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CHINA INSIDER

Chinese soldiers pose during a parade to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2019.

NUCLEAR BUILD-UP

BEIJING COULD SOON USE NUKES TO
'COERCE' THE US, EXPERTS WARN

See Page **2**

NATIONAL SECURITY

China Could Soon Use Nuclear Weapons to ‘Coerce’ the US, Experts Warn

FRANK FANG

The Chinese regime could use its strengthening nuclear capabilities to coerce the United States in as soon as a few years’ time, experts say, following recent reports exposing Beijing’s secret efforts to expand its nuclear arsenal.

China will have about 250 new silos, underground facilities for housing and launching intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), once it is done building them, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) said in a report released last week. That number, according to the think tank, is more than all of the silo-based ICBMs operated by Russia and about half of America’s ICBM force.

“The Chinese missile silo program constitutes the most extensive silo construction since the US and Soviet missile silo construction during the Cold War,” the report stated.

About 110 of the new silos are located at a field near Hami, a city in the eastern parts of China’s far-western Xinjiang region, the FAS revealed, citing satellite photos. Another site was uncovered by California-based James Martin Center in June. Researchers found an unfinished field with about 120 silos located in Yumen, a city in Xinjiang’s neighboring Gansu Province.

“The silo construction at Yumen and Hami constitutes the most significant expansion of the Chinese nuclear arsenal ever,” the FAS report stated.

Nuclear Coercion

The significance of the latest silo discovery is that the Chinese military “may be on its way to an initial warhead inventory of over 3,000,” Rick Fisher, a senior fellow at Virginia-based think tank International Assessment and Strategy Center, told The Epoch Times.

Military vehicles carrying DF-31AG intercontinental ballistic missiles participate in a military parade at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2019.

I don’t think most Americans would be OK with living with a China who can coerce the United States with a strong military capability.

Patty-Jane Geller, policy analyst, Heritage Foundation



GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

“China is now beginning a sprint to nuclear warhead superiority,” he said in an email.

The discovery of Beijing’s clandestine activities also raises the question of what else it may be doing to build its nuclear capabilities that the international community doesn’t know about, said Patty-Jane Geller, a policy analyst for nuclear deterrence and missile defense at the Washington-based think tank Heritage Foundation.

She noted that some have dismissed the threat posed by Beijing by citing public estimates of its nuclear stockpile which put it at 350 warheads, still a fraction of the inventory held by the United States and Russia. But the findings show that “we shouldn’t just be playing this numbers game,” Geller said.

“We cannot just be considering them as a country with just a few nuclear weapons anymore. We have to take them more seriously,” she told The

Epoch Times.

“I don’t think most Americans would be OK with living with a China who can coerce the United States with a strong military capability.”

The United States may begin seeing “nuclear coercion” by Beijing “as early as mid-decade unless the U.S. takes counter actions now,” according to Fisher.

The threat is heightened if the regime teams up with Russia to combine nuclear forces to strong-arm the United States. For instance, it could prevent “a future weak American President from coming to the defense of Taiwan” should Beijing attack, he said.

“Unless America responds quickly we will be facing an era of strategic inferiority, constant bullying, and even nuclear attack by China and Russia,” Fisher said.

Minimum Deterrence

China’s nuclear expansion draws into

question whether Beijing is still committed to a minimum deterrence posture, which it has publicly maintained for decades. The policy calls for the regime to keep its nuclear stockpile to the minimum level necessary to deter nuclear threats.

Fu Cong, director-general of the Department of Arms Control at China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, repeated the regime’s commitment during the annual EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference last November.

“I think it’s clear now that China is moving away from [minimum deterrence] and becoming more ambitious,” Gellar said. In addition to building new silos, Gellar said that China was also deploying new nuclear-capable bombers and developing ICBMs that could carry multiple warheads at once.

The FAS report argued that in light of the new silos, China has “move[d] out of the ‘minimum deterrence’ category.” “This build-up is deeply concerning,

[and] raises questions about the PRC’s [People’s Republic of China] intent,” a State Department spokesperson said in a statement to The Epoch Times.

The spokesperson added: “Despite PRC obfuscation, this rapid build-up has become more difficult to hide and highlights how China is deviating from decades of nuclear strategy based around minimum deterrence.”

At the time of writing, China’s foreign ministry has yet to comment on the new silos.

Inside China, calls have mounted for the regime to expand its nuclear arsenal. For instance, last May, Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of hawkish state-run newspaper Global Times, took to his Chinese social media account calling for Beijing to quickly increase its number of nuclear warheads to over 1,000, including a minimum of 100 DF-41 ICBMs. He said the warheads were needed to “curb U.S. strategic aggression.”

Experts estimate that DF-41 ICBMs have an operational range of 9,300 miles (15,000 kilometers), making them capable of hitting the continental United States.

Also in May 2020, Chinese military expert Song Zhongping told Global Times that Beijing “needs to increase its number of nuclear weapons in order to effectively curb the United States’ nuclear strike and nuclear deterrence against China.”

Last week, Global Times published an editorial in response to the two reports on China’s new silo fields. The article did not deny or affirm the findings, but said that the regime should have a nuclear force “strong enough to make the US—from the military to the government—fear.”

US Warnings

Geller said the FAS report affirmed Admiral Charles Richard’s previous warnings about China’s growing nuclear capability. Richard is the head of the U.S. Strategic Command, which oversees the country’s nuclear weapons.

During a congressional hearing in April, Richard said that China’s nuclear stockpile was undergoing an “unprecedented expansion” and Beijing was “on the pace necessary to double their nuclear stockpile by the end of the decade.”

He added that the regime was on the cusp of deploying a full strategic nuclear triad—land-based missiles, submarines, and bombers.

“China is capable of executing any plausible nuclear employment strategy regionally now and will soon be able to do so at intercontinental ranges,” Richard said.

In response to the new discovery of China’s silos, the U.S. Strategic Com-

mand said in a tweet: “the public has discovered what we have been saying all along about the growing threat the world faces and the veil of secrecy that surrounds it.”

New Course

Washington needs to chart a new course in the face of the growing military threat posed by Beijing.

“To secure America from future Chinese and Russian nuclear threats, the Biden Administration is going to have to reverse its initial arms control and nuclear reduction preferences to instead lead the most aggressive U.S. nuclear buildup since the Cold War,” Fisher said.

After taking office in January, President Joe Biden renewed the New START arms control treaty for another five years until Feb. 5, 2026.

The treaty, signed in 2010, limits Russia and the United States to no more than 1,550 nuclear warheads

Fisher said the treaty must be abandoned since it “no longer advances American security.”

While efforts have been made to bring in China for trilateral arms control negotiations, Beijing has rejected the call saying that the number of its nuclear arsenals was low compared to those of the United States and Russia.

According to Geller, the New START arms control treaty is outdated because it was signed at a time—11 years ago—when “we definitely didn’t know about the Chinese expansion that we’re seeing today.”

“The minimum thing we need to do is complete our own nuclear modernization efforts,” Geller said.

Cathy He contributed to this report.

GREG BAKER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Military vehicles carrying DF-31AG intercontinental ballistic missiles participate in a military parade at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2019.

OPINION

As Chinese Regime Cracks Down on Big Tech, Big Tech Cracks Down on American People

JOHN MAC GHLIONN

The Big Five—Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Microsoft—essentially control America. In the United States, the pandemic resulted in the permanent closure of 200,000 businesses. People lost their jobs, their livelihoods, and too many lost their lives.

But the pandemic didn’t affect Big Tech. In fact, rather perversely, it seems to have helped. Amazon just released its first quarterly report of 2021. The company’s net income is up by 48.4 percent. Total revenue is up by 27.2 percent. Apple, spearheaded by Tim Cook, has seen its revenue soar by 34 percent to \$89.6 billion. With Facebook, as Reuters recently reported, “total revenue, which primarily consists of ad sales, rose about 56 percent to \$29.08 billion in the second quarter from \$18.69 billion a year earlier.” Compared with last year’s first-quarter report, Google’s overall revenue increased by 34.2 percent. Last year, the company reported \$41.2 in revenue; this year, it reported \$55.3 billion. With a market value of \$2.15 trillion, Microsoft isn’t suffering, either.

Big Tech poses a direct threat to democracy. For years, without a sliver of success, American politicians have attempted to break up the Big Five. However, as the likes



The Ant Group headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, on Oct. 13, 2020. STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

of Amazon and Apple become more powerful, the chances of successfully dismantling the likes of Facebook and Microsoft become slimmer and slimmer.

Meanwhile, in China

Around 7,200 miles away, a Big Tech crack-down is taking place, and it’s proving to be a particularly brutal affair. In reality, the crackdown has been taking place for months. In April, the Chinese regime targeted Jack Ma, ordering a swift restructuring of Ant Group, the billionaire’s fintech conglomerate. Then, three months later, the regime targeted Didi, an event that I covered for The Epoch Times.

In China, it’s all about optics. The regime, more than anything, wants to appear strong, both at home and abroad. As Shuyao Kong, a journalist at Decrypt, recently wrote, “it’s not about the damage that Big Tech has done but the perceived influence these new titans wield.” What the regime finds particularly worrying, argues Kong, “is the perception that Big Tech is too big to fail, and therefore not subject to government control.” Such a narrative, if allowed to continue, inevitably undermines “the Chinese government’s total control over the economy.”

Kong, who was educated in China, is

indeed correct. Perception is reality, and the reality in China is a harsh one. 2021 is indeed the Year of the Ox, but it’s also the year in which Ma and his billionaire brethren take a crash course in reality.

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Meanwhile, at Home

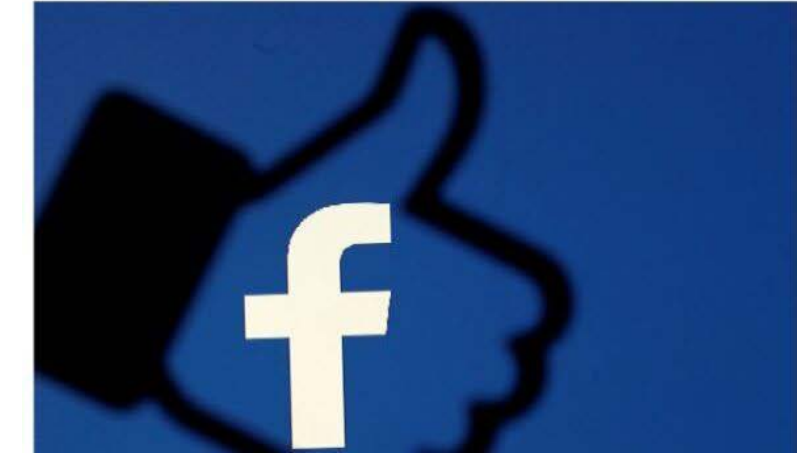
Back in the United States, Big Tech intends to give American citizens a crash course in reality. As Reuters recently reported, the likes of Facebook and Microsoft are teaming up to form a “counterterrorism organization.”

Yes, Facebook, a company with a history of spying on users, is going to police the American public. The new counterterrorism unit will specifically target “the types of extremist content shared between firms in a key database, aiming to crack down on material from white supremacists and far-right militias,” according to Reuters.

Like Facebook, Microsoft also has a far from pristine history. Should Big Tech companies really be forming counterterrorism

units? The answer is no, and the reason is more complex than it first appears. As the Reuters report states, until recently, “the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism’s (GIFCT) database has focused on videos and images from terrorist groups on a United Nations list.” The term “terrorist” has largely been reserved for members of “Islamist extremist organizations such as Islamic State, al Qaeda, and the Taliban.”

Now, though, the term will be applied more regularly at home. In this huge push to identify terrorists, Twitter and Google will also be involved. Of course, dangerous individuals live in America, and a number of these people pose a risk to society. They must be prevented from inflicting harm on the American public. However, the term “terrorist” is an interesting one. When you think of a terrorist, what do you imagine? A member of ISIS, or something similar, I imagine. Think again. In a rather excellent piece, journalist Michael Tracey discusses the fact the U.S. government has branded non-violent Jan. 6 defendants “terrorists.” This, he suggests, is a radical affront to civil liberties. It most certainly is. Tracey discusses a defendant by the name of Paul Hodgkins, a man “whose criminal act entailed milling around the Senate chamber for approximately 15 minutes.” Nonetheless, he was “branded a terrorist” by the “US Government.” Tracy continues, “Per prosecutors’ own admission, Hodgkins committed no acts of physical violence, and wielded no weapons.” Furthermore, Hodgkins was “never formally accused” of committing any acts of terrorism, “at least in a way that the Government would actually have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.” Nevertheless, pros-



The logos of Big Tech companies Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google, in file photos.



REUTERS

ecutors, clearly intent on bending definitions beyond recognition, “have now introduced a theory” accusing “Hodgkins and other non-violent Jan. 6 defendants” of operating “within a supposed context of terrorism.” Yes, context, as they say, is everything. It is the difference between loitering and being an actual “terrorist.” This brings us back to the new counter-

terrorism organization. Considering Big Tech companies have a clear, left-leaning bias, and the government is busy redefining terms like “terrorist,” there is every reason to believe that more Americans will be targeted, unfairly and unjustly. Paul Hodgkins might not be the most upstanding of American citizens, but he’s no terrorist. But try telling that to members of the fed-

eral government and their new partners in crime (prevention), the Big Five.

John Mac Ghlionn is a researcher, essayist, and columnist.

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

CHINESE INFLUENCE

Chinese Paramilitary Trained Cuban Security Forces Responsible for Suppressing Protesters

EVA FU

Cuban military and police forces responsible for clamping down on demonstrators have received “counter-terrorism” training from Chinese paramilitary, reports from Chinese state media show.

Rare anti-government protests erupted around the island in July as citizens took to the streets calling for greater freedoms and better living conditions. While nearly two dozen countries worldwide have voiced support for the protesters, the ruling communist regime has responded by launching a violent repression, actions supported by Beijing.

Records going back to a decade ago show that Cuban authorities may have learned some tactics from their Chinese counterparts, who provided training and other support in the name of combating terrorism.

The Chinese paramilitary, known as the People’s Armed Police (PAP), began sending personnel to train their Cuban counterparts as early as 2008, Chinese state media reported. In 2019, the PAP demonstrated combat skills at an event in China, which drew praise from visiting Cuban security officials.

A specialized paramilitary force tasked with quelling domestic unrest, the PAP played a major role in crush-

Cuban special forces, called the Black Berets, pose alongside their Chinese trainers in a government-run training school in Cuba in an undated photo.



COURTESY OF ADN CUBA

ing protests in the far-west region of Xinjiang over the years. One squadron that had killed 91 “rioters” in the region was recognized with special honors by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in July. In Hong Kong, the PAP also joined local police on the frontlines to observe prodemocracy protests last year, Reuters reported, citing anonymous sources.

It’s unclear when the PAP’s training in Cuba first began. The earliest documented training, based on media reports, took place for about two months

in Havana starting November 2008. Among the more than 90 trainees who took part, two-thirds of them belonged to the Cuban Interior Ministry’s “special forces,” according to Chinese state media. The special forces unit, known as the “Black Berets,” is an elite group of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, the regime’s military. The remaining trainees were military officers.

The four Chinese PAP trainers taught the Cuban officers mixed martial arts, hostage rescue, and handling “large



COURTESY OF ADN CUBA

Cuban security forces pose alongside their Chinese trainers in a Cuban government training school in 2016.

Chinese paramilitary forces have played a key part in Beijing’s ambition to project power and expand the country’s military influence beyond Chinese borders.

Projecting Power Overseas

Chinese paramilitary forces have played a key part in Beijing’s ambition to project power and expand the country’s military influence beyond Chinese borders.

The PAP set up a “China Peace-keeping Civil Police Training Center” near Beijing to train foreign police in 2000, and two years later began building another, which it said would be Asia’s largest.

As of 2009, the PAP had sent delegations to more than 30 countries “for bilateral or multilateral counter-terrorism exchanges,” according to state-run media China Daily.

In January 2016, a Chinese counterterrorism law took effect to allow the Chinese military and the PAP to send officers overseas to combat terrorism.

The PAP has made some headway in central Asia, running an outpost in Tajikistan in the region bordering China and Afghanistan since 2016. One Tajik observer estimates the facility to contain hundreds of personnel and around 20 lookout towers, according to a 2020 report by the U.S.-China Economic and Securities Review Commission.

During a 2019 anti-terrorism forum hosted by the PAP in Beijing, officers performed their latest sniper tactics and were said to have received rounds of applause from more than 240 foreign officials attending the event, according to Chinese state media Xinhua. One attendee, an expert with Cuba’s Ministry of the Interior told the outlet that he got a lot of inspiration for the training in his home country and expressed hopes to increase such exchanges.

PAP isn’t the sole agency involved in Beijing’s global law enforcement push. An internal document The Epoch Times obtained in 2020 shows that one police college in Kunming, the capital of China’s Yunnan Province, conducted 115 training sessions with more than 2,500 law enforcement officers from 62 developing countries between 2002 and 2017. Over the course of 16 years, the college trained more than 300 officers from Laos. The same college had pledged to provide short- and mid-term training for 2,000 Southeast Asian officials from 2016 to 2020, according to Xinhua.

The goal of these training programs was to “build connections” and service the regime’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), according to the document. BRI, a billion-dollar infrastructure project aimed at bolstering Beijing’s economic and political power worldwide, has attracted scrutiny over its role in exporting the regime’s model of techno-totalitarianism and saddling developing countries with high levels of debt.

scale riots,” the report said. At the end of their stay, they were awarded by the Interior Ministry with its highest distinction for their “special contribution.”

In April 2016, the PAP in Ningxia, a region in central-north China, sent six officers to the Cuban Ministry of the Interior’s national special combat training school to teach a one-month training program. The courses involved more than 160 skills across six categories, including tactical shooting, Chinese martial arts, Tai Chi, and tactics to subdue violence, according to an article from a Chinese army-run site headlined “Armed Police Return With Honors.”

The Cuban side, impressed by the progress of the training, incorporated the content into their country’s military training agenda, according to another article from the site.

Photos from the 2016 training released by Chinese media, including a handful recently unearthed by Cuban media ADN Cuba, show the Cuban officers donning their signature black uniforms and black berets with their Chinese trainers.

Beginning on July 11, thousands of Cubans began taking to the streets to voice their frustration with the 62-year-old communist regime and with their living conditions, the largest demonstrations the country has seen since the 1990s. In response, the regime carried out mass arrests, cut off internet access, and deployed security and police forces, including the Black Berets, to take over cities and towns.

The United States sanctioned the Cuban defense minister and the Black Berets on July 22 for their violent suppression of the protests, which reportedly saw arrests of roughly 500 activists.

On July 30, the Biden administration further imposed sanctions on the Cuban

police force and two of its leaders for their assaults on demonstrators, including the arrest of a Catholic priest who tried to defend young protesters, the beating of several minors, and the use of clubs to break up peaceful protests.

“Cubans deserve to have pride in their homeland and the basic necessities of life that the Cuban Communist Party’s failed system has been unable to deliver,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement announcing the sanctions.



YAMIL LAGE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



YAMIL LAGE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A man is arrested during a demonstration against the communist regime of Cuban leader Miguel Diaz-Canel in Havana on July 11, 2021.

OPINION

China and US Corporate Hypocrisy

CLYDE PRESTOWITZ

The U.S. Business Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Farm Bureau, the Semiconductor Association, and several other major U.S. business groups have just asked that President Joe Biden reduce U.S. tariffs on imports from China and negotiate a new trade deal with Beijing.

These groups explain that they are making this request because the tariffs have resulted in higher prices that are harming consumers and the big corporations want to do all they can to help U.S. consumers.

But wait a minute. The American Farm Bureau’s members and customers don’t import much, if anything, from China. They export a lot to China, but China isn’t a significant exporter of agricultural goods. Is the bureau really concerned about the prices American consumers are paying for imported foodstuffs? Indeed, according to the official consumer price index, U.S. food prices are up less than 2 percent over the past year.

It’s just very difficult to believe that the



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

An employee makes chips at a factory of Jiejie Semiconductor Co. in Nantong, in China’s Jiangsu Province on March 17, 2021.

Farm Bureau is terribly concerned about rising U.S. food prices spurred by tariffs.

But maybe the farmers are an exception. Let’s look at the semiconductor industry. It’s a big importer as well as an exporter of semiconductor chips. Its sales are up about 20 percent this year, and according to Kiplinger Advisors, it is swimming in huge profits. Now, it’s true that there are tariffs on some imports of semiconductors from China. However, given the immense profits the makers are accruing, it would be

easy for them to reduce prices to help consumers if they think consumers are hurting too much. Even with reduced prices, they would still be making extraordinary profits. Interestingly, none of the semiconductor companies who are so solicitous of consumers paying high prices have offered to lower their own prices, despite making record earnings.

All of this suggests that there is something aside from consumer prices driving this industry demand to the president for reduction of tariffs on imports from China. What could it be?

The farmers don’t care about consumer prices on any imported food from China. Their hope is that a deal with China would lead Beijing to reduce the tariffs it imposed on imports of U.S. agricultural products in response to former President Donald Trump’s raising of tariffs on imports into the United States from China. They want to sell more to China. It doesn’t bother them that the Chinese regime is crushing freedom in Hong Kong and conducting genocide against the Uyghurs of Xinjiang and threatening to invade Taiwan. They just want to sell and make more money.

The semiconductor industry, the Business Roundtable, and the U.S. Chamber

of Commerce are more complex and more interesting. Remember that they are businesses whose leaders have been schooled to believe that their only responsibility for their corporations is to make profits for shareholders and, of course, for themselves. They are all making record profits now. If they were truly and greatly concerned about consumer prices, they could all afford to reduce their prices. They would still be very profitable. But they are also not really worried about consumers. Many of them want to increase their profits by holding prices level while reducing their costs by dint of having the tariffs reduced.

The Party has enormous power to coerce not only Chinese corporations but also foreign corporations operating in China.

But there is another, perhaps more important, angle. Most of them do a lot of business in China by producing there and selling there or by having their production done there and importing from China. Apple is a good example. Everything it sells in the U.S. market is made in China. Or take Walmart. Virtually everything it sells in America is made in China also.

Now, if you have been following events in China recently, you know that Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist

Party (CCP) have been cracking down on big Chinese corporations and CEOs. You know also that the Party has enormous power to coerce not only Chinese corporations but also foreign corporations operating in China. The Party could bankrupt Apple or Walmart or many others at the flick of a switch. The CCP wants the United States to remove the tariffs in order to supercharge Chinese exports as a way of regaining growth for the Chinese economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be clear to any close observer of the scene that what lies behind the new calls for lifting the tariffs isn’t so much the U.S. corporations as the CCP. The corporations are hostage to the CCP and are willing and able to challenge the U.S. government on its behalf. They are the Washington Lobby for Beijing.

Clyde Prestowitz is an Asia and globalization expert, a veteran U.S. trade negotiator, and presidential adviser. He was the leader of the first U.S. trade mission to China in 1982 and has served as an adviser to Presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and Obama. As counselor to the secretary of commerce in the Reagan administration, Prestowitz headed negotiations with Japan, South Korea, and China. His newest book is “The World Turned Upside Down: America, China, and the Struggle for Global Leadership,” which was published in January 2021.

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CHINATOPIX VIA AP

Police officers patrol at a container port in Qingdao, in Shandong Province, China, on Feb. 19, 2020.

OPINION

US Should Get Tougher on China's Attacks Against Falun Gong

Let's hope that increasing numbers of Americans will support the Falun Gong in their search for freedom from a degree of persecution that should sadly be called genocide

ANDERS CORR



Between July 16 and July 20, thousands of yellow-clad Falun Gong supporters took to the streets in Washington, New York, San Francisco, London, and elsewhere in their distinctively choreographed annual protest rallies against China's relentless, decades-long human rights abuses. At the Washington, D.C., event, a Hudson Institute expert on religious freedom rightly alleged that China was perpetrating a genocide against the Falun Gong.

Numerous U.S. government sources have acknowledged global reporting and scholarship on the persecution of the Falun Gong and significant, uncontroverted evidence of mass imprisonment, torture, and forced organ harvesting of perhaps millions. China's acts meet the legal definition and scholarly description of genocide pursuant to the 1948 U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Falun Gong is spirituality rooted in Buddhist and Daoist principles that was popularized in China beginning in 1992. Seven years later, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) saw this peaceful practice as its biggest threat.

A critical part of the anti-Falun Gong campaign is the use of state media to portray practitioners as subhuman in order to justify their torture and eradication.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, promotes the three principles of compassion, truth, and forbearance, which are apparently inimical to the CCP's own philosophies of, for example, political power growing from the barrel of a gun (according to Mao Tse Tung in 1938).

The Falun Gong movement is a particular threat to the growing power of the CCP because it is often internal to Chinese businesses, universities, and the state. Falun Gong practitioners within China, forced into secrecy by state persecution, operate at least 200,000 "underground printing houses" within the totalitarian country, "in what likely constitutes the largest non-violent, grassroots resistance in the world," according to a Falun Gong website.

Falun Gong practitioners have at times leaked critical information to publications established outside of China. This makes Falun Gong a natural and powerful ally of all democracies seeking to reveal the truth about the atrocities committed by the CCP.

There were as many as 70 to 100 million Falun Gong practitioners globally in the late 1990s, according to various sources, including Chinese government media. This was greater than the number of CCP members at the time.

Increasingly adverse attention from the CCP forced the founder of Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi (李洪志), to resettle in the United States in 1995. As negative attention increased, especially in state media, Falun Gong practitioners in China started to protest. This peaked on April 25, 1999, when at least 10,000 Falun Gong appealed to the CCP with a peaceful meditation at Zhongnanhai, China's central government building in Beijing.

The Party felt threatened. It declared the movement a "heretical religion" and the



biggest threat to state security since the democracy movement of 1989. CCP head Jiang Zemin banned Falun Gong on July 20, 1999, and established the Gestapo-like "610 office" to override the courts and police in China, where religious freedom is supposedly, but not really, protected by the Chinese constitution.

The persecution of Falun Gong that followed was implemented by CCP officials such as Chen Quanguo (陈全国), and used "reeducation" techniques that would later be part of the genocide against the Uyghurs. The persecution of Falun Gong in China is likewise an attempt "to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," including by killing, and other bodily and mental harm, and is, therefore, a genocide pursuant to the U.N. definition.

Academic research has estimated the total number of liver and kidney transplants in China from 2000 to 2014, likely principally from the Falun Gong, to be as high as 1.5 million. The 2020 China Tribunal, held in London, cited statistics that indicate as many as 60,000 to 90,000 organ transplants annually (minus approximately 5,000 documented voluntary donors, revealing a gap of approximately 55,000 to 85,000 unexplained annual transplants).

The China Tribunal further found that, "Forced organ harvesting has happened in multiple places in the PRC and on multiple occasions for a period of at least 20 years and continues to this day. ... In the long-term practice in the PRC of forced organ harvesting it was indeed Falun Gong practitioners who were used as a source—probably the principal source—of organs for forced organ harvesting."

According to a 2015 Freedom House report, "Hundreds of thousands of [Falun Gong] adherents were sentenced to labor camps and prison terms, making them the largest contingent of prisoners of conscience in the country," and I might add, the world. Falun Gong sources say that over the last twenty years in China, several million Falun Gong have been detained.

Freedom House in 2017 independently verified 933 cases of up to twelve-year sentences of Falun Gong between 2013 and 2016, often imposed solely for their religious beliefs. According to the nonprofit organization, "Available evidence suggests that forced extraction

Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade marking the 22nd anniversary of the start of the Chinese regime's persecution of Falun Gong, in Washington on July 16, 2021.

Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, chair of the China Tribunal, delivers the tribunal's judgment in London on June 17, 2019.



of organs from Falun Gong detainees for sale in transplant operations has occurred on a large scale and may be continuing."

A critical part of the anti-Falun Gong campaign is the use of state media to portray practitioners as subhuman in order to justify their torture and eradication.

The widespread and devastating effects of state media dehumanization of the Falun Gong should not be underestimated in a society without freedom of speech. Yet according to Freedom House, millions of Falun Gong in China have persisted over years of persecution. This month's demonstrations commemorated the twenty-second anniversary of the CCP's suppression of Falun Gong.

Increasingly, Americans are waking up to the genocide being perpetrated against the Falun Gong. Politicians are taking action in a bipartisan manner. Of seventeen U.S. Senators and Representatives who supported a Falun Gong request to show support on the twenty-second anniversary of its persecution, eight were Democratic, and nine Republican. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) both showed support in separate July 20 statements for the Falun Gong and for religious freedom more generally.

This year, the Democratic Representatives who showed support, and therefore deserve public credit, have been Zoe Lofgren (California), Mike Doyle (Pennsylvania), Bill Foster (Illinois), Sean Maloney (New York), Dean Phillips (Minnesota), David Trone (Maryland), Juan Vargas (California), and Gerald Connolly (Virginia). The Republicans were Elise Stefanik (New York), Gus Bilir-

kis (Florida), Vicky Hartzler (Missouri), Tim Walberg (Michigan), Steve Chabot (Ohio), Glenn Grothman (Wisconsin), and Jack Burgman (Michigan).

Senator Menendez, who is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, provided a best-in-class July 20 statement on the Falun Gong. "Twenty-two years ago today, the People's Republic of China undertook a ruthless and brutal crackdown against the followers of the Falun Gong spiritual movement that continues to this day," he wrote in a letter. "In the more than two decades since, tens of thousands of Chinese citizens have been persecuted for their religious beliefs, imprisoned, tortured, subjected to forced labor, and credible allegations of organ harvesting."

Increasingly, Americans are waking up to the genocide being perpetrated against the Falun Gong.

Senator Rubio made a similarly pitch-perfect statement on July 20. "The CCP has detained Falun Gong practitioners, and in some cases, multiple times, in 'transformation-through-reeducation' centers—a preview of the ongoing mass internment and acts of genocide against Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang. CCP officials have subjected Falun Gong practitioners to physical and sexual assault, forced labor, and torture to make them renounce their beliefs. Even more disturbing are the credible allegations of forced organ harvesting."

A May 12 U.S. State Department report on religious freedom noted reports of up to tens of millions of Falun Gong practitioners in the country, arrests of over 6,600 in 2019, and over 600 sentenced to up to fourteen years in prison. The report noted torture and deprivation of food and medical care to practitioners in prison, and referred to the evidence of forced organ harvesting, including as found in reports by the China Tribunal and the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC).

The State Department cited media reports that "authorities broke into the home of a Falun Gong practitioner, pinned her down,

and forcibly took a sample of her blood, telling her it was 'required by the state.' One officer shouted, 'The law does not apply to you. We're going to wipe you all out.'"

At the release of the report, Secretary of State Antony Blinken rightly imposed a visa ban on China's Yu Hui and his family for this official's complicity with the arbitrary detentions of Falun Gong believers.

The 2021 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report also noted the persecution of Falun Gong in China and evidence of forced organ harvesting. "According to reports, thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were harassed and arrested during 2020 for practicing their faith, and some likely died due to abuse and torture while in custody," it stated. "Credible international reports also suggested that organ harvesting, including from Falun Gong practitioners, likely continued."

We might not expect many academics or major corporations to champion the cause of the Falun Gong anytime soon, as many are seeking some business advantage from China, including more Chinese students who pay full tuition in American universities. However, let's hope that increasing numbers of Americans, of the principled type mentioned above, will support the Falun Gong in their search for freedom from a degree of persecution that should sadly be called genocide. This genocide is doubly abhorrent as the basic tenets of what the Falun Gong practice, namely truth, forbearance, and compassion, are so laudable and ruefully missing in the governance of China today.

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From NationalInterest.org

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Lu Kaili and his wife, Sun Yan, in an undated image.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Engineer Who Intercepted Chinese TV Broadcast Arrested Again After 13 Years in Prison

SHUHAN ZHAO

In 2018, Lu Kaili was released from a 13-year prison sentence a changed man. An accident left him paralyzed from the waist down, while years of torture at the hands of prison guards had weakened his entire body.

All this because in 2005, the former construction engineer helped hijack a Chinese cable television broadcast to play a documentary exposing the communist regime's history of murder and deceit.

Lu's condition has meant that he's had to rely on family in northeastern China's Liaoning Province for many of his everyday activities.

About a month ago, Lu's wife Sun Yan came home in the evening to find that Lu, 57, had vanished.

Sun asked around for an entire day before learning that police had raided their home while she was away and took her husband to a detention center. When Lu's family went to the center, they saw a police car rushing out from the side, carrying Lu away.

This incident was reported on Minghui.org, a U.S.-based website tracking the persecution of Falun Gong by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Like the seven other people involved in the 2005 television interception, Lu is an adherent of Falun Gong, a spiritual discipline consisting of slow meditative exercises and a set of moral teachings. In 1999, the group found itself in the crosshairs of an expansive elimination campaign launched by the CCP. Since then, an estimated 100 million adherents in China have become targets of detention, imprisonment, torture, and organ harvesting.

Lu's family friend Yang Chunhua, also a Falun Gong adherent, was shocked to find out about Lu's recent detention. Yang, who currently resides in New York, learned about the news from reading Minghui.org.

Yang's sister was also jailed for taking part in the television interception. She died at home not long after being released from a seven-year prison sentence. Years before that, Yang also lost her mother to persecution.

Lu's wife, Sun, a former kindergarten teacher, is also a Falun Gong adherent. She was also jailed multiple times for protesting and spreading information about the persecution.

From the start of the persecution to Lu's release in 2018, the husband and

wife have spent less than one month together, Yang said.

Sun was also sexually abused in prison, according to Yang. Sun once stayed at Yang's apartment for a few days after she was released from prison to avoid stalking and harassment from police.

Yang recalled her landlord telling her, "Don't take in Falun Gong people here." Sun overheard them and then moved out without telling Yang.

Guards shocked him with high voltage electric batons until Lu's body was covered in large burn scars. He was locked in a cell by himself and fed pig food for days on end.

According to multiple reports on Minghui.org, Lu went through severe torture at three prisons he was held at over the 13-year sentence.

Guards shocked him with high voltage electric batons until Lu's body was covered in large burn scars. He was locked in a cell by himself and fed pig food for days on end. The muscles on his legs shriveled from being chained up long term. As part of the prison slave labor system, Lu worked on cornfields, quarries, and construction sites for long hours each day.

In one incident, Lu fell from a rooftop while working at a construction site in the early morning in August 2010. A day earlier, he had been shocked with electric batons for four hours straight.

After this, prison officials blocked reporters and Lu's family from visiting him for 14 months. When his family was finally able to see him, another prisoner carried Lu out on his back. Lu could no longer stand up. He wasn't able to talk to his family for more than ten minutes as he was so weak. Sun wept at the scene before he was taken back again.

Yang currently has no contact with either Lu or Sun. She worries deeply about the two of them and all other Falun Gong adherents still in China.

"I don't want them to lose their life like my sister," Yang said.

According to Minghui.org, Lu was transferred to the Dalian Yaojia detention center on June 25, where he is still being held.



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