

NO SPACE LEFT TO RUN

China's Transnational Repression of Uyghurs

The logo for the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) consists of the letters 'UHRP' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, each letter contained within a separate white square. The squares are arranged in a horizontal row. The background of the entire page is a stylized world map with a red Chinese flag ribbon curving across it, and several hands holding the flag.

No Space Left to Run: China's Transnational Repression of Uyghurs demonstrates that the Chinese government is perpetrating transnational repression on a massive scale, making Uyghurs around the world the special targets of state control beyond China's borders. The report draws from cases compiled in a database by the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs examining over 1,500 cases of serious human rights violations on foreign soil from 1997 through March 2021.

Key Takeaways

- The Chinese government is perpetrating transnational repression on a massive scale, making Uyghurs around the world the special targets of state control beyond China's borders
- At least 28 countries across the world are complicit in China's harassment and intimidation of Uyghurs, most notably in much of the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia
- Our dataset contains 1,151 cases of Uyghurs being detained in their host country and 395 cases of Uyghurs being deported, extradited, or rendered back to China
- Transnational repression has been consistently on the rise and has accelerated dramatically with the onset of its system of mass surveillance in the Uyghur region since 2017, showing a correlation between repression at home and abroad
- International organizations and host governments can often be complicit in China's use of transnational repression against Uyghurs

Recommendations

- **Strengthen refugee resettlement programs by increasing quotas and streamlining procedures.** Governments should increase their quota of refugees from China and from third countries that are likely to extradite citizens to China, such as Turkey and Thailand.
- **Uphold the non-refoulement principle.** Under international law, governments are prohibited from sending individuals back to countries where they would be at risk of persecution, torture, ill-treatment, or other serious human rights violations.
- **Increase outreach to Uyghur communities.** Governments and communities should recognize the unique dangers faced by Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples residing within their borders. Outreach initiatives could include teaching Uyghurs about their legal and political rights or about basic digital security strategies to counteract the growing threat of Chinese malware and hacks.

Full report:
uhrp.org

