Human Rights

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China’s vision of a world without human rights is on display in Tibet.

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China has said the Chinese government wants to reshape global norms on human rights. To stop that from happening, we need to take a stand for the rights of Tibetans.

Although human rights are limited across China, Tibetans are singled out for greater abuse because of their distinct identity. And while China has long been known for its rights violations, conditions in Tibet are getting dramatically worse. Freedom House lists Tibet as the least-free country on Earth, tied with Syria and worse than even North Korea.

Under Chinese rule, Tibetans are persecuted simply for preserving their cultural identity and most basic rights. They can be jailed and tortured just for celebrating the Dalai Lama’s birthday. And they face immense restrictions on their abilities to practice their religion, travel and speak freely.

Chen Quanguo, party secretary in Xinjiang (East Turkestan), who caused international outrage over his mass internment camps of Uyghurs and Kazakhs, previously held the same position in the Tibet Autonomous Region. During his tenure, he implemented policies aimed at controlling the Tibetan people, some of which are being replicated in Xinjiang today.

China cracks down on Tibetans’ human rights through an intense system of control, including a high-tech surveillance state.

Chinese state media have said that China is presenting “a new way for world human rights development.” That warped vision is already playing out in Tibet.