

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Attorney General Garland and Secretary Blinken:


We write to express our deep concern about the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) persistent use of transnational repression against U.S. nationals, including our own constituents in Virginia.

We ask that you provide detailed information on what specific steps the U.S. government is undertaking to address this issue, and that your agencies schedule a joint briefing with our respective offices to better understand what actions Congress may take to help in that effort.

Freedom House has noted that China conducts the most comprehensive campaign of transnational repression in the world, with Beijing responsible for "229 of the 735 recorded incidents of physical transnational repression since 2014." Reports have also emerged about the presence of secret "police stations" in the U.S. that track and intimidate citizens of Chinese origin living in the United States. That China feels emboldened to extend its authoritarian grip beyond its borders is both alarming and a violation of U.S. national sovereignty.

American Uyghurs in Virginia have experienced the consequences of China's relentless attempts to silence dissent. The CCP has targeted the family members of our constituents – including the family of Nury Turkel, who is the Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Beijing has also detained the relatives of former and current Radio Free Asia journalists Rushan Abbas, Mamatjan Juma, and Bahram Sintash, and instituted travel bans against the family members of our constituents – namely Ms. Adalet Sabit and Ms. Subi Yuksel – in Xinjiang province. It is clear that the CCP's cruelty knows no bounds.

At its core, China's intimidation and harassment of Uyghur dissidents in the U.S. threatens American democracy and our country's residents. We ask for your prompt attention to this important matter.



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator