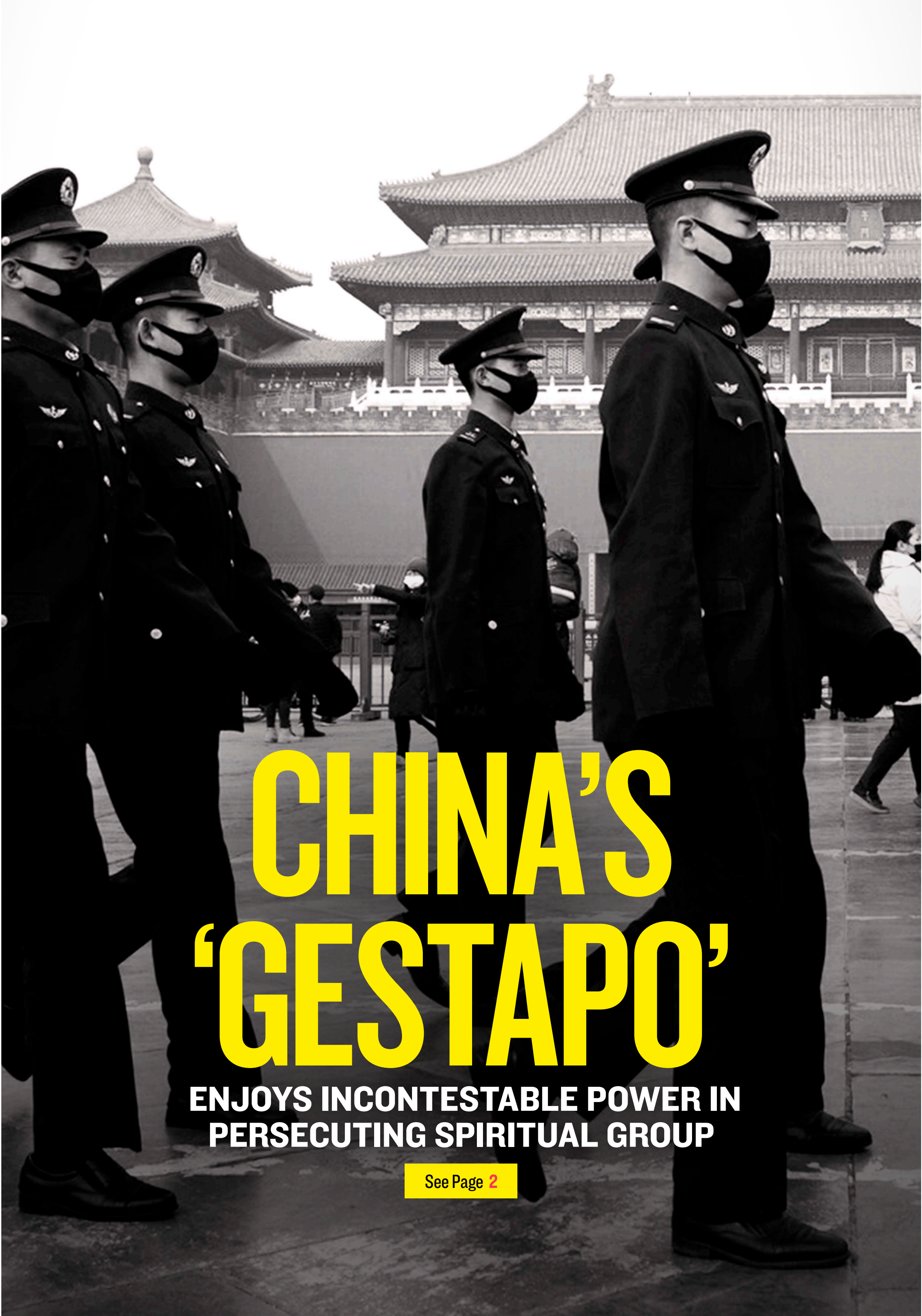


WEEK 25, 2020

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# CHINA INSIDER

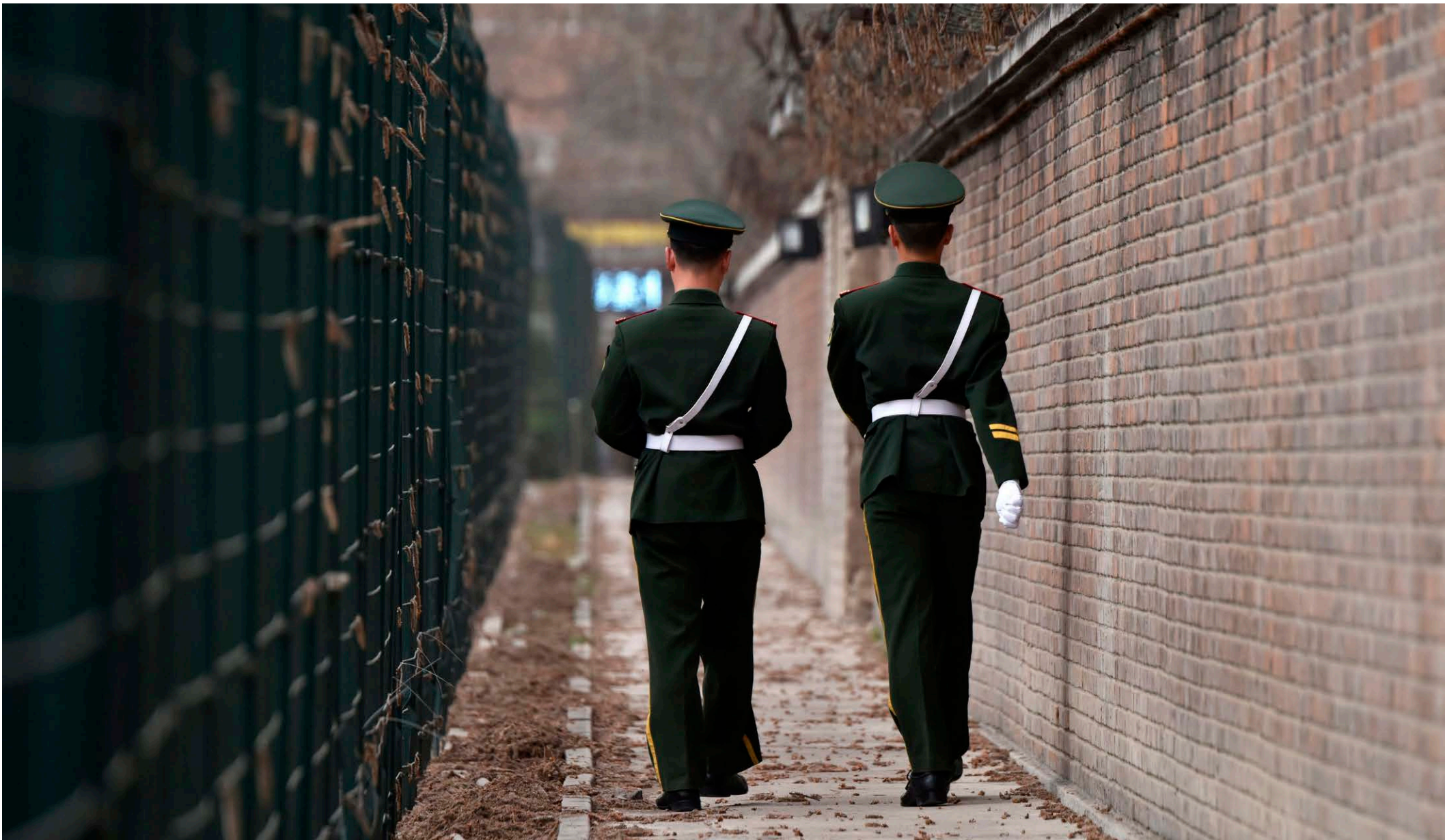


## CHINA'S 'GESTAPO'

ENJOYS INCONTESTABLE POWER IN  
PERSECUTING SPIRITUAL GROUP

See Page 2





Chinese paramilitary police officers patrol in Beijing on March 28, 2018.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

# China’s ‘Gestapo’ Enjoys Incontestable Power in Persecuting Spiritual Group: Internal Document

ALLEN ZHONG

The “610 Office,” one of the Chinese regime’s deadliest and most notorious agencies tasked with clamping down on dissent, exerts enormous influence within the Party and enjoys unchallenged power to persecute religious minorities, an internal document obtained by the Chinese-language Epoch Times shows.

The office, formally known as the Central Leading Group on Preventing and Dealing with Heretical Religions, is an extra-legal Party organization similar to Nazi Germany’s Gestapo, with various names as disguises in public.

It was established by former Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leader Jiang Zemin on June 10, 1999—hence its name—for the sole purpose of carrying out the persecution of Falun Gong, a spiritual meditation practice that originated in China and has since spread to roughly 90 countries. The practice became enormously popular—with roughly 100 million adherents in China by 1999, according to official estimates. Threatened by this num-

ber, which was greater than the number of Party members, Jiang ordered the brutal suppression of Falun Gong practitioners.

According to the documents obtained by Chinese-language Epoch Times, the 610 Office in Fangshan District in Beijing, formally known as the Fangshan Political and Legal Affairs Commission’s “Anti-Heretical Religion Guidance Branch,” conducted an assessment titled “Status of Work in Preventing and Handling Heretical Religions” in 2019.

This kind of work-performance assessment usually happens at the end of the year among China’s government agencies.

The agencies evaluated by the 610 Office include both Party and government institutions, such as the Political and Legal Affairs Commission (PLAC); the Organization Department, which is in charge of assigning officials’ posts and promotions; local police bureaus; local prosecutor’s offices; courts; and the rubber-stamp legislature.

In 2019, five of the agencies were demerited for not meeting the set criteria in persecuting Falun Gong.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a traditional Chinese spiritual practice known to relieve stress and increase energy.

It consists of simple, slow-moving exercises and a meditation, with moral teachings based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance.

Under the leadership of the 610 Office, Falun Gong practitioners have been arbitrarily sentenced to labor camps, prison, or brainwashing centers.

At least 4,476 Falun Gong adherents have been killed in the persecution in China, according to Minghui.org, a website that documents the CCP’s persecution of Falun Gong.

The actual number of deaths is thought to be much higher, as thousands of cases remain unconfirmed due to the CCP’s “tight-fisted control over details of the persecution,” according to Minghui.org.

**An Office Above the Law**

“The 610 office is just like Hitler’s Gestapo,” said Guo Guoting, a Chinese human rights lawyer in exile, in an interview with the Falun Dafa Information Center. “They are powerful and they got enough financial support from the government so ... they secretly control all the Falun Gong practitioners in their local areas.”

The 610 Office has branches all over China, down to the tiniest

village.

However, “no legislation was passed establishing it [and] no provisions formally outlined its mandate,” said Sarah Cook, senior research analyst for China at Freedom House, a U.S.-based NGO.

The number of staff at the 610 Office is unknown, due to its secretive nature and the fact that 610 staff may have multiple roles, serving in other departments simultaneously.

Cook estimated back in 2011 that the 610 Office retained at least 15,000 officers based on district-level numbers on local government websites.

## The 610 Office is just like Hitler’s Gestapo.

Guo Guoting, Chinese human rights lawyer in exile

Functioning without approval from the Party’s rubber-stamp legislature, the National People’s Congress, and the 25-member Politburo made up of Party elites, the 610 Office has never had a legal basis for its existence.

The 610 Office is also involved in state-sanctioned forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience—mostly Falun Gong practitioners—resulting in large numbers of unexplained deaths, according to the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, a U.S.-based research nonprofit.

Independent investigators have confirmed that this organ harvesting is still occurring, despite the CCP’s denials.

In a report (pdf) released on March 1, the China Tribunal, an independent people’s tribunal convened to investigate allegations of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China, ruled that “forced organ harvesting has happened in multiple places in the PRC and on multiple occasions for a period of at least 20 years and continues to this day.”

It also concluded that Falun Gong practitioners were the main source of organs for the state-sanctioned practice.

## Function Continues After Restructuring

The 610 Office derived author-

ity from its connection with the PLAC, a parallel organization that controls all elements of China’s security apparatus: public security (police), state security, judicial, and prosecutorial systems.

Previously, regional directors of the 610 Office at the provincial and municipal levels were also the secretaries or deputy secretaries of the provincial or municipal PLAC. Under that arrangement, the 610 Office could dispatch all the resources of the PLAC to persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

Current CCP leader Xi Jinping took several actions to weaken the 610 Office after he came to power in 2012, as part of his political moves—including a sweeping anti-corruption campaign—targeting officials associated with former CCP general secretary Jiang.

Xi removed the PLAC secretary from the Politburo Standing Committee—the Party’s most powerful decision-making body—significantly shrinking the PLAC’s authority. Later, Xi jailed several former heads of the 610 system, including former PLAC secretary Zhou Yongkang, Zhou’s top aide Zhou Benshun, and former 610 Office director Li Dongsheng.

On March 21, 2018, the CCP announced that the 610 Office and its functions would be subordinated to the PLAC and the Ministry of Public Security. The office appears to have been renamed, with no references to its official or informal names appearing after 2019.

This April saw the purge of Sun Lijun, a public security official who had served as deputy head of the 610 Office, as well as the retirement of justice minister Fu Zhenghua. Fu, who was concurrently the ministry’s deputy Party secretary, had also previously run the 610 Office.

However, a 2019 year-end assessment done by the 610 Office, as well as later documents referring to similarly named organizations, shows the agency or its successors still carry out the Falun Gong persecution post-restructuring. These organizations appear to be empowered with the extralegal authority to enforce those policies across broad sections of the government—in other words, the same powers that the 610 Office once wielded.

Angela Bright, Leo Timm, Meiling Lee, and Sunny Chao contributed to this report.

CHINESE INFILTRATION

# Chinese Regime Steps Up United Front Efforts to Influence Western Democracies: Report

CATHY HE & FRANK FANG

The Chinese regime is stepping up efforts to influence overseas Chinese communities and political systems worldwide, and democratic countries should tackle such campaigns with firm responses, according to a report.

The United Front Work Department, a unit of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), coordinates thousands of groups to carry out foreign political influence operations, suppress dissident movements, gather intelligence, and facilitate the transfer of technology to China, according to a report released June 9 by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) think tank.

The unit’s political influence initiatives focus on foreign elites, including politicians and business executives, and are often covert in nature, the report said. Overseas Chinese communities are also key targets, with the party seeking to co-opt and control community groups, business associations, and Chinese-language media.

“Successful united front work wedges the party between ethnic Chinese communities and the societies they live in, expanding the party’s control of those communities’ channels for representation and mobilization,” the report says.

The department also runs China News Service, one of the regime’s largest news outlets, spreading propaganda to the Chinese diaspora, the report said. It also has established think tanks, while Chinese individuals with ties to united front bodies have funded research at Western think tanks.

Alex Joske, author of the report, said that the United Front’s work abroad amounts to an “exportation of the CCP’s political system.”

## United States

A key component of China’s united front system involves Beijing’s “legal and illicit technology-transfer efforts,” according to the report.

Beijing establishes or co-opts “professional associations with members in universities, governments, and private companies,” and hires overseas scientists under China’s state-sponsored recruitment programs such as the Thousand Talents Plan.

Beijing rolled out the Thousand Talents Plan in 2008 to aggressively recruit promising science and tech

Successful united front work wedges the party between ethnic Chinese communities and the societies they live in, expanding the party’s control of those communities’ channels for representation and mobilization.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute report



Chinese paramilitary officers at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on May 17, 2012.

researchers from foreign countries to work in China.

Many professors in the United States have been indicted for failing to disclose their participation in the Thousand Talents Plan, including those at Emory University, the University of Kansas, and Harvard University. Some Thousand Talents participants have been charged in cases of intellectual property theft.

Organizations for overseas Chinese, such as the Western Returned Scholars Association (WRSA), also take part in recruitment efforts.

WRSA is directed by the United Front Work Department and has a division dedicated to recruiting overseas experts for the Thousand Talents program. WRSA has branches in 15 countries, including the United States.

According to China’s state-run People’s Daily, the recruiting branch was established in January 2011.

ASPI highlighted a criminal case in the United States in connection to the United Front. The case involved Yang Chunlai, a naturalized U.S. citizen and former engineer at Chicago-based global markets company CME Group, who was convicted of stealing trade secrets in 2015.

Yang started working for CME in 2000. Between 2010 and 2011, he downloaded more than 10,000 computer files of CME’s source codes that made up a substantial part of its electronic trading platform Globex. He transferred the files to his personal hard drive.

Yang and two unnamed business partners planned to form a business called Tongmei Futures Exchange

Software Technology Company in China. Yang’s company planned to provide technology to the Zhangjiagang Exchange, a chemical electronic trading market in China, that could increase its trading volume.

He pleaded guilty in September 2012 and was sentenced to four years of probation in 2015.

Yang also is a former president of the Association of Chinese Scientists and Engineers (ACSE) in the United States. Founded in Chicago in 1992, the association has members in more than 20 states.

According to the ASPI report, ACSE frequently meets with United Front officials.

In 2006, Yang visited Beijing to attend a training course for “young overseas Chinese leaders.” There, he met an investment and talent recruitment delegation from a Chinese county government, according to the report.

“The source code he later stole, some of which he sent to the county government, was meant to help grow the business he established in the county’s free trade zone,” ASPI stated.

The report recommended that governments study and develop their capacity to understand China’s united front work and come up with high-level policies on countering foreign interference.

ASPI also suggested that governments work with universities to develop responses to Chinese influence on their campuses. Public officials shouldn’t legitimize united front groups, it said, and instead support independent Chinese community groups in the diaspora.



Police detain a demonstrator protesting the persecution of Falun Gong as a crowd watches, in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square on Oct. 1, 2000.



Paramilitary police officers in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square on May 1, 2020.





Protesters rally against China's national security law in the Mong Kok district of Hong Kong on May 27, 2020.

US-CHINA RELATIONS

# US Ramps Up Tough Actions Against Beijing

CATHY HE

The United States is escalating efforts to counter the Chinese regime in response to Beijing's malign actions during the pandemic and now, over Hong Kong. Over the past few months, the Trump administration has vociferously demanded that the regime be held accountable for its coverup of the CCP virus outbreak. It also has enacted measures targeting threats stemming from Beijing, ranging from intellectual property (IP) theft to security risks posed by Chinese telecom giant Huawei. Then, in late May, the Chinese regime moved to impose a national security law over Hong Kong, which critics say would mark the end of the city's freedoms and autonomy. In response, President Donald Trump announced on May 29 that Washington would begin the process of eliminating Hong Kong's preferential economic treatment and sanctioning officials involved in eroding the city's autonomy. "I think it's clear that the United States is very rapidly moving to essentially declaring China an enemy," Harry J. Kazianis, a national security expert at the Washington-

I think it's clear that the United States is very rapidly moving to essentially declaring China an enemy.

Harry J. Kazianis, a national security expert at the Center for the National Interest

President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, on June 29, 2019.

based think tank Center for the National Interest, told The Epoch Times. Observers have described Trump's 10-minute speech on the administration's China policy on May 29 as a watershed moment in U.S.-China relations. In it, he criticized Beijing's sweeping campaign to steal American IP, aggressive military actions in the South China Sea, coverup of the pandemic, influence over the World Health Organization (WHO), and its "absolute smothering" of Hong Kong's freedoms. Frank Gaffney, vice chairman of the advocacy group Committee on the Present Danger: China, told The Epoch Times that Trump's remarks were "the most articulate public statement by a president of the United States about the danger of the Chinese Communist Party" that he had heard in his lifetime. Gaffney said the speech was "epic" in its "depiction of an enemy of the United States that is pursuing—not just rhetorically but in a comprehensive way—our destruction." That day, Trump also announced the United States' formal withdrawal from the WHO, the barring of Chinese graduate students tied to the Chinese military, and a review of Chinese companies that are listed on U.S. stock exchanges. While the speech signaled a

tougher approach toward Beijing, it was also a continuation of the administration's China policy, which has hardened since the "high point" of relations when Trump met Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Mar-a-Lago resort in 2017, said June Teufel Dreyer, a political science professor at the University of Miami. The "final catalyst" for the administration was "the combination of concealing the lethal nature of the coronavirus plus Beijing's reneging on its promises to Hong Kong, with horrific stories coming out of Xinjiang," Dreyer said in an email, referring to Beijing's suppression of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. Some U.S. lawmakers and observers describe the current state of U.S.-China relations as a return to "cold war"-style tensions. But Gaffney said this descriptor is misleading because the communist regime had been waging "unrestricted warfare" on America for decades. A strategy crafted by Chinese military officials in the late 1990s, unrestricted warfare refers to using a series of unconventional tactics designed to accomplish the goals of war without engaging in actual combat. These include widespread theft of foreign trade secrets, dominating critical industries and infrastructure, and utilizing media and information channels to shift global public perceptions in favor of the Chinese regime. "The Soviets had an agenda of taking us down, but I don't think they pursued it with anything remotely like the comprehensiveness, patience, determination, and resources that the Chinese Communist Party is bringing to bear on us now," Gaffney said.

**Economic Distancing** Trump last week directed a presidential working group on financial markets to suggest actions within 60 days to crack down on Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges that fail to comply with U.S. accounting rules. The Chinese regime has blocked U.S. regulators from inspecting the audit work papers of Chinese companies, saying that they contain "state secrets." Critics say the lack of oversight of these companies puts U.S. inves-

tors at risk, citing the growing number of Chinese companies that have been embroiled in fraud scandals—the latest being Nasdaq-listed Luckin Coffee, which in April reported that senior managers fabricated more than \$300 million in sales. Gaffney said it was critical that the United States "stop underwriting the Chinese Communist Party." We need to "ensure that the Chinese Communist Party no longer is able to count on our financing for the myriad ways in which they're waging war against us," he said. The pandemic has also prompted the administration to accelerate plans to remove critical supply chains out of China, Reuters reported, as the public health crisis has exposed the pitfalls of the United States' dependency on the country as a manufacturing base. Kazianis said that if Trump wins reelection, we would not only expect to see more action to decouple from China, but also an education campaign aimed to explain to Americans why reducing U.S. supply chain reliance on China is necessary. "The biggest thing that is difficult for the American people to understand is they hear all these challenges from China, threats from China, but at the same time, we're still buying hundreds of billions of dollars of products from China every year," he said.

**Human Rights** The administration should place human rights issues on the table when dealing with the regime, says Joseph Bosco, former China country director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He suggested invoking the Magnitsky Act to sanction Chinese officials involved in human rights abuses, including the persecution of religious groups, ethnic minorities, and dissidents. Bosco said Washington should also launch a campaign to broadcast into China and Hong Kong information about "Beijing's constant and escalating violations of human rights, its threatening and aggressive behavior to China's neighbors including Taiwan, and its lawless and irresponsible conduct in enabling the release of the pandemic from Wuhan to the world."



A man threatens an Epoch Times staffer and other citizens with his knife in Hong Kong, on June 12, 2020.

HONG KONG

# Epoch Times Staffer Attacked by Knife-Wielding Man in Hong Kong

EVA FU

A local resident was wounded when he came to the aid of an Epoch Times staffer who was attacked with a knife on the evening of June 12 while covering events related to a key protest movement anniversary in Hong Kong. Jerry, a part-time videographer with the publication's Hong Kong edition, was live-streaming in the area of Kwun Tong around 9 p.m. local time where a street stand was set up with photos and signage related to Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. Police were nearby patrolling the area. A group of about a dozen citizens got into a heated argument, with some people pushing and shoving each other, Jerry said. He has chosen to withhold his surname for safety reasons. One man, dressed in a white button-down shirt, fell to the ground during the clash. When he got up, he suddenly flashed a green knife and began pointing it at people's faces. Jerry began photographing the scene. When the man spotted Jerry, he raised the knife toward him. Jerry said the man also tried to grab his photo stand and other equipment. As they engaged in a tug-of-war, a bystander grabbed the knife with his bare hands in an effort to stop the attack, wounding his hand in the process. Media footage from the scene showed blood splattered, and red-stained tissues strewn on the ground. Nearby police quickly subdued the attacker, who is currently in

A bystander grabbed the knife with his bare hands in an effort to stop the attack, wounding his hand in the process.

A man wields a knife after arguing with nearby citizens, in Kwun Tong, Hong Kong, on June 12, 2020.

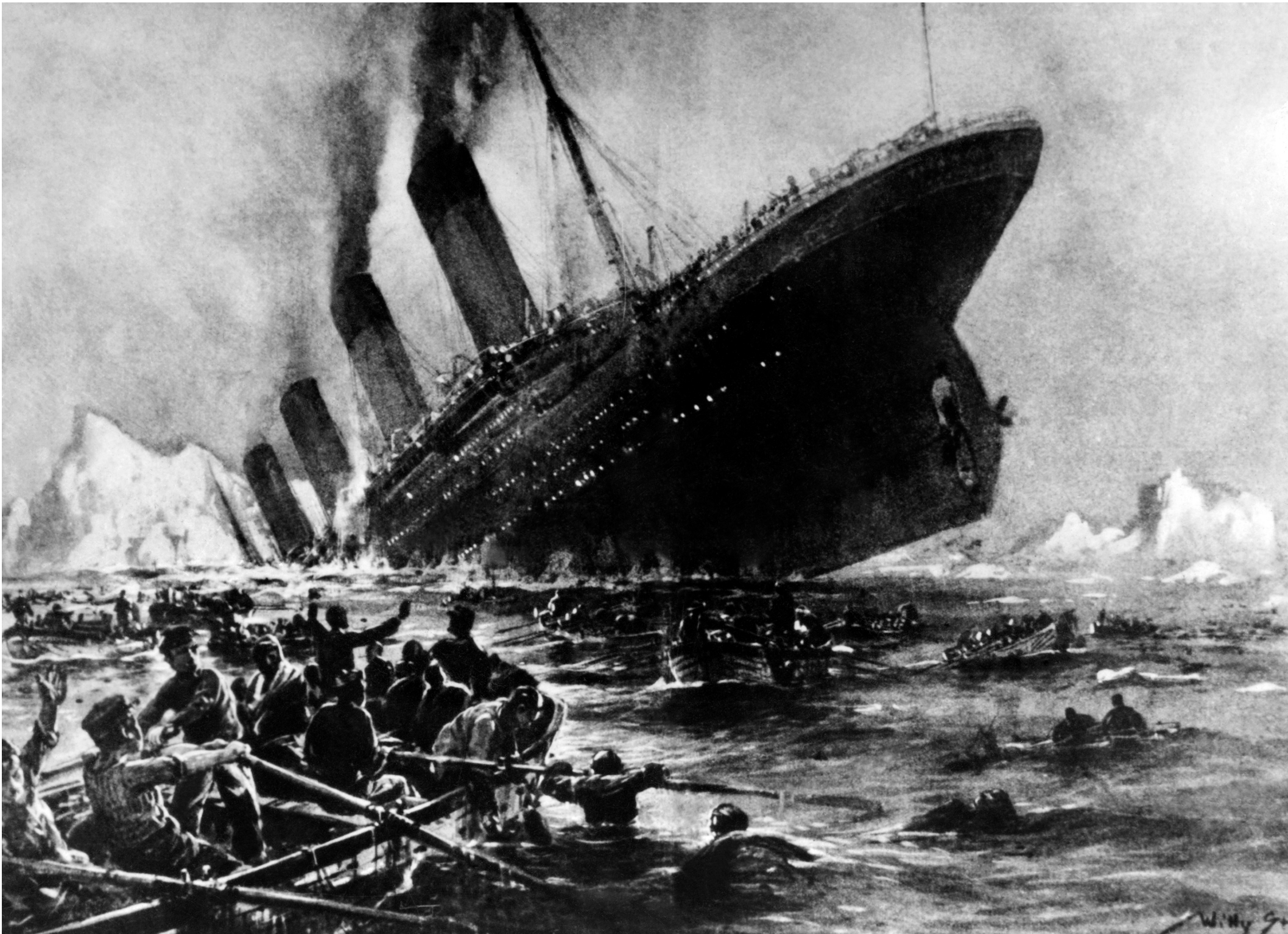
police custody. According to the police, the man is a 27-year-old male surnamed Kwong. They had found a knife box along with 2 1/2 tablets during a body search. A fruit knife approximately 7 1/2 inches long was found on the ground at the scene. Prior to the attack, the assailant was shouting pro-Beijing slogans, according to Hong Kong media. Kwong was charged with wounding and striking to cause bodily harm, as well as possessing poison. Police identified the good Samaritan as a 21-year-old male, but didn't disclose his name. According to a friend who accompanied him at the hospital, the knife severed two nerves in his hand. Jerry sustained minor hand injuries while protecting his camera and didn't request hospitalization. June 12 marked the one-year anniversary of an intense confrontation between police and protesters in front of the government headquarters in Admiralty as the city legislature was set to debate a controversial extradition bill that would have allowed individuals to be transferred to mainland China for trial. The bill has since been scrapped. That day, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters, drawing public outrage and fueling an ongoing protest movement against Beijing. Locals have since staged mass demonstrations calling for greater democratic freedoms in the territory. Protest activities were reignited in recent weeks, after Beijing in late May imposed a national security law for the city, bypassing Hong Kong's legislature. Critics fear the new law will crush the city's freedoms.

Jerry expressed that he was both grateful and anxious for the bystander who took the blow for him. "I was quite nervous," Jerry said. "I didn't know how bad he was hurt. I asked him: Why did you do such a silly thing—to use your hand to block it?" The bystander, upon learning that Jerry worked for The Epoch Times, said, "I don't regret helping you," Jerry said. "After he said that, I felt regretful in my heart," Jerry said. Speaking through a friend, the bystander later said he hoped that Hongkongers would continue the protest movement and defend their values. "A lot of people might have the mentality that 'if I don't come out this time, I can do it next time,' or that 'even if I don't come out, many others will.' They therefore choose not to stand up," the friend told The Epoch Times. "Quite frankly, I'm not scared to be stabbed to death on the street; what I fear is to see people's hearts turning cold and apathetic, indifferent to everything around them," the 21-year-old said, according to his friend. The Hong Kong Journalist Association expressed "strong condemnation" toward the violent attack and called for a thorough investigation into the assailant's motivation. The Hong Kong edition of The Epoch Times also called on local authorities to investigate the incident and the attacker's background. The bureau has experienced multiple attacks in recent years. In November 2019, four masked intruders set fire to The Epoch Times' printing press, damaging machines and printing paper in the factory.



JERRY/THE EPOCH TIMES





Undated artist impression showing the April 14, 1912, shipwreck of the British luxury passenger liner Titanic off the coast of Nova Scotia, during its maiden voyage.

OPINION

# The Chinese Communist Party Is Sinking Like the Titanic, But Officials Have a Plan

DIANA ZHANG

Some people might wonder why the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) wants to take over Hong Kong regardless of losing the prosperity it generates as a financial center, or why the CCP is building One Belt, One Road, or why it spreads so much money around in Africa, and or why it boasts in its propaganda that China is helping different countries during the pandemic, while the majority of the Chinese people are living in poverty.

In the United States, the poverty threshold for a single person is considered to be \$1,063 per month. Recently, Chinese premier Li Keqiang said that about 600 million Chinese have incomes of less than 1,000 yuan (\$141) per month.

According to Beijing Normal University research, around 964 million have incomes of under 2,000 yuan (\$283) per month. That's 69 percent of the total population.

Yet top CCP officials and the elite have huge amounts of money. The top 1 percent own one-third of the nation's total wealth.

Retired top CCP officials' medical expenses can be over 1 million yuan (\$141,000) per year. They can get injected with young people's blood to stay healthy, and, of course, they can change organs when needed.

China has a unique model: "Enrich the party and exploit the people." Under the CCP's rule, the Chinese people have experienced two processes of converting from a system of private property to state-owned property, confiscation

followed by privatization.

When the CCP first took over China, it killed landowners and took their land, killed business owners and took their businesses. Private property became state-owned—actually, CCP-owned. Everything in China is owned by the CCP.

When China's economy was close to falling off a cliff, Western countries bailed out the CCP. With the opening of trade and the U.S. market to China, China privatized a lot of land and companies, but CCP officials and their relatives got the lion's share of opportunities.

The CCP used the ideals of socialism to rob people of their property, then privatized it into their own hands.

Among top officials, there's a secret plan for a "sinking boat." They're insiders and know better than the majority of Chinese how corrupt the system is and that it's not sustainable. These CCP elites don't take China as their home country. They see the country as a place temporarily held by them where they can grab money and prepare to leave.

That's why they're willing to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, just to get a few eggs right now, as in Hong Kong. It's the same model that's applied to the entire country. China is only a temporary hunting ground for grabbing money.

In 2012, the following internal data leaked out: 90 percent of central party committee members had relatives and children who had emigrated to foreign countries; 85 percent of top officials were ready to abandon their positions and escape the country.

That's why China doesn't

allow any officials above mid-level local positions to hold their passports. The higher the position, the more the CCP officials know that the CCP crisis is reaching a boiling point.

They've moved their assets out, prepared to run away, and are even prepared in an emergency to destroy the central database to cover their tracks.

That's part of their plan for the "sinking boat." That's why they use state money to corrupt international officials, make friends with many countries, and generously spread money to some foreign lands while giving very little to their own people.

Taiwanese economist Wu Jialong said that a Taiwanese businessman told him that Jia Qinglin, the former chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, "hired a private jet loaded with gold, dollars, euros, and more, and flew to Cambodia."

One can see why the CCP cares even for small countries.

The majority of people in China don't know it's a sinking boat. They enjoy as much as they can while ignoring how the CCP corrupts the morality of society, just like the drinking, singing passengers on the sinking Titanic.

What top CCP officials are most afraid of is Western countries' sanctions of individuals.

*Diana Zhang, Ph.D., is a staff writer with 20 years' experience in the study of China. Based in the United States, she uses a pen name to protect her family members in China.*

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

The CCP used the ideals of socialism to rob people of their property, then privatized it into their own hands.

OPINION

# Chinese Leaders' Public Disagreement on Economy Sparks Party Infighting

NICOLE HAO

During a recent inspection tour of villages in the region of Ningxia, Chinese leader Xi Jinping emphasized that his goal is for China to become "a moderately prosperous society."

That catchphrase, coined soon after he took power in 2012, is his flagship economic policy.

China is advancing toward achieving that goal, with "400 million people in the middle class," Xi wrote in a May 31 article in Qiushi, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) official magazine.

His standard for middle class is an annual household income of 100,000 to 500,000 yuan (\$14,160–\$70,810). But in China, multi-generational households living under one roof are not uncommon.

Meanwhile, Chinese premier Li Keqiang

has recently highlighted the country's unemployment and poverty crises, which have been exacerbated by the CCP virus pandemic.

During a meeting of China's rubber-stamp legislature on May 28, Li said that 600 million Chinese earn just 1,000 yuan (\$140) per month, which isn't enough to pay for monthly rent on a one-bedroom apartment in a mid-sized Chinese city. He promoted the idea of setting up a "street vendor economy" to alleviate the rise in unemployment from the pandemic.

"The challenges that [China] is facing are unprecedentedly difficult," Li said at an economic seminar in Qingdao city on June 1, emphasizing that hundreds of millions of Chinese people need financial support.

State-run media first promoted the street vendor economy idea, but began running articles criticizing the idea on June 5. Since

then, provincial and city governments have offered differing information about whether street vendors would be allowed.

Observers have interpreted the openly contradictory messaging of late as an indication of a power struggle between political factions aligned with Xi and Li.

"Xi and Li fighting with each other in public certainly made it difficult for lower-ranking officials to position themselves," U.S.-based China affairs commentator Tang Jingyuan says.

## Infighting Goes Public

Frank Tian Xie, business professor at the University of South Carolina Aiken, also reads Li's comments as a direct rebuke of Xi.

"It shows that Chinese Communist Party senior officials hold different opinions and struggle with each other," Xie said in an interview.

Li's comment about 600 million people living on a monthly income of less than 1,000 yuan was "a slap in the face of Xi Jinping," Xi said. China would realize a moderately prosperous society in 2020," U.S.-based commentator Jiang Feng said on his YouTube show.

Because Li is the Party's top official on economic policy, he would take the blame for the country's economic woes, Tang suggests.

As China's economy continues to sag, Tang said Li had no choice but to admit to Chinese citizens that the situation is serious.

"Obviously, Li doesn't want to take the responsibility of lying to the public. This is the key reason why Li announced the existence of such a large number of poor people in China," Tang said.

## Chinese Economy

The Chinese economy is in critical situation, and even a street vendor economy

can't save it, He Junjiao, a Chinese economist based in Hunan Province, told the Chinese-language Epoch Times.

"If a country relies on the 'street vendor economy' to support people's livelihood, the country is on the edge of bankruptcy," He said. "Behind Li's street vendor economy is mass unemployment."

The Chinese regime, in desperation, is calling on people to become small-time entrepreneurs.

If a country relies on the 'street vendor economy' to support people's livelihood, the country is on the edge of bankruptcy.

He Junjiao, Chinese economist

"Otherwise, they will starve, or even riot if they have nothing to eat," he said.

"The monthly income of 547 million Chinese people, which is 39.1 percent of the population, is less than 1,000 yuan. 52.5 million Chinese people's monthly income is between 1,000 to 1,090 yuan (\$154)," according to a recent survey conducted by Beijing Normal University of some 70,000 people and reported by Shanghai-based Chinese magazine Caixin on June 3. "That means 42.85 percent of the Chinese population earned less than 1,090 yuan every month," according to the report.

That includes 5.46 million Chinese who have no income; 216 million who earn less than 500 yuan (\$70) every month; and another 200 million whose monthly income is lower than 800 yuan (\$113).

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

CCP VIRUS

# Beijing City Announces 'Wartime' Preparations to Contain Virus

NICOLE HAO

Chinese authorities announced 51 new domestic CCP virus infections in Beijing in the past four days, causing officials to scramble to contain its spread.

The city, which has kept a tight lid on information since the virus began spreading earlier this year, will now test ten of thousands of close contacts after its latest outbreak.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) boss of Beijing city, Cai Qi, announced on June 13 that the capital "has already entered an abnormal period" following the uptick in virus cases.

It should be noted that local governments in China have been documented to under-report infections.

Meanwhile, Chu Junwei, acting director of the Fengtai district government in Beijing, announced that the district would launch "wartime mechanisms" and set up a command center to contain the virus.

I think the outbreak must be out of control now.

Ms. Li, Beijing resident

Also on June 13, four neighborhoods across Beijing were designated as "medium-risk regions" for virus spread.

## Diagnosed Patients

Pang Xinghuo, vice director of the Beijing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said at a daily press conference on June 14 that eight people in the city were diagnosed with the virus from midnight to 7 a.m.

Pang said all eight cases are related to the Xinfadi Food Market, a wholesale market

located in Fengtai district that sells vegetables, fruits, meats, seafood, and grains.

Ms. Li, a Beijing resident who lives close to the market, said her friends and relatives messaged her about more than 20 locations in the area that are considered high risk for virus infection.

"I think the outbreak must be out of control now," she said in a phone interview.

Hours earlier, the Beijing Municipal Health Commission announced on its website that there were 36 newly diagnosed virus patients on June 13.

Combined with officially announced cases on June 11 and 12, 51 people were diagnosed with the virus, all of them who either worked or shopped at the Xinfadi market, according to authorities.



A health worker wearing a protective suit takes a swab sample from a woman at Guang'an Sports Center in Beijing on June 14, 2020.



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THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH AND TRADITION

# TRUTH CAN BE BLOCKED **BUT NEVER STOPPED**

*Pass it on, one friend at a time*



My mother received a local newspaper for many years. Shortly after President Trump was elected, she noticed that the paper became more and more liberal, biased, and untruthful. She called the paper’s subscription department, complained that it was not the paper that it used to be, and canceled her subscription. I told her and my sister about The Epoch Times, and they subscribed shortly after and have been reading it ever since then.

BARBARA WENDELL



In a time when lies and subversive, treasonous tactics threaten our Republic - when ‘truth’ is threatened as a beacon to freedom - **The Epoch Times has been a welcome and refreshing antidote that re-instills sanity and rationality, as well as sanctity for human life.**

NEAL BOGOSIAN



In my political monthly forum I have taken copies of some of my weekly editions for members to look over and take home to read. **I’ve recommended many of my friends to take out subscriptions. There has been good feedback from information in some articles I’ve shown around to others.**

RITA MARTINSON



**I have mentioned to my family and friends how much my husband and I value The Epoch Times.** One of the fronts in our nation’s battle to preserve our Constitutionally established political, cultural, and religious freedom is in our school rooms where the covert strategic assault against them began a hundred years ago. Truth is our sword. Would that this “sword” could be in the hands of educators and school boards throughout our nation.

CYNTHIA PETERSON

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