



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
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REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, COCHAIRMAN

October 10, 2018

Director Christopher Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

As chairs of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC)—a bipartisan, bicameral commission created by Congress in 2000 to monitor developments in human rights and rule of law in China—we write to seek information about intimidation and threats experienced by individuals from the Chinese, Uyghur, and Tibetan diaspora communities living in the United States. Given that many of these individuals are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, we ask that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report to us on how it is addressing what are unacceptable intrusions by the Chinese government and Communist Party within the United States.

The CECC has long sounded the alarm on the Chinese government and Communist Party's egregious abuses of human rights in China and its efforts to censor, intimidate and silence their critics globally. Among the most troubling trends that our Annual Report identified this year is the crackdown taking place in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), subjecting Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim ethnic minorities to arbitrary detention, torture, egregious restrictions on religious practice and culture, and a digitized surveillance system so pervasive that every aspect of daily life is monitored—through facial recognition cameras, mobile phone scans, DNA collection, and an extensive and intrusive police presence. There are also credible reports of the extrajudicial detention of over 1 million individuals in “political reeducation” camps—making this the largest mass internment of an ethnic minority population since World War II.

Given the sheer size and scope of the crackdown in the XUAR, many Uyghurs living in the United States have at least one, if not several, family members who have gone missing or been interned in “political reeducation” camps. Public reporting in recent months has substantiated what the CECC has learned regarding Chinese government interference and targeting of the Uyghur diaspora community globally. Members of the Uyghur diaspora community in the United States have indicated to us that they are unwilling to appear at public events, including congressional hearings, out of fear that they will be surveilled and their family members in China punished as a result. This is unacceptable.

www.cecc.gov

You have acknowledged the “whole of society” threat posed by the Chinese government and Communist Party in your public testimony. We therefore respectfully request answers to the following questions:

- Has the FBI, including its field offices, observed an uptick in reports of threats, harassment and intimidation by the Chinese government against the Uyghur American community or the broader Chinese American diaspora community?
- Has the FBI undertaken any increased public outreach to these communities given multiple media reports that they are being targeted by the Chinese government?
- To what extent is there coordination between the FBI and the State Department regarding the possible denial of visas for Chinese officials who are in the United States operating under illegitimate and illegal auspices? Have actions been taken to identify and remove Chinese officials responsible for threats and intimidation to U.S. citizens and residents?
- Has the FBI engaged its Chinese counterparts on any of these issues? If so, what has been the response to concerns about threats posed to U.S. citizens and residents?

While answers to these questions will be instructive, we believe there is already sufficient evidence available to warrant a more concerted outreach effort, including mechanisms like a possible anonymous tip line, to counter brazen Chinese government threats and influence operations on American soil.

Sincerely,



Senator Marco Rubio
Chair



Representative Chris Smith
CoChair