



Hearing on
Countering China's Global Transnational Repression Campaign
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

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Commissioner, Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Good morning. I join my colleagues in welcoming our witnesses and the public to today's CECC hearing on transnational repression.

Transnational repression occurs when governments reach across borders to silence dissent among diasporas and exiles, including through assassinations, illegal deportations, abductions, digital threats, Interpol abuse, and family intimidation.

Our focus today is on the practices of the People's Republic of China, but transnational repression can be carried out not just by unfriendly governments but also strategic allies. It can target people anywhere they or their families reside or visit, even in democracies like the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Africa, and here in the United States.

That is why I worked with Sen. Merkley during the 117th Congress as he led the development of the Transnational Repression Policy Act, and why I am proud to co-lead that same bill (H.R. 3654) in the House this Congress with Chairman Smith. It is critically important to make sure that the U.S. government has the tools it needs to confront this global challenge both domestically and internationally.

I turn now to China. Freedom House's [database on transnational repression](#) now includes information on 854 direct, physical incidents committed by 38 governments in 91 countries around the world since 2014. China is an origin country for 253 of those recorded incidents, a stunning 30 percent.

As we will hear today, the PRC targets abroad the same populations it represses internally, especially Uyghurs, Hong Kongers and Tibetans. State agents linked to the security

and police forces have engaged in forced rendition of asylum seekers, street assaults, digital surveillance, online harassment and the coercion and intimidation of family members and friends of dissidents.

We must be sure that we have the knowledge and capacity to protect the people who are the targets of these practices, especially those who are within U.S. jurisdiction. And we must do a better job of engaging with partner countries and strengthening multilateral strategies to counter the PRC's actions, which violate international human rights – among them the rights to freedom of expression, association, asylum and freedom of movement, and the prohibition on arbitrary detention. So I look forward to hearing the witnesses' testimonies and their recommendations.

Thank you and I yield back.