turkel currently serves

as the Chairman of the Board for the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), which he co-founded in 2003. He also served as the president of the Uyghur American Association. He serves as a legal and policy adviser to the past and present presidents of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC), an organization that serves as an umbrella organization for the Uyghur community and advocacy groups promoting universal human rights. He has testified before Congress, including most recently before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China in October 2019, speaking about Uyghur internment camps, and advocating a legislative response to China's atrocities. Many of his recommendations have been incorporated into U.S. laws and pending bills relating to Uyghurs and China in Congress, including the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-145).

Photo retrieved from:

<https://www.uscirf.gov/about-uscirf/commissioners/nury-turkel>



Sairagul Sauytbay, Panellist

Sauytbay is an ethnic Kazakh from East Turkistan. She is a victim of Chinese genocide policy against native people of East Turkistan and a living witness of fascist concentration camp. Chinese government is carrying out genocide and detained millions native people of East Turkistan to concentration camps and prisons. She believes that to confront Chinese Communist Party is a duty of all world nations. She is determined to fight together with the native people of East Turkistan for freedom and independence.

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Razigul Asim, Panellist

Asim, Uyghur, was born in 1976, in the occupied East Turkestan district of Charkil. From 1993 to 1996, she studied at the Geography Department of the Xinjiang University. From 1997 to 2002, she worked at the Charley County Tourism Bureau. From 2002 to 2004, she studied English in Beijing, and from 2004 to 2010, she worked for foreign companies in Beijing. From 2010, settled in Albania, and lived there until 2020. On a visit to her hometown in February 2017, she witnessed the Chinese Communist Party's crackdown on Uyghurs and family members, including the fact that her relatives were imprisoned because of her. Now she is a refugee in Sweden.



Dr. Rune Steenberg, Moderator

Dr. Steenberg Rune is an anthropologist who focuses on Xinjiang and Uyghurs. Extended fieldwork in Xinjiang, Kyrgyzstan and earlier in mainland China and Indonesia. Fluent in Uyghur and Chinese, functional communication in Kyrgyz. His research fields include kinship, border trade, marriage, economic transformation, customs, informality, re-education camps, state violence, formalization, commodification, propaganda, narrative strategies.

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<https://sinofon.cz/our-team/#Rune-Steenberg>