

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We write regarding the recent vandalism of the June Fourth Massacre Memorial Museum in El Monte, California, and to request that the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate this incident as a potential act of transnational repression. DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have recognized transnational repression as a serious threat to U.S. sovereignty and to the rights of people living in the United States.¹ This case warrants the DOJ's attention.

According to public reporting, unknown individuals broke into the museum shortly before the anniversary of the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen Square Massacre, spray-painted walls and exhibits, damaged property, and interfered with the museum's surveillance system.² The museum exists to preserve the memory of the peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) crushed with violence. Vandalizing that museum will not erase the memory of what happened on June 4, 1989, nor will it cover up the crimes committed by the CCP against those who called for freedom and democracy.

We urge DOJ, including the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office and the National Security Division, to work closely with local authorities to determine whether this attack was planned, encouraged, supported, or carried out by individuals acting on behalf of, at the direction of, or in sympathy with the People's Republic of China (PRC) or the CCP.

California has seen a troubling pattern of incidents that should sharpen our attention to this possibility. The destruction and surveillance targeting connected to Liberty Sculpture Park and dissident artist Chen Weiming; the violence and intimidation directed at anti-CCP protesters during the 2023 APEC summit in San Francisco, which has never been fully addressed; and the federal charges against former Arcadia Mayor Eileen Wang and her guilty plea³ for acting as an

¹ *Defending Dissent: Fighting Transnational Repression*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2eeZsbjHJs>.

² Harry Saunders, *Tiananmen Square Memorial Museum Vandalized Ahead of Anniversary*, Domino Theory (June 4, 2026), <https://dominotheory.com/tiananmen-square-memorial-museum-vandalized-ahead-of-anniversary/>.

³ Press Release, U.S. Att'y's Office, Cent. Dist. of Cal., U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Arcadia Mayor Federally Charged with Acting as Illegal Agent of the People's Republic of China* (May 11, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/arcadia-mayor-federally-charged-acting-illegal-agent-peoples-republic-china>.

illegal agent of the PRC with ties to a convicted agent who engaged in transnational repression⁴ all point to a larger concern. What may first appear to be vandalism, assault, harassment, or political disruption can sometimes be part of a broader effort by a foreign adversary to silence critics and intimidate diaspora communities inside the United States.

We are also aware that the first officials to respond to some of these incidents—local police officers, local prosecutors, and FBI field agents—may not have fully appreciated the possibility that these acts were connected to a foreign government or its proxies. That possibility raises broader questions about whether front-line law enforcement officials have the training, resources, and support needed to identify transnational repression when they encounter it. State attorneys general and other elected officials have testified before Congress about the need for additional training, stronger federal-state cooperation, and improved information-sharing on this issue.

The front lines of this crisis are often not in Washington, D.C., but in local communities. Officers may encounter what appears at first to be a property crime, street-level assault, protest-related confrontation, online threat, or neighborhood harassment campaign. But when that conduct is connected to a foreign government or its proxies, the stakes are far higher.

For that reason, DOJ and the FBI should continue strengthening training and coordination with state and local law enforcement. The FBI Philadelphia Field Office's creation of the Bureau's first operational task force dedicated to transnational repression threats is an important step in the right direction but more needs to be done. Local officers across the country need to know what indicators to look for, how to preserve evidence, how to protect victims who may fear retaliation against family members abroad, and when to contact federal authorities. FBI field offices also need the resources and guidance necessary to identify patterns across cases that may otherwise appear isolated.

Congress has sought to address these needs through the *Transnational Repression Policy Act*.⁵ As introduced, the legislation reflects bipartisan recognition that transnational repression is both a human rights abuse and a violation of U.S. sovereignty. It would require more training for federal personnel, including DOJ and FBI officials, as well as certain state and local law-enforcement and municipal officials. It would also require DOJ, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the FBI, to make public-facing resources available to targeted communities, conduct outreach so victims know when and how to report incidents, and support training for those who may assist victims. The bill also authorizes appropriations for implementation, including training, research, outreach, and related activities.

While Congress continues its work, we urge DOJ to use its existing authorities to ensure that incidents like the June 4 Museum vandalism receive the federal attention they deserve.

⁴ Press Release, Office of Pub. Affairs, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *California Man Sentenced for Acting as an Illegal Agent of the People's Republic of China Government and Bribery* (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/california-man-sentenced-acting-illegal-agent-peoples-republic-china-government-and-bribery>.

⁵ H.R. 4829

Accordingly, we request that the Department provide a written response and briefing addressing the following:

1. What guidance, training, or threat briefings FBI field offices currently provide to local police departments and prosecutors on recognizing signs of transnational repression;
2. Whether DOJ will conduct additional training and outreach in California, including in Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel Valley, San Francisco, and other communities where PRC-linked intimidation or influence activities have been alleged or charged;
3. What reporting mechanisms exist for victims, museums, civil-society organizations, and diaspora communities that suspect they are being targeted by transnational repression, especially when they fear retaliation against themselves or relatives abroad; and
4. What additional statutory authority, resources, or congressional action DOJ believes would help prevent, investigate, and prosecute transnational repression more effectively.

We appreciate the work DOJ and the FBI are doing to confront transnational repression and protect communities targeted by foreign governments. We share the DOJ's view that this conduct is unacceptable. No foreign government should be allowed to export censorship, intimidation, violence, or political control into American communities.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We look forward to your response and to working more closely with the DOJ to ensure that people in the United States can speak freely, organize peacefully, preserve historical memory, and advocate for democracy without fear of foreign government intimidation.

Sincerely,



Christopher Smith
Co-Chairman
Congressional-Executive
Commission on China



John Moolenaar
Chairman
House Select Committee
on the CCP

