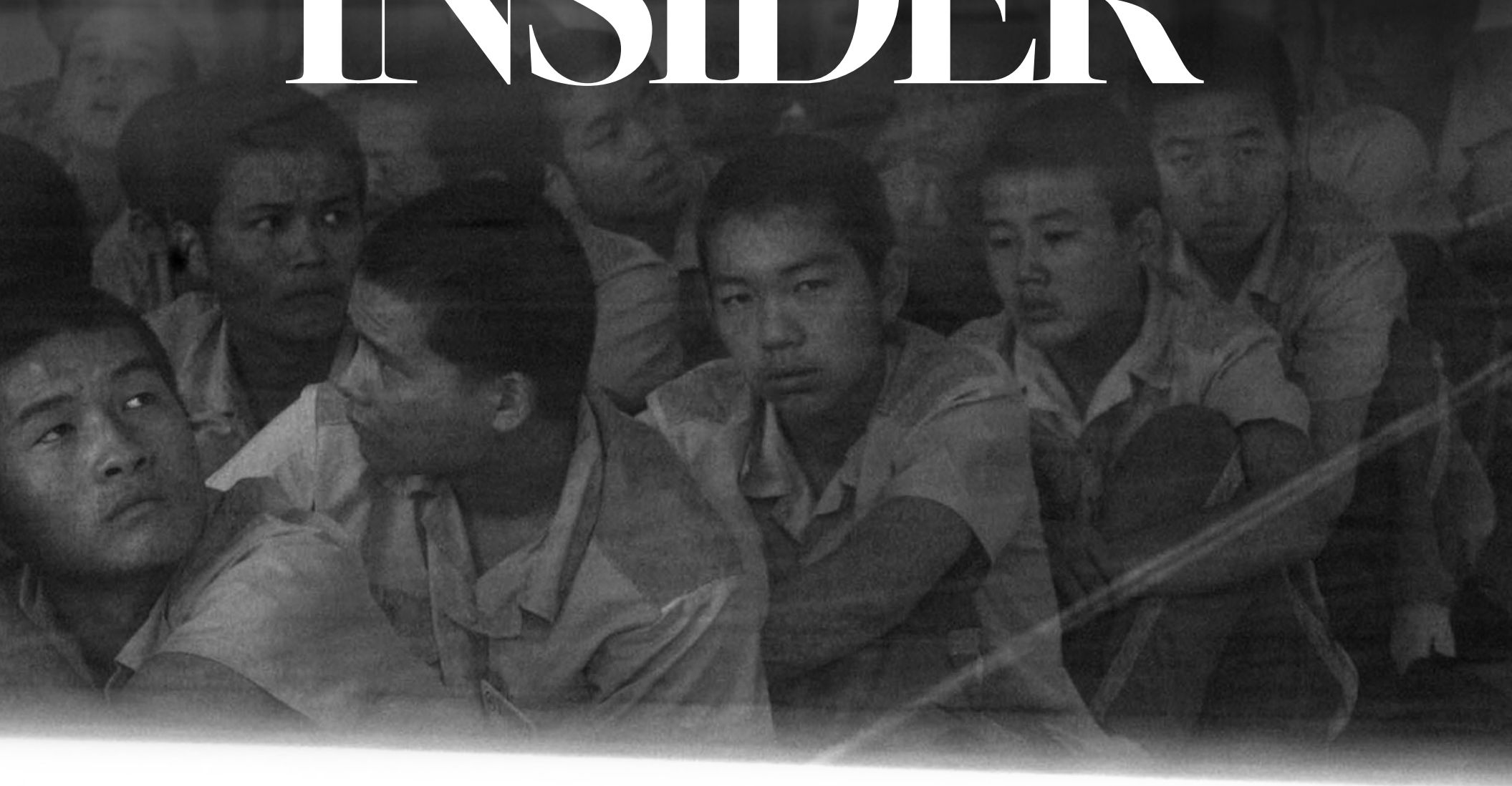


WEEK 24, 2019

THE EPOCH TIMES  
**CHINA  
INSIDER**

CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES



**HORRORS**  
**FROM CHINESE**  
**LABOR CAMP**  
**EXPOSED**

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

# SECRETLY RECORDED FOOTAGE SHOWS SLAVE LABOR, EFFECTS OF TORTURE IN CHINESE LABOR CAMP

JENNIFER ZENG

In undercover footage shot inside China's notorious Masanjia labor camp, prisoners are shown hunched over work tables, with piles of wire diodes—an electronic component—on either side of a rubber mat.

Working silently, intently, and urgently, they take diodes from the pile on the left, rub them on the mat, straightening them, and then place them in the pile on the right.

They do this work 15 hours a day, while being fed subsistence meals and receiving a pittance or no pay at all. One video shows a bowl of watery soup with just a few leaves of cabbage in it, daily fare that the inmates dub “cabbage swimming,” because of the abundance of liquid.

Some inmates, exhausted, are shown lying down to sleep under their work tables.

Those who protest their mistreatment are badly beaten. One video shows an inmate, injured from such a beating, shackled to his bed.

These shocking images were smuggled out of the labor camp around the time of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, in an almost successful escape attempt engineered by a successful entrepreneur named Yu Ming. For his part in planning the escape, Yu was almost tortured to death, but the videos were not captured.

The videos document a widespread abuse in today's China: the use of slave labor to make diodes, which appear in products sold around the world. Using slaves to make the small components is a brutal, and highly profitable, business.

## Persecution

Yu, like many of those pictured in the videos, had been imprisoned for practicing the spiritual discipline Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa.

Falun Gong involves doing meditative exercises and living according to the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. In 1999, then-dictator Jiang Zemin, having learned more people were practicing Falun Gong than were members of the Communist Party, ordered a campaign to eradicate it.

At any one time, between hundreds of thousands and 1 million Falun Gong practitioners are estimated to be detained in China.

## Goodwork

Yu said it is common knowledge among those imprisoned in Masanjia that they are making diodes for the Taiwan-based firm Goodwork.

Staff from Goodwork often went to the labor camp to teach the inmates how to make diodes, how to deal with waste products, and so on. They also went there frequently to deliver raw materials and take away finished products.

Yu brought out of the camp images of forms titled “GW Production Process Card.” One of the forms has a stamp that says “Brigade 1, Masanjia,” with “Detachment 1” handwritten on it, indicating that the production was done by Detachment 1 of Brigade 1 of Masanjia labor camp.

The Goodwork subsidiary Shenyang Goodwork Electronics Co. Ltd. is a 40-minute drive from Masanjia.

Accusations of slave labor in Masanjia on behalf of Shenyang Goodwork have appeared since 2007 on the Falun Gong website Minghui.org.

Minghui.org was set up about one month before the persecution of Falun Gong started in 1999. Since then, it has been the main platform for mainland Chinese Falun Gong practitioners to submit first-hand accounts and information about the persecution in China (while risking their lives to do so).

One post uploaded to Minghui.org on Jan. 24, 2008, reported that “Shenyang Goodwork Electronics Colludes With Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Labor Camps and Prisoners to Enslave Inmates.”

The post stated that Shenyang Goodwork Electronics sent diodes to the No. 1 Camp of Masanjia labor camp and the No. 2 Shenyang prison to be straightened and processed.

Another post uploaded on Jan. 11, 2008, reported that “Shenyang Goodwork Electronics violates international trade law and Unfair Competition Law by sending large amounts of GW diodes to No. 1 Camp of Masanjia Labor Camp and

No. 2 Shenyang Prison to be processed.” A third post, dated Dec. 29, 2007, is titled “Exposing Shenyang Goodwork Electronics.”

The article stated: “This company sent a large amount of diodes to Masanjia Female Labor Camp in Liaoning Province and Dabeil Prison to be processed and produced. After being assembled, these products were sold to international markets. This violates international trade law, as well as the [Chinese regime's] Re-education Through Labor Law. We call for the international community to pay attention to this.”

“

Our products are mainly sold to ... Europe, Japan, the United States, Korea, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Chinese-language Goodworks website

## Sold in the United States

Goodwork Semiconductor Co. Ltd. in Taiwan lists Shenyang Goodwork as its “factory” under its “Company Profile” section, with a “total capital” of US\$7 million and a “Production Capacity” of 320 million per month.

On the website of SP International, a “global distributor of electronic components,” there is a page for Goodwork Semiconductor Co. Ltd., which describes the company in this way:

“Goodwork Semiconductor Co., Ltd. (GW), founded in July 1989, is specialized in the manufacturing and exporting of rectifier diodes. With a plant area of 324,600 square feet in Shenyang, China, Goodwork monthly produces 360 million units of rectifier diodes, which makes Goodwork one of the leading manufacturers in rectifier diodes.”

A Chinese-language Goodwork website states: “Our products are mainly sold to countries and regions including Europe, Japan, the United States, Korea, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, etc. We are the diode supplier for international companies including Panasonic, Matsushita, Sanyo, Hitachi, Kaga, Diamond, Nidec, Pantene, Compel, Dongyang, MicroStar, Jean, ThreeSona, Linear, Nokia, etc.”

A customer service staff member of SP International confirmed that products of Goodwork Semiconductor had been shipped to the United States for many years, and could be shipped to anywhere in the United States upon customers' requests. “Taiwan Goodwork couldn't be reached for comment.”

## Widespread Slave Labor Production of Diodes

A search for “diode” in the Chinese



Undercover footage from the Masanjia labor camp in China shows inmates making diodes during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



Undercover footage from the Masanjia labor camp shows a Falun Gong practitioner cuffed to a bed after being tortured for protesting the persecution of Falun Gong. Shot during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



Undercover footage from the Masanjia labor camp in China shows inmates making diodes during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Some of them were so exhausted that they would lie down under the table to take a break.



Yu Ming, holding up his handcuffed hands, arrives at court in Shenyang City on Nov. 20, 2014.



Undercover footage from the Masanjia labor camp showing a Falun Gong practitioner lying on a bed after being tortured for protesting the persecution. Shot during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



Undercover footage from the Masanjia forced labor camp shows a Falun Gong practitioner after being beaten for protesting the persecution of Falun Gong.

language on Minghui.org produced 84 articles.

According to reports posted on Minghui.org, inmates from at least 13 labor camps, detention centers, and prisons were forced to make diodes.

The earliest report was dated Sept. 1, 2001, and said that 13 Falun Gong practitioners were detained by the “Strict Control Squad.” They were forced to work straightening diodes from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

The latest report, dated May 11, 2016, stated that Falun Gong practitioners held at Weining Forced Labor Camp in Benxi City, Liaoning Province, were forced to do jobs that were harmful to their health, including making artificial flowers and straightening diodes.

## Brutal

In an article published on Oct. 22, 2014, Guo Jufeng, an electrical engineer who currently lives in Germany, recalled what happened to him in China:

“I was arrested four times and sent to three labor camps in China. Altogether, I was incarcerated for 454 days. I was subjected to more than 20 forms of torture. ... I was forced to process diodes. ... Every day, we worked for more than 16 hours.”

In another article published on Sept. 18, 2015, Guo recalled: “One movement we needed to repeat over 10,000 times was grabbing a handful of diodes from the box with our left hand and throwing them on top of the piece of rubber on the table. Then we used our right hand to rub the curved diodes, until they were straightened out. Then we put them into the box on our right side. ... We were given meals on time and six hours' sleep, only for the purpose that we could continue to work. All other times we were working, without being paid a penny.”

“If we couldn't do our job on time, or refused to work, we would gain another thing, which was the abuses of the head prisoner and torture by the police, which was hysterical.”

A report published on May 3, 2014, has the headline “The Competition of

Straightening Diodes at Changzhou Detention Center in Jiangsu Province.”

The report stated: “Prisoners usually start their day at 6:10 a.m. and work until 9 or 11 p.m. They are only given five minutes to eat breakfast and lunch. They are not given time to use the bathroom or drink water.”

“The Changzhou Detention Center has a year-round contract with [an electronic company] to process a variety of diodes. If the quality of diodes is poor and they get returned, the guards punish the prisoners who made them. They are forced to sit on a board from 7 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. for anywhere from a week to a month. After sitting for such a long time, they can't walk normally. They are not allowed to take a shower and are tortured to the verge of death.”

“Every inmate is required to polish 10 kilograms [22 pounds] of diodes a day, even though this causes her fingers to bleed, her joints to swell, her nails to fall off, and her skin to peel.”

“The detention center holds a diode polishing ‘competition’ every day. The two inmates who make the least diodes

that day have to work two additional shifts. They have to stand up as they work and can only sleep three to four hours. Every inmate works desperately to avoid being one of the slowest two. The fact is, no matter how hard everyone works, there are always two that are the slowest.”

## Retail Price Versus Labor ‘Cost’

According to a report posted on Minghui.org, many labor camps and prisons don't pay anything to the inmates at all, while inmates from Masanjia were paid 10 RMB yuan (\$1.45) per month, which equates to about \$0.048 per day.

For Goodwork diodes with the part number “SR560,” SP International's quote is US\$123.64/K pcs, or \$0.12364 per piece.

If every day, one inmate was forced to process 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of diodes, and every 1,200 pieces weigh about 1.3 pounds, and these diodes were sold at \$0.12364 per piece, the diodes made by one inmate every day could be sold for \$2,510 on the international market, according to SP International's quotation.

“The first one would be to consider using Global Magnitsky authorities,” Enos said.

“The second mechanism that they have is not only the investigative authorities that the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and U. S. Commerce have in conjunction with the Treasury to investigate whether or not goods produced with forced labor are making their way into the U.S. market, but they actually have the ability to stop those imports out and through an authority called ‘Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.’”

Enos said this act is very important, as it has the ability to shut down imports from the companies and even those countries, as a whole, where forced labor is used.

She said the United States can also use diplomatic channels to discourage other countries from cooperating with countries that use forced labor.



Businessman Yu Ming in Washington on March 7, 2019. He successfully smuggled the undercover footage of the Masanjia labor camp out of China.

SAMIRA BODJADU/THE EPOCH TIMES

Guo Jufeng reunites with his family in Germany on June 20, 2009.

Accusations of slave labor in Masanjia on behalf of Shenyang Goodworks have appeared since 2007.



The Masanjia labor camp near Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China, in this file photo.

## OPINION

# US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

## ENTERING A DANGER ZONE

The outpost battle of a finance war is being fought

HE QINGLIAN

When people believed the 14-month-long U.S.-China trade negotiations were finally drawing to a satisfactory close, Beijing made a surprising move to back-track on all major agreements, to the great annoyance of Washington.

In addition to the ensuing tariff increase, the overall U.S.-China bilateral relationship is also heading toward a danger zone.

According to Forbes, some measures that Washington will potentially pursue to combat China include a May 23 Department of Commerce proposal to impose tariffs on countries that depreciate their currencies, to pressure MSCI to exclude China A-shares from its emerging markets index, and to pressure Bloomberg Barclays to exclude Chinese onshore bonds from its Global Bond Aggregate Index. These possibilities signal that the U.S.-China relationship is worsening.

### China Rescued by US 'Saviors' in 2018

To truly understand the dynamics between one country's currency depreciation and another country's tariff increase, advanced statistical models need to be established to analyze corresponding data, which requires expertise and a lot of time investment. This article focuses on the second measure mentioned.

Shortly after the start of the U.S.-China trade war, MSCI and FTSE Russell included China's A-Shares in their stock indices in June 2018. This was followed by the Bloomberg Barclays announcement to include China's bonds and policy bank securities in its widely tracked fixed income Global Aggregate Index. These decisions led to an influx of foreign funds into China, which relieved its capital markets from a crisis.

On April 1, Bloomberg Barclays made its announcement as planned. The included bonds are China's government and policy bank securities. That was a great news for China's capital markets, and one source of confidence that emboldened Chinese leader Xi Jinping to renege on trade negotiation agreements. Bloomberg's endorsement has made the yuan currency the fourth-largest currency component following the dollar, euro, and yen.

Recognition from the three index providers served as an accreditation of China's A-Shares and bonds, which are generally distrusted by Chinese domestic investors. It is estimated that Bloomberg's announcement alone will attract billions of dollars into China's \$13 trillion bond market.

### 'Hand of God' in Global Capital Markets

Regarding the power wielded by financial rating agencies (index makers included), consulting firm McKinsey remarked in its 1996 book, "Market Unbound: Unleashing Global Capitalism," that the

global capital markets hold strong power over sovereign countries, while sovereign countries' control over the capital markets are weakening. And those who have the rights to affect pricing in the capital markets will control the flow of capital, and thus control the currency and financial policies of sovereign countries, as well as their fates.

That's why rating changes from these international credit rating firms can sway Beijing's mood. A higher rating gives the regime a new sword, while a lower rating puts Beijing on pins and needles. For example, when the three top companies—S&P Global, Moody's Investors Service, and Fitch Ratings—lowered China's credit ratings in 2017, Beijing had to tolerate it, as it could not afford offending multiple top agencies. On May 7, Morgan Stanley downgraded its equity rating of China's four largest banks to "equal weight" from "overweight." Two of the four banks saw immediate stock price drops after the announcement, which received a lot of criticism from Beijing.

S&P and Moody's, the two largest rating firms, control the world's credit ratings while MSCI and Bloomberg hold the key to the financial markets. Backed by these powerful organizations, the Chinese capital markets are performing well. In 2018, the net influx of foreign capital reached about \$100 billion, accounting for 80 percent of all inflows entering emerging markets. In the first quarter of 2019, more than \$18.6 billion entered Chinese stock markets via the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong flow, about triple that of 2018.

### How Powerful Is Trump's Punch?

China has played its "market-for-technology" game for almost three decades with major tactics being 'begging, borrowing, and stealing.' Clinton needed the Chinese market to push forward globalization; President George W. Bush needed China's collaboration in anti-terrorism campaigns post-9/11; President Barack Obama gave China plenty of opportunities to steal intellectual properties. Now, it's finally time to settle it all. But the turn is so sharp that all the free-riders (including the European countries) are complaining about Trump.

If Trump can truly pressure MSCI and Bloomberg to kick Chinese securities out of their global indices, it will deal a heavy blow for China. Weakening the enemy's ability to attract capital is the outpost battle prior to a full-fledged financial war. On the other hand, the rare earth strategy that Chinese propaganda mouthpiece has been boasting is most likely simply bluffing. The U.S. Department of Defense admitted that rare earth is a necessity of the country's many weapon systems, including the manufacturing of laser, radar, sonar, night vision, missile, jet engine, and alloys for armored fighting vehicles. However, America's reliance on China's rare earth has become very low.



MARIO TAMM/GETTY IMAGES

China has played its 'market-for-technology' game for almost three decades with major tactics being 'begging, borrowing, and stealing.'

Trucks prepare to haul shipping containers at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, Calif., on Sept. 18, 2018.

President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping leave a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov. 9, 2017.



NICOLAS ASSOURI/AF/GETTY IMAGES

"Chinese customs data show that the United States bought only 3.8 percent of China's exports of rare-earth metals last year," a New York Times article stated. In addition, China has become the largest rare earth ores importer since 2018, with the United States as one of its largest suppliers.

But Trump's efforts may be met with resistance. While the president is the country's commander in chief, he can only gently pressure the U.S. credit rating companies, and can't force them to make any "professional" conclusions unless China has officially announced an enemy.

Currently, both the United States and China are still just threatening to escalate a "war."

The outside world can only guess at what Zhongnanhai is really thinking, comparable to the art of "Kremlinology" of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Xi's visit to a rare earth mine was interpreted as his signal to retaliate with "rare earths" ban. Xi's calls for "girdling up for a new Long March" after laying a floral basket at a monument for the Red Army's Long March was thought to be a statement of determination to hold his ground in the trade war. In China, the political system ensures that all commercial enterprises obey the Chinese Communist Party, and that no individual company would dare to help the enemy during a trade war headed by the party leader himself.

But in my opinion, Xi believes he has enough information to confidently continue his "dawdling strategy" (I will elaborate in a subsequent article) in hopes that Trump will lose the next election and that the U.S.-China relationship will go back to what it was in when the Democrats held the White House.

Trump, seeing such strategy clearly, can now only say that he isn't in a hurry to close the deal. Until there is additional clarity on the 2020 U.S. elections the negotiations, if they continue at all, would result in nothing.

Until then, both parties will slowly but surely inch toward the danger zone.

He Qinglian is a prominent Chinese author and economist. Currently based in the United States, she regularly writes on contemporary Chinese social and economic issues.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

## OPINION

# CHINA MOVING TO TARGET US COMPANIES

Tactic could be used to leverage business leaders to pressure US government

FAN YU

Ford Motor Co.'s joint venture in China was fined by Beijing for antitrust violations, in what appears to be heightened scrutiny into and retaliation against U.S. companies by Chinese authorities.

The fine levied against the Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker is the latest in a string of punitive actions toward U.S. companies in an increasingly tense trade standoff between the United States and China.

Beijing's motives could be twofold: One is to retaliate against the Trump

administration's sanctions on Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, while the other goal is to put pressure on U.S. companies operating in China to appeal to the Trump administration for reducing or dropping ongoing tariffs against Chinese imports.

### Fines and Investigations

Chang'an Ford Automobile Co. was fined 162.8 million yuan, or approximately \$23 million, by authorities for allegedly restricting retail sale prices since 2013. The fine was disclosed by the State Administration for Market Regulation's website.



A staff member watches over a truck as he talks on his interphone at a port in Qingdao City, Shandong Province, China, on Nov. 8, 2018.

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Sales at Chang'an, a joint venture between Ford and Chongqing Chang'an Automobile, have slipped since late 2017 as the Chinese auto market is in the midst of a slowdown.

While the penalty was small, it does signal a new way that Beijing may be retaliating against the United States amid the trade war.

The decision to fine Ford came days after Beijing authorities said they would investigate U.S. logistics giant FedEx Corp. for "wrongful delivery of packages," according to Chinese state media. FedEx had come under fire after Huawei alleged that the courier had diverted several packages destined for the company's Asia offices.

Two FedEx packages addressed to Huawei offices were diverted to the United States, according to a Reuters report. FedEx had since said they were "misrouted in error."

Chinese Communist Party officials in early June signaled that Beijing would draw up a list of "unreliable entities," to include firms that it concludes are untrustworthy and may harm its interests. With regard to FedEx, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said it's a warning against U.S. companies, while state

media Xinhua specifically used two very telling hashtags of #ChinaUSTrade and #RetaliateAgainstUSTradeBullying in its related reports on social media platform Weibo.

### Three Likely Strategies by Beijing

In addition to the Ford fine, few tangible, material punishments have been doled out to U.S. companies as of June 7.

But Beijing's saber-rattling has nonetheless shaken investors and, undoubtedly, many U.S. companies with major operations in China are bracing for the possibility of retaliatory action.

There are three parallel paths Beijing could go down. One path is direct and involves putting U.S. firms on an "unreliable" list, which would severely restrict their operations in China and dealings with Chinese firms. In practice, this could be similar to the restrictions the United States placed on Huawei in May, but likely wouldn't include many companies.

The second path is more akin to the actions that led to Ford's fine. China may increase scrutiny against U.S. companies operating in China and levy punitive actions. More investigations could be forthcoming, over antitrust behavior, consumer safety, technical violations,

and even political issues. The third involves indirect retaliatory measures that could affect many U.S. companies. Beijing wouldn't state specific punishments but would take more subtle measures to negatively impact the operations of U.S. companies. This could include actions such as limiting the travel of Chinese tourists, further restricting the outflows specifically to U.S. dollars, more biased rulings against U.S. companies in legal cases, and galvanizing nationalistic fervor to encourage consumer boycotts of U.S. brands. As an example, Nike Inc.—whose sportswear is extremely popular in China—could lose sponsorships and market share to local brands such as Anta Sports or Li-Ning in China.

Beijing will use these tactics not only to retaliate against the U.S. government, but also—because revenues, earnings, and commercial interests are on the line—as a means to pressure investors and management of U.S. companies into appealing to the Trump administration on its behalf.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

## AFRICA

# CAMEROON TOWN'S RESIDENTS SAY CHINESE-RUN QUARRY DAMAGING THEIR HOMES

Reports of adverse social, environmental effects related to Chinese operations follow a trend, experts say

AMINDEH BLAISE ATABONG

**Y**AOUNDE, Cameroon—Residents of a town in Cameroon are complaining about damage to their homes caused by a nearby quarry that was created by a state-owned Chinese company. Chinese-owned Sinohydro, which has been commissioned to build part of a 235-mile road in central Cameroon, is using a quarry located close to the town of Yoko to mine ballast stones for paving the road. Residents say that vibrations from the quarry are damaging their homes and practically driving them out.

"My house was never like this—full of cracks—until the Chinese came," Yoko resident Ondobo Jean-Benoit, a retired civil servant, told The Epoch Times. "I no longer feel safe in this house as it can collapse on my family and me at any time, but I have nowhere else to go."

Like Jean-Benoit's house, many other homes and buildings around the quarry are visibly riddled with cracks. Even the newly constructed Yoko Town Council building hasn't been spared.

During a visit to the area in March, Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi, the minister of public works, instructed the company as well as town authorities to prevent any further degradation to people's homes. Officials at Sinohydro didn't respond to requests for comment about the situation.

The issue raised in Yoko is one of the many examples of reported adverse environmental and social effects by Chinese companies operating in Cameroon and other parts of Africa.

Residents in a Southwest Kenyan town have raised similar concerns about a Chinese-run quarry near their town, as reported previously by The Epoch Times. Several residents of Mai Mahiu, Kenya, say they were forced from their homes because of the noise and vibrations from the quarry.

## Environmental Impacts

As in many African countries, China has been active over the past decade in building infrastructure projects in Cameroon. The projects are often financed by Chinese banks, and most of the work is performed by Chinese companies rather than local firms.

Many of these infrastructure projects are built in fragile ecological zones, raising fears of environmental degradation as the companies often are reported to ignore regulations.

Citing examples of environmental damage by Chinese companies, researcher Dr. Samuel Mvondo said in a report released in April that, "Chinese investments in Cameroon do not appear socially responsible at this stage."

"Indeed, sampled investments are causing negative damage to forest ecosystems and wildlife resources," the report adds.

## Concerns

Another issue often cited about Chinese companies' work is the lack of quality, as in many cases, the assets begin to deteriorate soon after construction is completed.

The companies are "out to make maximum profit and the [local] controllers allow them [Chinese] to make more profit and execute their contracts poorly," Tchackack Stephan, a civil engineering and public works specialist, says.

There are also concerns that Chinese staffers of these companies also have been found to violate laws related to endangered wildlife. Examples of violations include illegal collection of fully or partially protected species in areas adjacent to investment sites, including protected areas.

Between 2006 and 2017, authorities made a total of 17 seizures related to violating endangered wildlife laws, in which Chinese nationals were involved, according to statistics from the Last Great Ape Organization and Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. Examples of trafficked items include ivory, pangolin



A road under construction with ballast stone from a quarry created by a Chinese state-owned company. Residents of Yoko, a town near the quarry, say their homes are being damaged by vibrations from the quarry.

AMINDEH BLAISE ATABONG FOR THE EPOCH TIMES



Officials of the Ministry of Public Works inspect a section of a road built by Chinese state-owned company Sinohydro.

In 2017 the **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT** sanctioned some **390 COMPANIES** for environmental pollution.

“I no longer feel safe in this house as it can collapse on my family and me at any time, but I have nowhere else to go.

*Ondobo Jean-Benoit, resident of Yoko, Cameroon*

scals, panther skins, and live or dead primates.

Marc Anselme Kanga, an environmentalist, says the issue of Chinese companies causing environmental damage in Cameroon is serious. "Chinese companies don't normally restore the natural environment as required by law," he said.

In 2017, the Ministry of Environment sanctioned some 390 companies for environmental pollution, including more than 50 Chinese companies. The Epoch Times reached out to many of these companies for comment, but none had responded by press time.

Nguendia François Aurélien, a Yaounde-based historian, says allowing these types of Chinese investments and operations to continue in Cameroon is shortsighted, as many of these projects could cause "long-term handicaps."

"Chinese companies expose Cameroon to great environmental impact in their quest for arable land—especially due to deforestation caused by these companies," Aurélien said.



Attorney and human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng speaks at a rally to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, on the West Lawn of the Capitol on June 4, 2019.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### RIGHTS ADVOCATES URGE US TO BAR ENTRY TO CHINESE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

CATHY HE

A U.S. lawmaker and rights advocates are calling on the government to bar Chinese officials involved in human rights abuses from entering the United States, to send a message to the regime that such practices are unacceptable.

The U.S. State Department is increasing scrutiny of visa applications and may deny visas to human rights violators, including perpetrators involved in religious persecution, according to a May 31 statement by Minghui.org, which serves as a clearinghouse on information about the persecution of the spiritual practice Falun Gong in China.

Earlier this year, a State Department official, at a meeting with various religious and faith organizations, told U.S. Falun Gong practitioners that they could submit a list of Chinese officials known to be involved in the persecution, the statement said.

"I would applaud any effort by the State Department to scrutinize the entry into the United States of ... human rights violators in China," U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) told The Epoch Times in an interview on June 4.

"It should be one of many actions that we can positively take to send the message that if you, in fact, violate the rights of Chinese citizens then you cannot come to the greatest democracy in the world, and hopefully to get others in the world to join us in the same type of actions."

I would applaud any effort by the State Department to scrutinize the entry into the United States of... human rights violators in China.

*Sen. Bob Menendez*

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice banned by the Chinese communist regime. For almost two decades, adherents have been the targets of a brutal persecution, with hundreds of thousands of practitioners thrown into prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers—where many have been tortured in an effort to coerce them into renouncing their faith.

A spokesperson with the State Department, in an email to The Epoch Times, didn't respond to questions seeking confirmation of the measures, but wrote: "The United States seeks to ensure that individuals who have violated human rights do not secure safe haven in the United States."

"There are a number of potential ineligibility grounds applicable to U.S. visa applicants who have engaged in human rights violations or corruption, including ineligibilities for foreign government officials who have engaged in severe violations of religious freedom."

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 212(a)(2)(G), any person who, while serving as a foreign government official, is responsible for or has directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom at any time, is inadmissible for entry to the United States.

Gary Bauer, commissioner at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, previously told The Epoch Times that he would welcome the U.S. administration's steps in this direction.

"I certainly do not want to see the United States be a haven for those that have been implicated in persecution in other countries, in China or [elsewhere]," Bauer said. "My hope will be that anyone in the United States that [has] engaged in the persecution against people of faith in China will pay a suitable price in the United States for that persecution."

An April report by the commission, an independent federal body that advises the U.S. government and Congress on religious freedom issues, highlighted that over the past year, the Chinese regime has ramped up its persecution of religious groups, including Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, Christians, and Tibetan Buddhists.

Chinese rights activist Chen Guangcheng, based in Washington, told The Epoch Times that he has submitted a list of Chinese officials involved in human rights abuses to the State Department.

Chen said the measure signifies that the U.S. administration is ramping up efforts to hold the regime to account for its crimes against humanity.

The blind lawyer and rights activist, known for his work exposing Chinese authorities' forced abortions and sterilizations under the one-child policy, made headlines in 2012 after he made a daring escape from house arrest, fleeing to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Chen and his family were eventually allowed to leave for the United States.

Washington-based Chinese democracy activist Wei Jingsheng said this move showed the U.S. government is taking a firm stance against the Chinese regime.

"It's also a warning to Beijing, [telling] all those officials to be careful," Wei said.

*Epoch Times reporters Jennifer Zeng and Janita Kan and NTD reporter Kitty Wong contributed to this report.*

## ANALYSIS

# EUROPEAN INTERNET TRAFFIC ROUTED THROUGH CHINA TELECOM

JOSHUA PHILIPP

The Chinese regime may have a new method up its sleeve to steal data. Rather than hacking networks and installing malware, it can merely divert global internet traffic through its own networks—allowing it to see, store, and steal whatever it likes.

This appears to be the case with recent anomalies seen with China Telecom, a state-owned company under the Chinese regime's China Telecommunications Corp.

For two hours on June 6, a large portion of mobile device traffic in Europe was diverted through systems controlled by China Telecom. According to ZDNet, the technical error was caused after the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP), which reroutes traffic at the internet service provider level, at Swiss data center company Safe Host leaked more than 70,000 routes to the Chinese internet service provider.

It notes that there are usually safety procedures to prevent BGP leaks such as this, and the issue could have been fixed when it was discovered.

Yet, as ZDNet reported, "instead of ignoring the BGP leak, China Telecom re-announced Safe Host's routes as its own, and by doing so, interposed itself as one of the shortest ways to reach Safe Host's network and other nearby European telcos and ISPs."

Because of this, data from European mobile networks were rerouted through China Telecom's networks, which could have exposed the data to the Chinese state-run company. It also slowed or prevented

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*ZDNet, in a June 7 article*

A man works on a laptop computer in a cafeteria of a startup in Berlin on Nov. 21, 2018.

connections for some users.

Doug Madory, director of Oracle's internet analysis division, told ZDNet that the duration of the supposed error was oddly long. "Often routing incidents like this only last for a few minutes, but in this case, many of the leaked routes in this incident were in circulation for over two hours," he said.

It's unclear what caused the issue, but this isn't the first time China Telecom has been involved with this type of error. And the timing of previous incidents—and major networks affected—suggest something deeper is at play.

In April 2010, an estimated 15 percent of the world's internet traffic was routed through China Telecom networks. The supposed error that caused this was the same—rerouting of BGP data. Only, in 2010, it was called out as a type of cyberattack known as "IP hijacking."

A report at the time from the U.S.—China Economic and Security Review Commission stated that the China Telecom breach had caused U.S. and other international internet traffic to flow through the Chinese regime's servers. This included many sensitive networks.

"This incident affected traffic to and from U.S. government (.gov) and military (.mil) sites, including those for the Senate, the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Office of Secretary of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and many others. Certain commercial websites were



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also affected, such as those for Dell, Yahoo!, Microsoft, and IBM," the report states.

According to the report, this could have allowed the Chinese regime to monitor users and data, block access to certain websites or data, conceal another cyber-attack, and even compromise the integrity of secured, encrypted connections.

Another data breach through China Telecom was uncovered in 2015, after former U.S. President Barack Obama signed an agreement with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to end the use of hacking for commercial gain. This followed the indictment of five Chinese military hackers for stealing intellectual property from U.S. companies for the benefit of Chinese companies.

Military Cyber Affairs, a journal published by the Military Cyber Professionals Association, discussed the breach in a 2018 report. It stated that the CCP may have been switching from cyberattacks to a more subtle method to steal data from targeted networks or companies.

"Conveniently, China Telecom has 10 strategically placed, Chinese-controlled internet 'points of presence' (PoPs) across the internet backbone of North America," the report said. During the 2015 breach, China Telecom hijacked internet data as it traveled through this infrastructure and redirected it to China for "malicious use."

The report noted that, through this method, the CCP could access the organization's network, steal valuable data, add malicious implants to seemingly normal traffic, or simply modify or corrupt data.

It also noted, "The prevalence of and demonstrated ease with which one can simply redirect and copy data by controlling key transit nodes buried in a nation's infrastructure requires an urgent policy response."

A China Telecom sign on a street in Shanghai on Aug. 21, 2013.



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A "Free Wi-Fi" sign on the door of a fast food restaurant in Prague on May 7, 2010.



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