

CHINA INSIDER



NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE US TO GET TOUGHER ON BEIJING

See Page 5

For Survivors of Persecution, Time of Reunion Invokes Sorrow

EVA FU

EW YORK—The day marked the Mid-Autumn Festival, the second-most important Chinese celebration of the year, when families gather to share mooncakes and marvel at the harvest moon at its fullest. But Xiao Ping wasn't in the mood for festivities.

In front of a small booth furnished with banners, flyers, and booklets in Flushing, New York, she showed up as usual, smiling to passersby with a flyer in hand. Sometimes mainland Chinese hurled insults or called her a traitor.

On top of her little booth, the characters read "Falun Dafa Is Good" and "Truth Compassion Forbearance."

It was Xiao's second Mid-Autumn Festival in New York. An adherent of the spiritual discipline, the 47-yearold from China's southeastern Nanchang city left the country in August 2019 with her teenage son to escape the incessant persecution targeting their spiritual belief.

Her voice quivered as she spoke of loved ones she left behind—her husband, her sister, her mother (who's in her 80s), and friends who have also been persecuted because of their faith.

"You made the right choice to go to America, but we can't bear to part with you," Xiao's sister once told her on a phone call.

Rooted in ancient Chinese traditions, Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, consists of moral teachings and a set of gentle exercises. It surged in popularity in China in the 1990s—until the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched an expansive campaign in 1999 to eradicate the practice.

You made the right choice to An estimated 70 million to 100 million Chinese who took up the go to America, practice have since become targets but we can't for torture, imprisonment, forced bear to part labor, and live organ harvesting. Meanwhile, the regime has deployed with you. widespread propaganda designed to stigmatize adherents and incite Xiao Ping's sister told hatred against the group. her on a phone call

Falun Gong practitioner Xiao Ping in front of a booth where she raises awareness about China's persecution of the spiritual practice, in Flushing, New York, on Oct. 1, 2020.

> Between 1999 and 2001, Xiao was detained three times at the same local detention center, on each occasion in wintertime when the temperature had dropped below freezing. She remembered the acrylic towels that would harden into an icy block and the meager amount of boiled greens they ate every day, with maggots floating at the top and a layer of sand at the bottom.

> "There's sand in every bite," she said. "It's impossible to eat the meal if you want to spit out the sand."

> Inside the tiny prison cell, she had to sleep squeezed in with as many as a dozen detainees on a hard wooden plank meant to hold half that number. The plank was inclined, forcing everyone to sleep head-to-head with

Because of the lack of nutrition, the prisoners suffered from constipation lasting for weeks, which often ended with days of diarrhea after their monthly treat of pork—from pigs raised by the prison.

Taking showers was a luxury and an ordeal due to the scarce water supply, which was cold and would usually cut off before they could finish. To avoid directly touching the cold water, she sometimes used a wet towel to clean herself. "The dirt would rain down after you rubbed vour skin," she said.

In 2001, she was transferred from the detention center to a labor camp. She spent five months there making dog sweaters that she suspected were for export. When not working, the no space to move or change position. detained practitioners were made to "When it became tiring, we all ... sit on low stools to watch propaganda the "banging" sound of loudspeakers turned our body the other way in videos that vilified Falun Gong. The as people sang and danced about. But sync," Xiao said. During the day, they guards would not allow their relatives after 30 minutes, all she heard was the would sit on a concrete bench next to visit them unless they shouted insults about the practice, Xiao said.

In 2015, Xiao and dozens of other local practitioners filed lawsuits against Jiang Zemin, the former Chinese leader who unleashed the persecution campaign, drawing retaliation from authorities.

The vice director of the local 610 Office, the extrajudicial body assigned to execute the persecution of Falun Gong, went to each practitioner's workplace to pressure for their dismissal. Xiao was one of around 10 practitioners who lost their jobs in the subsequent two years.

"Everyone says you guys are good people, but so what? You aren't allowed to practice," the man told her shortly before she was fired. "If you practice Falun Gong, you are the enemy, enemy, enemy," he said, pointing a finger at her nose.

The authorities even attempted to interrogate Xiao's son, then in sixth grade, and eventually sent a note through his teacher asking what he knew about the practice.

The traumatic years have left a mark on her son. When their New York landlord came to help them set up the internet not long after they settled down, his first reaction was to hide their Falun Gong books into a drawer so the landlord wouldn't see them.

That small act gave "a sting in my heart," she said. She explained to her son that they're "now in America" and no longer need to hide the books. Like many new immigrants, Xiao

juggles odd jobs; she also needs to take care of her son, and she finds time to meditate and spread awareness about the ongoing persecution, now in its 21st year.

She recalled a group event at Times Square in September 2019, when about 100 practitioners joined for a session of sitting meditation.

It was the first time in years she was able to fully relax and completely forget where she was, she said.

"Do you know how loud the surrounding area was?" Xiao said, noting serene meditation music, as if she had been transported to a different world.



Falun Gong practitioners take part in a candlelight vigil commemorating the 20th anniversary of the persecution of Falun Gong in China, on the West Lawn of Capitol Hill on July 18, 2019.

OPINION

THE EPOCH TIMES Week 41, 2020

Wall Street, Central Bank Policy Pushing Investors to Chinese Bond Market

FAN YU

he Trump administration has been curbing market access for certain Chinese companies associated with the Chinese Communist Party

Despite escalating tensions between Beijing and Washington, the United States and other foreign investors are providing funds to amplify China's growth and its apparent economic rebound since the depths of the CCP virus pandemic.

While foreign participation in the Chinese stock market has been widely documented, participation in its onshore bond market has just begun and is becoming a meaningful countercurrent to Washington's efforts to curb the Chinese regime's ambitions.

And much of this is the United States' own doing—a combination of the low-interest rate policy adopted by the West and inclusion into securities indices by

Foreign participation in China's \$15 trillion onshore (RMBdenominated) bond market was a negligible 2.9 percent as of August, according to French brokerage firm Natixis. But that figure is about to change very soon. A few developments could boost that

apparent liberalization of its bond market. On this front, Beijing has swung the door wide open.

the application process further,

REUTERS/ALY SONG/FILE PHOTO



Investors look at computer screens showing stock information at a brokerage house in Shanghai, China, April 21, 2016.

percentage significantly.

The first development is China's

Until a few years ago, international investors had to go through a lengthy process to apply to become a Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) or Renminbi **Qualified Foreign Institutional** Investor (RQFII) to invest. Even with the license, they were subject to a slew of restrictions, caps, and repatriation limits. In 2017, the Hong Kong-based Bond Connect granted foreign investors broader access to the mainland market.

In September, regulators introduced new draft rules to ease

paving the way for even broader most powerful—is the significant

The next two developments pushing capital to Beijing are driven by the West's own policy. One trend is Wall Street's inclusion of the Chinese market into its numerous securities indexes.

In April, Chinese bonds were added to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index, the world's most widely followed investment-grade fixed-income index. Chinese state media China Daily estimates about \$700 billion to \$800 billion of capital inflows from foreign funds, insurers, and banks as a result of this addition.

Chinese government bonds also will be added to U.S. investment portfolios. JPMorgan Chase in February added Chinese local government bonds into its JPMorgan Government Bond Index—Emerging Markets, which is expected to drive more than \$20 billion of foreign capital into Chinese local government bonds. Such local governments in China often guarantee smaller government-owned enterprises and many municipalities are

budget-constrained. In September, FTSE Russell announced it would add Chinese government bonds to its World Government Bond Index next year, which may trigger another approximately \$100 billion of inflows into Chinese government

So far, these three index additions might drive almost \$1 trillion of aggregate new foreign money into the Chinese onshore bond market in the near future. Aberdeen Standard estimated in 2018 that China could make up 5 to 7 percent of these three indices, with more possibly to follow.

The third factor—and perhaps

bonds yield 3.1 percent, and an yield gap. Government and cor-**Export-Import Bank of China** porate bonds in the United States bond due March 2030 yields 3.8 and Europe pay such little interest percent. China's central bank has largely eschewed stimulus that many investors are forced to go elsewhere to obtain sufficient recently and held rates steady in returns. This is especially true an effort to promote financial stability domestically. for pension funds and insurance

companies that must meet cer-

tain returns in order to generate

sufficient cash to pay liabilities.

The trend is a manifestation of the

prevailing low-to-zero-percent-

age interest rate regime which has

been in place in the West since the

Great Financial Crisis. And the

CCP virus has turned expecta-

tions of interest rates further into

the negative in some countries.

While foreign

participation in

the Chinese stock

market has been

widely documented

participation in its

countercurrent to

Washington's efforts

to curb the Chinese

regime's ambitions.

As of Oct. 2, the one-year U.S.

an investment and more of a store

onshore bond market

has just begun and is

becoming a meaningful

In today's environment, a spread

of 2.5 percent is very tempting. China is by no means the highest-yielding market. But investors view China's relative currency stability (managed to the U.S. dollar), historically low default rates (also centrally managed), and increasing market access as more attractive compared to other high yielding emerging markets. There are few alternatives; for example, India's financial markets are almost completely shut off from

foreign investors. So to meet returns expectations, institutional investors are essentially shrugging off massive risks arising from arbitrary CCP policies, draconian capital controls, and pervasive corporate governance and judicial concerns.

So far, China's onshore bond market has largely avoided the foreign scrutiny that its stock markets have attracted. The South China Morning Post reported on Sept. 30 that foreign fund managers sold a net 24 billion yuan (\$4 billion) of yuan-traded equities via the Hong Kong-Shanghai Stock Connect during the third quarter. It's a signal that foreign investors could be becoming

Treasury bill yields just 0.1 perleery of Chinese stocks. cent, while the 10-year U.S. Trea-While Chinese bonds are less sury rate is 0.7 percent. Today, talked about than stocks, they ab-Treasuries have become less of solutely warrant similar scrutiny.

Views expressed in this article Yields on Chinese debt are are the opinions of the author comparatively higher. As of Oct. and do not necessarily reflect the 2, Chinese 10-year government views of The Epoch Times

SURVEILLANCE

In the Name of Fighting Pandemic, China Strengthens Surveillance State

FRANK FANG

he Chinese regime has taken advantage of the current pandemic to step up surveillance of citizens, with local security bureaus—akin to police departments—working closely with hospitals and other medical institutions.

Based on a number of leaked documents obtained by The Epoch Times and a review of announcements made by Chinese authorities, police have obtained broad powers to collect health data and track citizens' movements as authorities have tried to stop the spread of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

Data Collection

In a leaked document issued by the health commission in Daxing district of Beijing on June 26, authorities requested that police and health officials work together closely to "enter households and investigate."

The operation was named "security bureaus inspect and gather big data," whereby police would record their interviews with people at home. Health officials would then collect biological samples, including throat tissue and blood, from "high-risk people" who had been to a local market called Xinfadi.

In mid-June, the city of Beijing experienced a new wave of infections. Local authorities claimed that the Xinfadi market was ground zero for the outbreak.

"The effort to collect big data should not slack off," stated a notice dated June 26 that was issued by health authorities in Baoding city, Hebei Province. It listed the chief duties of special government teams set up for combating the virus, and said authorities should identify "important targets" to be tested for the virus in the following

Big data collection also involves the use of facial recognition cameras. For example, the security bureau, or police, in Wenshang County of eastern China's Shandong Province, announced on its WeChat social media account in February that it had just completed the task of upgrading its surveillance cameras in the region in an effort to combat the virus.

According to the WeChat post, high-resolution facial recognition cameras were installed at 3 local public hospitals, 14 health centers, and 30 supermarkets.

The Wenshang police demanded that these locations "strengthen their effort" in ensuring the cameras stay online, as they would be used for "epidemiological investigations."

State media reports about such investigations describe tracking down people whom infected patients might have come

recognition cameras that are able to distinguish people's faces even when they're wearing a protective mask, according to a March 13 announcement. It also requested that these facilities purchase a system that can pass on the data to police.

of value.

Chinese authorities have also adopted the widespread use of health code apps to monitor people's movements. A barcode indicating a citizen's COVID-19 risk is scanned at public checkpoints, or in some cases the entrances to apartment

In at least one area, the health code app was developed by local police. In February, police in Hure Banner located in Inner Mongolia, stated that it had successfully expanded an existing registration system to monitor people coming in and out of the region to a QR code system to be used at all "medical institutions" in the region, according to Chinese state-run media.

Such tracking of people's movements in public places raises privacy concerns, said Chou Kuan-ju, a project officer at the Taiwan-based NGO Taiwan Association for Human Rights.

"Is the method proportionate? Do they collect the minimum data necessary for containing the pandemic?" Chou said in



Security guards wait in line to undergo COVID-19 coronavirus swab tests at a testing station in Beijing on June 30, 2020.

an email to The Epoch Times. "Once the And in Shanghai, police demanded that surveillance tools are built, it might be hard to stop it in the future.

> It is also unclear whether authorities would delete or retain the data they col-

> She's also concerned whether there's a way for citizens to "challenge the decisions made through the tracking systems."

Tight Cooperation

lect, Chou said.

The pandemic also paved the way for Chinese police to extend their physical presence at health facilities.

The health commission of the Beijing municipal government issued a document on June 18 demanding that local disease prevention centers each send a staff member to the city's police bureau. Such staff must be on standby 24 hours a day. Additionally, these centers must report "basic information regarding all infection cases" to the police bureau right away.

The health commission claimed that these measures were meant to "facilitate communication" as part of an effort to better track down people who have come into contact with those infected.

Two public announcements also show that police units were mobilized to impose tight social control during the pandemic. The General Hospital of Yangtze River Shipping, located in Wuhan, where the virus first emerged, issued a public "thank you" letter to the local police in March. The hospital thanked the police for stationing officers at the hospital 24 hours a day and "doing a good job in thought stability control of patients and their families."

A month earlier, on Feb. 15, the police in Changbai County, located in northeastern China's Jilin Province, stated on its WeChat account that it was stationing its officers at the county's hospitals 24 hours a day for the objective of "maintaining strong stability." Both "thought stability" and "maintain stability" are the Communist Party's jargon

for controlling local populations. For example, the term is used in announcements by Xinjiang authorities about stamping out any indication of public protest or dissent. The Chinese regime has heavily suppressed the local population of Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minori-

ties, including by detaining roughly one million inside concentration camps.

OPINION

'COVID-19 Finally Strikes the Right Target'

China's state-controlled internet lights up in celebration over Trump's illness

STEVEN W. MOSHER



It was reported late on Oct. 1 that President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump had tested positive for

the CCP virus (novel coronavirus) and that they were experiencing "mild symptoms." And on Oct. 2, we learned that he was transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center out of an "abundance of caution."

Along with tens of millions of Americans, my family and I have prayed for the president and the first lady, along with any White House staffers who may be ill, that they may quickly return to good health.

Those suffering from "Trump Derangement Syndrome" saw this not as an occasion to send light, however, but to give voice to dark

In communist

China, they're

in the streets.

practically dancing

In communist China, they're practically dancing in the streets. Upon learning that Trump had tested positive for the virus, Hu Xijin, the editor-in-chief of the staterun tabloid Global Times, implied that Trump had it coming.

"President Trump and the first lady have paid the price for his gamble to play down the COV-ID-19," Hu wrote on Twitter.

"The news shows the severity of the US' pandemic situation. It will impose a negative impact on the image of Trump and the US, and may also negatively affect his reelection."

Hu, a member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), thought better of his little victory dance a short time later and took down his tweet. But the anti-Trump vitriol has continued on social media.

Hundreds of thousands of CCI members, says human rights activist Jennifer Zeng, clicked "like" on posts openly celebrating news that America's First Family had come down with the virus.

Nearly 2 million people liked "The whole world is celebrating!"

Hundreds of thousands more liked tweets reading "So happy," "It's late but it's here," and "Celebrating Autumn Harvest Festival, National Day, and Trump: Triple Happiness."

And then there is the most revealing tweet of all: "COVID-19 finally hit the right target."

When one Beijing resident was interviewed on live television, she could hardly contain herself.

"The entire country is celebrating [Trump's illness]," she exulted. "All of the heavens and the earth rejoice together. Very, very good. This is a gift and contribution from Trump to China."

Those standing nearby were laughing and nodding in agree-

Bear in mind that the Chinese media is under tight state control. This disgusting interview would never have been broadcast on staterun television, and the earlier posts would never have gotten past social media censors unless their messages were approved by communist authorities.

Party members, like Pavlov's dogs, are trained to salivate on the command of their communist masters. They quickly respond to such dog whistles and are only too happy to start yapping in unison. But even ordinary people in China seem to be reveling in the news about Trump, although perhaps for a different reason.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the CCP has spread the rumor that the coronavirus was a bioweapon developed by U.S. Army labs in Fort Detrick, Maryland. As the story goes, it was deliberately brought to China during the October 2019 Military Games in Wuhan and released upon the Chinese eople. It's not the "China virus" at all, they have been told, it's the "American virus."

This calumny may explain another video out of China. It shows a bus full of passengers cheering

when they learn that Trump has fallen ill. In the video, the bus driver first shouts: "Let me tell you some exciting and encouraging news. The [expletive] Trump has finally got [expletive] COVID-19!" Upon hearing this, the passengers erupt in cheers and applause.

Watching the video reminded me of an earlier anti-American episode. When 9/11 happened, Chinese social media exploded with mocking memes of the collapse of the Twin Towers. Most Americans were too distracted to notice.

The celebrations of the CCP leaders whose virus has taken down Trump, however, may be short-lived.

At 74, Trump may be in the highest-risk group, but he's otherwise in excellent health. Not only that, but at Walter Reed he will have the best medical care in the world. Odds are he's going to suffer a mild bout of the flu and recover quickly. The White House physician has said he expects Trump to continue carrying out his duties without disruption.

But as Trump works in quarantine, he'll have plenty of time to reflect on whether a Chinese-style shutdown, stoked by CCP propaganda and World Health Organization misinformation, was really the way for America to go.

He'll also be constantly reminded, by his own medical condition, of where the CCP virus came from and how it was unleashed upon the world. And, being Trump the counterpuncher, he'll be reflecting on how to punish the CCP for unleashing a pandemic upon America and the world. You see, now it's personal.

Steven W. Mosher is the president of the Population Research Institute and the author of "Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream is the New

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

OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump walk across the South Lawn upon return to the White House in Washington on May 27, 2020.

FREE SPEECH

Group Urges University to Drop Probe Into Professor Who Used Term 'CCP Virus'

CATHY HE & EVA FU

A free-speech group has called on Syracuse University to drop an investigation into a chemistry professor who referred to the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease as "Chinese Communist Party virus" and "Wuhan flu" in his course syllabus.

Syracuse University, a private college in New York state, on Aug. 25 announced that it had placed a professor on administrative leave, pending an investigation, for using "derogatory language" in a course syllabus that was "damaging to the learning environment" for students. The school said the wording was "offensive to Chinese, international and Asian-Americans everywhere who have experienced hate speech, rhetoric, and actions since the pandemic began."

If this happened in mainland China, a professor being fired for saying CCP virus, that would simply be a common occurrence. People have grown numb to this. But I never expected that something like this could happen in the United States.

Liu Tianyu, Chinese graduate student at Buffalo University

The professor in question is Jon Zubieta, who has taught chemistry at the college for 30 years. Underneath a heading of the section of the syllabus titled, "Special notices related to the COVID-19 pandemic," he included in parenthesis: "Wuhan Flu or Chinese Communist Party Virus." Photos of the syllabus circulated on social media, prompting an outcry among some students.

"My intention was to mock the euphemistic conventions of PC culture rather than the Chinese people or their great heritage and traditions," Zubieta said in



Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University.

a statement released by nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). "The actions of the university in placing me under suspension and in practice seemingly supporting the accusations of racism and Sinophobia are deeply disturbing."

FIRE wrote to Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud on Sept. 22, urging to cancel the investigation and reinstate Zubieta. The group said that though the university isn't bound by the First Amendment because it is a private institution, it should still fulfill its own policies that espouse a commitment to free speech.

"If you're going to promise your professors free speech, academic freedom rights, you have to uphold those promises, even when it's difficult or unpopular to do," Zach Greenberg, author of the letter and a program officer at FIRE, told The Epoch Times.

Greenberg said that Zubieta has received many messages online calling for him to be fired.

The chemistry professor has been "from all accounts a model employee," Greenberg said, noting that prior to this incident, Zubieta has never had any misconduct cases or allegations of misconduct made against him in his three decades at the university.

Greenberg said that while universities are free to publicly condemn hate speech, bigotry, and xenophobia, FIRE's position is that "the answer to distasteful, hateful speech is more speech. It's not censorship or violence, or in this case, firing professors."

Syracuse University said its speech policies "are designed to balance free expression with the University's obligations under federal and state civil rights laws to maintain an educational environment that is devoid of discrimination or harassment aimed at certain protected groups."

"As a community, we cannot and will not condone speech that harasses, threatens, or intimidates an individual or a group of individuals," the university said in a statement.

Voice of Support

While some Chinese students at Syracuse have expressed being offended by Zubieta's descriptors of the pandemic, one Chinese student from nearby Buffalo University recently penned a letter

decrying Syracuse's move.

"As a native Chinese, I do not feel offended when I heard [sic] these words," Liu Tianyu, a graduate student at Buffalo's history department, wrote in a letter to the editor that was published on the school newspaper The Spectrum on Sept. 14. The student said that "many Chinese people use the words 'Wuhan Flu' and 'Chinese Communist Party Virus," noting that earlier in the pandemic, Chinese people commonly referred to the outbreak as the "Wuhan Flu" before the Chinese regime prohibited its usage.

"The two words...easily remind people of the shortcomings of the Communist Party system, and that is the reason that the Chinese Communist Party forbids people to use [it]," he wrote.

Liu, in an interview with The Epoch Times, said he was "very surprised" when he first saw the news about Zu-

bieta's case. "If this happened in mainland China, a professor being fired for saying CCP

virus, that would simply be a common occurrence," he said. "But I never expected that something like

this could happen in the United States." This initial surprise later morphed to anger, Liu said. He believed Syracuse's decision amounted to punishing an individual for a "speech crime," a move Liu described as a "big mistake." Liu wrote the letter to the editor because he was worried something similar might hap-

pen at Buffalo University, he said. He believed that the professor's expression did not amount to racial discrimination, as it was not directed against any racial group or other groups of students.

"He raised a personal opinion, and perhaps he wants to use this to make people think more deeply about how this pandemic broke out and the virus' connection with the CCP system. Regardless, he has the right to express these views," Liu said.

The Epoch Times refers to the virus as the CCP Virus. As explained in a March editorial, the word choice was to hold the Chinese regime accountable for its coverup of the outbreak, which led to the global spread of the disease.

OPINION

Now Is the Time for the US to Take a Stronger Position Against the CCP

Ending the CCP should be the No. 1 goal

DIANA ZHANG

ald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump speedthe CCP virus. Their contracting it is a reminder to us all.

Their falling ill from this disease that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) allowed to spread around the world underscores how close the CCP threat has come to cutting out the heart of our nation.

The Trump administration has already taken an unprecedented level of action against the CCP, but this has been at the level of waking up to the threat and defending our country from further damage. There is still a lack of understanding that this is a life and death fight to save humanity.

During the 71 years of its rule, the CCP has always seen the United States as its No. 1 enemy. To the regime in Beijing, the very idea of freedom is an existential threat. Because of this, it has built its economy and policies with a goal of beating America, at any cost and with no limit on the methods used.

During the 1950s, the CCP pushed a movement called The Great Leap Forward. Its real aim was to try to catch up with the United States within 10 years, and



A paramilitary police officer stands guard in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on March 11, 2018.

great famine that cost at least 30 million lives.

This disaster, however, never changed the CCP's determination to compete with and beat the United States. The CCP recruited U.S.-educated Chinese scientists to develop nuclear weapons. In recent decades, despite huge investment from the United States and the great transfer of wealth and technology, the CCP's goal has remained unchanged: to defeat the United States.

The CCP has long known that a strong America will ultimately result in the end of the Party. Communist ideology, at its heart, its mad dash to do so resulted in a is against humanity, and the ex-decency to perish, or we fight the the leadership of many other views of The Epoch Times.

ample of America's principles and the idea of freedom would result

This is why any engagement, any negotiation, or any other kind knowledge it as a normal entity.

cer of communism take over the

world, leading freedom and moral

vicious and sly than the Soviet of agreement with the Chinese Union ever was. Trump has an opportunity to becommunist regime will fail. You come to China what President Roncan't put your trust in the devil, so to speak, nor should you ac-America is strong because we are blessed. We are blessed because we are bestowed with great responsibility. We are at a historical moment where we either give in to the communists and let this can-

ald Reagan was to the Soviet Union.

people realize that the CCP is re-

ally life-threatening—and more

communists and save the world.

One thing is clear: The Chinese

people are ready for a country

without communism. Since The

Epoch Times published the series

"Nine Commentaries on the Chi-

nese Communist Party" in 2004,

more than 350 million Chinese

people have been inspired to

withdraw from the CCP and its

affiliates. The Chinese people

will forever be grateful if America

regime with the blood of

people on its hands.

ends the CCP soon.

The regime's strategy is to create a state of crisis by replicating the purges and policies of Mao Zedong, using them to tighten its grip over the nation, and, with its chokehold on China secured and unbreakable, to rise out from

The Trump administration and

countries have taken stronger stances against the CCP, but these focus on ending the Party's unfair practices and protecting the interests of each respective country. While these are heavy blows to the CCP, they're not strong enough to topple it and, in the greater scheme of things, act as merely an inconvenience to the regime's strategies, which work on decades-long programs.

The trade war and other policies ultimately act as merely a speed bump on the regime's long road toward achieving its goal to overtake the United States. Any policy The United States' policy short of ending the CCP will result on China should recognize in only a short-term solution to that the communist state a long-term problem, deferring is a murderous totalitarian the crisis now facing the world to future generations, at a time when the CCP may not be in as weaktens of millions of Chinese ened a state as it is now.

The United States' policy on China should recognize that the communist state is a murderous totalitarian regime with the blood While the Trump administration has taken a strong stance of tens of millions of Chinese against Chinese infiltration, people on its hands. It's a regime it's not clear yet that ending the that commits every atrocity the CCP should be the No. 1 goal. Just free world has always claimed to about all the problems we have oppose. And its publicly stated internally or internationally are goal is to export this style of rule caused by the CCP. Not enough to every corner of the globe.

> Mr. Trump, tear down this regime and secure the future of freedom not just for the United States, but for the Chinese people and the entire free world as well.

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

YIANNIS KOURTOGLOU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

People of All Classes Try to Flee China's Repressive Society, Seek Refuge in European Countries

NICOLE HAO

leaked document revealed that some Chinese politicians, billionaires, and criminals obtained Cypriot passports by investing over \$2 million in the

In fact, Chinese people from different social classes are trying to flee China. Besides immigration through family or work visas, wealthy Chinese have invested their money abroad, while ordinary Chinese or those with less financial resources take the ille-

The U.S. Migration Policy Institute reported on Jan.15 that 2.5 million mainland Chinese immigrated to the United States legally

Meanwhile, more and more mainland Chinese immigrated to Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, European countries, and many developing countries, according to the United Nations Population Division.

"In fact, both rich and poor mainland Chinese are trying to immigrate overseas legally and illegally in recent years, based on the information I received from China." U.S. based commentator Tang Jingyuan told The Epoch Times in a recent interview. "Mainland Chinese share the same fears."

Tang explained that the Chinese regime's social credit system and tight restrictions on internet speech have made life in China increasingly stifling. "We can see that Chinese people don't even have basic human rights."

The Chinese regime installed a gigantic surveillance system that employs facial recognition and other technology to assign each person a social credit. With a low score, a person can be punished with restrictions on public transportation or where their children can go to school.

At the same time, the Chinese economy is in bad shape, which was acknowledged by Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Premier Li

"We witnessed that the Chinese regime used the name of reform or developing a new region as an excuse to take away rich and middle-class people's houses, factories, and so on. People feel that their property might be taken away by the regime overnight," Tang added.

In the past few months, the Beijing municipal government moved homeowners away from the property they bought over ten years ago, and the Shanxi provincial government confiscated shops and stores from owners and claimed that the land belonged to the government.

"Feeling threatened by the government and the state of the economy, many Chinese people choose to leave [China]," Tang concluded.

Golden Visa/Passport

Since 2010, more and more European countries have launched "Golden Visa" programs, which grant residence permits to non-European Union residents if they invest a certain amount of money in the country.

Chinese nationals are one of the biggest groups that participate in these visa programs.

For example, Portugal first launched its "Golden Residence

Permit" in October 2012 and is the most popular program in Europe, according to Portugal's Golden Visa website. Through the program, a family can gain a residency permit, including their dependent children, after investing 500,000 euros (\$591,900) or 350,000 euros (\$414,330) in real estate in Portugal. The golden visa can be renewed every two years based

The applicant can apply for a permanent resident permit or passport after holding the residency permit for five years.

on certain residency require-

In September, Portuguese Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF— Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras) released the latest statistics about its Golden Visa program, which showed that 9,015 people obtained Portuguese permanent residency permits via investments from Oct. 2012 to July 2020.

Among them, 4,652 or 51.6 percent are from China, followed by 956 from Brazil, 433 from Turkey, 370 from South Africa, and 340 from Russia.

Cyprus has an attractive immigration policy for non-EU residents. It offers citizenship, which has a different investment scheme from a residency permit.

To obtain a Cypriot passport, an applicant needs to invest two million euros (\$2.37 million) in real estate and make a donation of 100,000 euros (\$117,000) to the government's Research and Development fund, plus 100,000 euros to the Land Development Organization, according to the policy.

To get Cyprus permanent residency permits for the whole family (includes parents of both the main applicant and spouse plus dependent children up to the age of 25), the applicant needs to invest 300,000 euros (\$352,000) in real estate property.

Cyprus is an EU country. Its citizens can work and live in any of the EU countries and its perma-

ARIS MESSINIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

nent residents can travel across the Schengen Area without a visa.

To make cross-border travel easier, 26 European countries have joined the Schengen Agreement that was first signed on June 14, 1985. Member countries abolished their national borders and allowed their citizens to travel freely without having to obtain visas.

Cyprus Papers

The Qatar-headquartered news outlet Al Jazeera reported on Aug. 26 that it had obtained Cypriot passport application data from leaked documents called the "Cyprus Papers."

Al Jazeera reported that more than 500 Chinese nationals and 350 Arabs obtained Cypriot citizenship via its Golden Passport program, according to the documents. However, some of the applicants have criminal records.

Among the 500 Chinese, Li Jiadong was charged with laundering over \$100 million in cryptocurrency in the United States on March 2. The U.S. Treasury Department also imposed sanc-

Li, 33, is a native of Liaoning Province. According to the Justice Department, North Korean hackers gained access to a virtual currency exchange in 2018 and stole nearly \$250 million worth of virtual currency before laundering the cryptocurrency through several transactions.

Li and another Chinese national, Tian Yinyin, laundered the cryptocurrency between December 2017 and April 2019. They also did business in the United States but failed to register with quired by law, U.S. prosecutors

Li obtained Cypriot citizenship in 2018 by investing in the local real estate market.

Chinese elite with criminal records were also approved for

60-year-old Zhang Keqiang is a

I will definitely go back if the Chinese regime can take care of the young and elderly.

Arnold Song, Chinese from Jilin Province who now lives in Paris illegally

former member of China's rubberstamp legislature and a billionaire from Guangzhou city of southern China's Guangdong Province. He and his wife obtained Cypriot passports in 2018. Zhang was arrested in Janu-

ary 2011 in China, on suspicion of fraudulently acquiring a state-run mining company. He was sentenced to four years in prison. He lost his legislature delegate status in 2011.

The Chinese regime doesn't allow dual citizenship, and also requires that delegates, senior officials, and key leaders of state-run companies be a Chinese passport holder. However, according to the Cyprus Papers, several current Chinese delegates and state-run company presidents have Cypriot citizenship.

Al Jazeera listed some Chinese politicians, including Chengdu city's rubber-stamp legislature delegate Lu Wenbin, current member of the Huangpi district (located in Wuhan city) political consultative body Chen Anlin, current member of Binzhou city political consultative body Zhao Zhenpeng, and vice president of Zhejiang Province-based Zheshang Economic Development Center Fu Zhengjun.

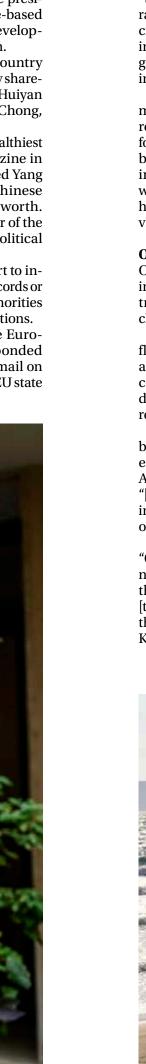
Real estate company Country Garden Holdings' majority shareholder and co-chair Yang Huiyan and her husband, Chen Chong, were also on the list.

Yang was listed as the wealthiest Chinese by Forbes magazine in 2007. In 2020, Forbes listed Yang as the fifth wealthiest Chinese with a \$20.3 billion net worth. Chen is a current member of the consultative body.

Granting an EU passport to individuals with criminal records or who are hiding from authorities is a violation of EU regulations.

A spokesperson for the European Commission responded to The Epoch Times by email on Aug. 31, saying that each EU state











must follow the Union's laws, and | na]. I'm planning my future here," "the commission has frequently raised its concerns about investor citizenship schemes and certain inherent risks, in particular in regards to security, money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption."

The spokesperson said the commission had raised concerns directly with Cypriot authorities following the leaked documents, because "such schemes have implications for the Union as a whole." The Cypriot government had announced that it would review all previous applications.

Ordinary Chinese Ordinary Chinese are also try-

ing to immigrate to western countries. In recent months, a new channel has become popular. Ms. Sun and her 11-year-old son

fled China and are now settled in a small southeastern European country. They are from Guangdong, one of the most developed regions in China. "The Chinese economy is very

bad. Even young people are unemployed," Sun told Radio Free Asia (RFA) by phone in August. "[The Chinese regime] is harvesting the wealth of the people [without a proper reason]." Sun then gave an example:

"One of my friends is a rich businessman in Foshan city. He has three factories. Two were frozen [taken away] by authorities. Even the wealth he transferred to Hong Kong was taken away."

"I don't plan to go back [to Chi-

Sun added. "My rich friends also plan to escape.' China has a free visa agreement

with several small countries in the Balkans, such as Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania during the tourist season. Knowing this policy, Sun left China on June 30 by plane. At the airport, she and her son were in-

vestigated by Chinese customs. They lied and said they would visit the Balkans as tourists. "More than ten Chinese arrived in this city before us [in June]. As l know, a big number of Chinese

will arrive soon," Sun told RFA. "Our final destination is Western European countries." Sun didn't say how she planned to enter the European Union from

tively low, but she still wants to live in the EU. "Rich Chinese are immigrating to member states of the Five Eyes [Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, and the United States]. Middle-class Chinese are try-

concluded. Like Sun, many middle- and lower-class Chinese left China but they don't have a legal status

Smuggling

Arnold Song (alias) is a cook at a restaurant in Paris. He was smugTourists walk past a real estate promotion billboard—with text n Chinese that states buying an apartment can earn permanent resident status-on the seafront promenade in the Cypriot resort of Paphos on Jan. 24, 2013.

We witnessed that the Chinese regime used the name of reform or developing a new region as an excuse to take

away rich and middleclass people's houses, factories, and so on. this small non-EU country. She People feel that their said living expenses here are relaproperty might be taken away by the regime overnight.

commentator ing to live in Europe's Schengen Area. Less rich Chinese like me are escaping China as well," Sun

> Beachgoers pose together for a selfie at the Mediterranean beach of Kourion along Episkopi Bay in Cyprus on Aug. 25,

Tang Jingyuan, U.S.-based China

gled into France from his home- | an hour's drive to the Polish town in Gongzhuling in northeastern China's Jilin Province in 2018. The smuggling fees cost him about 180,000 yuan (\$26,200). His reason for leaving China was to earn more money for his elderly

parents and young daughter. Song, a single father, told The Epoch Times by phone on Aug. 29 that the smuggling trip was full of hardships.

The trip started in Shenzhen city, Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong. The smuggler arranged for Song and more than | men were picked up by a strangten Chinese to go to the Hong | er, a Chinese, who accompanied Kong airport by bus, after helping | them to cross the border by walkthem obtain a Hong Kong travel permit for mainlanders.

At the Hong Kong airport, the smuggler gave each of them a Japanese passport. Song said the passport given to him had his photo with a Japanese name on it. Hours later, they took a flight to Kiev, Ukraine.

At the Kiev airport, a man picked up Song and the other travelers and collected their Japanese passports. Seven or eight hours later, they were driven to a house located in a forest.

"The driver was Chinese. He asked all of us to sit inside the back of a truck. We were only allowed to get off the truck once during the long trip. It was hard to breathe because there were over ten people inside and it was a bumpy ride," Song said. The real ordeals came later.

border, and there were no other buildings around. When they arrived, there were eight or nine Chinese inside the house. They told Song that they had been waiting there for half a month.

The following days were very dull. "No fresh food, no hot water, no bed, no internet connection, nothing to read or watch. ... The driver sent some dried bread every three or four days. I had lived there for a month," Song said.

Finally, Song and another four ing through the forest.

"We spent about one week inside the forest ... I don't want to mention the details. It's too hard," Song said. "In Poland, another driver picked us up and sent us to Slovakia. Then another driver sent us to Hungary."

Song said the smuggler had promised to send him to Holland, but left him in Budapest after he received all the payment. Then, Song hired a Chinese man to drive him to Paris.

Within the Schengen Area, border officers still check passengers' passports and visas if they take a bus or train. But officers don't check the ID of a driver in a pri-

Song said that if things were easier in China, he would not have escaped.

"I will definitely go back if the Song said the house was about | Chinese regime can take care of



AMIR MAKAR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





TRUTH and TRADITION

COVERING IMPORTANT NEWS OTHER MEDIA IGNORE

LEADING REPORTING ON

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST THREAT

FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS

The Epoch Times not only reports reliably on U.S. politics and the Trump administration, but also publishes authoritative China news, covering topics including:

- Impact on the United States
- Business and economy
- Communist infiltration of our government, businesses, schools, universities, popular culture, and more
- Disinformation surrounding U.S.-China trade relations
- Security and espionage
- Influence on media and Hollywood
- Overseas interference and United Front activity

The Epoch Times has also championed a new method of investigative journalism, steeped in the discipline's traditions of truth and responsibility. Combining this method with quality design, our journalists expose corruption and subversion in U.S. politics, and other important issues. Our investigative infographics have included:

- Illegal Spying on President Trump
- Hillary Clinton and the Uranium One Deal
- China's Military Expansion Into Space
- The Secret Propaganda War on Our Minds
- Spygate: The True Story of Collusion
- Clinton Foundation 'Pay to Play' Model Under Investigation

Download infographics

FREE newsletter signup

EpochNewsletter.com

Subscribe to the paper (print/epaper)

More information

ReadEpoch.com/infographics

ReadEpoch.com

TheEpochTimes.com/about-us