

# CHINA INSIDER

ALL PHOTOS BY ENMANGHUIJONG UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE



## A Commemoration in Defiance of a Persecution

Falun Gong Practitioners Celebrate World Falun Dafa Day

See Page 2



1. About 5,200 Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong) practitioners gather to take part in a character formation at Liberty Square in Taipei, Taiwan, on May 1, 2021. 2. Falun Dafa practitioners in Montreal and its surrounding cities organized a parade on May 8, 2021. 3. Falun Dafa practitioners held events at Place du Palais-Royal in Paris on May 9, 2021. 4. Falun Dafa practitioners celebrated World Falun Dafa Day in Lima, Peru, on May 8, 2021. 5. Adherents perform the exercises at an event celebrating World Falun Dafa Day in Taipei, Taiwan, on May 1, 2021. 6. The Tian Guo Marching Band led the procession of the Falun Dafa Day parade in Sydney, Australia, on May 1, 2021. 7. Tourists watch practitioners' performances at the Starnberger See in Munich, Germany, on May 1, 2021.

SUN HSIANG-YI/THE EPOCH TIMES

明慧網 3

明慧網 4

明慧網 5

明慧網 6

明慧網 7





Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade in Flushing, N.Y., on April 18, 2021, to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the April 25th peaceful appeal of 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners in Beijing.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

# Falun Gong Adherents Celebrate Faith Around the Globe, Stand Up to Communist China's Persecution

EVA FU

NEW YORK—Before the pandemic, waves of people donning yellow and blue would congregate in New York and elsewhere this time of year to take part in a celebration.

In public parks and on the streets, they showcased slow-moving, meditative exercises, while wearing shirts emblazoned with the words "truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance"—the three core tenets of their faith, Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa).

May 13 is World Falun Dafa Day, marking the date when the spiritual practice was first made public in China in 1992.

The gatherings on this day were not only meant for commemoration, adherents say, but also to send a defiant message to the Chinese communist regime, which has been single-minded in seeking to eradicate the group for more than two decades.

One of the largest spiritual communities in China, Falun Gong garnered a following of around 70 to 100 million by 1999. But this popularity was deemed unacceptable to the atheist Chinese regime, which then launched a brutal persecution that has continued through today.

Millions have since been sent to detention centers, prisons, or labor camps, where they have been subjected to cruel torture, slave labor, and organ harvesting.

But outside of China, the practice has quietly thrived, spreading to more than 90 countries around the world, with Falun Gong's main text "Zhuang Falun," which contains its moral teachings, translated into 40 languages.

After a year of virtual activities, adherents are now back with parades and performances to mark this year's World Falun Dafa Day. The day also coincides with the birthday of the practice's founder, Li Hongzhi, whose teachings, adherents say, have helped steer them to a better life.

**'Tiger' to 'Ghandi'**

Andres Cordova, a 33-year-old senior software engineer based in the United States, will be one of the participants in a New York parade set for Thursday.

Cordova took up the practice at the age of 14 when he was still in his home country of Venezuela. Knowing he was into martial arts and meditation, his friend sent him a link to the practice. He felt an "instant connection" after watching a video about Falun Gong on the website, he said in an interview with The Epoch Times.

Cordova tried out Falun Gong's meditative exercises and soon began reading the books. In 2002, the practice was still little known in the country. A quick search on the Internet would direct anyone to the propaganda from the Chinese embassy or state media. His family, who knew little of Falun Gong, initially didn't approve of Cordova taking up the practice. He thus tried to hide his faith by only reading pocket-sized versions of Falun Gong books while he was outside walking the dog.

"Everyone is afraid of new things," he said.

**Because I practiced martial arts, I thought I was invincible, and I could fight everyone ... [But learning Falun Gong made me] much more peaceful and tolerant.**

Andres Cordova, Falun Gong practitioner

But gradually, the positive changes in Cordova won his family over.

Once a belligerent young lad, Cordova now chuckles recalling the nickname "tiger" his mother gave him because of his hot temper. Before practicing Falun Gong, he was "always picking fights with everyone," including his elder brother's friends who were older than him, Cordova said.

"Because I practiced martial arts, I thought I was invincible, and I could fight everyone," he said. But learning Falun Gong made him "much more peaceful and tolerant, to the point that ... [his] elder brother kind of took advantage" of him.

"My mom would see that and she was like, 'why do you never fight for your things?' and she would try to defend me," he recalled. Her new nickname for him was "Ghandi."

Values he learned from the practice have also helped him make the right life choices, he said, such as not indulging in alcohol and gaming.

Growing up in a single-parent family, people around him constantly fed him ideas that marriage is bad, that it equates to "throwing yourself in the water and cuffing yourself," which he was glad he resisted, said Cordova, now the father of a three-month-old daughter.

Having never had a father figure in his

life, he had fretted over how he could be a good father himself, and once again turned to his faith for strength. He hopes to be an "authority" as a father and husband—not to "lord over people," but "to be the one who sacrifices the most in the family and the one who helps the wife and children with their burdens as much as possible," he said.

Cordova is not the only one to have found solace through the practice.

**'Peace at Heart'**

Cristina Diaz, a retired language reference assistant for the United Nations, learned about Falun Gong through a massage specialist in Geneva.

At the time, Diaz suffered from severe pains in her head. They would start when she woke up and by midday, the pain would be so bad that she "couldn't do anything else."

She followed the massage specialist's advice to listen to the teachings of Falun Gong, and miraculously, all those ailments went away, she said. Her failing vision also improved, so she took off the eyeglasses that had accompanied her for 40 years of her life.

But for Diaz, now 70 years old, a more significant change was a sense of "peace at heart" she gained after being able to view everything around her in a different light, including events that have long since passed.

Diaz's father, an ethnic Chinese Peruvian, died of cancer when she was eight. But little as she was, Diaz had never forgotten her father's abandonment of her. To him, she was a barrier, preventing him from leaving his marriage and onto a better life.

Diaz could still vividly remember the time when she was playing with her mom and laughing, then suddenly her father showed up and rebuked her for their merriment. Carrying her in his arms, he sent her away to her grandparents' house, where she stayed for the next few years. She was no more than four years old at the time.

Diaz sobbed when she was being taken away. "I couldn't make any sounds by crying because he didn't let me," she said in a phone interview.

While at her grandparents' home, her father never once asked for her to come back. Later when he was hospitalized, he did not ask for her either.

Diaz carried the pain of her father's rejection for a long time. But the concept of compassion espoused by the practice has helped dissolve any hard feelings she once had.



Falun Dafa practitioner Andres Cordova in New York on May 13, 2021.

"I wanted to have peace with him," she said, a day after sitting amidst colorful lotus flowers with local practitioners in Switzerland to mark Falun Dafa Day.

Around the world, adherents have come up with creative ways to recognize the occasion.

In Toronto, Canada, 120 cars, each with blue and yellow flags by the side, gathered on May 8 and drove across the downtown area and nearby cities.

A number of other cities across Canada also celebrated the day by raising flags at local landmarks, including at Niagara Falls.

**Diaz carried the pain of her father's rejection for a long time. But the concept of compassion espoused by the practice has helped dissolve any hard feelings she once had.**

At the iconic Liberty Square in Taipei, Taiwan, thousands of adherents on May 1 gathered to take part in a decades-old tradition by dressing in colored outfits and sitting in designated areas to form an immense image, composed of "longevity peaches" and heavenly fairies, images commonly associated with traditional Chinese culture.

"As I was sitting there and listening to the music being played, I found a moment of serenity," Debbie Tung, a 28-year-old participant, told The Epoch Times.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

# US Sanctions Chinese Official for Persecuting Falun Gong

EVA FU

The State Department announced sanctions against a Chinese Communist Party official for persecuting Falun Gong, as the Beijing regime's brutal suppression of the spiritual practice approaches its 22nd anniversary.

The sanctions will bar Yu Hui, former director of the agency specifically tasked with persecuting Falun Gong in the city of Chengdu, in Sichuan Province, from entering the United States. The penalty also extends to his immediate family.

"We will continue to consider all appropriate tools to promote accountability for those responsible for human rights violations and abuses in China and elsewhere," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a press briefing as he announced the release of the department's annual report on international religious freedom, which cited arbitrary arrests, house raids, societal discrimination, and forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners.

Blinken said the designation was applied to Yu for his involvement in "gross violations of human rights, namely the arbitrary detention of Falun Gong practitioners for their spiritual beliefs."

The organization that Yu presided over is known as the 610 Office, an extralegal agency established shortly before the onset of the persecution with the express goal of carrying out the brutal campaign. The organization wields enormous power within the Party and enjoys uncontested power to persecute religious minorities. Yu headed the Chengdu branch beginning in 2016 and through February 2018.

The spiritual discipline Falun Gong involves three core tenets—truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance—along with a set of meditative exercises. After its founder, Li Hongzhi, first introduced the practice in China's northeastern city of Changchun in 1992, Falun Gong gained 70 million to 100 million adherents through word of mouth. The Chinese regime, threatened by the practice's popularity, began an eradication campaign in July 1999 aiming to wipe out the faith in China.

The State Department sanctions came a day before World Falun Dafa Day, which marks the anniversary of the practice's introduction to the public 29 years ago, as well as Li's 70th birthday.

The Office of International Religious Freedom within the State Department also recognized the regime's abuse of Falun Gong practitioners.

"On World Falun Dafa Day, we recognize the countless Falun Gong practitioners the PRC harasses & abuses simply for their beliefs. Yesterday, @SecBlinken designated a PRC official under Section 7031(c) for his involvement in the arbitrary detention of Falun Gong adherents," wrote the office on Twitter on May 13.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at a news conference to announce the annual International Religious Freedom Report at the State Department in Washington, on May 12, 2021.



ANDREW HARNIK/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The sanctions made Yu the second Chinese official punished by Washington for persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. In December 2020, the Trump administration sanctioned Huang Yuanxiong, a police chief in Fujian Province, for "particularly severe violations of religious freedom of Falun Gong practitioners." That designation was made on International Human Rights Day.

The U.S. decision "will surely send a potent message across China that the world is watching and there will be real-world consequences for persecuting Falun Gong practitioners," according to Erping Zhang, spokesperson for the Falun Dafa Information Center in New York.

"As the news spreads among the [Chinese Communist Party's] security apparatus, it will very likely make some think twice about perpetrating further abuses," he said in a statement.

Sam Brownback, former U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, similarly applauded the move.

"I think it sends a very strong signal to China," he told Epoch Times affiliate NTD. "It sends the signal that we're not going to let them get away with this war on faith."

The World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, a U.S.-based organization dedicated to the rights of the faith group, named Yu as a perpetrator of the campaign and highlighted two instances of persecution that took place under his watch.

Liu Guiying, a senior engineer at a major state-owned telecommunications company called China Electronics Technology Group, was sentenced to three years in prison in December 2017 for her beliefs, after spending two years in detention without trial.

The judge told her lawyer privately, "This has been pre-arranged by superiors and I have no way around it."

Later in prison, Liu wasn't allowed to bathe, wash her hair, brush her teeth, or use toilet paper, the organization said.

Pan Xiaojiang, a judicial assistant with Sichuan Province's Nanchong Intermediate People's Court, was arrested in February 2017 for hanging a banner in public, according to Minghui, a website established by Falun Gong practitioners in the United States to collect first-hand accounts of the persecution. She was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading not guilty in June 2018.

Wu Chunlan, an adherent from Jintang County in southwest China's Chengdu City, was interrogated 21 times after her arrest in September 2016. In three months, half of her body became paralyzed, Minghui reported. Her husband, who in hospital at the time for serious medical conditions, passed away without seeing her one last time.

The Falun Dafa Information Center said Yu was one of 9,000 officials of the 610 Office who was flagged by the State Department earlier this year by advocates for Falun Gong.

Minghui has verified and documented thousands who died at the hands of the regime. It notes that the true number of deaths is likely much higher but can't be verified due to the regime's tight-fisted control over any relevant details. Researchers have described forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners as a "cold genocide."

In 2020, more than 15,000 adherents experienced arrests or harassment, with more than 600 people sentenced to jail, according to Minghui. The oldest person among those who were sentenced was 88.

Brownback, in a phone interview, described what the Chinese regime has done to Falun Gong practitioners as "hateful and belligerent."

"They seem to just absolutely want to destroy Falun Gong," he told The Epoch Times. He cited mounting evidence of systemic organ harvesting, which targeted primarily Falun Gong practitioners, but also Christians and Uyghur Muslims. "The world can no longer ignore this."

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

# READ WHAT OTHERS WON'T REPORT

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

ReadEpoch.com



THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

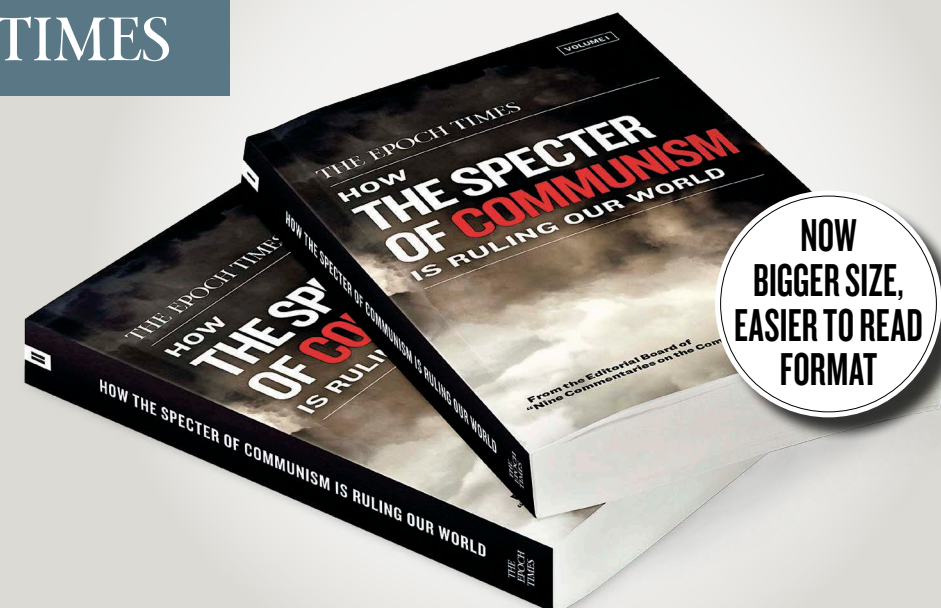
TRUTH and TRADITION

# A NEWSPAPER THE FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD READ

SUBSCRIBE TODAY  
ReadEpoch.com

THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

The Book You've Been  
Waiting for...



"Extremely well  
researched and true."

"The Truth, as horrifying as it is,  
shall set us free. This should be  
on this country's academia's  
list of required reading."

## HOW THE SPECTER OF COMMUNISM IS RULING OUR WORLD

The specter of communism did not  
disappear with the disintegration of the  
Communist Party in Eastern Europe

ORDER NOW!

Available at  
amazon

EpochShop.com

### DISINFORMATION

## Fake Accounts Support Beijing's Propaganda Campaign on Twitter: Reports

FRANK FANG

The Chinese regime is heavily relying on Twitter and Facebook to broadcast its state propaganda to the global audience and its online effort has been amplified by fake Twitter accounts, according to recent reports.

"We find that the PRC [People's Republic of China] is increasingly seeking to use its diplomats to amplify the outward-facing propaganda dissemination of state-backed media outlets," stated Marcel Schliebs, lead author of a report titled "China's Public Diplomacy Operations, according to a press release.

The report, along with a second report focusing on China's operations in the UK, was the result of a seven-month joint investigation by the Oxford Internet Institute, a department at the University of Oxford, and the Associated Press.

Before 2019, there were a total of fewer than 50 Chinese diplomatic accounts on Twitter, but that number has since grown exponentially to 189 accounts as of March 1. As of the same month, there were 84 Chinese diplomatic accounts on Facebook.

According to the reports, these diplomatic accounts were attributed to either the Chinese embassies, ambassadors, consuls, or other embassy staff in 126 countries.

These diplomatic accounts were highly active on Twitter. Between June 2020 and February 2021, these accounts tweeted 201,382 times, and these tweets were liked nearly 7 million times, commented on one million times, and retweeted 1.3 million times.

For example, China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, who created her Twitter account in October 2019, tweeted 2,036 times in the nine-month period and her posts were retweeted 171,651 times.

Chinese netizens do not have direct access to either Twitter or Facebook since both are banned in China. They do commonly use virtual private networks (VPNs) to bypass China's internet blockade to access banned websites.

The reports also looked into 10 of China's largest state-run media and their social media activities with their 176 accounts on Twitter and Facebook. During the same nine-month interval, these media posted over 700,000 times, receiving 355 million likes, over 27 million comments, and re-shares, during the same nine-month interval. Ten 10 media included Xinhua News and CGTN, the global arm of state broadcaster CCTV.

However, Twitter users might not be able to quickly identify the state-affiliation of the 189 diplomatic accounts. According to the reports, only 14 percent of these accounts, or 27 accounts, were labeled as state content.

Twitter began putting a label on government and state-affiliated media accounts, including key government officials in August last year, in an effort to provide people "with context so they can make informed decisions about what they see."

Chinese diplomats and state-run media enjoyed such high-level engagement on Twitter because they were boosted in part by "super-spreader accounts." "These user accounts rapidly engage with PRC content with just seconds between retweets. We find that nearly half

of all PRC account retweets originate from the top 1% of the super-spreaders," according to the reports.

What's more, a lot of the retweets came from accounts that Twitter had suspended by March 1. Overall, 10 percent of the retweets that Chinese diplomatic accounts received, and 7 percent of the retweets that state-run media accounts got, were later suspended.

For instance, 34 percent of retweets that the Chinese ambassador to Serbia received in the nine-month period came from suspended accounts. The ambassador tweeted 90 times and received 4,502 retweets.

However, the reports pointed out that only Twitter had the knowledge about why these accounts were suspended.

"PRC diplomats employ images, symbols, and ideas on social media networks to divert the attention of foreign audiences as a means of shaping the policy agendas and broad narratives in foreign countries. The end goal is the creation of a narrative in foreign countries which benefits the PRC," the reports stated.

In August 2019, Twitter suspended 936 accounts originating from China that sought to undermine the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. Nearly a year later, in June 2020, Twitter took down about 173,750 accounts linked to Beijing that were involved "in a range of manipulative and coordinated activities," such as pushing "deceptive narratives about the political dynamics in Hong Kong."

PRC diplomats employ images, symbols, and ideas on social media networks to divert the attention of foreign audiences as a means of shaping the policy agendas and broad narratives in foreign countries.

From a report on China's public diplomacy operations

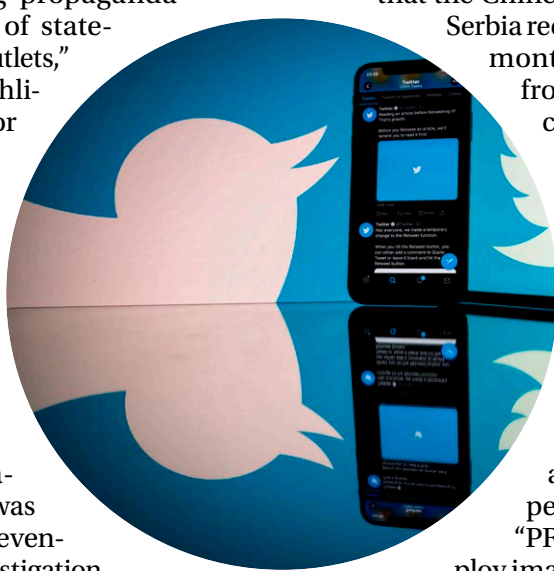
The reports also analyzed carefully two Twitter accounts—those belonging to Liu Xiaoming, the former Chinese ambassador to the UK, and the Chinese Embassy in London. From June 2020 to January 2021, a coordinated network of 62 accounts was dedicated to amplifying messages from the two accounts.

Of the 62 accounts, 60 were eventually suspended by Twitter, with 29 of them being for the reason of platform manipulation. The remaining two were deleted by their users.

"The accounts seemed to generate little additional involvement from genuine users, but may have contributed to the amplification of PRC diplomat content by manipulating platform algorithms," the reports stated with regard to the 62 accounts.

Studying Beijing's influence operations on Twitter and Facebook was very important, according to Philip Howard, a professor at the University of Oxford and one of the authors of the reports.

"By uncovering the scale and reach of the PRC's public diplomacy campaign, we can better understand how policy makers and social media firms should react to an increasingly assertive PRC propaganda strategy," Howard stated according to the press release.



The logo of U.S. social network Twitter displayed on the screen of a smartphone and a tablet in Toulouse, southern France, on Oct. 26, 2020.

LIONEL BONAVENTURE/  
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Chinese students wait outside the U.S. Embassy for their visa application interviews in Beijing.

### OPINION

## US Visa Denial of Chinese Student With Law Enforcement Link Is the Right Strategy

ANDERS CORR



A student applicant from China, who was admitted to nearly 10 U.S. universities to study computer science, was denied a visa recently, according to the

South China Morning Post (SCMP). The U.S. embassy in Beijing wrote a letter saying the student's father's employment with Chinese law enforcement, and the failure of China to accept repatriation of Chinese citizens in the United States subject to orders of removal, caused the visa denial.

President Trump's policies that make it more difficult for China's science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and military-linked academics to obtain visas apparently remain largely in place under President Biden, and could even be expanded. A senior U.S. official recently told the SCMP that Chinese nationals with a "hi-tech" background continue to be restricted.

After a ruling last year, the United States revoked the visas of over 1,000 Chinese academics with ties to the military. The most recent "temporary" visa denial on grounds of ties to China's law enforcement, is a shot across China's bow. The message to China is that current limits on Chinese national academics with military ties could be extended more permanently to those with law enforcement ties.

U.S. policies against military-linked and STEM students from China are the right policy, but have implications for both countries, as Chinese students are big business for America's universities. In 2020, approximately 35 percent of international students in the United States hailed from China. Chinese students and their families spent approximately \$13 billion in the United States in 2018.

Approximately 16 percent of STEM graduate students in the United States, and 2 percent of STEM undergraduate students in the United States, are Chinese nationals, according to a Georgetown University study. Across the six main STEM fields, "there are around 46,000 Chinese undergraduates, an estimated 40,000 master's students, and an estimated 36,000 Ph.D. students," according to the study. "At the undergraduate level, around one-third of all Chinese students at U.S. universities are in STEM fields, compared to more than half at the graduate level."

U.S. universities and professors are typically against limits on Chinese national students. I would argue, because their institutions get significant revenue from the full-tuition fees that these students typically pay. Academic reliance on China financially creates a soft-on-China academic atmosphere. Academics frequently wrap

their opposition to limits on Chinese national STEM students in ethical claims of the good of an open scientific community, but they also typically fail to acknowledge the threat that China's expanding economy and military, both dependent upon STEM, has for the long-term viability of democracy, upon which truly open science and academic freedom depends.

Legitimate concerns about anti-Asian racism may also affect public academic views on limiting China's STEM, as anti-racist commentators sometimes falsely conflate science-related strategies to limit China's power with racism against Asian-Americans or Chinese-Americans. Nobody is suggesting that Asian-Americans should be limited. In fact, limits on Chinese nationals could increase the STEM positions available for Americans of all types, including Asian-Americans, in U.S. academia.

U.S. universities and professors are typically against limits on Chinese national students, I would argue, because their institutions get significant revenue from the full-tuition fees that these students typically pay.

Were a professor to support limits on Chinese nationals admitted to STEM programs, the academic could be targeted and lose his or her job for violating academic beliefs about political correctness. The safer approach for academics is to remain silent on the matter, which most do, or to publicly protest against any such restrictions, which could be a virtue-signaling strategy to optimize the chances of promotion within university administrations.

U.S. government officials are less frequently under such mutually-reinforcing academic illusions and strictures on China issues. The recent letter from the U.S. embassy in Beijing to an education consulting company in the same city listed four leading Chinese law enforcement agencies for which visas would be denied to senior officials, their spouses, and their children under the age of 21. These visa applications would be "temporarily discontinued" per the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, according to the letter.

The SCMP wrote that the letter "said China had denied or unreasonably delayed accepting the return of its citizens who were subject to final orders of removal from the United States, and that normal visa issuance would resume if China complied with US requests on the matter."

The affected agencies include China's National Immigration Administration,

the National Supervisory Commission (an anti-corruption agency), the Ministry of State Security (an intelligence agency), and the Ministry of Public Security (a law enforcement agency). For the last of these agencies, visa application cancellations would include children under age 30.

According to the SCMP, "Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said it was 'good proof' that the United States had disrupted normal personnel exchanges between the two countries for political reasons, which was not conducive to good China-US relations." Ms. Hua's use of the term "personnel" is telling. The term has been defined as "a noun describing a group of people who follow orders ...". This is precisely the worry with Chinese national STEM students when they return home to China.

And it is China, not the United States, that disrupted good relations between the two countries, most notably through its genocide of the Uyghurs, but also through up to \$600 billion in intellectual property theft annually. The list of grievances is vast, but for the present purposes, either of these crimes is enough to justify a limitation of STEM cooperation.

The U.S. embassy's letter added a new grievance, that China did not accept the return of its citizens subject to final U.S. orders of repatriation back to China. In other words, Chinese nationals are apparently violating U.S. immigration law at the behest of their own government. I won't call that an invasion by state-directed foot draggers, but it is a truly shocking move by the Chinese government that should be further investigated and publicized. Republicans don't take too kindly to that sort of law-breaking.

Nobody is proposing that Chinese nationals who are majoring in art, history, literature, or social sciences, should be excluded from U.S. and allied academic institutions. Indeed, we should welcome such students with the hope that they will bring back a respect for freedom, human rights, and democracy to their home country. We might also learn something from them about China.

However, China's STEM academics, including undergraduate and graduate students, are another matter. Youth is no excuse. Some of the most brilliant thinking in STEM subjects, especially in the field of mathematics, is done during the undergraduate years. Such insights, if enabled by Western science, will be brought back to China and could be used against the United States and allies to devastating effect.

China's totalitarian system means that STEM academics, as long as they remain Chinese nationals, or have significant family or financial assets in China, will be subject to Chinese government pressure to provide STEM knowledge to the authori-

ties or Chinese companies, who can then proliferate such knowledge throughout China's massive economy and military-industrial complex. A bigger and stronger Chinese economy means a bigger and stronger Chinese military. Given China's aggression in places like the South and East China Seas, and against India, Bhutan, and Myanmar (Burma), it would be irresponsible to collaborate scientifically with China at this time.

Unlike in the United States, where scientific knowledge and discoveries are often closely-held corporate secrets, in China their power is multiplied through sharing between government and "private" entities, including a range of private, public, and state-owned Chinese corporations. Given China's totalitarian system, the notion of anything being "private" or even publicly-held, when nearly all Chinese corporations must have Chinese Communist Party cells embedded in their management structures, is an inaccuracy. In China, all corporations and individuals are much more closely linked to the state than they are in free economies.

International scientific freedom, like free trade, is a wonderful principle for friendly countries to follow. But everything changes when one country starts to take advantage of other countries and such freedoms in an aggressive manner, as China has done. Likewise a serial human rights violator, to the point of genocide, should not be further empowered through continued STEM exchange and free trade. At this point in China's history, other countries would be unstrategic, ethically at fault, and potentially greedy or compromised, to allow scientific cooperation to continue with Chinese nationals.

But limits on such cooperation will be ineffective if only imposed by the United States. All leading scientific nations that value freedom and democracy, including South Korea, Japan, and countries in Europe, must act in a unified manner to effectively pressure China to reform. Piecemeal strictures will just shift the problem to those countries without restrictions. International allied action is required.

Anders Corr has a BA/MA in political science from Yale University (2001) and a Ph.D. in government from Harvard University (2008). He is a principal at Corr Analytics Inc., publisher of the Journal of Political Risk, and has conducted extensive research in North America, Europe, and Asia. He authored "The Concentration of Power" (forthcoming 2021) and "No Trespassing," and edited "Great Powers, Grand Strategies."

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



NICOLAS ASFOUR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



People wearing face masks as a preventive measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus wait at a red light to cross a street during rush hour in Beijing on Oct. 14, 2020.

## BIOWARFARE

# Chinese Military Scientists Discussed Man-Made Coronavirus Attack Years Before COVID-19 Pandemic

FRANK FANG

Chinese military scientists in 2015 detailed a plot to unleash a bioengineered SARS coronavirus to cause mass terror and advance the communist regime's global political ambitions.

These newly uncovered revelations come amid intensifying scrutiny over the possibility that the COVID-19 pandemic originated from a laboratory leak in Wuhan, an institute that has collaborated with the Chinese military.

The Chinese military scientists' theories were detailed in a 2015 book, first reported recently by News Corp's The Australian. The scientists advocated for the weaponization of pathogens, including SARS coronaviruses, to "cause terror and gain political and strategic advantage" over an enemy state.

The SARS epidemic from 2002 to 2003 infected 2,769 and killed 425 people outside of mainland China, according to data from the World Health Organization (WHO). Experts say the numbers inside China are likely much higher than officially reported.

The 261-page book titled "The Unnatural Origin of SARS and Genetic Weapons Based on Man-Made Viruses," was published in February 2015 by the Military Medical Science Press, a publishing house owned by the Chinese military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"The development of bioweapons has entered into an unprecedented new stage in history," the authors wrote.

The authors went on to implore Chinese experts to "understand and pay attention to contemporary genetic weapons" for any possible future wars, including in the advent of a third world war.

The "contemporary genetic weapons" the authors wrote about refers to using experimental biotechnology and animal testing to modify the genes of pathogens, which could be tailored to target the specific genetic traits of enemy populations.

Deploying such bioweapons would be more advantageous than using conventional warfare and military actions, the authors argued, because military moves can be traced back to the state and result in international condemnation.

Genetic weapons, on the other hand, "can be concealed [in deployment] and it is hard finding evidence against them," the authors wrote.

"Even in the face of academic, virological, or animal evidence, [one can] deny, prevent [someone from raising the issue],

suppress [possible accusations], leaving international organizations and righteous people helpless."

Xu Dezhong, one of the two editors-in-chief of the book, was an analyst for China's national SARS prevention and treatment team at that time. His duties also included reporting to China's top military command, the Chinese Military Commission, according to Baikel, a Wikipedia-like platform run by Chinese search engine Baidu.

Xu was also a professor in the department of military epidemiology at China's Air Force Medical University. The school, formerly known as the Fourth Military Medical University, is located in Xi'an, the capital of central China's Shaanxi Province. Ten other scientists from this military university were listed among the book's 18 authors.

The other editor-in-chief was Li Feng, who was deputy chief of the bureau of epidemic prevention at the PLA's Logistics Department. It is unclear if Li still holds this position.

The book discussed at great length the potential fallout of a bioweapon attack and the optimum conditions to release such a weapon.

Any attack is likely to overwhelm the local health sector around ground zero, the book said. The medical sector would be under "enormous burden" because of the sheer number of patients, it said. In addition, the need to put patients under quarantine, as well as prolonged medical treatment, would further strain medical resources.

A stable flow of wind in one direction is important, the authors said, to carry the airborne pathogens of the bioweapon to the targeted area. Since these pathogens can be weakened under strong sunlight, it is better to release them at "dawn, dusk, night, or cloudy day," they added.

Further, the authors noted that rainfall and snow are not optimal conditions because this type of weather would "lower the effective concentration" of the airborne pathogens.

### Pandemic Origins

The book's disclosure comes more than a year after the outbreak of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as novel coronavirus, in Wuhan, China. The CCP's mishandling of the initial outbreak meant the disease spread globally, when it could have been contained, going on to claim more than 3 million lives worldwide.

As the world struggles to find the origins of the pandemic, a growing num-

ber of voices are suggesting that the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), and have demanded the CCP open up the institute for investigation. Beijing has denied these allegations but has not opened the lab's records to independent scrutiny.

David Asher, former lead COVID-19 investigator at the U.S. State Department, said in March that the virus could be the result of a bioweapon research accident at the WIV.

In January, the State Department released its findings into the WIV, China's only P4 lab (the highest biosafety level), concluding the institute "has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017."

The department said it had reason to believe that "several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses."

The WIV was also found to have taken part in a state-funded project from 2012 to 2018, studying animal pathogens in wild animals. The project was conducted by a joint team of military and civilian scientists.

However, a March report by a team of Chinese and foreign scientists assembled by the World Health Organization dismissed the lab leak theory as "extremely unlikely." The report was heavily criticized, with 14 countries, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, expressing concerns about the findings, while calling for a "transparent and independent analysis and evaluation" into the pandemic origins.

### A Warning

Anders Corr, principal at the New York-based political consultancy firm Corr Analytics, in a recent op-ed for The Epoch Times, said the Chinese military scientists' textbook should serve as a warning of the potential for a "surprise bio-attack from China."

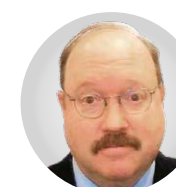
"Let's not wait for a surprise bio-attack. Shut down China's bioweapons programs now, by defensively decoupling from, and thereby minimizing, the country's STEM infrastructure," Corr wrote. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

He added: "Add maximum economic and political pressure, to nudge China toward much-needed democratization. Only when the country democratizes should we allow it back into the international system."

## OPINION

# NASA Director Nelson Was Correct to Criticize China

RICK FISHER



After days of mounting frustration with China's refusal to account for its out-of-control 21-ton Long March-5 booster stage, newly-

confirmed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Director, the former astronaut and Senator Bill Nelson, called out the Chinese regime with some needed criticism. In a press release posted on the NASA webpage on May 8, Nelson stated, "Spacefaring nations must minimize the risks to people and property on Earth of re-entries of space objects and maximize transparency regarding those operations. It is clear that China is failing to meet responsible standards regarding their space debris."

Since its launch into orbit on April 29, the Long March-5 booster stage had been in an uncontrolled descent.

But keeping in character, neither the Chinese space program nor Beijing made any effort to brief foreign governments on its errant space debris, offering no explanation until criticism emerged from the West.

The Long March-5 booster or first stage had to reach orbit because the size of the payload meant there was no second stage, thus requiring it to burn longer to reach orbital velocity. However, it had no thrusters to assist de-orbiting.

Three-stage space launch vehicles do not usually require the larger first stage to reach orbit, meaning they return to Earth more rapidly, usually to an ocean impact.

There was mounting global concern about this latest Long March-5 mission for three main reasons:

First, the Long March-5 booster stage was a large object, about 21 tons, or the sixth or seventh largest body ever to reenter from space, according to a May 6 webpage interview with Marlon Sorge of the Aerospace Corporation's Center for Orbital and Reentry Debris Studies (CORDS). He also estimated that 20 to 40 percent of its mass could reach the ground, or 5 to 10 tons—roughly a city bus, but traveling at 17,000 miles (27,359 km) an hour.

Second, the Long March-5 booster stage was not designed to have the ability to conduct a controlled descent that would enable avoidance of populated areas.

Third, the Long March-5 booster was orbiting at an inclination of 41.5 degrees, meaning it would pass over most of the populated regions on the Earth, raising the chance, if even slight, that it could impact on people or property in over a dozen nations, including the United States.

A previous Long March-5 launch in May 2020, to test China's second-generation manned space capsule, saw the booster stage pass over New York City just prior to spreading space



A Long March-5 rocket, carrying an orbiter, lander and rover as part of the Tianwen-1 mission to Mars, lifts off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Center in southern China's Hainan Province on July 23, 2020.

debris in populated areas in the African country of Ivory Coast.

As it turned out, this latest Long March-5 booster stage impacted on May 9, just to the west of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean.

But illustrating China's lack of understanding about its own space debris, earlier on May 9 (May 8 Eastern Time) the China Manned Space Engineering Office issued a press release, stating the Long March-5 debris would impact in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

This theater of absurdities may play out another six times this decade, being the number of Long March-5 missions required to support Chinese Space Station construction and future unmanned Chinese probes to the moon.

At first, the Biden administration tried to play down concern. In the course of a May 5 press briefing, White House Spokesperson Jen Psaki was asked, "[D]oes the White House condemn this kind of repeated reckless behavior from China's space program?"

Psaki acknowledged the concern but did not offer any criticism of China. But on May 6, U.S. Secretary of Defense General Lloyd Austin, responding to reporters, had to say that the United States did not have any plans to shoot down the Long March-5 debris.

Another danger was revealed by astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, on May 10 in his Twitter feed. About six minutes after China's Tianhe space station module separated from the Long March-5 booster on April 29, it passed within 186 miles (300 km) of the International Space Station (ISS).

While this news did not generate as much concern, it is reminiscent of China's September 2008 Shenzhou-7 manned spacecraft mission that passed within 28 miles (45 km) of the ISS. In both cases, the Chinese close-proximity pass to the ISS was likely preplanned but there was no warning

conveyed to the ISS partners.

But when concern was finally noted by the Biden administration on May 5, China responded with defensive propaganda. On the same day, the Chinese Communist Party organ the Global Times quoted a Chinese space expert saying, "...it is another hyping of the so-called 'China space threat.'"

Yet, China has long demonstrated that it is a threat in space, from its January 2007 anti-satellite interception that created a huge cloud of space debris, to its September 2008 mock interception of the ISS, to its dual-use space station and future moonbase, all under the aegis of the People's Liberation Army.

The Chinese regime's cavalier disregard for the danger posed by its uncontrolled Long March-5 booster stage follows its more monstrous disregard for its role in creating and spreading the Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19) which has now killed nearly 3.3 million people globally and nearly 600,000 Americans.

Now that NASA Director Nelson has spoken the truth about China's "failing to meet responsible standards regarding their space debris," let's hope that he does not reward China with cooperative space programs as favored by others in the Biden administration.

Nelson has also set an appropriate broader example. Whether it's space junk that could fall on our heads, a refusal to account for COVID-19, its illegal military occupations in the South China Sea, or its near daily military threats to democracies like Taiwan and Australia, it is time to call out the Chinese Communist Party for its serial depredations.

*Rick Fisher is a senior fellow with the International Assessment and Strategy Center.*

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

Neither the Chinese space program nor Beijing made any effort to brief foreign governments on its errant space debris, offering no explanation until criticism emerged from the West.

THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

# READ WHAT OTHERS WON'T REPORT

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

ReadEpoch.com





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

[ReadEpoch.com/infographics](https://readepoch.com/infographics)

FREE newsletter signup

[EpochNewsletter.com](https://epochnewsletter.com)

Subscribe to the paper (print/epaper)

[ReadEpoch.com](https://readepoch.com)

More information

[TheEpochTimes.com/about-us](https://theepochtimes.com/about-us)