

Kashgar: The Disappearing City

Exploring Ways to Save a Silk Road Oasis from Extinction

9.00 - 12.30

Thursday, 27 January 2011

Room PHS 5B001, Paul-Henri Spaak Building, European Parliament
60 Rue Wiertz, Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 24 January 2011 – “What was not achieved by Genghis Khan is being done in the so-called name of progress.” This is the view of **Rebiya Kadeer**, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and President of the World Uyghur Congress, on the steady and unrelenting destruction of the historic Silk Road city of Kashgar.

Without meaningful public consultation and omitted from applications to UNESCO’s World Heritage listing, Kashgar’s unique urban fabric is being lost day by day, month by month as a result of Communist Party politics. Cities have embraced the twenty-first century without losing their identity – but Kashgar is losing its identity as Beijing’s central policy seeks to transform the city into a touristic theme park.

But the importance of Kashgar, and the options remaining that could still save it, will be discussed in the conference, ‘**The City of Kashgar: An Oasis of the Silk Road on the Brink of Extinction**’ that will be held in **Room PHS 5B001** of the **European Parliament** on **27 January 2011** at **9.00am**. **Frieda Brepoels MEP**, convener of the conference, believes that “Europe has models of culturally sensitive urban regeneration – such as Bruges. There is a duty to find constructive and sensitive solutions that can guarantee the preservation of China’s, and the world’s, rich cultural diversity – Kashgar being one of the most important.”

Marino Busdachin, General Secretary of the UNPO, places Kashgar in a regional context in which “any culture which is not state-sanctioned is endangered - Lhasa has been destroyed, Beijing’s Gulou district will become, without irony, the Beijing Time Cultural City – cultural genocide is real and it is happening now.” **Abdymutalip Imerov**, President of the Belgian Uyghur Association, stressed that Kashgar represented a “jewel of Uyghur culture, not only for the Uyghurs of China but for all the Uyghurs of the world.”

For more information on the event please refer to
<http://www.unpo.org/article/12104>

A press conference will be held following the conference in the
Anna Politkovskaya Room of the European Parliament at 12.30pm, 27 January 2011
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Organised by the Office of Frieda Brepoels MEP
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Belgian Uyghur Association