



Written Testimony for the Record

Beijing’s Playbook on American Soil: An Escalating Transnational Repression Campaign Targeting Falun Gong and Shen Yun

Submitted to the Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Hearing entitled: “*The PRC’s Threats to Americans: Transnational Repression & State-level Responses*”

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05/31/2026

Chairman Sullivan, Co-Chairman Smith, and distinguished members of the Commission, thank you for holding a hearing on this crucial issue and for allowing us to submit this written testimony.

In this submission, we would like to draw your attention to the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP’s) escalating transnational repression targeting Falun Gong practitioners over the past few years, both in the United States and globally. We offer findings based on new evidence from a wide range of credible sources: first-hand accounts, leaked internal CCP records, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) press releases, court documents, third-party investigations, and the Falun Dafa Information Center’s (FDIC’s) own research. Specifically:

- Since 2022, the CCP has dramatically intensified its campaign targeting overseas Falun Gong practitioners, deploying a more sophisticated playbook: espionage, surveillance, co-opting U.S. federal officials, lawfare, disinformation and misinformation, impersonation, hoax threats, sabotage, assaults, physical intimidation, diplomatic pressure and proxy mobilization.
- The escalating campaign follows orders from the highest echelons of the Party—Xi Jinping himself. Key security ministries are central to these operations, leveraging foreign-based proxies and supporting individuals with established ties to the CCP.
- Shen Yun Performing Arts, a New York-based classical Chinese dance company founded by Falun Gong practitioners, has become the primary target, accounting for the majority of documented incidents.
- A recent survey of 1,080 U.S. Falun Gong practitioners shows that nearly half reported experienced increased transnational repression, and 90% reported increased negative media coverage or disinformation since 2022. Over 60% are anxious about the CCP’s surveillance capacity in the United States and its implications.
- The CCP’s aggressive acts against the overseas Falun Gong community pose a serious national-security threat: a playbook proven effective against Falun Gong can be turned against any group, community, or business on U.S. soil.

I. The Escalation Confirmed: Key New Evidence

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice in the Buddhist tradition centered on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance¹. Introduced in China in 1992, it is now practiced in more than 100 countries. Since July 1999, the CCP has waged one of the country’s most widespread

¹ <https://faluninfo.net/what-is-falun-gong-falun-dafa/>

campaigns of persecution against Falun Gong, employing arbitrary detention, torture, killing, and forced organ harvesting. That campaign has never stayed within China's borders. For over two decades, practitioners abroad have been a primary target of what Freedom House in 2021 called the world's "most sophisticated, global, and comprehensive campaign of transnational repression."²

Since 2022, the FDIC has observed a sharp increase in transnational repression incidents against Falun Gong, marked by new and more sophisticated tactics. Between March 2024 and May 2026, the FDIC has documented 388 such incidents across 25 countries on five continents. Among them are 290 violent threats³—a tactic previously rarely seen—directed at Falun Gong practitioners, supporters, public venues, government officials, and even several national leaders⁴. The United States accounts for 56% of the incidents (218 cases), followed by 13% in Taiwan and 8% in Canada. This geographic distribution is consistent with leaked CCP documents that identify the United States—where Falun Gong's founder, Mr. Li Hongzhi, and Shen Yun Performing Arts are based—as the primary battlefield of the campaign⁵, while explicitly calling for its execution "on an international scale."⁶

U.S. federal courts have provided one of the clearest confirmations of this escalating campaign. Since 2024, the Department of Justice has obtained convictions or guilty pleas in six prosecutions of PRC agents whose conduct included targeting Falun Gong practitioners and Shen Yun, spanning four federal court districts:

- John Chen and Lin Feng were sentenced in 2024 for bribing an undercover agent posing as an IRS official to revoke Shen Yun's nonprofit status, with Chen explicitly describing the goal as "toppl[ing] ... the Falun Gong" on a recorded call.⁷
- Ping Li was sentenced in November 2024 to four years for over a decade of intelligence work for the PRC's Ministry of State Security (MSS) that included reporting on practitioners.⁸
- Yaoning "Mike" Sun was sentenced in February 2026 to four years for acting as a PRC agent explicitly tasked, in part, with suppressing Falun Gong influence in U.S. communities.⁹
- "Harry" Lu Jianwang was convicted in May 2026 for running an undeclared Ministry of Public Security (MPS) police station in Manhattan directed in part to surveil and counter Falun Gong, with his co-defendant Chen Jinping having pleaded guilty to the same charge in December 2024 and awaiting sentencing.¹⁰

Notably, two convicted operatives have ties to the 610 Office, the extralegal body created on June 10, 1999, to eradicate Falun Gong: John Chen admitted to an inmate that he worked for the 610 Office for a

² <https://freedomhouse.org/report/transnational-repression/china/>

³ <https://faluninfo.net/incident-tracker-monitoring-the-ccps-latest-transnational-repression-and-disinformation-campaign-against-falun-gong/>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3gj35q541o>; <https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/carney-other-canadian-officials-targets-of-china-linked-terrorist-threats-over-shen-yun-performances-5994371>

⁵ https://faluninfo.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/1/2022/11/CCP_Infiltration_FG_LeakedDocs_Chinese_Eng-22-0902-1.pdf

⁶ <https://endtransplantabuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Professor-Yuan-Statement-Transcript.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/california-man-sentenced-acting-illegal-agent-peoples-republic-china-government-and-bribery>

⁸ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/florida-telecommunications-and-information-technology-worker-sentenced-conspiring-act-agent>

⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/political-operative-sentenced-48-months-federal-prison-acting-covert-agent-peoples-republic>

¹⁰ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/bronx-man-convicted-operating-police-station-chinese-government-new-york-city-and>

monthly salary of about \$52,000¹¹; Lu Jianwang acknowledged a personal affiliation with the former Director of the MPS's 610 directorate.¹²

During the same period, various independent institutions with no affiliation to Falun Gong also provided verification of the same trend. Key findings include:

- **X (Previously Twitter)** removed a network of thousands of suspected CCP-linked bot and fake accounts that were amplifying misleading or distorted narratives of Falun Gong and Shen Yun in March 2025. An article targeting Shen Yun received over 28,000 reposts; however, fewer than 6% of the sharing accounts had more than 50 followers, and approximately 80% had none. This pattern indicates coordinated inauthentic amplification rather than organic engagement.¹³
- **Taiwan's Criminal Investigation Bureau** traced a wave of bomb threats against Shen Yun performances to Xi'an, China, specifically to a "Huawei Research Institute," following its own law-enforcement investigation in April 2025.¹⁴
- **Vancouver Police Department's Cybercrime Unit** traced a hoax bomb-threat email targeting Shen Yun's April 2026 run at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre to a phone number based in China. Separately, Global News documented the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver pressuring city staff to cancel the same performances and warning sponsors that their China business interests and travel visas would be at risk.¹⁵
- **Freedom House** has documented the PRC as the world's leading perpetrator of transnational repression, responsible for 22% of all incidents recorded globally between 2014 and 2024, with Falun Gong practitioners among the primary identified targets.¹⁶
- **Graphika**, the leading commercial open-source-intelligence firm on disinformation, published a forensic investigation in January 2026 mapping 12 domains and 12 subdomains spoofing Western media, including imitations of *the New York Times*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and *the Wall Street Journal*, used to produce and amplify anti-Falun Gong and anti-Shen Yun disinformation, and amplified by a network of Beijing-linked X accounts.¹⁷
- **The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)**, through its 'China Targets' investigation, has documented a systematic pattern of transnational repression by the CCP. Working alongside 42 media partners and interviewing over 100 victims across 23 countries, the ICIJ uncovered a range of coercive tactics targeting Falun Gong practitioners and other dissident groups. These include arrests timed to Xi Jinping's state visits, the weaponization of Interpol Red Notices, and the detention of family members in China to pressure overseas targets.¹⁸

II. A Campaign Ordered from the Top: Xi's Directives

The documented repression above did not arise on its own. This pattern—the growing prosecutions of CCP agents, coordinated disinformation, and surge in incidents worldwide—traces directly to directives issued personally by Xi Jinping and carried out through the Party's security apparatus.

¹¹ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/media/1381256/dl>

¹² <https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-04/police-station-23-mj-265-amended-complaint-signed.pdf>

¹³ <https://faluninfo.net/x-takes-down-bot-accounts-attacking-falun-gong/>

¹⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/taiwanese-police-trace-fake-bomb-threats-targeting-shen-yun-to-huawei-institute-in-china/>

¹⁵ <https://globalnews.ca/news/11825739/chinese-consulate-vancouver-shen-yun-communist-party/>

¹⁶ <https://freedomhouse.org/article/ten-findings-ten-years-data-transnational-repression>; <https://chinadissent.net/>

¹⁷ <https://graphika.com/reports/glass-onion>

¹⁸ <https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-targets/ahead-of-xi-jinpings-state-visit-to-malaysia-police-arrested-dozens-of-falun-gong-followers/>; <https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-targets/inside-china-targets-the-data-footprints-of-chinas-transnational-repression/>

In February 2025, the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) published a statement from Chinese scholar and political dissident Yuan Hongbing. In the statement, Yuan revealed details about internal CCP meetings in late 2022 where Xi Jinping refocused the regime’s attacks on Falun Gong internationally.⁶ News outlets like *The Diplomat* also covered these orders to escalate the anti-Falun Gong crackdown abroad.¹⁹

Yuan noted directives from Xi to use “public opinion warfare,” “legal warfare,” and other more sophisticated methods to undermine Falun Gong globally, citing multiple sources in the Party. According to Yuan:

[In a 2022 speech] Xi Jinping said that...the suppression of Falun Gong internationally was largely a failure. Xi Jinping further stated...the methods used to suppress Falun Gong abroad were too conservative, too traditional, lacked creativity, and lacked innovation. Xi Jinping instructed to completely, and on an international scale, suppress Falun Gong’s momentum...It was confirmed at this meeting, after the 20th National Congress, that the crackdown on Falun Gong overseas would be coordinated mainly by the Ministry of State Security. That is, coordinated by Chen Yixin [the PRC's Minister of State Security].²⁰

Another set of leaks emerged in mid-2024. These were notes from internal CCP security meetings, smuggled out by sympathizers inside the apparatus. They warned of a coordinated campaign to turn the U.S. government and American public opinion against Falun Gong, and named two YouTubers who had begun spreading misleading content about Falun Gong and Shen Yun in late 2023.²¹

The following quote from detailed notes of internal MPS meetings held in June 2024 illustrates how the regime’s plans were articulated:

Mobilize concealed agents to create and escalate the internal conflicts of Falun Gong, to expand nonstop the fighting strength, depth, and reach of [social media influencers targeting Falun Gong and Shen Yun] ... they must attract the continuous attention of the entire United States society, and force the U.S. government to strike on all fronts, eliminating the force of Falun Gong.

Leaked notes from a December 2024 conference chaired by MPS head Wang Xiaohong further directed operatives to make prominent practitioners “break with Falun Gong” and to fabricate and disseminate misconduct allegations within the Falun Gong community.²²

These directives run through a consistent chain of command. Authority originates with Xi Jinping and passes to the Political and Legal Affairs Commission (PLAC). From there it flows to the MSS and MPS, which drive global disinformation and ground operations respectively, and through the 610 Office and the Joint Office for Combating Falun Gong in North America²³. These bodies then work through state-owned and front organizations to reach operatives on U.S. soil. Those operatives, in turn, target federal agencies, courts, media, social-media platforms, theaters, and the streets.

¹⁹ <https://thediplomat.com/2025/02/leaked-ccp-files-expose-global-crackdown-on-dissent/>

²⁰ <https://endtransplantabuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Professor-Yuan-Statement-Transcript.pdf>

²¹ <https://faluninfo.net/weaponizing-social-media/>

²² <https://faluninfo.net/internal-ccp-source-during-video-conference-minister-of-public-security-outlines-plans-to-intensify-campaign-against-falun-gong-shen-yun-in-the-united-states/>

²³ <https://library.faluninfo.net/joint-office-for-combating-falun-gong-mps-mss-2021/>

III. The CCP's Expanded Arsenal of Repression

In its escalating campaign against the Falun Gong diaspora, Beijing has significantly expanded its transnational repression playbook. Within months of Xi's directive, the FDIC began noting the emergence of new and more sophisticated tactics to target the community that closely match the very instructions the CCP chief had issued in late 2022²⁴.

The tactics used by the CCP can be classified into the following categories: espionage, surveillance, and co-opting federal officials; lawfare; disinformation, misinformation and distorted reporting; impersonation; hoax threats; sabotage, assaults, and physical intimidation; diplomatic pressure and proxy mobilization. The cases below illustrate each category but represent only a fraction of documented incidents. Taken together, they reveal not a single line of attack but a coordinated, multi-instrument campaign.

Espionage, Surveillance, and Co-opting Federal Officials. These tactics aim to turn the machinery of the U.S. government against Beijing's targets: surveilling the Falun Gong community to identify vulnerabilities and co-opting federal officials into wielding their authority on the CCP's behalf. More broadly, espionage provides the intelligence foundation for the other tactics.

The campaign's reach into U.S. federal institutions is best illustrated by the Chen–Feng bribery scheme. Acting on direction from a PRC official, Chen and Feng attempted to bribe a federal officer, whom they believed to be an IRS official, to revoke Shen Yun's nonprofit status. The bribery was not the operatives' first assignment. Feng admitted to the FBI that he and Chen had traveled to New York to surveil Falun Gong residents in Orange County and to gather information for a potential environmental lawsuit meant to inhibit the community's growth.²⁵

In the Lu–Chen undeclared police station case, Lu admitted being directed to surveil practitioners and track their attendance at events; to plant anti-Falun Gong material in U.S. newspapers; and, during Xi Jinping's 2015 state visit, to recruit and bus paid counter-protesters from New York to Washington to drown out peaceful Falun Gong demonstrators.²⁶

Together, these cases show the same apparatus operating across multiple fronts at once: surveillance, the attempted co-opting of federal officials, press disinformation, and the suppression of peaceful protest via proxy mobilization, each directed from Beijing and carried out by agents embedded in American communities.

Lawfare. These suits aim less to win than to inflict the cost of being sued—draining a target's finances and attention while generating a steady stream of hostile press on a timetable the foreign actor controls and the defendant pays for. The lawsuit itself is the product, regardless of how it is ultimately resolved.

The clearest use of this tactic is against Dragon Springs, Shen Yun's New York training campus. Since 2019 it has faced repeated environmental suits from a plaintiff who had spent the prior fifteen years in Tianjin, China; a federal court dismissed four of them—the latest, in September 2024, with prejudice as “illogical.”²⁷ Nevertheless, in September 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed

²⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/launching-a-knockout-punch-ccp-campaign-to-sabotage-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-04/police_station_-_23-mj-265_amended_complaint_signed.pdf

²⁷ <https://faluninfo.net/federal-judge-dismisses-frivolous-lawsuit-against-falun-gong-shen-yun-campus/>

the dismissal on a procedural technicality, without reaching the merits.²⁸ Convicted PRC agent Feng had admitted to surveilling local Falun Gong residents to lay the groundwork for this environmental lawsuit, as described above.

Since late 2024, several former Shen Yun dancers have filed lawsuits against the company after leaving and establishing ties to the Beijing Dance Academy (BDA), a CCP-run institution. One such performer, who initially spoke positively of her experience and sought to rejoin Shen Yun, abruptly altered her stance after visiting Beijing and collaborating with BDA.²⁹ In November 2024, she initiated a civil lawsuit against Shen Yun and its headquarters, Dragon Springs, which led to misleading mainstream media reports that portrayed Shen Yun as an abusive environment. The plaintiff's claims run counter to available information about working conditions at Shen Yun, while news coverage has omitted relevant details such as the medical attention performers received, past false statements made by the plaintiff, or a conflict of interest due to her recently developed ties to China.³⁰

Over 1,550 current and former performers and family members have signed a petition citing their concerns about “gross distortions and false narratives about our work, our faith, and our way of life echoing through mainstream media, and bolstered by lawfare as well as malicious calls for government inquiries.”³¹ Phelim Kine, a senior China correspondent at *Politico*, described this lawsuit in an X post as a “propaganda coup for Beijing” in its decades-long campaign against Falun Gong³², highlighting its alignment with the CCP’s broader disinformation efforts.

Disinformation, Misinformation and Distorted Reporting. These tactics aim to shape public opinion against Falun Gong and Shen Yun through promoting false or inaccurate narratives in information channels.

The leaked MPS meeting notes cited above explicitly demand mobilization of social media influencers against Falun Gong and Shen Yun. Indeed, two Chinese-speaking YouTubers have ratcheted up attacks against Falun Gong and Shen Yun starting in mid-2023 and intensifying since early 2024. Recently leaked documents from the MPS specify these individuals by name and instruct cadres to “fully support” their attacks on Falun Gong and Shen Yun.³³ Other pieces of evidence have also emerged. 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.³⁴

Beginning in August 2024, *the New York Times* published a series of articles on Shen Yun and on the faith of Falun Gong itself. The content falsely depicts Shen Yun as abusive and the faith community as hood-winked zealots.³⁵ Multiple dubious elements stand out in the reporting: (a) relying on a small number of sources, some of whom have ties to a Chinese state-run dance academy; (b) failing to disclose these ties to readers; (c) disregarding good-faith efforts to provide contrary information; (d) ignoring medical and subject matter experts; (e) withholding critical context on how other arts and boarding schools operate; and (f) continuing a long-term editorial pattern of distorting Falun Gong’s beliefs and the

²⁸ Mid-New York Environ. v. Dragon Springs, No. 24-2451 (2d Cir. Sept. 16, 2025)

²⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/beijing-dance-academy-a-chinese-state-owned-art-institute-closely-intertwined-with-the-chinese-communist-party/>

³⁰ <https://faluninfo.net/key-things-to-know-about-the-new-york-times-investigation-of-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

³¹ <https://www.shenyuncommunity.org/our-petition>

³² <https://x.com/phelimkine/status/1861205086413684913?s=46>

³³ <https://faluninfo.net/weaponizing-social-media/>

³⁴ <https://thepopulisttimes.com/new-report-exposes-chinese-communist-partys-platform-manipulation-to-attack-shen-yun/>

³⁵ <https://faluninfo.net/new-york-times-continues-unfounded-attack-on-falun-gong-shen-yun/>

scale of persecution, such as suggesting there is no evidence of systematic forced organ harvesting in China despite two decades of independent investigations establishing that these atrocities had been committed. The reporting raises serious concerns about journalistic ethics and the irreparable harm done to a persecuted religious minority.³⁶

As a prominent outlet, the *Times*' flawed coverage has quickly influenced outlets worldwide to repeat inaccurate remarks about Falun Gong and Shen Yun. Furthermore, thousands of bot and fake X accounts with suspected CCP links³⁷—later removed by X—along with official Chinese government websites³⁸, amplified the *Times*' content in an apparent effort to legitimize the regime's human rights abuses. In March 2025, materials based on the *Times*' articles were handed out by organized protesters outside Shen Yun's Lincoln Center performances. Photo and video evidence linked the protesters to a CCP-linked figure with United Front ties and a co-founder of the Chinese Anti-Cult World Alliance (CACWA), a group previously sued for civil-rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners. Some protesters acknowledged being paid; others appeared unaware of what they were distributing.³⁹

Impersonation. Another widely used tactic has been impersonating Falun Gong practitioners to send damaging and at times threatening messages to tarnish Falun Gong's reputation. For example, in August 2024, multiple departments of the Central Park Zoo in New York City received a threat via email and a contact form submission that claimed to be a Falun Gong practitioner and said they had placed bombs throughout the zoo. The email demanded the zoo send \$5 million to Dragon Springs. One of the threats also listed the email address of the FDIC's executive director in an apparent attempt to implicate the organization. The zoo, skeptical of the threat's credibility, contacted the director, who confirmed the false impersonation attempt.⁴⁰

Hoax Threats. Beginning in early 2024, a spate of anonymous violent threats has been sent via email and website contact forms. The threats have included bombings, mass shootings, car accidents, arson, and sexual assault, targeting Falun Gong practitioners and their families, elected officials and other supporters, and public venues such as theaters. This trend escalated beginning in December 2024. From March 2024 to May 2026, the total number of such threats received has reached 290.⁴¹

In February 2025, the Kennedy Center in Washington received an emailed bomb threat, written in Chinese, demanding that Shen Yun be canceled⁴². The threat forced the evacuation and drew an on-record condemnation from the White House Press Secretary.⁴³

In a disturbing February 2025 case, a graphic threat, written in Chinese, targeted the children of Falun Gong practitioners in the United States, claiming they would be kidnapped and murdered. The anonymous message was sent from separate accounts to four Falun Gong-related websites, indicating a

³⁶ <https://faluninfo.net/key-things-to-know-about-the-new-york-times-investigation-of-shen-yun-falun-gong/>

³⁷ <https://faluninfo.net/x-takes-down-bot-accounts-attacking-falun-gong/>

³⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/january-2026-transnational-repression-update/>

³⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/anti-shen-yun-protesters-tied-to-notorious-ccp-linked-figure-in-new-york/>

⁴⁰ <https://faluninfo.net/incident-tracker-monitoring-the-ccps-latest-transnational-repression-and-disinformation-campaign-against-falun-gong/#august-10-2024>

⁴¹ 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/>

⁴² <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/threat-kennedy-center-leads-building-evacuation-road-closures>

⁴³ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2025/3/19/225903.html>

coordinated effort. The email, which was accompanied by images of knives, described the torture and sexual assault of young girls in the community.⁴⁴

To date, the threats appear to be false alarms, aiming to intimidate and deter Falun Gong practitioners or supporters, but nonetheless violate U.S. and other applicable laws. Even as hoaxes, the threats have prompted increased security costs, building evacuations, and delayed or canceled cultural events or film screenings⁴⁵. Notably, Toronto's Shen Yun venue canceled remaining performances in April 2026 in response to threats that police had determined to be "unfounded."⁴⁶

Despite the anonymity, attribution to China has been possible on multiple occasions. Beyond the Taiwanese and Vancouver police tracings noted earlier, the FDIC in May 2026 discovered a Gmail account that sent at least 28 documented malicious emails across six countries targeting Falun Gong between January and April 2026. Multiple technical and behavioral indicators point to an operator based in mainland China: timestamps correlating to working hours in Beijing's time zone, linguistic patterns consistent with a Chinese-language user, a China-registered phone number linked to the Gmail account, VPN routing, and the sender's own admissions.⁴⁷

Sabotage, Assaults, and Physical Intimidation. These tactics aim to put practitioners in real physical danger, deterring them from speaking out and silencing the witnesses Beijing most wants quiet.

In March 2024, the tire of a Shen Yun performance bus in Costa Mesa, CA was found to have been slashed. There was a cut halfway through the rubber, ensuring that the tire would not deflate right away but would burst under pressure at high speed on the freeway. According to the police report, the cut looked fresh. The bus had been under round-the-clock watch following a similar previous attempt, but had been briefly taken to a garage for routine maintenance which provided a window of opportunity for the incident.⁴⁸

Multiple assaults targeting practitioner volunteers have taken place in 2026. In late February, two female practitioners were assaulted at information booths in New York City and London within a span of four days. The victims were bloodied and hospitalized by assailants simply for sharing information about Falun Gong and the Chinese regime's persecution.⁴⁹ In a letter responding to the London assault, UK Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis affirmed that "any foreign state-directed crime against an individual in the UK will never be tolerated."⁵⁰ In March, a third assault occurred in New York City, when a female practitioner was attacked while walking home after a volunteering shift at an information booth.⁵¹ 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.⁵²

⁴⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/incident-tracker-monitoring-the-ccps-latest-transnational-repression-and-disinformation-campaign-against-falun-gong/#feb-16-25>

⁴⁵ <https://faluninfo.net/chinese-coordinated-death-threats-target-taiwan-screenings-and-government-officials/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/remaining-shows-in-shen-yuns-run-at-torontos-four-seasons-centre-cancelled-amid-escalating-threats-presenter/>

⁴⁷ <https://faluninfo.net/one-pro-beijing-email-account-114-days-a-sustained-threat-campaign-targeting-falun-gong-and-shen-yun/>

⁴⁸ <https://leeshailemish.com/on-shen-yun/2024/03/17/tire-slashing-is-back/>

⁴⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/falun-gong-practitioner-assaulted-at-information-booth-in-new-york-city/>

⁵⁰ <https://faluninfo.net/uk-security-minister-condemns-assault-on-falun-gong-practitioner-outside-british-museum-reiterates-zero-tolerance-for-transnational-repression/>

⁵¹ <https://faluninfo.net/physical-assault-robbery-elderly-falun-gong-practitioner-targeted-in-flushing-amid-ongoing-safety-concerns/>

⁵² <https://faluninfo.net/exclusive-suspect-arrested-in-los-angeles-following-violent-assault-on-falun-gong-practitioner/>

Facing international accusations that it forcibly harvests organs from Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience, the CCP has been targeting key individuals or events dedicated to exposing these abuses. Mr. Cheng Peiming, the first-known survivor of China's forced organ harvesting practices, reportedly had his U.S. home in New York state broken into in November 2024. The incident followed several other attempted attacks on Mr. Cheng and his vehicle in the preceding three months.⁵³

Diplomatic Pressure and Proxy Mobilization. This is the most longstanding and the most visible tactic: the use of Chinese embassies, consulates, and U.S.-based proxies to pressure American institutions to censor, distance themselves from, or speak against Shen Yun and Falun Gong.

For example, in 2024, the State University of New York at Purchase signed a student-exchange agreement—one that included political-selection criteria—with the Beijing Dance Academy, a CCP-run institution. Soon after, SUNY Purchase canceled Shen Yun's 2025 contract, ending more than a decade of performances at the venue. The Jamestown Foundation documented this case as an example of how a state-controlled Chinese cultural institution could serve as a vehicle for extending Beijing's preferences into an American campus.⁵⁴

During Xi Jinping's November 2023 visit to San Francisco, several respondents described being harassed by Li Huahong and others tied to the Chinese Anti-Cult World Alliance (CACWA). One California practitioner over the age of 65 recalled CCP-hired individuals blocking their signs and shouting to disrupt passersby seeking information, while another respondent, working as a journalist, described being surrounded and nearly beaten by the group. A 2024 report by the Hong Kong Democracy Council and Students for a Free Tibet documented several of these same incidents.⁵⁵

IV. Shen Yun as the Primary Target

Shen Yun Performing Arts, a New York-based classical Chinese dance company founded in 2006 by Falun Gong practitioners, seeks to revive traditional Chinese culture free of communist influence, including pieces that artistically depict the persecution of Falun Gong. Now reaching over 200 cities and more than a million live audience members a year, Shen Yun shows what China can look like when the Party is not in charge. For this reason, it has drawn sustained CCP efforts to disrupt its performances in at least 38 countries through violent threats, diplomatic pressure, disinformation, physical sabotage, and cyberattacks. While most venues and officials have rebuffed this pressure, Beijing has succeeded in blocking or forcing the cancellation of a performance in at least 25 cases across 14 countries.⁵⁶

Consistent with what leaked internal notes reveal, Shen Yun and its headquarters, Dragon Springs, have become the primary target of the CCP's escalating repression. As of May 2026, more than three-fourths of documented violent threats targeting Falun Gong, and more than two-thirds of those targeting government officials or institutions globally, are related to Shen Yun.⁵⁷

Approximately 100 Shen Yun performers and their families have been directly affected by the persecution in China—mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles imprisoned, sent to labor camps, tortured, or killed.⁵⁸ Steven Wang, a former principal dancer and current dance instructor, learned in March 2023, while on tour with Shen Yun, that his mother had just been sentenced to four years in prison—a case documented in the U.S.

⁵³ <https://faluninfo.net/forced-organ-harvesting-survivor-in-the-u-s-faces-threats-suspected-break-in/>

⁵⁴ <https://jamestown.org/beijing-dance-academy-dances-to-the-tune-of-zhongnanhai/>

⁵⁵ <https://ccpexportingrepression.com/>

⁵⁶ <https://library.faluninfo.net/diplomatic-disruptions-and-disinformation-beijings-global-drive-to-stop-shen-yun/>

⁵⁷ Incident Tracker by the FDIC, see footnote 30.

⁵⁸ <https://faluninfo.net/how-media-criticisms-and-investigations-seriously-miss-the-mark/>

Commission on International Religious Freedom’s prisoner database; his father had died in 2009 after years of detention and torture.⁵⁹ For dozens of Shen Yun artists, the threat to family in China is an active coercive tool the CCP wields in real time.

V. Impact on the Falun Gong Community

The CCP’s aggressive transnational repression has taken a profound toll on the Falun Gong community in the U.S. and around the world. To better document and understand its scope, the FDIC recently conducted a survey of American Falun Gong practitioners. The full results will be published in the coming weeks, but we would like to share a few top-line findings with the Commission.

- The survey received over 1,000 valid responses from practitioners across 41 U.S. states.
- Nearly half of respondents (48%) reported experiencing increased transnational repression since 2022.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (90%) reported noticing increased negative media coverage, social media campaigns, or misinformation about Falun Gong since 2022.
- Respondents reported over 600 incidents of transnational repression since 2020, including physical assaults, verbal harassment, property damage, cyberbullying, violent threats, censorship, surveillance, and reprisals against family in China. Furthermore, the number of reported incidents showed a dramatic increase, from 16 cases reported in 2020 to 172 in 2025.
- In 130 of the reported cases, Chinese regime agencies—including the MPS, the MSS, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—were directly involved.
- American institutions were also pressured or deceived into suppressing or restricting the freedom of expression of Falun Gong practitioners in the United States. Over 80 respondents reported instances of being barred from parades, community events, or national conferences because they practice Falun Gong.
- Known for their resilience in the face of repression, the vast majority of Falun Gong practitioners report feeling safe to practice their faith and engage in human rights advocacy on behalf of those persecuted in China, despite the regime’s escalating tactics and a growing atmosphere of bias and intolerance. However, over 60% are anxious about the CCP’s surveillance capacity in the United States and its implications.
- Many of the cases reported by respondents have gone unpunished due to the anonymity of attackers, the absence of reporting by victims, insufficient law-enforcement, or inadequate laws to protect Americans from transnational repression.

VI. Conclusion

The CCP’s transnational repression targeting Falun Gong practitioners through violence, threats, lawfare, media manipulation, and attempts to co-opt U.S. federal agencies, have been documented by U.S. federal courts, allied law enforcement agencies, American companies, leading human-rights organizations, disinformation network researchers, investigative journalists, and the Falun Gong community itself. All these points to a sophisticated, tried-and-true playbook to harm and alienate a religious minority.

The implications extend far beyond the Falun Gong community—if the CCP is left unchecked, its tactics targeting Falun Gong could easily be used against any American institution of Beijing’s choosing. This poses as a major risk to the U.S. national security and demands strong responses from the U.S. government to counter Beijing’s playbook.

⁵⁹ <https://faluninfo.net/mother-of-steven-wang/>

VII. Recommendations

1. **A Congressional hearing on transnational repression of U.S. religious minorities by the CCP**, with sworn testimony from FBI counterintelligence officials, current and former Shen Yun performers, Falun Gong practitioners, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (which prosecuted Chen and Feng), and independent researchers from Freedom House, the Jamestown Foundation, and ETAC.
2. **Global Magnitsky Act sanctions** against named individuals identified as drivers of the campaign, including 610 Office leadership, MSS Minister Chen Yixin, MPS head Wang Xiaohong, and Joint Office for Combating Falun Gong in North America Director Wu Xiuhua. These authorities exist; the evidence threshold has been met.
3. **Department of Justice continuation and expansion of Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) enforcement** against the U.S.-soil network that supported the Chen/Feng/Sun, Ping Li, and Lu Jianwang/Chen Jinping activities. In particular, financial-flow analysis of consulate payments and of the 610 Office payments John Chen described should be a stand-alone investigative priority.
4. **FBI counterintelligence prioritization of transnational repression as a stand-alone category**, with clear public reporting of Chinese-government-linked threats against U.S. nonprofits, religious communities, and journalists.
5. **Treasury and Department of Education review of state-owned Chinese cultural institutions operating partnerships with U.S. universities and theaters**—the Beijing Dance Academy/SUNY Purchase exchange that resulted in Shen Yun's contract cancellation is an example that should be studied and constrained.
6. **Passage of the Falun Gong and Victims of Forced Organ Harvesting Protection Act (S.4009)**, a bipartisan bill currently pending before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.