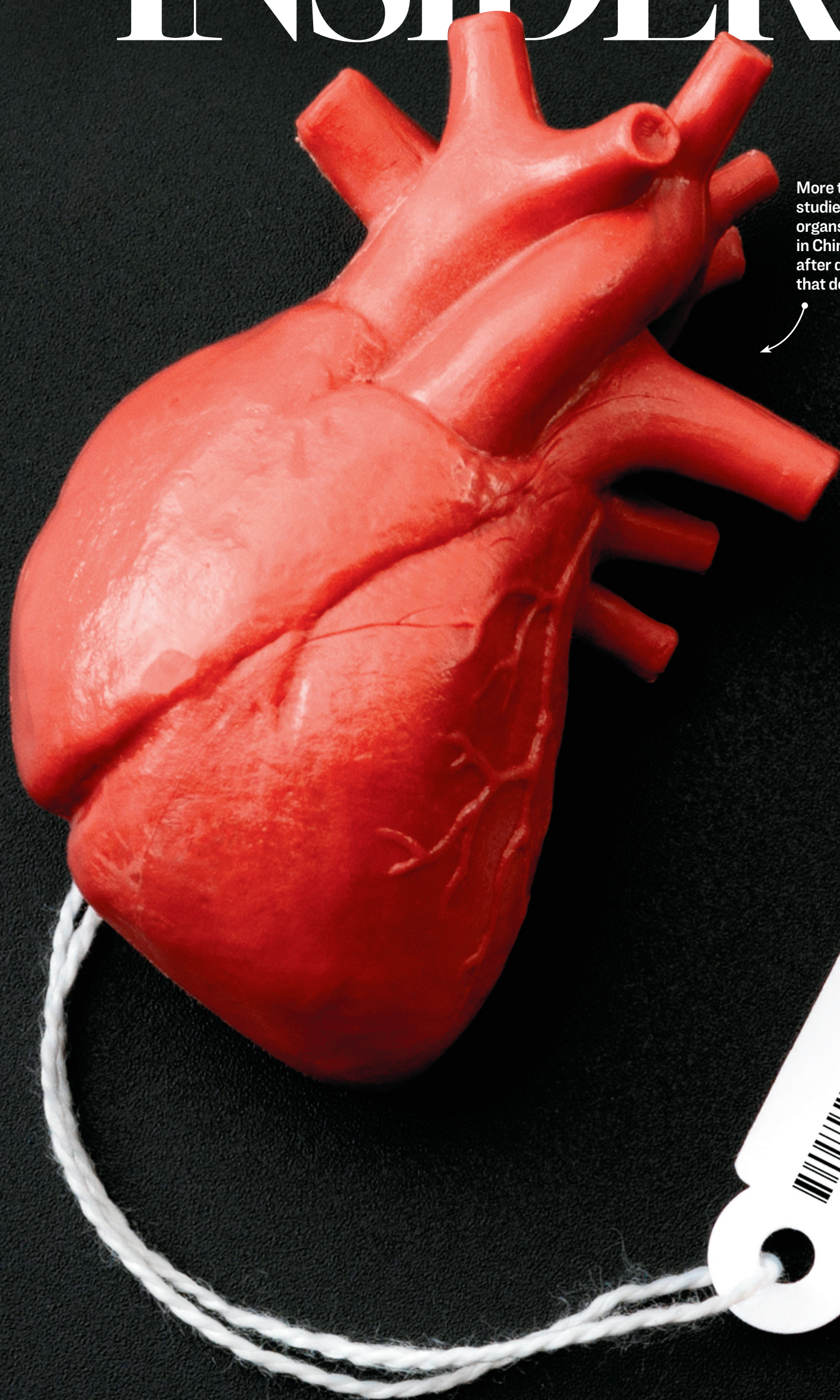


WEEK 11, 2020

THE EPOCH TIMES

CHINA INSIDER



More than two dozen academic studies about transplanted organs written by researchers in China were retracted in 2019 after doctors couldn't prove that donors gave consent.

STATE-SANCTIONED ORGAN HARVESTING

TRIBUNAL FINDS CHINESE STILL KILLING PRISONERS FOR THEIR ORGANS

See Page 6

NATIONAL SECURITY

Huawei Security Concerns Front and Center as West Seeks 5G Alternatives

BOWEN XIAO

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers, led by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), is urging the UK Parliament to reconsider its decision to allow China's Huawei a role in British 5G telecommunications networks amid a slew of security concerns.

Nearly two dozen lawmakers called on the United Kingdom to work closely with the United States and to take steps to mitigate the risks posed by Huawei, including that the regime in Beijing requires its companies to share its information with the Chinese Communist Party's intelligence sector.

"Given the significant security, privacy, and economic threats posed by Huawei, we strongly urge the United Kingdom to revisit its recent decision," they wrote in the letter, addressed to the House of Commons, on March 3.

There have been a number of recent hearings regarding China's influence in 5G networks and "big tech" companies. The letter was sent ahead of a UK parliamentary debate on March 4 about Huawei's involvement in Britain's 5G network, while on the same day, a U.S. Senate subcommittee met about 5G supply chain security, and a Senate panel heard testimony about the relationship between "Big Tech and Beijing."

Experts told The Epoch Times that recent talk about propping up Huawei competitors Nokia and Ericsson appears to be an increasingly viable option, saying 5G technology in the United States is highly vulnerable. They emphasized the need to implement security protocols and equipment from trusted vendors, saying it could be disastrous if the right action isn't taken.

In January, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Huawei will supply up to 35 percent of the country's 5G communications infrastructure.

U.S. lawmakers said in the letter that, while banning Huawei from "core" 5G infrastructure could address some security risks, it would be "very challenging, if not impossible, to separate 'core' equipment from that considered to be on the periphery."

Washington has repeatedly stated that Huawei—founded in 1987 by a former People's Liberation Army engineer—is an extension of the Chinese regime and that it assists Chinese intelligence in stealing secrets.

Huawei, which denies the assertion, didn't immediately respond to a request by the Epoch Times for comment.

5G Security and Huawei Competitors

"The unfortunate reality is that our networks have already been comprised by foreign adversaries," Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, said at a March 4 hearing.

"We are seeing more reports that Huawei can covertly access mobile phone networks around the world," he said in his opening remarks. "At the same time, some of our close allies are granting Hua-

wei access to their communication systems. These are troubling developments.

"The absence of a viable and affordable American or European alternative for end-to-end telecommunications components ... has enabled Huawei to increase its global influence."

Multiple U.S. officials have emphasized the importance of finding an alternative to China's Huawei and of developing potential partnerships with the telecom industry. Attorney General William Barr suggested recently that the United States and its allies should "actively consider" the possibility of backing Huawei's two main overseas competitors, Nokia and Ericsson.

During the same hearing, ranking member Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) described a recent attack on a power system that was brought down for more than 12 hours.

We face a powerful opponent who is using espionage and predatory economic practices, including exploiting American patents, to gain advantage.

James Lewis, senior vice president and director, Technology Policy Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

"It's no longer just people searching around and looking at our power plants," she said. "Now, actors are starting to bring what is essential services to a halt."

High-level Nokia and Ericsson executives made the case in testimony that their technology is vastly more trustworthy than Huawei, which is currently the world's biggest producer of telecom equipment. Britain has argued that excluding Huawei would have delayed its 5G rollout and cost consumers more.

Jason Boswell, head of security for network product solutions at Ericsson, testified that the company is leading the way on the 5G rollout, noting that they have deployed "65 percent of the 5G deployments in the U.S., including in rural America."

Boswell said the United States needs to develop a robust market of trusted suppliers and to focus on developing a skilled 5G workforce. In his testimony, he said the company just announced its first 5G equipment from its new \$100 million smartphone factory in Texas.

He said that the company, since 2018, has executed a "supply chain regionalization strategy to place manufacturing and development as close to the customer as possible in order to reduce risks." Boswell said that would also reduce regional disruptions and overdependence on one supplier or vendor.

"All of our software is scanned, verified, signed, and distributed in and from Sweden. That actually gives us a lot of tight control over our software development lifecycle and the traceability of that supply chain," he said.



Chinese pedestrians walk past a Huawei store in Beijing on Jan. 29, 2019.

Mike Murphy, chief technology officer for the Americas at Nokia, testified that it's "incorrect to suggest non-Chinese vendors cannot lead in 5G," noting that the United States was the first country in the world to launch 5G networks. Of the U.S. equipment Nokia provides, none is manufactured in China, he added.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Huawei has grown with the help of \$75 billion in state subsidies from the Chinese government, allowing the company to undercut many competitors on price.

"China's made aggressive use of its development bank to support indigenous suppliers. Payment terms offered, while legal, are unavailable to competitors through commercial banks," Murphy said.

The root of the problem is the Chinese Communist Party, said James Lewis, senior vice president and director of the Technology Policy Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, during testimony.

"5G is a symptom of a larger problem. We face a powerful opponent who is using espionage and predatory economic practices, including exploiting American patents, to gain advantage," he said, refer-

ring to China.

Lewis said that the United States is currently positioned to take the lead over China in 5G. U.S. and Chinese deployments of 5G are roughly equivalent, with 57 cities in China and 50 in the United States.

Last week, Congress approved a \$1 billion bill also known as "rip and replace" that would replace any equipment made by Huawei or ZTE used by rural telecom carriers in the United States. President Donald Trump still needs to sign the legislation, dubbed the "Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act." Administration officials have signaled their support for it, according to reports.

The bipartisan legislation would also remove any Huawei and ZTE equipment in networks currently used by a number of smaller U.S. carriers. The carriers had purchased the equipment years ago because of the low cost.

The United States, in 2018, banned Huawei technology from use by the government or any of its contractors, and in 2019, the company was added to the Department of Commerce's Entity List, which effectively bars U.S. companies from selling components to Huawei without an export license.

Also at the hearing, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) previewed new legislation he plans to introduce this week to protect the trade policy of the United States, and ensure that "the security of our communications infrastructure is a clear negotiating objective of U.S. trade policy."

"Unfair trade practices of communications equipment suppliers owned or controlled by a foreign government should not be tolerated," he said. "Period."

Huawei has never provided financial details to show they are an independent company not connected to the Chinese Communist Party, according to Prakash Sangam, founder and principal at Tantra Analyst, a research and consultancy firm focused on IP strategy, 5G, IoT (internet of things), and AI.

Sangam told The Epoch Times that governments are obviously "extremely cautious about allowing any foreign company thought to be controlled by a foreign totalitarian government to work on its infrastructure."

John Boyd, principal of The Boyd Co., a firm providing location and management counsel to IT corporations globally told The Epoch Times that boosting 5G alternative providers such as Finland's Nokia and Sweden's Ericsson "would be a wise and timely investment, in my judgment." Sangam said one option to compete

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

with Huawei would be encouraging major U.S. companies through financial and political incentives to start playing a key role in 5G. He said the current 5G supply chain could be at risk.

"Anytime a supply chain is so concentrated and many parts are outside of the control of some countries and probably under the influence of others, will be vulnerable," Sangam said. "The vulnerability is not just because of supply chain ... but the complexity of the technology and the huge risk-and-reward equation."

Tyler Cooper, editor-in-chief of BroadbandNow, which tracks U.S. broadband serviceability data, including 5G, said it makes sense for the United States to be cautious about allowing one company to have an infrastructure monopoly on 5G deployment, "especially when we consider that China has used private business for political purposes in the past."

Huawei was forced to pause production earlier this month due to the new coronavirus, but has since resumed. Cooper told The Epoch Times via email that the most likely path forward for the United States to advance in 5G "is a symbiosis between the public and private sectors, which we are already seeing take shape in the form of bills like the Utilizing Strategic Allied (USA) Telecommunications Act."

He said deploying 5G at scale requires the installation of "small cell" relays that don't have a long transmission range. While this is fine in a dense urban environment, it becomes more challenging in rural communities, both economically and logistically.

"We don't want all of the benefits going to the major metro areas while rural Americans get left behind," he said. "So we need to be incentivizing deployment in these lower-competition areas somehow."



Mike Murphy, Nokia's chief technology officer for the Americas, at a Senate hearing on 5G technology in Washington on March 4, 2020.



Jason Boswell, Ericsson's head of security for network product solutions, at a Senate hearing on 5G technology in Washington on March 4, 2020.

CHINESE ECONOMY

China's Economy Cratered in February Following Virus Outbreak, Indicators Suggest

FAN YU

News Analysis

After the U.S. Federal Reserve cut benchmark interest rates by 50 basis points last week, the focus has shifted to China—and how far Beijing will go to stimulate China's economy.

Beijing has urged businesses to reopen their doors as the COVID-19 outbreak sidelined business activity in February. But economic activity in China has declined dramatically. Readings on the state of the economy suggest that China could officially plunge into contraction for the first time since the 1970s.

China has reason to launch a pretty strong stimulus effort, as the Chinese Communist Party faces two legitimate threats—one from the virus and another from the economic fallout. And efforts to combat one are often detrimental to the other.

Early Chinese economic indicators from February are shockingly bad.

Chinese exports plunged at the beginning of the year. Total exports in January and February declined by 17.2 percent compared to the same period in 2019, according to latest official data from the General Administration of Customs released March 7.

China had postponed reporting January figures and chose instead to report January and February figures in total, perhaps due to a large portion of the country being under quarantine and to blunt the expected sharpness of the decline in February. As a



Workers make optical lenses in a factory in Dexing City, Jiangxi Province, China, on Feb. 23, 2020.

result, China ran a trade deficit for the first two months of 2020.

Other economic indicators, including the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), are worse.

The National Bureau of Statistics PMI, which focuses on the country's manufacturers, fell to an all-time low reading of 35.7 in February from 50.0 in January. That's deeply in contraction territory—the 50-point mark is the dividing line between expansion and contraction.

China's services sector also had its worst month on record. The official non-manufacturing PMI fell to a record low of 29.6, from 54.1. The Caixin/Markit Services PMI, a privately run index that surveys smaller, export-focused businesses, fell to an even lower record low of 26.5 in February, from 51.8 in January.

What does this all mean? The early data suggest that China's economy in February

has crashed to its lowest levels since modern indicators were put in place, around two decades ago.

Stimulus Is Coming, but How Much?

How far will Beijing go to get the economy back on track? Both South Korea and Italy have launched fiscal spending and stimulus measures to dampen the economic shock caused by the virus outbreak.

In China, businesses are slowly reopening, and some inter-city transportation is getting back online, except in those regions hardest-hit by the coronavirus. Analysts from Morgan Stanley looked at China's transportation data and recently estimated that the cancellation rate of domestic flights sat at 56 percent as of last week.

There are some challenges to work through even after businesses reopen. Factories must work through a heavy backlog, and some must wait for key components to

work their way through the supply chain, including migrant workers, parts, and inputs from upstream manufacturers, and bank credit lines.

So far, Beijing regulators have enacted measures to ease businesses' burdens while they remain closed, such as granting reductions in employer social security contributions, VAT (value-added tax), and other fees while urging banks to grant waivers and roll forward credit.

The prevailing theory against massive stimulus is that this is a supply-side shock. Assuming the virus is contained in a reasonable amount of time, economic recovery will be swift like a V-shaped curve. Currently, factories are not running—not due to a lack of demand or credit, but a lack of supply of parts and labor.

For now, Beijing is focused on providing ample food and medicine. Too much stimulus too early could be a waste of ammunition—what some economists have called last week's surprise rate cut by the Fed. Expect easing measures to ramp up quickly if there are signs the virus outbreak has peaked.

China has reason to launch a pretty strong stimulus effort, as the Chinese Communist Party faces two legitimate threats—one from the virus and another from the economic fallout. And efforts to combat one are often detrimental to the other.

"We revise our projection of fiscal stimulus from around CNY 3.5 trillion to CNY 4 trillion (\$500 to \$577 billion), which is equivalent to 4 percent of nominal GDP in 2020, and this could be increased if more is required to boost economic growth," ING Bank wrote in a March 6 note to clients.

ING's expectations are on the high end. But it's likely that as soon as the virus is somewhat contained, China will embark on heavy spending and stimulus efforts. Otherwise, Party leader Xi Jinping's 2012 promise to double China's GDP by 2020 would be in jeopardy.

CHINESE ESPIONAGE

DOJ's Battle Against Chinese Communist Infiltration Reaches Historic Scale

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

The Justice Department (DOJ) campaign to counter the Chinese Communist Party's multifaceted onslaught on U.S. interests has ramped up to an unprecedented level, according to government officials and documents.

As of February, the FBI was conducting roughly 1,000 investigations into China's attempted theft of trade secrets, just one of many fronts in the communist regime's wide-ranging campaign against the United States. Every FBI field office was working on trade-secret theft cases involving China, with potential victims spanning almost every sector and industry, according to FBI Director Christopher Wray.

With the DOJ and the FBI under relentless partisan fire over politically charged domestic investigations dating back to the 2016 presidential election, the initiative to counteract the offensive by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has ramped up to a historic scale while going largely unnoticed. According to a review of DOJ press releases, the department has brought more indictments related to Chinese infiltration since 2019 than during the entire eight years of the Obama administration.

"We believe that no country poses a greater threat than communist China," John Brown, an assistant director at the FBI, said during a Feb. 6 conference. "From our vantage point, the United States has not faced a similar threat like this since the Soviet Union and the Cold War.

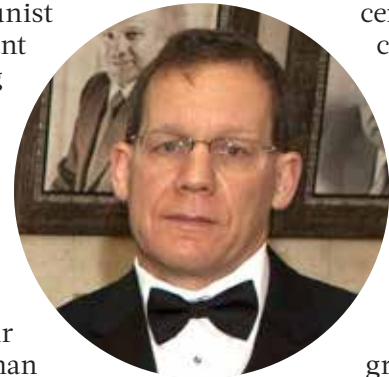
"Today, investigations related to the government of China make up a greater percentage of our counterintelligence workload than at any other time in the FBI's history."

In November 2018, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions launched the effort—formally known as the China Initiative—shortly before he submitted his resignation. The Trump administration's efforts in the matter had already ramped up prior to the formal launch. Sessions noted that no one was charged with spying for China during the last four years of the Obama administration and that the Trump administration indicted four alleged spies in 2017 alone.

Sessions directed the DOJ to focus on a range of priorities related to Chinese infiltration, including identifying key trade-secret theft cases, developing a strategy to go after non-traditional intelligence collectors being co-opted by the communist regime, and to applying the Foreign Agents Registration Act against unregistered agents advancing the Chinese regime's interests.

We believe that no country poses a greater threat than communist China.

John Brown, assistant director, FBI



Professor Charles Lieber attends an awards ceremony in Jerusalem on May 13, 2012.

Attorney General William Barr (L) and FBI Director Christopher Wray speak at an announcement of a new crime reduction initiative in Detroit on Dec. 18, 2019.

Since then, federal law enforcement authorities have brought charges on a number of landmark cases. The most recent indictments as part of the initiative provide a glimpse into the variety of methods the communist regime is using to steal from the United States. On Jan. 28, the DOJ charged a senior Harvard professor, a Chinese student at Boston University, and a Chinese researcher working at a medical center in Boston. The indictments exemplified how the Chinese regime is using a variety of approaches to target U.S. academic and research facilities.

The Harvard professor, Charles Lieber, was charged with lying to federal authorities about being paid \$50,000 a month through China's Thousand Talents program. The Boston University student allegedly lied about being a member of China's People's Liberation Army. The researcher allegedly stole vials containing cancer research from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and attempted to smuggle them into China.

"The Chinese government is taking an all-tools and all-sectors approach—and that demands our own all-tools and all-sectors approach in response," Wray said on Feb. 6.

"To be clear: This threat is not about the Chinese people as a whole, and certainly not about Chinese-Americans as a group. But it is about the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party."

The Chinese Communist Party made its ambitions public five years ago upon the announcement of its "Made in China 2025" plan, a whole-of-society push to make China the world leader in information technology, robotics, green energy, aerospace, and other industries. According to senior U.S. officials, China's progress toward the goal has primarily relied on theft of innovation from the United States.

"The Chinese government is fighting a generational fight to surpass our country in economic and technological leadership. But not through legitimate innovation, not through fair and lawful competition, and not by giving their citizens the freedom of thought and speech and creativity we treasure here in the United States," Wray said. "Instead, they've shown that they're willing to steal their way up the economic ladder at our expense."

Since the 2015 announcement of the Made in China 2025 plan, the DOJ has brought trade-secret theft cases in 8 of the 10 technology sectors China is aspiring to dominate. The central planning under the communist regime stifles innovation, making the rapid advances called for by the China 2025 plan impossible without the system-

atic theft of trade secrets. The DOJ's focus on the issue thus cuts to the core of the Chinese regime's central plan for global domination.

While the number of FBI technology theft cases involving China has been on the rise since 2003, the investigations yielded just nine prosecutions during the eight years of the Obama administration, according to a review of DOJ indictments. By comparison, the Trump administration has already brought charges in 12 trade-secret theft cases.

"In the past, prior administrations and many in the private sector have too often been willing to countenance China's hardball tactics," Attorney General William Barr said on Feb. 6. "It has been this administration that has finally moved to confront and counteract China's playbook."

China is implicated in about 80 percent of all economic espionage charges brought by the DOJ and is connected to 60 percent of all trade-secret theft cases.

While the number of total prosecutions is relatively small, the FBI and DOJ see the cases as a tool to motivate the private sector to take action. According to U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling, of the five U.S. attorneys assigned to the China Initiative, the recent prosecutions in the academic field are meant to jolt private-sector universities to wake up to the threat from China and tighten internal measures.

The China Initiative has ramped up alongside the Trump administration's other efforts to counteract China, including the trade war and the escalation in the struggle against Chinese counterfeiters.

Many of the cases the FBI is investigating are based on leads from companies in the private sector. According to senior law enforcement officials, private companies are reluctant to state publicly that they've been victimized by the Chinese regime, fearing repercussions to their business in China. Retaliation tactics include trumped-up antitrust charges against U.S. companies in China.

According to Trevor Loudon, an expert on communist infiltration of the United States, the DOJ's campaign to counteract the China threat is unprecedented, even in comparison to the investigative activity during the Cold War with the Soviet Union. The FBI caseload against Soviet agents and so-called fellow travelers was spread out over many years and consisted largely of surveillance which rarely resulted in formal charges.

"This is pretty unprecedented. Even at the height of the Cold War, there were never more than a few dozen cases," Loudon said.

Marc Ruskin, a former FBI special

agent, pointed out that 1,000 cases spread across 56 FBI field offices is no staggering number. But he suggested that the total number may be higher considering the FBI's need to protect the integrity of investigations and to avoid tipping off suspects.

"There might be 5,000 cases. The public statements [Wray] is going to be able to make are influenced by security and strategic considerations," Ruskin said.

The prosecutions since 2018 suggest that the DOJ has broadened the range of charges it's willing to bring in cases related to Chinese infiltration. Espionage and trade-secret cases are relatively difficult to prove, and the U.S. government has shown it's willing to work around the issue by bringing white-collar charges. Lieber, the Harvard professor, was charged with lying about his affiliation with a Chinese university. Last year, an associate professor at the University of Kansas was charged with wire fraud and program fraud for allegedly hiding the fact that he was working for a Chinese university.

"The bureau has shifted to using non-traditional tools in investigating and mitigating the activities of hostile intelligence services," Ruskin said.

Diana West, an expert on communist sabotage of the United States, said that while the increase in investigations and prosecutions is great, much more needs to be done to counteract China from the perspective of policy.

"I think the proof is always in the indictments, the arrests, which never really seem to address the problem at the scale that is ongoing," West said, referring to the many investigations of atomic espionage dating back decades that have gone unprosecuted.

"When you actually see government policy changing or cases going to court, this becomes more of a measure of the government taking things seriously."

According to U.S. Attorney Jay Town, one of the legislative changes the DOJ may benefit from is an amendment to the Foreign Agents Registration Act that would expand the definition of a foreign agent beyond political activity to include research on behalf of a foreign government.

"I do think it would be important to at least have sort of a point one, where it does apply not just to political activity but perhaps would apply to research activity and some other things and give some real teeth to what the president and what this Justice Department is trying to accomplish with prosecuting these individuals who are taking these grant moneys and perhaps using them for a nefarious purpose," Town said on Feb. 6.

NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS

North Korea Continues to Violate UN Sanctions With China's Help, Report Says



Ships are moored next to the about 5-mile-long West Sea Barrage, in Nampo, North Korea, on Feb. 7, 2019.

FRANK FANG

China has been aiding North Korea to evade international sanctions, including by allowing the latter to export resources within its waters, according to a recent report.

The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), a London-based defense and security think tank, published a report on March 5 analyzing satellite photos, commercial vessel information, and ships' automatic identification system (AIS), which emits a location signal that can be picked up by satellites and radio equipment to prevent collisions at sea.

"A large fleet of North Korean cargo ships continues to deliver coal to China in contravention of U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, in what appears to be a large-scale, coordinated effort to evade sanctions imposed on the country over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs," the report concludes.

International sanctions have been placed on North Korea since 2016, following the latter's nuclear and ballistic missile tests. In August 2017, the UNSC adopted Resolution 2371, banning the regime from exporting products such as coal, iron, iron ore, and seafood. In December of the same year, the UNSC slapped North Korea with Resolution 2397, targeting the country's oil imports, setting a limit of 500,000 barrels per year.

According to the report, North Korean vessels would load coal and other resources—likely sanctioned commodities—before sailing to Chinese waters around the Zhoushan Islands, an archipelago that is part of coastal China's Zhejiang Province. Those shipments were likely meant for Chinese shipping terminals, the report said.

Zhoushan is one of China's naval bases. It houses the East Sea Fleet, with destroyers, frigates, and corvettes stationed there. The islands are also home to facilities operated by the China Coast Guard, the China Maritime Safety Administration, and the Zhoushan Port Authority, according to the report.

Despite such a heavy military presence, the think tank found that based on satellite images, North Korean ships weren't stopped or detained—even when the ships were transmitting fraudulent AIS signals to disguise themselves.

Some of the North Korean vessels were blacklisted by the UNSC.

U.N. Resolution 2397 states that U.N. member states shall "seize, inspect, and freeze (compound) any vessels" in their ports and territorial waters,

A large fleet of North Korean cargo ships continues to deliver coal to China in contravention of U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, in what appears to be a large-scale, coordinated effort to evade sanctions imposed on the country over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Report by the Royal United Services Institute

if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel is engaged in illicit activity prohibited under the resolution.

But the Chinese regime appeared to let North Korean vessels go unhindered. On Feb. 1 this year, for example, a Chinese maritime patrol boat "sailed through a cluster of North Korean vessels at 03:40 UTC."

China's failure to take action against North Korean vessels "raises very serious concerns either about China's ability to effectively patrol the waters around one of its most important naval bases, or that it has no appetite to enforce UNSC resolutions it has itself supported in response to North Korea's ongoing nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs," the report stated.

The report also found evidence supporting a 2019 U.N. report, which claimed that North Korean ships were conducting illicit ship-to-ship transfer operations at sea, a practice prohibited by the U.N. resolutions.

The U.N. report said that North Korea may have breached its 500,000 barrel annual quota within the first four months of 2019, and exported a total of 930,000 metric tons of coal during that same period, in violation of sanctions.

Additionally, the U.N. report found that North Korean vessels conducted ship-to-ship transfers in the waters off the coast of northern Vietnam and off the Chinese city of Ningbo, a major port city in Zhejiang Province.

On May 10, 2019, RUSI spotted a North Korean-flagged ship flanked

by two unidentified lighters or barges with a floating transloading platform, near the Zhoushan Islands.

"In some of these instances, [Chinese] barges could be observed sailing towards North Korean vessels before dropping AIS signals, only to appear back on tracking systems days later before sailing back to bulk-handling facilities along the Yangtze River," RUSI stated.

In response to the U.N. report, China said that the claims were "ambiguous" and not enough to "constitute a full evidence chain or basis for further investigation."

RUSI noted China's response, saying, "If that evidence, in addition to that presented here, is insufficient to induce China to act, then it is difficult to imagine what body of facts would prompt the country to meet its UNSC obligations."

The RUSI report came just one day after Washington-based profit Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS) issued a report claiming that North Korea violated a 2017 U.N. resolution preventing it from "supply, selling, or transferring sand," according to Reuters.

"Between March and August 2019, C4ADS observed a large fleet of vessels originating from Chinese waters traveling to North Korea to dredge and transport sand from [North Korea's] Haeju Bay," C4ADS said.

C4ADS drew its conclusion based on analyzing AIS data, but it was still gauging how much sand might have been exported from North Korea.



A North Korean flag at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on Feb. 7, 2016.

ORGAN HARVESTING

World Can No Longer Ignore Crime of Forced Organ Harvesting in China, Experts Say

CATHY HE & FRANK FANG

Governments and international bodies can no longer turn a blind eye to one of the “worst atrocities committed” in modern times, experts said, as the world’s first independent legal analysis of evidence regarding forced organ harvesting in China concluded that the grisly practice has continued unabated. An independent panel’s tribunal, known as the China Tribunal, on March 1 released its full judgment after an 18-month investigation. Panel members reviewed written and oral evidence, including testimony from more than 50 witnesses given during two public hearings in December 2018 and April 2019.

Last June, the tribunal delivered its findings in London, concluding beyond a reasonable doubt that state-sanctioned forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience had taken place in China “on a significant scale” for years, and is still taking place today.

The main organ supply came from imprisoned practitioners of the persecuted spiritual group Falun Gong, according to the tribunal.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and moral teachings centered around the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. It has been brutally persecuted by the Chinese communist regime for more than two decades. Hundreds of thousands of adherents have been thrown into prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers, where many have been tortured in an effort to force them to renounce their faith, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center.

The tribunal concluded that the Chinese regime’s sustained campaign of forced organ harvesting constituted a crime against humanity.

“The conclusion shows that very many people have died indescribably hideous deaths for no reason, that more may suffer in similar ways, and that all of us live on a planet where extreme wickedness may be found,” it said in its final 160-page report, which included 300 pages of supplementary materials.

The international panel was chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, who previously led the prosecution of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal, and included six other experts, in law, transplant surgery, international politics, Chinese history, and business.

Findings

The tribunal considered a range of evidence in reaching its conclusion, such as hospitals offering extremely short wait times—from a few days to weeks—for organ transplants, widespread blood testing and other medical testing of imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghurs, and previous research on the issue.

“Such short-time availability [of organs] could only occur if there was a bank of potential living donors who could be sacrificed to order,” the judgment said.

It found that blood testing and medical testing, including ultrasound, radiographic, and physical organ examinations, of Falun Gong and Uyghur prisoners—which was not conducted on other prisoners—is highly suggestive of methods used to assess organ function.

“The Tribunal must ask itself why a prison management system might test anyone in [such] ways ... when such testing was not required for the purposes of intern-



JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ment,” it said.

While the Tribunal could not definitively conclude that imprisoned Uyghurs were victims of forced organ harvesting, it said that the vulnerability of the group to “being used as a bank of organs is ... obvious.”

It’s estimated that up to 1.5 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are detained in internment camps in the northwestern region of Xinjiang as part of the Chinese regime’s purported crackdown on “extremism.”

Chinese Officials

One piece of evidence presented in the report directly implicated former regime leader Jiang Zemin, who directly ordered the harvesting of organs from Falun Gong adherents.

“Jiang issued the order [to take organs],” said Bai Shuzhong, a former minister of health for China’s military, when he was questioned by an investigator during an undercover phone call in 2014.

Another piece of evidence of officials’ direct involvement in forced organ harvesting was revealed during an undercover phone call in 2016 with Zhu Jiabin, who was the head of the 610 Office in Mudanjiang, a city in Heilongjiang Province. The 610 Office is a Gestapo-like secret police force that was established expressly to carry out the persecution of Falun Gong adherents.

Adherents of the spiritual group Falun Gong reenact the practice of forced organ harvesting in China during a protest in Washington, in this file photo.

“I am called the butcher specializing in live organ harvesting. ... It’s nothing, just like slaughtering pigs,” Zhu said in the phone call, adding, “After scooping the organs out, I would sell them.”

All phone calls submitted to the China Tribunal and included within the report have been “individually validated by independent investigators to ensure credibility [of] origin and content,” according to the Tribunal’s press release.

‘The Time for Ignoring the Issue Has Passed’

With the release of the tribunal’s comprehensive findings, advocates and experts urged governments and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and The Transplantation Society, to take action and hold the Chinese regime to account.

Susie Hughes, executive director of advocacy group International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China, similarly said: “It is no longer acceptable for governments, medical bodies, and leading human rights organizations to say there is not enough evidence. The enormous task of assessing all available evidence has now been completed and is available for all to see.”

Ethan Gutmann, a China analyst who has investigated organ harvesting for more than a decade, said the tribunal’s undertaking

amounted to the most comprehensive inquiry yet into the issue. “These people sat down and read everything. No one else could have claimed to have done that,” Gutmann told The Epoch Times.

He said that the judgment’s release, at a time when countries are working to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak that originated from central China—which may have been prevented from spreading had the regime not initially covered up the severity of the outbreak—provided a good opportunity for the international community to “take stock on who we’ve partnered with here.”

[The Chinese Communist Party] should be blackballed from the medical world. They should not be coming to our conferences, they should not be publishing in our medical journals. They should be treated right now as pariahs.

Ethan Gutmann, China expert and longtime researcher on organ harvesting

“The Chinese Communist Party is not a reliable partner in any sense,” Gutmann said. “They should be blackballed from the medical world. They should not be coming to our conferences, they should not be publishing in our medical journals.”

“They should be treated right now as pariahs.”

More than two dozen academic studies about transplanted organs written by researchers in China were retracted in 2019 after doctors couldn’t prove that donors gave consent.

David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific and another longtime researcher on the issue, told The Epoch Times that countries that have Magnitsky Acts—legislation that sanctions human rights abusers—should target Chinese officials involved in organ harvesting. Their assets should be seized, and they should be denied entry visas, he said.

“We should show that we have some backbone on this issue,” Kilgour said.

(L-R) Tribunal panel member Regina Paulose, chair to the tribunal Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, and panel member Nicholas Vetch on the first day of the April hearings in London on April 6, 2019.



ENDTRANSPANTABUSE.ORG

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Doctors look at a lung CT image at a hospital in Xiaogan, Hubei Province, China, on Feb. 20, 2020.

ORGAN HARVESTING

China Performs First Lung Transplant on Virus Patient, Raising Concerns About Organ Source

NICOLE HAO

With support from government authorities, a Chinese surgeon recently conducted lung transplant surgery for a patient who was infected with the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Chinese media reports said the pair of lungs was a voluntary donation from a person who died.

Ethics and virology experts questioned whether the treatment would be effective and raised concerns that the surgery could have involved forced organ harvesting.

In a June 2019 judgment, an independent people’s tribunal in London unanimously concluded “beyond a reasonable doubt” that prisoners of conscience in China had been—and continue to be—killed for their organs “on a significant scale.”

Lung Transplants

Beijing’s government-run newspaper Beijing Daily reported on March 1 that top Chinese lung transplant specialist Chen Jingyu spent five hours and completed the first lung transplant operation for a virus patient in Wuxi city, located in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province.

The patient was a 59-year-old man who began to exhibit symptoms on Jan. 23. He was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Jan. 27. Days later, on Feb. 7, he received a medical procedure to insert tubes into his airways.

The patient’s situation continued to deteriorate. On Feb. 22, he began receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment. ECMO involves using equipment outside the human body to replace the function of the lungs. It uses a pump to circulate blood through an artificial lung and into the patient’s body.

On Feb. 24, the patient was transferred to the Wuxi Infectious Disease Hospital.

“After the [ECMO] treatment, the coronavirus diagnostic test kits continually came back negative. But the patient’s lungs were seriously damaged and could not be repaired,” the newspaper reported.

Regarding the source of the organ for transplant, it said, “The lungs were donated from a brain-dead patient. ... The lungs were shipped to Wuxi from another province via a seven-hour high-speed train.”

Chen is deputy director of the Wuxi Infectious Disease Hospital. He told the Beijing Daily reporter: “The operation is very risky. Medical staff must wear protective suits and perform the surgery in a negative air pressure operating room.” Chen himself could not confirm that the

patient was free of the virus.

On March 1, Chen told another state-run media outlet The Paper: “The negative result of the nucleic acid test doesn’t mean that there’s no coronavirus in his lungs. So we took strict precautions when we performed the operation.”

Chen said he would propose that the central government set up a team to perform lung transplant operations on “relatively young COVID-19 patients in critical condition.”

Chinese state-run media announced on March 2 that a second lung transplant operation was performed for a COVID-19 patient at the First Affiliated Hospital of the College of Medicine, Zhejiang University, on March 1.

The patient was a 66-year-old woman who was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Jan. 31 and had been receiving treatment at the hospital since Feb. 2, according to news reports. This patient also underwent ECMO treatment, but on March 1, both of her lungs failed.

The news report said the transplanted organ came from Hunan Province and was transported by airplane. The donor was reported to have been a brain-dead patient.

Han Weili, director of the hospital’s lung transplant department, performed the operation.

Media reports haven’t elaborated on the current conditions of the two transplant patients.

Questions

Chen said that transplant operations could be a solution for other COVID-19 patients whose lungs are severely damaged and whose diagnostic test results turn up negative.

But Dr. Sean Lin, a former virology researcher for the U.S. Army, said a transplant is unlikely to help treat such virus patients, as their seriously ill condition indicates that they still have the virus.

“Doing this [transplant surgery] is completely blasphemous,” Lin told The Epoch Times in a phone interview.

“From the progression of the treatments this [first lung transplant] patient received, it’s clear that his lungs, respiratory tract, and his body is full of the novel coronavirus,” Lin said, noting that the patient was transferred to an infectious disease hospital after his condition worsened, suggesting that the viral infection was serious.

Lin said it’s unlikely a pair of new lungs could alleviate the patient’s illness, as the new organ would likely become infected.

Due to the viral infection, the patient’s immune system is likely on “the edge of collapse,” Lin said, adding that with transplant

surgery, the body is also struggling against rejection of the new organ.

Source of the Organs

Though Chinese media reports claimed that the lungs for both transplant surgeries came from donors, experts who have investigated the Chinese regime’s organ harvesting practices raised the alarm about the organs’ provenance.

“Investigators have found that it is highly likely that the majority of organs used for transplantation in China have been forcibly harvested from non-consenting individuals. Therefore, it is logical to assume that the lungs used was, as well,” said Ann Corson, spokesperson for Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting, a Washington-based advocacy group that has published reports on the subject.

For over a decade, researchers have been collecting evidence that the regime is killing prisoners of conscience, most of whom are practitioners of the persecuted spiritual group Falun Gong, for their organs and selling them in the transplant market.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and teachings based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The Chinese regime has heavily suppressed the practice since 1999. Adherents are subject to arbitrary detention, forced labor, and torture. Thousands have died in custody, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center.

A 2016 report by the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) found that the Chinese regime was performing roughly 60,000 to 100,000 transplants each year, far outstripping the official claim of 10,000 to 20,000 per year from a newly set-up public donation system.

David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary of state for Asia-Pacific and co-author of the ETAC report, told The Epoch Times he would be “very surprised” if the organ donors for those two transplants were genuine consenting donors.

He added that independent observers should go into China to examine exactly what happened during the recent procedures.

Ethan Gutmann, a China expert and co-author of the ETAC report, suggested that the state media’s publicization of these lung transplants was akin to a public relations exercise.

“These lung transplants done in record time suggests that they are open for business,” Gutmann said, noting that China’s lucrative transplant industry would have taken a hit since the outbreak began.

“I’m reading the announcements as an ad.”



TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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