



U.S. SENATOR *for* ALASKA
DAN SULLIVAN

Remarks before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China

U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan

September 12, 2023

WASHINGTON—Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your outstanding leadership on this. It is great to see my colleague from the U.S. Senate and co-chair, Senator Merkley. This is such an important topic. The effort—often successful—of the Chinese Communist Party to reach far beyond its borders to target critics in the diaspora communities throughout the world is outrageous.

But, let's face it, it's just one of many outrageous things Beijing is doing across the board. As this committee has done [[well]], we need to continue to recognize and highlight the brutal nature of the Chinese Communist Party regime we are dealing with, especially under the dictatorial rule of Xi Jinping. Look no further than the string of strange disappearances that we've seen in China in their government in the last couple of months. The Chinese foreign minister and former ambassador to the United States disappeared. This was Xi Jinping's right-hand man until recently. The commander and deputy commander of the PLA rocket forces—gone. And, now, apparently the defense minister is gone. Who knows what's going on here. But to be clear, this is the sort of regime we're dealing with—a regime whose officials suddenly disappear without any explanation. They're probably somewhere in China with bullets in their heads in ditches.

This is the way the CCP operates. And now Xi Jinping is trying to export this.

Just a couple of months ago, authorities in Hong Kong issued arrest warrants for activists and lawyers accused of violating the CCP-imposed national security law, specifically for people who no longer live in Hong Kong, or anywhere in China, for that matter.

Hong Kong has declared it will pursue these people for life. And it's not unthinkable that they could one day make good on grabbing them. Of course, I'm not worried about the United States aiding in their return, or the UK, or Australia, or Japan, or other places where they now reside. But life is long. They all travel. One day, they could find themselves in the hands of a government all too eager to burnish their credentials with Beijing.

This is one of the reasons, Mr. Chairman, I'm working with Representative John Curtis on a bill to press the Biden administration to sanction the prosecutors and judges and other officials responsible for enforcing these unjust Hong Kong laws. The days of the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary system and the rule of law in Hong Kong are unfortunately long gone. Beijing has seen to that. Now we need to do what we can to try to even up the scales on behalf of the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. Chairman, there is one more issue that I want to just raise in my opening statement. These kinds of aggressive actions are also targeting Americans directly, and even remarkably during times of tragedy. I'd like to submit for the record this New York Times story that just broke last night entitled, "China Sows Disinformation About Hawaii Fires Using New Techniques." This story that just broke in the New York Times talks about how, when wildfires swept across Maui last month killing over 100 Americans, the CCP unleashed its information warriors. They said on the internet the disaster was not natural. In a flurry of false posts and lies that spread across the internet, they said the natural disaster was the result of a secret weather weapon being tested by the United States military and intel agencies. To bolster this lie, they posted photographs that were generated by artificial intelligence programs.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, when countries suffer natural disasters, even adversaries come together to help each other. Not under Xi Jinping's rule. The Chinese Communist Party is now trying to sow discord among Americans as we sadly bury our own dead in Hawaii. This is outrageous and I call on the Chinese ambassador to the United States to formally apologize to our country. But, Mr. Chairman, he won't, because if he did, he'd disappear too. We all know that.

One final thing, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say how honored I am to join this commission. It has such a great history, especially under your leadership. At a time when many people are raising questions about Congress's decisions in the past relating to China, for example extending MFN 20 years ago, it is good to remind Americans that, at the same time, Congress also established organizations like this one to keep a critical eye on human rights. I think there may be more Congress can do to live up to this commission's mandate, perhaps even expand it. But as the new guy here, I'm eager to learn from my colleagues about how the commission works and I'm very honored to be a part of that. With that, Mr. Chairman, I again am very glad to be here and look forward to working with you and all of the members of this distinguished commission.

###