

My name is Chemi Lhamo, I'm the campaigns director at Students for a Free Tibet and a human rights activist. I'm submitting this testimony with three of the following asks after an immediate launch of an investigation into the attacks that took place in San Francisco at the APEC summit:

1. Human rights not to be siloed as a side salad in an 8 course meal by centring and supporting impacted communities.
2. Private sector to be held accountable, that includes the financial sector and not limited to supply chains.
3. Sanctions for officials giving directives to strengthen their hold of TNR here on American soil in a coordinated manner with our allied nations.

In 2019, I witnessed a flurry of social media attacks, death threats and rape threats targeting not just me but also my family when I ran to serve the student body of University of Toronto fighting for accessible and affordable education on Canadian soil. With no updates for almost 4 years, I've seen first hand that the inaction has emboldened the CCP.

In 2021, in Greece, simply being a Tibetan in the streets of Greece, made my friends subject to unreasonable detainment. When I protested the Olympic torch ceremony and was in jail for 3 days, there was no one to call, because the Chinese operatives undercover were seen giving instructions to the Greek police to detain our whole team for simply being Tibetan amongst the crowd in Greece.

In 2023, despite experiencing the wrath of the CCP via transnational repression before, I never imagined that I'd be physically attacked and would have to worry about safety routes home for our community members in San Francisco amidst the presence of world leaders in the same vicinity. Last month, I watched my body weight shift over the ledge of the 5th floor of the parking garage alongside the youth activist as the pro-CCP trained personnel pulled our banner from the floor beneath and later ambushed us, stealing our banner. That night, I got a bruised chin from the filled water bottle thrown while watching the CCP thugs whip their weapons aiming for the top skull of our peaceful protestors. On 17th, I got swarmed by pro-CCP counter protestors and among them, the same thugs who then used the big red Chinese flag to cover, under which they punched me, pulled my hair, hit me on the head multiple times, pierced my body with their flagpole and threw my phone with evidence in the water. This happened in broad daylight in San Francisco. This is a testament to how comfortable the CCP feels conducting criminal activities in other free open societies, and we will not let that continue and we MUST not let it continue.

Be it in Canada, San Francisco or Greece, we are subject to this violence because of the inaction, the side-mealing the human rights and transnational repression conversation. From years ago, where students were denied the right to bring a Tibetan flag to their University because of the Confucius Institute and partners funding their student festivals at school to now local police staying silent in the face of physical assault.

Our impacted communities have been under attack, and we'll continue to see the full scale export of the Chinese govt oppressive tactics here in our soil too, if we don't stop it. I consider myself very privileged. These experiences I've shared are still nowhere close to the dangerous experiences that have cost human rights activist's their lives.

Once again, I'm submitting this written testimony to emphasize that

1. Human rights and Transnational repression must not be siloed. Yes, self-censorship exists however, when TNR cases are in the public eye and they are given the support. This securitization of the diaspora, providing support, amplifying their voices and supporting their legislation, i.e. H.R.533 - Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act.
2. Private sector to be held accountable paying close attention to TNR economic coercion,
3. Sanctions for officials, and the involvement of the embassies in organized crime that has clearly emboldened tremendously here.

I understand this is within an north american context, I'd like to add onto those 3 points by calling for the coordination amongst the departments be it private, human rights, and call for coordinated sanctions and accountability actions from like-minded governments working together, and it starts from recognizing, acknowledging and applying the lengthy recommendations by impacted communities.