

Submission to the British Conservative Party's Human Rights Commission on China

By Rose Tang

The last three years have seen the scope of human rights abuses in China and the Chinese Communist Party's infiltration and expansion in the world reaching a level unprecedented since the Tiananmen Massacre in 1989.

While China continues to intensify arbitrary detention, torture, execution, abduction, harassment and all forms of persecution, the most noticeable development over the last three years is how China has turned state-owned mass media into a quasi court to convict detained human rights defenders before they appear for trial.

China's export of its persecution outside its jurisdiction to formally autonomous Hong Kong and beyond and apply this to foreign nationals and residents is particularly alarming. The latest cases are the April repatriation to China of 32 Taiwanese from Malaysia and 45 Taiwanese from Kenya where they lived and were accused of involvement in fraud cases. Some of them had been acquitted by Kenyan courts.

A number of Chinese, including those who hold foreign citizenship, were kidnapped by Chinese agents in a number of countries around the world and repatriated to China. Most of them have been held in undisclosed locations, while their family members and lawyers have been denied access or any form of contact. The youngest to be kidnapped overseas and repatriated to China to be put under house arrest is 16 years old, whose only "crime" is being the son of human rights defenders.

President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign and "rule of law" policy turned out to be an all-out crackdown on all sectors of the civil society. Among a series of sweeping crackdowns since Xi took power, the most notable was the mass arrest of human rights lawyers and activists in the summer of 2015.

Merely eight days after China announced its new National Security Law on July 1, some 300 human rights lawyers, activists, and members of their families and staff were kidnapped by the police without arrest warrants, detained, interrogated, put under house arrest, banned from traveling overseas, or simply disappeared. The oldest is 81 years old, the youngest 16.

The arbitrary abduction, detention, interrogation, harassment and forced repatriation of Chinese and Chinese-born foreign nationals and Hong Kong residents have reached an unprecedented scale. In fact, Beijing boasted about this in state media reports about its so-called "Fox Hunt" operations reaching a historical record -- 857 people were arrested by Chinese agents overseas and repatriated in 2015. On April 21, 2016, Beijing announced the launch of the 2016 Sky Net campaign on "overseas fugitives". In the northeastern province of Liaoning alone, the police said 101 people have been arrested from overseas so far this year.

Persecution of Christians, Muslims and Falun Gong practitioners has intensified, hundreds of churches were demolished, crosses removed or burnt, and numerous mosques (some of them hundreds of years old) were flattened.

Torture-related deaths of political prisoners were a trouble feature of the last three years, including high-profile prisoners such as Chinese legal activist Cao Shunli, a Chinese legal scholar and activist who died shortly after her release from prison in 2014, and Buddhist leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. The Tibetan monk's death occurred the same week in mid-July 2015 when hundreds of Chinese lawyers were rounded up and hundreds of Uyghur refugees were repatriated from Thailand.

Chinese, Hong Kong, Taiwanese, British, American and Swedish citizens were paraded on state-owned TV and delivered what were clearly forced confessions, a method that harkens back to the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution public condemnation and struggle meetings. Such trial-and-conviction-by-television sessions reached a wide audience in China through blanket coverage throughout party mouthpieces.

Censorship of the news, literature, art, films, TV entertainment and the Internet have all greatly increased. The punishment of those who “broke” censorship rules became more severe over even trivial actions, as people were detained for months for one Tweet or one picture on the Internet. Again, such persecution reminds one of the Cultural Revolution.

Meanwhile, China has increased its infiltration overseas and stepped up its acquisition of and co-operation with international media firms and educational institutions. In some cases, these institutions and companies compromise their ethical or professional standards in order to win business with China. China has also turned up its charm offensive overseas, establishing new Beijing-friendly media outlets or expanding flagship mouthpieces. Meanwhile, governments and businesses around the world have increasingly adopted a stance of appeasement towards Beijing, with a number of corporations, educational institutions and professional associations conducting self censorship in their writing and speaking about China.

I will provide examples to illustrate China’s worsening human rights conditions in two categories: domestic crackdowns, and overseas crackdowns and infiltration.

DOMESTIC CRACKDOWNS

1) “709 Crackdown”

The most notorious was the “709 Crackdown”, the mass persecution of human rights lawyers, activists and their associates that started on July 9, 2015. As of May 6th, 2016, 319 human rights lawyers and activists, and members of their staff and family have been kidnapped, arrested, detained, interrogated, put under house arrest, forced to disappear or banned from leaving China, according to Hong Kong-based NGO Chinese Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group.

The “709” is the largest crackdown on China’s civil society in recent years, and the stories of persecution offer a chilling picture of how Xi’s regime has adopted a wide range of tactics to persecute human rights defenders. Some methods were even adopted from ancient emperors.

The central figures of the crackdown are prominent human rights lawyer Wang Yu and her family. Wang and her activist husband Bao Longjun had been frequently harassed and assaulted by police and court police. Wang was jailed for two and a half years. Over the past few years, Wang had taken up the most sensitive cases defending some of the highest profile dissidents such as Uyghur scholar Ilham Tohti, who received a life sentence in September, 2014. Beijing Fengrui Law Firm, where Wang was one of the main lawyers, is well regarded in China’s rights defending community for taking up numerous difficult human rights cases, sometimes providing free legal service to petitioners seeking legal redress for government wrongdoing.

The “709 Crackdown” could be traced to a police shooting two months before. On May 2, 2015, villager Xu Chunhe was gunned down in front of his three young children and his 81-year-old mother by a police officer who stopped him boarding a train to Beijing in a railway station in Qingan in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang. Xu had petitioned to authorities for years to allow him to put his mother in a nursing home. Local authorities often try to stop petitioners from traveling to Beijing in order to curb the scale of the protests.

The Chinese Communist Party's top mouthpiece, CCTV, soon aired edited footage of Xu's scuffle with the police, claiming the officer was carrying out his normal duty. The tragedy and state media coverage that painted Xu as a morally depraved person caused a public outcry. A number of people protested online and in various cities, including Beijing. Dozens of prominent academics, lawyers and activists signed a petition to the Ministry of Public Security and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, demanding the authorities to respond to the public outcry.

Prominent grassroots activist Wu Gan launched a campaign on social media offering money to witnesses who could provide their own video footage of the incident. The footage Wu gathered shows the police officer was beating up Xu first.

Wu, who works for Beijing Fengrui Law Firm, was arrested on May 19. By May 25, more than 30 protesters supporting Xu were arrested, according to Radio Free Asia.

In mid-June, 2015, a number of anonymous letters appeared in Chinese Internet forums and state-owned websites accusing Wang of assaulting a few people seven years before and of being a "bogus lawyer".

On July 9, Wang's husband Bao Longjun and 16-year-old Bao Zhuoxuan were kidnapped by plainclothes police at Beijing Airport as they were traveling to Australia, where Zhuoxuan was enrolled in a high school. They were thrown into two vans and detained in two separate locations. Zhuoxuan was detained and interrogated at a hotel in Tianjin for two days. The police took away his house keys and passport, warning him not to speak to the media under the threat that he'd never be permitted to go overseas. He was put under house arrest with three grandparents in Tianjin.

On the night of July 9, Wang was kidnapped by police from her Beijing home, not knowing her husband and son had been detained. On July 10, the police raided Fengrui Law Firm, arresting a few more lawyers and staff, including an accountant and a driver. The offices were ransacked.

Within a week, some 200 human rights lawyers, activists, members of their families and staff in two dozen provinces were interrogated, arrested or had gone missing.

Despite statements from the E.U., the U.N., the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Congress and dozens of international NGOs and law societies, the detained lawyers and activists have been denied visits from lawyers and their families.

In October, Chinese activists Tang Zhishun and Xing Qingxian accompanied Bao Zhuoxuan in the boy's effort to escape China via Burma to Thailand. The trio were detained by local authorities in Burma and handed over to Chinese agents. Bao was taken to Inner Mongolia and placed under house arrest with his grandparents. Bao's parents were shown on Chinese state TV blaming his rescuers. Major state media outlets published their "reports" about the trio's "illegal border crossing". Tang and Xing went missing. Their family members escaped to the U.S..

In January 2016, Wang Yu was charged with "subversion of state power" while her husband Bao Longjun was charged with "incitement to state subversion". Nearly a dozen lawyers and their associates were formally arrested on similar charges in January, more than six months after their detention.

On April 21, two lawyers who attempted to visit Wang were briefly detained. Tang and Xing, the two men who helped Bao Zhuoxuan escape China were missing for more than 200 days after their repatriation from Burma. Their lawyer, Qin Chenshou, who has been banned from leaving China, issued a statement on social media on April 21, saying he had telephoned and sent numerous letters but authorities failed to reply. "A government under no monitor is the biggest threat to the people; it's a ferocious beast in

reality”, Qin wrote. On May 18th, Xing’s wife He Juan, who now lives in San Francisco, announced on her Facebook she finally received a formal notice about Xing’s arrest for “organizing others for illegal border crossing” and his detention location, 226 days after he disappeared. Tang remains missing.

2) Censorship and Detention over Trivial Actions

A spate of detentions as a result of Internet censorship has plagued China over the last three years. The accusations were based on things trivial and absurd.

Below are a few cases:

- In May, 2014, five people were detained for attending an informal forum in a private home about Tiananmen Massacre. They included prominent human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang, a former 1989 Tiananmen hunger striker, film critic Hao Jian, historian Xu Youyu, writers Liu Di and Hu Shigen. When Pu stood trial in December, 2015, the main evidence was his blog posts on the Chinese social network Weibo.
- In May, 2014, 28-year-old Liu Wei was criminally detained for posting two photos of him in Tiananmen Square flashing a V sign and showing a Nazi salute.
- In June, 2014, 22-year-old university student Zhao Huaxu was detained over a couple of Tweets proposing a method to spread the truth about Tiananmen.
- In September, 2014, a number of poets, artists and activists were detained for showing support to Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution protests demanding universal suffrage in the former British colony. Among them was 29-year-old poet Wang Zang, who posted on Twitter one picture of him giving his middle finger while holding an umbrella. He was detained for nine months and tortured.
- In May, 2015, artist Dai Jianyong was detained for posting on social media photo shopped pictures of Xi Jinping making faces.
- In June, 2015, accountant Du Yanlin was detained for Tweeting photos of himself in Tiananmen Square showing his middle finger at Mao’s mausoleum.
- In August, 2015, activist and ex-state prosecutor Shen Liangqing was detained for one tweet sharing a news story about the death toll of massive explosions in Tianjin.
- On April 15, 2016, lawyer Ge Yongxi was detained for sharing on social media one photoshopped picture poking fun at Xi Jinping and two other CCP leaders over the Panama Papers.

Twenty seven years on, Tiananmen Massacre remains a taboo topic in China. There are still people in jail for their involvement in the pro-democracy movement. The best known case is Miao Deshun, who’s been held for throwing a basket at a burning tank in Beijing. The worker from Hebei province was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve. Miao, who’s suffering from hepatitis B and schizophrenia after repeated torture, is due to be released in October, according to San Francisco-based Dui Hua Foundation.

Since late April, Tiananmen Movement participant Yu Shiwen has staged a hunger strike in jail protesting his prolonged pretrial detention. Yu has been held for 15 months and is the last one of the ten people who were detained in May 2014, for commemorating Tiananmen and the death of former Premier Zhao Ziyang.

Another participant of 1989 Tiananmen Movement, agriculturist-turned-activist Chen Yunfei, has been detained since March, 2015 for visiting the graves of students in Sichuan who were killed in Tiananmen Massacre. Police accuse him of “picking quarrels and stirring up trouble” and “incitement to subvert state power”.

3) Censorship Intensified

- In February, 2016, China issued a directive banning all foreign-invested companies from publishing online content in China.
- In early April 2016, China banned all broadcasting of the Hong Kong Film Awards ceremony, where “Ten Years”, a dystopian film about Hong Kong’s future, won the Best Picture.
- Even South Korea’s widely popular soap operas and reporting of celebrity weddings, have been banned.
- In April, 2016, China blocked websites of Time and The Economist magazines after they published articles on Xi Jinping’s personality cult.
- In April, 2016, China shut down Apple Inc.’s online movie and book services, just six months after their launch.

4) Crackdown on Chinese and Foreign Journalists Intensified

The most notable case was the visa rejection in late 2013 of renowned American journalist Paul Mooney, who had been working as an accredited reporter in China for 18 years. Reuters offered Mooney a job in Beijing and applied for a visa on his behalf in March, 2013. After eight months, the application was rejected. By then, the websites of Bloomberg News and New York Times had been blocked for more than a year after their exposés on the wealth of top CCP leaders, and their reporters faced prolonged and unexplained waiting periods for the renewal of their China visas.

Mooney told me the Chinese consular officer in the visa interview in San Francisco said to him: “If we give you a visa this time, I hope you’ll be more objective in your reporting in the future.” Mooney replied that his reporting had been objective. While China never gave a reason for Mooney’s visa rejection, he said it could be because of his reporting on Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, and his work on a biography on blind Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng and a review of Tibetan writer Tsering Woesser’s book on Tibetan self immolations.

In December, 2015, China expelled French magazine L’Orbs’ Beijing correspondent Ursula Gauthier, after she questioned the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang and rejected Chinese state media comparisons of Islamic terrorism in Paris and violence in Xinjiang.

In March, 2016, a new wave of crackdowns was sparked by the online publication of an anonymous open letter to President Xi whose authors described themselves as loyal Communist Party members and called on him to resign over numerous policy blunders. The editor-in-chief and nearly a dozen staff members of Wujie (or Watch), a state news website that published the letter, were detained in relation to the letter. Hong Kong-based journalist Jia Jia was detained for questioning in Beijing merely for asking the editor to delete the letter.

5) Family Members of Dissidents Detained or Assaulted

As mentioned above, poet Wang Zang was detained for eight months for one photo of himself on Twitter in support of Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution. His wife and two-year-old daughter were detained by Beijing police for nine hours shortly after his arrest in October, 2014. They were threatened by the police, and denied food, water and banned from using the rest room.

In April, 2016, prominent journalist Gao Yu, living under closely monitored medical parole as she serves the remainder of a jail term, was harassed and her son was beaten up by city management officers who were demolishing a part of their flat in Beijing.

Punishing family members or using them as hostages is an ancient method first adopted by Chinese emperors dating back to 200 BC, and was widely applied in Mao Zedong's Anti-Rightist Campaign and the Cultural Revolution.

OVERSEAS PERSECUTION AND INFILTRATION

1) Overseas Persecution

For decades since the 1980's, Beijing has been banning a number of dissidents from returning to China, as well as barring their relatives from leaving China. Among the most prominent examples are former Tiananmen student leader Wu'er Kaixi and German-based journalist Su Yutong, who had leaked former Premier Li Peng's personal diary online and had been writing on China's human rights. In 2015, China revoked Su's Beijing residency, making it much tougher for her to apply for residency in Germany. In May, the Chinese Embassy in Germany refused to issue her a new passport after her passport was stolen.

The persecution of family members of activists living overseas became much more extensive in the last three years. In late March, 2016, shortly after China detained the editor and scores of staffers at state-owned website Wujie that published the anti-Xi letter, family members of New York-based Chinese activist Wen Yunchao and German-based Chinese journalist Chang Ping were detained in China. Chang said his detained brother contacted him asking him to delete his articles and not to publish any more criticism of China. Wen's in-laws have also been barred from leaving China.

Relatives of exiled Uyghur and Tibetan activists have been jailed back in Xinjiang and Tibet. And a number of Chinese and Uyghurs have been convicted in Europe for spying on other Uyghurs overseas. A Reuters report in late 2015 quotes Uyghur surgeon Enver Tohti, an ex-surgeon from Xinjiang who's been granted refugee status in the UK, as saying: "If the infiltration of the Tibetans is 80 percent, then the infiltration of the Uyghurs is 100 percent. So far here in the U.K., I've had four Uyghurs confess to me that they have been spying."

Chinese students' associations on university campuses throughout the world intimidate Chinese and local students. These students' associations are usually controlled by Chinese embassies and consulates. In 2015, the Chinese students' association at University of Rochester in the U.S. tried to stop the formation of a Hong Kong students' association, telling the university students association government that Hong Kong is part of China and should not have a separate students' association.

In April, 2016, Wu Wei, a Chinese Australian tutor at the Business School of Sydney University, was forced to resign after pro-China individuals dubbed as Little Pinky lodged complaints with university authorities accusing Wu of racism and launched an all-out smear campaign against him. The attacks and forced departure came one year after Wu posted on the Chinese social network Weibo a video of himself burning his Chinese passport and calling Chinese students who hire people to write their essays "pigs".

Large groups of Chinese organized and paid by Chinese embassies and consulates often show up en masse at Chinese leaders' visits overseas. In some occasions, they have intimidated or physically assaulted expatriate activists and local people who were protesting against China. A BBC TV report showed officially supplied boxes of red baseball caps, banners and uniforms for the pro-China supporters at a protest site in London during Xi's visit in 2015.

The last few years have witnessed a surge of pro-China protesters showing up around the globe. Members of Buddhist sect Dorje Shugden staged loud protests during the Dalai Lama's visits to the U.K. and other parts of the world, chanting "the Dalai Lama is a liar". Lama Tseten, a Tibetan monk and former prominent member of the Shugden movement, said on social media and told Reuters China paid him and others for the sect's overseas activities.

During Xi's visit to Prague in March, 2016, numerous photos and videos posted on social media showed China supporters intimidating and assaulting local Czech protesters, tearing up their placards and grabbing their Tibetan flags. Videos posted on social media on April 1st also shows China supporters harrasing a female Tibetan reporter with Radio Free Asia as she was trying to interview a Tibetan protester in Washington, D.C. during the Nuclear Security Summit which Xi was attending.

2) Overseas Infiltration

China has been exerting its soft power overseas by establishing new educational institutions and media outlets. At the forefront of the regime's drive to generate soft power are the more than 300 Confucius Institutes and 108 Confucius classrooms throughout the world, including 29 institutes in Britain. The institutes, financed by Hanban, an affiliate of China's Ministry of Education, have been criticized for discouraging study of sensitive topics, such as the Tiananmen Massacre and Tibet, and discriminating against Falun Gong practitioners. Li Changchun, a CCP leader, has been quoted in *The Economist* as saying Confucius Institutes are "an important part of China's propaganda set-up".

Another peculiar attempt to expand Chinese soft power is the revival of Cultural-Revolution-style performances, notably "White-Haired Girl" and "Red Women's Detachment", the most famous of Madam Mao's revolutionary model plays. China's First Lady, Peng Liyuan, a renowned military singer who performed "White Haired Girl" earlier in career, now oversees the new production of the opera, which premiered in late 2015 in Beijing and toured around the country. Top CCP mouthpiece *China Daily* hailed the opera as a "good tale". "As an immortal memory of modern Chinese history, the 'White Haired Girl' is a timeless tale showcasing the national spirit. It deserves profound study from Chinese and world artists", the newspaper said.

The National Ballet of China staged "Red Women's Detachment" in New York's Lincoln Center and at a cultural festival in Helsinki, Finland in 2015. Many locals were not even aware the ballet is a ghost from the Cultural Revolution.

As traditional media around the globe continue to decline, with a number of media organizations either shutting down or scaling back operations, CCP mouthpieces have been expanding, setting up new offices and new English-language editions. Xinhua News Agency set up its North America headquarters in New York's Time Square, alongside Reuters. Xinhua has also been paying more than US\$200,000 a month for a premium neon billboard in the center of Time Square, beaming out videos and images of Xinhua as a leading world news outlet, Confucius, and "Red Women's Detachment."

Major mouthpieces such as Xinhua and CCTV have adopted a new policy of localizing their operations, hiring local journalists to make their coverage look more convincing to the world, according to He Qinglian, a U.S.-based economist and expert on China's media.

The Chinese government has been on a shopping spree, buying up most of the Chinese-language media outlets in North America and Australia. Radio Free Asia says the Chinese government usually creates subsidiaries to make them look like market-driven private enterprises and uses them for overseas acquisitions. At least 33 radio stations in 14 countries have been identified by Reuters as part of a global

radio network structured in a way that hides its majority shareholder, state-owned China Radio International.

Educational institutions have also become targets of the party's effort to turn money into power and influence. The Telegraph reported in 2014 that Cambridge University received £3.7 million from the Chong Hua Foundation, a charity controlled by Wen Ruchun, the daughter of former Chinese premier Wen Jiabao, raising fears that Beijing was buying a professorial chair at the university. It reported that Professor Peter Nolan, the inaugural appointee of the Chong Hua professorship, taught Wen Ruchun and co-authored a book with her husband, Liu Chunhang, who also holds a senior position in the Chinese government.

3) The West's Compromises

Meanwhile, Western media organizations compromise their ethical standards and coverage in order to increase cooperation with China. Deutsche Welle, a German public broadcaster funded by tax payers, fired renowned Chinese journalist Su Yutong in 2014 after she criticized on social media DW's hiring of German businessman Frank Sieren as a columnist who writes pro-Beijing commentaries and whitewashes Tiananmen Massacre and other negative aspects of China's modern history.

Su says DW Director General Peter Limbourg ordered the Chinese section "not to always criticize the CCP". She said her sacking was related to her protests against Limbourg's "appeasement towards the CCP". Su adds that BBC and Radio France International have also compromised ethics in its coverage of China.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australia's major public broadcaster funded by tax payers, has omitted coverage of Tiananmen Massacre ever since it signed an agreement with China's state-owned Shanghai Media Group in 2014 to set up a China edition of ABC's Australia Plus website. ABC's Chinese language programming no longer has reporting or commentaries criticizing China, according to Inside Story, a Melbourne news site.

International social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter are blocked in China, but have been openly courting Beijing. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg made a highly publicized visit to Beijing in March that featured his jogging in a smoggy Tiananmen Square and meeting CCP ideology and propaganda chief Liu Yunshan. Merely a month later, Twitter's founder Jack Dorsey announced the appointment of former People's Liberation Army missile engineer Kathy Chen as its China managing director. Chen has also worked for a joint venture of China's Ministry of Public Security that developed censorship software. Twitter's new hire sparked a public outcry among Chinese Twitter users who fear they will be monitored by Beijing.

American Bar Association, the world's largest and most powerful lawyers' group with more than 400,000 members, issued a statement about the "709 Crackdowns" in 2015, nearly a month after the event. Jerome Cohen, a renowned New York University law professor and the authority on China's legal system, criticizes it as "timid". In April, Foreign Policy magazine revealed a leaked email from an ABA staffer who told prominent Chinese human rights lawyer Teng Biao that ABA cancelled the publication of his book for fear of upsetting the Chinese government and putting ABA's commissions in China at risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of these recommendations are from Chinese and Tibetans both inside China and overseas that I gathered on Twitter and Facebook after I posted notices asking people to share their recommendations. I

also interviewed Chinese dissidents and scholars. They all suggested that Western governments need to stand up against Beijing and curb its influence.

- 1) Establish a database of human rights abuses in China, its victims and its perpetrators.
- 2) Disclose and freeze offshore bank accounts held by corrupt Chinese government officials and their family members.
- 3) Increase screening and limit the entry of Chinese government officials and media personalities.
- 4) Increase screening of Chinese students and new Chinese immigrants. Demand that they disclose the source of hefty tuition fees they pay and the investments they make in the UK.
- 5) Consider trade sanctions against China and refuse offers of economic cooperation from China.
- 6) Shut down all Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms.
- 7) Increase scrutiny of investment in industries and companies in Britain that are related to hi-tech and state security. Investigate the family background and affiliations of those Chinese who come to the UK to invest or who invest in UK companies.
- 8) Establish an independent tribunal to oversee investment and donation to educational institutions in the UK.
- 9) Increase the scrutiny of acquisitions of British media companies by Chinese individuals and companies.
- 10) Screen cultural exchanges with China and eliminate propaganda-themed performances.
- 11) Investigate and monitor activities by the Chinese Embassy and consulates recruiting and organizing Chinese people to participate in demonstrations that are pro-CCP.
- 12) Monitor the online and offline activities of various Chinese students' associations and Chinese residents' associations. These groups answer to the Chinese Embassy and consulates and are hired to intimidate other Chinese, Tibetans and Uyghurs and infiltrate their communities in Britain.
- 13) Send human rights monitor groups to China, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia.
- 14) Form a world alliance with other EU countries, other Commonwealth countries, the United States, Taiwan, Russia, India, and other Asia countries, especially those have territorial and trade disputes with China, such as Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines and South Korea in order to isolate China.
- 15) Lobby the United Nations to cancel China's membership at the UN Human Rights Council and restore Taiwan's membership at the U.N..
- 16) Support Hong Kong's pro-democracy and pro-independence movement.

- 17) Offer support and assistance to China's human rights defenders who are inside China and in exile.
- 18) Support the independence movements of Tibet, East Turkestan (Xinjiang) and Southern Mongolia (Inner Mongolia), which will greatly weaken CCP's control of China.

Some of these recommendations may seem very far-fetched or even impossible, but there are many things that can be achieved. For instance, several universities in the U.S. have shut down Confucius Institutes on their campus. Toronto's school board ended its ties with Confucius Institutes. In 2014, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) urged nearly 100 American universities to cancel or renegotiate their agreements with Confucius Institutes in order to safeguard universal values of free speech. In April, a Czech court expelled a Chinese man for grabbing a Tibetan flag from a Prague protester. The British judiciary system could do the same.

Things can be done. Remember how the Nazi regime was defeated and how their leaders and officers were hunted down around the world one by one?

The Chinese government is like a school bully, a gangster that has accumulated wealth through corruption and violence. The reason why Xi Jinping has been intensifying his crackdown on dissent both domestically and overseas in more and more blatant ways is because he feels impervious to pressure from inside or outside.

While more and more ordinary Chinese have stepped forward to protest this corrupt regime, their daily actions both online and in the streets and courts acutely need international awareness and support. A number of dissidents inside China have been telling me that pressure from outside is crucial. Every time a foreign diplomat raises a human rights abuse case with the Chinese government, every time media report these cases, the punishment on the dissidents eases and the detainees are released earlier. Every bit of pressure and every protest count.

The more other countries tolerate China or cooperate with it, the more thuggish the Chinese government grows and the more leeway it gains. Already, the whole world is being compromised and victimized by China. The SARS outbreak between late 2002 and 2003 demonstrated to the world how a dictatorship that censored information on the mysterious respiratory disease allowed the virus to spread worldwide quickly, resulting in 8,098 cases and 774 deaths in several countries within a few months. It raised the alarm about the kind of catastrophes a powerful, callous regime can bring to the world. What China has been polluting the world with is not only viruses, toxic food, air or water, but also its corrupt way of conducting business that compromises ethical and moral standards, and ignoring universal values.

James Chan, a U.K.-based Hong Kong podcaster and security consultant, told me that the Chinese Communist Party operates like a criminal gang. Any governments that adopt common diplomatic methods and economic data to deal with China are doomed to run into a brick wall, he said.

As a Tiananmen Massacre survivor who later became a journalist covering China for 12 years for major Western media organizations such as CNN and now a human rights activist who writes daily on the country's politics and human rights abuses, I see a collapse of China's economy imminent. The economic meltdown will spark a domino effect of social unrest in China followed by a total meltdown of Chinese society, a global economic recession and a Chinese refugee crisis.

Yet the fact that Beijing has vigorously censored Panama Papers and other media exposés shows how fearful Chinese leaders are about the exposure of their hidden wealth. This is one of their Achilles' heels.

Censorship reveals their tender spots, which are the starting point and even the key point for other governments to tackle in order to curb China's long tentacles.

If Britain really believes it needs to strengthen economic ties with a rising economic power, why not do so with India, the world's largest democracy? Or Taiwan, whose GDP per capita ranked 34th in the world in 2015 (China ranks 73rd) and has a mature democracy, vibrant civil society and business environment? Why keep kowtowing to China for more money while swallowing its pride and ditching ethical standards and business rules? The Economist Intelligence Unit places China at the rank of 50th in the world's most investor-friendly location in 2014-18. And the World Bank puts China at 90th out of 189 countries in its 2015 "Doing Business" ranking.

There's a dire need for powerful Western countries to say to China: "Enough is enough!" Maybe U.K. could be that little boy standing up against the naked emperor.

ENDS.