

Written Testimony for the Record

The Chinese Communist Party's Repression of Falun Gong in China and on U.S. Soil

Submitted to the Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Hearing entitled: *"The Faces of Repression: Prisoners, Families, and Communities Targeted by the CCP"*

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Chairman Sullivan, Co-Chairman Smith, and distinguished members of the Commission,

Thank you for holding this important hearing and for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of the American Falun Gong community.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a peaceful spiritual and meditation practice rooted in the Buddhist tradition. Yet the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has persecuted practitioners since 1999. What Falun Gong practitioners face remains one of the most severe and longest-running human rights atrocities in modern Chinese history.

But the Falun Gong issue extends beyond the grave human rights violations occurring inside China. This testimony highlights three additional points:

- First, **eradication of Falun Gong remains a top priority for the CCP inside China**. As Department of Justice statements show, Falun Gong is one of the "top five threats to its rule" prioritized by the regime.¹
- Second, **this campaign of repression has followed us to the United States**. In recent years, the CCP has dramatically escalated its transnational repression targeting Americans who practice Falun Gong, using more refined and sophisticated methods.²
- Third, **the impact of this activity reaches far beyond our own community**, creating a playbook of tactics that the regime can use against other targets while undermining U.S. democracy, freedom, and sovereignty. It is this third point that has particularly significant implications for the United States.

Much of the tension between the United States and the Chinese regime traces back to fundamental differences in ideology and values. That is why the CCP pours tremendous resources into infiltrating and influencing every sector of American society, including the arts, culture, media, and education, as part of its doctrine of "unrestricted warfare."³

The CCP's persecution of Falun Gong follows the same logic. It seeks to eradicate a system of values and beliefs that is rooted in traditional Chinese culture, one that competes with communist ideology and resonates with the Chinese people—as the practice's widespread popularity in the 1990s demonstrated. This alternative representation of what it means to be Chinese, a vision of a past and future China that excludes the CCP, is what the regime fears most.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/california-man-sentenced-acting-illegal-agent-peoples-republic-china-government-and-bribery>

² <https://faluninfo.net/launching-a-knockout-punch-ccp-campaign-to-sabotage-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

³ "Unrestricted Warfare: China's Master Plan to Destroy America", by Qiao Liang, Wang Xiangsui, Nov. 10, 2015
<https://www.amazon.com/Unrestricted-Warfare-Chinas-Destroy-America/dp/1626543054>

Realizing this vision, while trying to save lives and end horrific persecution, is what Falun Gong practitioners have devoted themselves to for over two decades. We understand the CCP profoundly; we know how it lies and deceives; and we know how to counter it, both peacefully and effectively.

From creating and sharing software that circumvents internet censorship, to maintaining thousands of underground materials sites in China that counter regime propaganda about Chinese history, to launching a classical Chinese dance company that showcases the beauty of traditional Chinese culture to millions around the world,⁴ initiatives led by Falun Gong practitioners have fundamentally challenged the CCP's hold over the Chinese people and its efforts to monopolize what it means to be Chinese.

Many of the individuals involved in these resistance efforts are based in the United States and many are U.S. citizens, but their freedom to practice their faith and express their artistic creativity are coming under threat. The U.S. government's ability to protect their rights sets a crucial precedent for whether the United States can fend off totalitarian encroachment from the CCP into American society more broadly.

This submission addresses these points via evidence on the following topics:

- An overview of the Falun Gong community in the United States.
- Treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in detention and incarceration in China.
- The CCP's transnational repression targeting the Falun Gong community in the United States and globally. This includes attempts to weaponize the U.S. legal system, coordinated disinformation campaigns, and acts of intimidation and anonymous violent threat directed at the community.
- The broad impact of Falun Gong issues on the United States and American society.
- Recommendations for U.S. government action.

1. Background

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice in the Buddhist tradition. It combines meditation and gentle exercises—similar to yoga or tai chi—with a moral philosophy centered on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance. Mr. Li Hongzhi introduced it in China in 1992, and it has since spread to more than 100 countries.⁵

During the 1990s, Falun Gong became the most popular qigong practice in China. An estimated 70 to 100 million people took it up—more than the number of Party members at the time. In 1996, Falun Gong withdrew from the state-run Qigong Science Research Association of China, which had pressed it to establish a Communist Party branch and to charge fees for the practice. Falun Gong consequently became the largest group outside the CCP's control.⁶

The CCP viewed Falun Gong's popularity, independence, and traditional values as a threat to the Party's atheist ideology and totalitarian rule. In July 1999, it launched a nationwide campaign to eliminate the practice. For more than 27 years since, this has been one of the largest campaigns of religious persecution in the world. For the tens of millions of people who practice Falun Gong in China today, each day carries the risk of being taken away by Chinese security agents to be jailed, tortured, or worse—to have their organs harvested.⁷

⁴ <https://www.shenyun.org/news/view/article/c/Dg31mKke1u0/chinese-agents-plead-guilty-to-targeting-shen-yun-in-us.html>

⁵ <https://faluninfo.net/what-is-falun-gong-falun-dafa/>

⁶ <https://faluninfo.net/why-is-falun-gong-is-persecuted-in-china/>

⁷ <https://faluninfo.net/violent-suppression-of-100-million-people/>

Furthermore, this campaign has never stayed within China's borders. For over two decades, practitioners outside China have been a primary target of what Freedom House in 2021 called the world's "most sophisticated, global, and comprehensive campaign of transnational repression."⁸

Meanwhile, the spread of Falun Gong around the world has shaped a global and diverse community, typically a mixture of local nationals and Chinese practitioners who fled China after 1999. This community has dedicated itself to peaceful resistance: bringing the Chinese communist regime's human rights abuses to the world's attention and calling for an end to the prolonged persecution.

Notably, the Falun Gong community in the United States is a leading force in the faith group's civil disobedience movement. Several institutions founded by U.S. practitioners to expose the persecution in China have gained national or international renown. A prominent example is Shen Yun Performing Arts, a New York-based classical Chinese dance company founded in 2006. The company now reaches over 200 cities and more than a million live audience members a year on its global tour, and each program includes one or two pieces that artistically depict the persecution of Falun Gong. Leaked reports indicate that the CCP has named Shen Yun a primary target of its transnational repression campaign against Falun Gong.⁹

The context above illuminates why the CCP's repression of Falun Gong has become more than a discrete human rights issue in the United States. When practitioners establish media outlets, performing arts groups, non-profit organizations, and other institutions to counter the persecution, those American institutions become the CCP's targets as well. To silence them, the CCP also targets institutions that support or do business with practitioners, such as theaters hosting Shen Yun performances and local event organizers working with members of their community who practice Falun Gong. Beijing has gone as far as trying to weaponize America's legal system to achieve its goals. By attacking the very system that protects Americans, American companies, and their freedom, the CCP's repression poses a genuine threat to U.S. national security.

The Falun Dafa Information Center (FDIC) has identified dozens of leaked internal speeches, local government websites, and other Chinese-language sources showing that Falun Gong remains a top target of the security apparatus under the banner of "national political security"—a euphemism for protecting the Party's hold on power.¹⁰

In 2023, the regime ran a nationwide WeChat campaign that exposed tens of millions of Chinese citizens to anti-Falun Gong propaganda demonizing and slandering the practice and pressed them to sign a petition against it.¹¹ Local governments also pay ordinary citizens to inform on Falun Gong neighbors. This past February, Xianning City in Hubei Province offered rewards of up to 50,000 yuan (roughly \$7,400) for reporting practitioners or their activities.¹²

2. Treatment of Falun Gong Prisoners in China

Over more than a quarter century, millions of Falun Gong practitioners in China have sacrificed their careers, their families, and even their lives to exercise the right to choose their faith. Reports from the past year make clear that the persecution is not abating and that the human cost of the CCP's brutality continues to mount. Practitioners across China are still harassed and arrested for meditating at home, for gathering in

⁸ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/transnational-repression/china/>

⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/weaponizing-social-media/>

¹⁰ <https://thediplomat.com/2024/07/25-years-on-falun-gong-still-firmly-in-beijings-repressive-sights/>; <https://faluninfo.net/new-research-top-chinese-officials-cite-falun-gong-crackdown-as-central-to-maintaining-regime-security/>; <https://faluninfo.net/leaked-documents-reveal-persecution-of-falun-gong-a-penetrative-societal-campaign-overseen-by-the-chinese-regime/>

¹¹ <https://faluninfo.net/ccp-launches-nationwide-anti-falun-gong-petition-campaign-deceiving-tens-of-millions/>

¹² <https://faluninfo.net/persecution-without-borders-27-years-of-beijings-campaign-against-falun-gong/>

private to read spiritual texts, or publicly for trying to tell their fellow Chinese citizens in public about the atrocities they have faced.¹³

Once arrested, practitioners are held in pre-trial detention and prosecuted under Article 300 of China's Criminal Law, the provision most commonly used against Falun Gong practitioners and other religious believers, on charges of "using a heterodox religion to undermine implementation of the law."¹⁴ In many cases, practitioners are denied the procedural protections guaranteed to them under China's own constitution and criminal procedure law.

For example, on May 12, 2026, Liu Yulian, a 77-year-old Falun Gong practitioner from Linqing City, Shandong Province, was seized by local security and police officers on her way to work. Only 13 days after her arrest, she was already transferred to Shandong Province Women's Prison. Her family was notified only that she "had been sentenced to three years," and further inquiries about her status were denied.¹⁵

Imprisonment, torture and deaths in custody continue. The Minghui website, which receives reports from correspondents across China, has documented more than 5,300 deaths from torture and abuse since 1999.¹⁶ In 2025 alone, Minghui recorded 4,803 arrests and harassments and 751 cases of Falun Gong practitioners sentenced for their faith.¹⁷ Independent accounts of such cases have appeared in the religious freedom magazine Bitter Winter and from the activist network Weiquanzwang. Last month, a court in Liaoning sentenced nine people to prison for up to nine years each—eight for practicing Falun Gong and the ninth simply for being the son of two practitioners.¹⁸

The lives of even relatively young Falun Gong practitioners are at risk in Chinese detention. On December 2, 2022, Pang Xun, a 30-year-old radio host for Sichuan People's Radio, died in Leshan Jiazhou Prison while serving a five-year sentence for practicing Falun Gong. Authorities attributed his death to hyperthyroidism. Yet images of his body taken at the crematorium show heavy bruising and marks consistent with electric batons and binding. When the family hired an independent examiner, prison officials barred him from the mortuary and pressed the family to cremate within days.¹⁹ In February 2023, after posts about his case spread widely on overseas social media platforms, Radio Free Asia reported on Pang's case, and a State Department spokesperson commented on it, "We call on the Chinese government to, immediately, stop the abuse and mistreatment of Falun Gong practitioners, release those imprisoned for their beliefs, and give the whereabouts of the missing practitioners."²⁰

On August 11, 2025, Zhang Fengxia, a 52-year-old practitioner in Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province, was arrested at home and held at the Daqing City Second Detention Center. A week later, her family was called and was told she was dying. They found her unconscious in the hospital, on oxygen and multiple tubes, and she died soon after. With more than 20 officers present, police pressed the family to sign bail and release forms claiming she was being freed—while she lay in the ICU. Her body was cremated three days later, and officials ruled the death natural. The family's demands for an investigation were refused.²¹

Among incarcerated practitioners, the elderly and the disabled are particularly vulnerable. In 2025 alone, nearly a thousand cases of harassment and arrest targeting practitioners over the age of 60 were recorded.²²

¹³ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2026/1/12/232277.html>

¹⁴ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/2017/battle-china-spirit-falun-gong-religious-freedom>; <https://safeguarddefenders.com/en/blog/25-years-chinas-criminalization-falun-gong-numbers>

¹⁵ <https://faluninfo.net/shandong-grandmother-secretly-sentenced-to-three-years-and-imprisoned-just-13-days-after-arrest-for-practicing-falun-gong/>

¹⁶ <https://library.minghui.org/deathcase/Html/DeathCase/DeathDate/> (Chinese)

¹⁷ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2026/1/12/232277.html>

¹⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/nine-sentenced-in-liaoning-for-falun-gong-including-a-non-practitioner-convicted-over-family-ties/> <https://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2026/08/9.html> (Chinese)

¹⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/30-year-old-falun-gong-practitioner-beaten-to-death-in-prison-tweet-on-death-goes-viral>

²⁰ <https://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/renquanfazhi/kw-02142023115208.html> (Chinese)

²¹ <https://faluninfo.net/woman-from-daqing-dies-in-custody-days-after-arrest-for-practicing-falun-gong/>

²² <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2026/1/19/232362.html>

The CCP incarcerates practitioners regardless of age or health status, and for many victims this has proven deadly. In March 2026, Wang Chuanwen, a 90-year-old grandfather from Jinan, Shandong Province, was sentenced to two years in prison for speaking about Falun Gong on a public bus.²³ Yang Xiaoming, a blind female practitioner in Kunming, Yunnan Province, lived alone and had been allowed to remain at home because of her blindness after being sentenced to seven years. She went missing in March 2026 and is believed to have been taken into custody.²⁴ Liu Huiju, an 84-year-old female practitioner from Shuangyashan, Heilongjiang Province, died in prison on May 7, 2026. That was nine months after authorities enforced a delayed prison term on her, despite the fact that she was wheelchair-bound and in severely poor health.²⁵

3. Relatives of Americans Jailed

Americans' loved ones are among those being detained. Over the past several years, the FDIC has recorded over a dozen cases in which a family member residing in the United States is calling for the release of a practitioner detained or imprisoned for their faith in China.²⁶

Grace Chen, a New York resident and now a U.S. Army Private First Class, came to America at age 15 to study music. Shortly after she arrived, in late 2020, her father Chen Yang and her mother Cao Zhimin, both Falun Gong practitioners, were arrested in their hometown of Changsha, Hunan Province while reading Falun Gong texts at a fellow practitioner's home. In January 2022 they were sentenced to four years and to three years and ten months respectively. During imprisonment, her father was subjected to various form of torture, as Grace described²⁷:

[The torture he suffered] included, among other abuses, being doused with cold water in the middle of winter, given only a few spoonfuls of food per meal, denied restroom access and sleep, scalded with hot water, and even forced to drink urine. But perhaps the most cruel act was compelling my father to watch daily videos vilifying Falun Gong and its founder, someone he deeply respects and whose teachings have guided his life. I was completely devastated [when I found out].

On April 15, 2026, the Wuhan Yangtze River New District Public Security Bureau dispatched a large number of officers and arrested approximately 17 Falun Gong practitioners from Yangluo Subdistrict and surrounding areas. The arrests followed months of covert police surveillance of two Falun Gong study groups. Among those arrested were Wang Youmei²⁸, mother of Alisa Zhou, a U.S. citizen and Maryland accountant, and Tong Shuzhen²⁹, the younger sister of a New York resident. Both have since been detained at Wuhan No.1 Detention Center, and their cases were transferred to the Xinzhou District Procuratorate of Wuhan on June 3, 2026. Since her mother's arrest, Alisa has been actively calling for the release of her mother and other detained practitioners.

4. Transnational Repression Targeting the U.S. Falun Gong Community

In June 2026, the FDIC submitted a written statement to the CECC hearing titled "The PRC's Threats to Americans: Transnational Repression and State-level Responses." The statement gave a comprehensive review of the CCP's escalating campaign targeting overseas Falun Gong practitioners following Xi Jinping's directives. It also provided new evidence from a wide range of credible sources: first-hand

²³ <https://faluninfo.net/jinan-court-sentences-nonagenarian-to-prison-over-bus-conversation-about-falun-gong/>

²⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/blind-falun-gong-practitioner-sentenced-then-vanishes-from-home-in-yunnan/>

²⁵ <https://faluninfo.net/grandmother-dies-in-prison-after-being-forcibly-jailed-despite-failing-health/>

²⁶ <https://faluninfo.net/personal-accounts-family-rescue/>

²⁷ <https://unsilencedchina.substack.com/p/separated-from-my-parents-for-six>

²⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/mother-of-alisa-zhou/>

²⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/sister-of-tong-shuzhen/>

accounts, leaked internal CCP records, U.S. Department of Justice press releases, court documents, third-party investigations, and the FDIC's own research.³⁰

This submission focuses on the campaign inside the United States, its impact on the Falun Gong community and the broader U.S. society, and a few developing trends that are worth specific attention.

a. Overview of the U.S. Falun Gong Community

In June 2026, the FDIC released a report on the CCP's transnational repression of the U.S. Falun Gong community, titled *Americans Targeted by Beijing*. The report draws on a nationwide survey of 1,080 Falun Gong practitioners residing in the United States. The survey provides demographic information about the group for the first time.³¹

According to the survey, the U.S. Falun Gong community is nationwide, highly educated, and ethnically diverse. It spans at least 41 states and Washington, D.C., and a majority (60%) identified as U.S. citizens. Over 70 percent of respondents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and over one-third (35%) hold master's or doctoral degrees. Their careers vary across sectors including technology, healthcare, education, marketing, government, media, nonprofit, academia, finance, and the military. A vast majority of respondents (81%) are ethnic Chinese from mainland China and Hong Kong, with the rest being Taiwanese, Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, other Asian, or mixed. Nearly half of respondents reported experiencing persecution in China.

The statistics above depict a community that matches many other mainstream ethnic or religious groups in America—well-educated, and geographically widespread. Just like the many pioneers who fled Europe for America over the past four hundred years, this is a community that has grown through generations of people seeking refuge from religious persecution and the freedom to worship as they choose.

b. Intensified Campaign Under Xi's Directives

Leaked information from internal CCP informants describes a meeting in 2022, during which Xi Jinping personally ordered Chinese security services to silence and intimidate Falun Gong practitioners worldwide.³² This multi-agency plan was revealed by an overseas Chinese dissident with deep networks in China and was reported upon by the *Diplomat*.³³

Xi reportedly directed the use of two tactics. The first was lawfare: filing baseless lawsuits to burden and discredit targets. The second was disinformation, for which he reportedly urged the use of social media accounts and media outlets that may not have readily apparent ties to the CCP.

Subsequent leaks from the Ministry of Public Security exposed further tactics and instructions deployed to realize this vision, including explicit directives to try to turn American public opinion and the U.S. government against the Falun Gong community. The plan named Shen Yun as a primary target for discrediting and sabotage.³⁴

What has been observed on U.S. soil corroborates the leaked plan. The FDIC survey found that nearly half of respondents reported encountering at least one instance of transnational repression since 2022. More than six hundred cases of transnational repression were documented across thirty states, with the reported

³⁰ https://www.cecc.gov/sites/evo-subsites/cecc.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/cecc_tnr_hearing_fdic_testimony_202606-v1.01.pdf

³¹ <https://faluninfo.net/report-americans-targeted-by-beijing/>

³² <https://faluninfo.net/launching-a-knockout-punch-ccp-campaign-to-sabotage-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

³³ <https://thediplomat.com/2025/02/leaked-ccp-files-expose-global-crackdown-on-dissent/>

³⁴ <https://www.upholdjustice.org/node/664>; <https://faluninfo.net/weaponizing-social-media/>

incidents rising more than tenfold between 2020 and 2025. Five main tactics emerged: physical violence, harassment and verbal abuse, threats of violence, reprisals against family in China, and surveillance.

c. Attempts to Explore the American Government and Legal System

In 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York sentenced John Chen, a California resident, to 20 months in prison. Chen had acted as an unregistered PRC agent and bribed an undercover agent posing as an IRS official to revoke Shen Yun's nonprofit status. On a recorded call, he explicitly described the goal as "toppl[ing] ... the Falun Gong." Chen's co-defendant, Lin Feng, was sentenced to 16 months in prison.³⁵

In addition, a June 1, 2023 letter from the U.S. attorney's office to U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Karas states that Feng admitted to FBI interviews that he and Chen had surveilled a Falun Gong practitioner "to collect information which would be the basis for a potential environmental lawsuit meant to inhibit the growth of the Falun Gong community in Orange County, New York," where Shen Yun is headquartered.³⁶

This is among the clearest confirmations to date that a CCP proxy sought to weaponize American laws and regulations against Falun Gong on U.S. soil. In such cases, litigation is not filed to win but to impose the cost of being sued. It drains a target's finances and attention while generating a steady stream of hostile coverage. Whether the case ultimately succeeds is beside the point—the lawsuit itself is the product.

The combination of the federal convictions, the documented PRC direction, and the reported discussion of using U.S. legal mechanisms warrants serious attention.

U.S. government should proactively look into credible evidence that a foreign government such as the CCP or its agents are coordinating, financing, directing, or otherwise facilitating litigation or regulatory complaints for the purpose of repressing Americans or US-based organizations because of their political, religious, or expressive activities.

d. Disinformation, Misinformation and Distorted Reporting

When Jiang Zemin, then CCP leader and the main architect of the persecution of Falun Gong, launched the anti-Falun Gong campaign in 1999, he ordered the practice eradicated within three months by any means necessary. His notorious order to fulfill that goal was: "Ruin their reputations. Bankrupt them financially. And destroy them physically!"³⁷

The CCP's transnational repression campaigns largely adopt the same approaches, with the focus on the first two—destroying the target financially and reputationally. The lawfare tactic above strikes on both fronts: financially, by inflicting costs and burdens, and reputationally, by generating adverse media reports and narratives. Once negative narratives are created, a systematic disinformation campaign can amplify them. These tactics aim to raise hostility within American society against the targeted group—mobilizing Americans against Americans.

For example, in late 2024, a prominent U.S. YouTuber exposed that someone had offered him \$200 to insert content demonizing Falun Gong into his video feed; he refused but claimed others may have accepted the offer.³⁸

³⁵ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/california-man-sentenced-acting-illegal-agent-peoples-republic-china-government-and-bribery>

³⁶ Letter from Gov't to Hon. Kenneth M. Karas, *United States v. Chen*, No. 7:23-cr-00286-NSR (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 13, 2023), ECF No. 20-1.

³⁷ <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1513&context=gsp>

³⁸ <https://thepopulisttimes.com/new-report-exposes-chinese-communist-partys-platform-manipulation-to-attack-shen-yun/>

In early 2026, the network analysis firm Graphika uncovered a network of forty-three domains and thirty-seven subdomains that impersonated major Western outlets while pushing pro-Beijing messaging amplified by bots. Falun Gong, its founder, and Shen Yun Performing Arts were the principal targets.³⁹

Beginning in August 2024, *The New York Times* published 12 articles on Shen Yun and the Falun Gong faith itself within less than a year that, according to the FDIC, present a distorted portrayal of Shen Yun as an abusive environment and Falun Gong practitioners as hoodwinked zealots.⁴⁰ The FDIC subsequently published a report examining multiple dubious elements in that reporting—elements that raise serious concerns about journalistic ethics and about the lasting harm done to a persecuted religious minority.⁴¹

According to FDIC, the *Times*’ articles appear to downplay the CCP’s persecution of Falun Gong, including well-documented organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China. One such article quoted a Yale scholar who said “there is no evidence of a systematic program to execute Falun Gong practitioners for their organs,” while ignoring researchers with more directly relevant expertise and two decades of independent investigations documenting these abuses. That omission is difficult to separate from an earlier episode: In a written statement submitted by one of the paper’s former Beijing correspondents to the China Tribunal, an independent tribunal investigating forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China, the former reporter said that *Times*’ editors discouraged her from pursuing evidence of organ transplant abuses targeting Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience back in 2015 and 2016. “It was clear to me the issue was unwelcome,” she wrote.⁴²

The *Times*’ coverage has been followed by online campaigns linked to the CCP that piggy-backed on its reporting.⁴³ In February and March 2025, X (previously Twitter) removed a network of thousands of suspected PRC-linked bot and fake accounts that had been amplifying *the Times*’ content, in an apparent effort to legitimize the regime’s human rights abuses.⁴⁴

e. Sabotage, Assaults, and Physical Intimidation

Sabotage, assaults, and physical intimidation constitute another important category of repression methods, echoing Jiang’s “destroy them physically” directive. Some of the most serious attempts on practitioners’ lives have targeted Shen Yun. Multiple cases have been reported of unknown individuals slashing Shen Yun bus tires across the United States in order to destabilize the vehicle. On March 15, 2024, the Costa Mesa Police Department in California documented an “approximately 7-inch slash” on a Shen Yun tour bus tire. The tire was cut in such a way that it would not deflate but would burst when driven on the freeway.⁴⁵

Cheng Peiming, the first known survivor of China’s forced organ harvesting practices, has spoken publicly about his experience at panel discussions and documentary screenings across the United States. In November 2024, his U.S. home in New York State was reportedly broken into. The incident followed several other attempted attacks on him and his vehicle in the preceding three months.⁴⁶ Cheng and his wife reported feeling unsafe and fearing for their family members in China, who have been coerced into publicly denouncing him.⁴⁷

Practitioner volunteers at information sites and at events exposing the CCP’s human rights abuses have experienced multiple physical assaults in 2026. In late February, an assailant approached from behind a

³⁹ <https://graphika.com/reports/glass-onion>

⁴⁰ <https://faluninfo.net/key-things-to-know-about-the-new-york-times-investigation-of-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DidiKirstenTatlow_Submission.pdf

⁴³ To be clear, there is no evidence of *The Times* being connected to these campaigns.

⁴⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/x-takes-down-bot-accounts-attacking-falun-gong/>

⁴⁵ <https://leeshailemish.com/on-shen-yun/2024/03/17/tire-slashing-is-back/>

⁴⁶ <https://faluninfo.net/forced-organ-harvesting-survivor-in-the-u-s-faces-threats-suspected-break-in/>

⁴⁷ <https://faluninfo.net/report-americans-targeted-by-beijing/#CH2>

female practitioner at an information booth in New York City, struck her on the back of the head, knocking her to the ground, and fled the scene.⁴⁸ The woman was subsequently hospitalized. In March, another assault occurred in New York City, when a female practitioner was attacked while walking home after a volunteer shift at an information booth.⁴⁹ The following month in Los Angeles, a middle-aged assailant was arrested after tearing down an “End CCP” banner and striking an elderly female practitioner with a tree branch.⁵⁰

f. Anonymous Violent Threats

Another recent tactic aims to intimidate and wear down the target psychologically through anonymous threats of violence. Since 2024, a large number of such threats have been sent by email and through website contact forms. They target Shen Yun, Falun Gong communities, their supporters, and institutions that have business relationships with the community, such as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. This campaign has included threats of bombings, mass shootings, car accidents, arson, and sexual assault. Since March 2024, documented threats have reached 312, more than half of them related to Shen Yun. At least one hundred of those threats have also targeted supportive U.S. officials, including members of Congress.⁵¹

In February 2025, the Kennedy Center received an emailed bomb threat, written in Chinese, demanding that Shen Yun be canceled.⁵² The threat forced an evacuation and drew an on-record condemnation from the White House Press Secretary.⁵³

To date, none of the threats have materialized. They nonetheless violate U.S. and other applicable laws. Even as hoaxes, they have prompted increased security costs, building evacuations, and delayed or canceled cultural events and film screenings.⁵⁴

Despite the anonymity of those sending the threats, links to China have been established in similar cases in Taiwan and in Vancouver.⁵⁵ In May 2026, the FDIC also tracked a Gmail account that sent at least 28 malicious emails targeting Falun Gong across six countries between January and April 2026, with multiple technical and behavioral indicators pointing to an operator based in mainland China.⁵⁶

5. Broader Impact on U.S. Society

More than two decades ago, U.S.-based Falun Gong practitioners developed some of the earliest software for circumventing the CCP’s Internet censorship.⁵⁷ Other efforts rooted or headquartered in the United States followed. The community’s Tuidang (Quit the CCP) movement,⁵⁸ a nonviolent initiative encouraging Chinese citizens to renounce their membership affiliation in or with the CCP and its affiliated youth organizations, reports that more than 466 million statements of renunciation have been recorded.⁵⁹ Shen Yun tours the world exposing the CCP’s true face—a regime that tortures and kills innocent people for their faith—to millions of mainstream audience members. Overseas Falun Gong practitioners work diligently in many other ways as well, exposing a persecution that the CCP has tried to hide and distort, in

⁴⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/falun-gong-practitioner-assaulted-at-information-booth-in-new-york-city/>

⁴⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/physical-assault-robbery-elderly-falun-gong-practitioner-targeted-in-flushing-amid-ongoing-safety-concerns/>

⁵⁰ <https://faluninfo.net/exclusive-suspect-arrested-in-los-angeles-following-violent-assault-on-falun-gong-practitioner/>

⁵¹ To learn more about the threats, the Falun Dafa Information Center documents and constantly updates an incident tracker:

<https://faluninfo.net/incident-tracker-monitoring-the-ccps-latest-transnational-repression-and-disinformation-campaign-against-falun-gong/>

⁵² <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/threat-kennedy-center-leads-building-evacuation-road-closures>

⁵³ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2025/3/19/225903.html>

⁵⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/chinese-coordinated-death-threats-target-taiwan-screenings-and-government-officials/>

⁵⁵ <https://globalnews.ca/news/11825739/chinese-consulate-vancouver-shen-yun-communist-party/>; <https://faluninfo.net/taiwanese-police-trace-fake-bomb-threats-targeting-shen-yun-to-huawei-institute-in-china/>

⁵⁶ <https://faluninfo.net/one-pro-beijing-email-account-114-days-a-sustained-threat-campaign-targeting-falun-gong-and-shen-yun/>

⁵⁷ <https://newrepublic.com/article/68899/hacking-the-regime>

⁵⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/the-tuidang-movement-and-falun-gong/>

⁵⁹ <https://global.tuidang.org/>

order to help put an end to it for their fellow practitioners in China and to create a brighter future for China overall.

The Falun Gong community's resilient efforts to counter the CCP's censorship, repression, and propaganda has gained growing influence. It is therefore not hard to understand why the CCP, a regime that relies on repression tools to uphold its rule, has done all that it has to the faith group. But carrying out that repression on U.S. soil and globally has inevitably inflicted a much broader impact on U.S. society beyond the Falun Gong community itself:

1. **Incubator for repression tactics:** The CCP has used Falun Gong as an incubator for tactics of repression. After 1999, practitioners were detained by the millions, tortured, forced into labor to produce goods that reached American shelves, and subjected to systematic forced organ harvesting. This became an apparatus that was later turned on the Uyghurs and other faith communities. Beijing's playbook of transnational repression, from disinformation to lawfare to physical assaults, will almost certainly serve as a foundation for targeting other groups and individuals in the United States.
2. **Undermining U.S. institutions and freedom:** By virtue of the tactics being deployed, the regime's actions undermine the basic rights of Americans and the rule of law. Moreover, several of the individuals convicted in recent years of targeting Falun Gong practitioners with transnational repression or surveillance had also engaged in activities such as monitoring, propaganda, censorship, economic espionage, or political influence related to other activist communities, ethnic minorities, or local U.S. elections.⁶⁰
3. **National security threat:** The CCP's attempts to weaponize America's legal system and turn public opinion against its targets through proxies or through American institutions that have no visible ties to Beijing lay an important foundation because these same methods can then be readily used against other targets and for purposes that pose a national security threat to the United States.

6. Conclusion

Our community is deeply grateful for the unwavering, bipartisan support we have received over the past twenty-seven years from the U.S. government, including from this Commission.

From the earliest days of the persecution, practitioners built the largest information-freedom movement in modern Chinese history. But it was never only about us. Inside China, two hundred thousand underground printing sites are producing materials exposing the Party's crimes. Free anti-censorship software developed by practitioners has helped millions of Chinese citizens bypass the Great Firewall. Chinese-language broadcasters send uncensored news into the country by satellite and shortwave. That work reaches every group the Party abuses and has encouraged millions of Chinese people to withdraw from the CCP and its related youth organizations.

In the meantime, our community has been a top target of the CCP's "unrestricted war" against religious freedom. The Party has tried all means to bankrupt us, to silence us, and to delegitimize us, yet it has failed. So it is trying even harder. What it has done to Falun Gong is one of the most comprehensive demonstrations available of how the Party behaves when it believes it is threatened. It is therefore one of the best available predictors of how it will behave toward the United States which the CCP regards as its ultimate adversary. We believe that Falun Gong matters, more than ever, to China, to the United States, and to the world, and thus hope the CCP's repression of our community can receive the attention it deserves.

7. Recommendations

⁶⁰ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/political-operative-sentenced-48-months-federal-prison-acting-covert-agent-peoples-republic>;
<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/florida-telecommunications-and-information-technology-worker-sentenced-conspiring-act-agent>;
<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/bronx-man-convicted-operating-police-station-chinese-government-new-york-city-and>

1. **Raise Falun Gong cases directly with Xi Jinping and senior PRC officials.** Name specific prisoners in these meetings, including Xu Na⁶¹, Wang Youmei⁶², and Zhou Deyong⁶³, and press for their release. Urge Xi to end the transnational repression of Falun Gong practitioners and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups on U.S. soil. Doing so will send a clear message that the United States will not only defend basic human rights, but also protect its own national security interests and the safety of its citizens.
2. **Pass pending legislation on forced organ harvesting, including S. 4009, the Falun Gong and Victims of Forced Organ Harvesting Protection Act.** We hope the Senate can vote and pass this bill in the coming weeks.
3. **Enact federal legislation to counter transnational repression.** Such legislation should establish transnational repression as a distinct federal offense, create a single DOJ reporting channel, fund training for state and local law enforcement, and provide remedies for victims, including those facing foreign-directed litigation in U.S. courts.
4. **Include Falun Gong in relevant congressional and government reporting,** including the Commission's annual report and Political Prisoner Database, the State Department's human rights and religious freedom reports, and federal reporting on transnational repression. A consistent record strengthens the case for sanctions, prosecutions, and diplomatic pressure.
5. **Hold a hearing with practitioners whose family members are imprisoned in China and with Shen Yun performers.** Their testimony would put the human cost on the record and signal to Beijing that intimidating Americans draws scrutiny rather than silence.
6. **Fund the anti-censorship technology.** Funding anti-censorship knowhow should be treated as a strategic investment in the free flow of information and the long-term development of civil society in China. It is a nonviolent way to transform Chinese society when netizens are informed and become agents for social change—this will significantly help bring about democracy and transparency in China.
7. **Brief U.S. government officials and staff on Falun Gong.** Congressional staff, law enforcement, and consular officers are often the first to encounter CCP-supplied framing, usually without the context to recognize it. Regular briefings would help them identify these narratives and respond effectively when Americans report being targeted.

Thank you again for your time, your leadership on this issue, and your dedication to our nation's future. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

⁶¹ <https://www.uscifr.gov/religious-prisoners-conscience/forb-victims-database/xu-na>

⁶² <https://faluninfo.net/mother-of-alisa-zhou/>

⁶³ <https://www.uscifr.gov/zhou-deyong>