



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries Pompeo and Mnuchin,

We write to you today regarding the Chinese Communist Party's duplicitous, ineffective, and cruel response to the outbreak of COVID-19. We believe their actions violated the 2005 International Health Regulations, the human rights of their citizens, and basic principles of fairness and responsibility in international relations.

In the early stages of the outbreak, leadership in the Wuhan Central Hospital and the Wuhan Public Security Bureau detained, interrogated and reprimanded eight doctors for "spreading rumors" of an unknown virus. The Wuhan Public Security Bureau detained multiple citizen journalists for reporting on the virus—some of whom remain missing.

In January 2020, China's National Health Commission directed all Chinese research institutions to destroy existing samples of the COVID-19 virus or transfer them to approved testing sites. They also publicly denied the virus was transmissible between people, despite having contrary evidence.

The Chinese Communist Party has spread harmful and misleading propaganda about the origin of the virus, accusing the United States Military of manufacturing and importing the virus to Wuhan. Party diplomats have threatened a nationwide boycott of American goods to discourage independent medical investigations into coronavirus.

In February 2019, Chinese officials "re-located" 30,000 Uyghur laborers to temporarily shuttered factories in the Hotan prefecture, exposing them to health risks the Chinese Government deemed unacceptable to the ethnic Han majority. The "re-education camps" where the Chinese Communist Party imprisons over a million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities are crowded and unsanitary, leaving detainees at increased risk of COVID-19 infection.

All of these baffling and damaging decisions harmed Chinese citizens and the rest of the world, encouraged the spread of COVID-19, and hindered governments around the world from crafting an effective pandemic response. The result has been tens of thousands unnecessary American deaths and substantial economic damage. Therefore, we urge you to apply Global Magnitsky Sanctions to the following individuals and entities for their complicity in human rights abuses and the harm they've inflicted on the United States and our allies:

- Chen Yongxin, Deputy Mayor of Wuhan, Director of Wuhan Municipal Health Commission¹
 - Oversaw censorship and detainment of eight doctors in Wuhan for discussing the then unknown coronavirus.²
- Li Yilong, Director, Wuhan Public Security Bureau; Xia Jianzhong, Former Deputy Director, Wuhan Public Security Bureau³
 - Oversaw arbitrary detention and disappearance of citizen-journalists for reporting on the coronavirus outbreak during its crucial early days.⁴
- Ma Xiaowei, Minister, National Health Commission; Wang Hesheng, Vice-Minister, National Health Commission⁵
 - Issued directives and false public statements that interfered with the international community's pandemic response and endangered their own citizens' lives.⁶
- Zhao Lijiang, Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry; Lin Songtian, Former Ambassador to South Africa⁷
 - Amplified unfounded speculation about the origin of coronavirus, including that it is a bioweapon exported to China by the U.S. military.⁸
- Zhang Wei, Deputy Director, Hotan District Industry and Information Bureau⁹
 - Oversaw the re-location of 30,000 Uyghur laborers into closed factories.¹⁰
- Chen Quango, Politburo Member, Xinjiang Autonomous Region
 - Masterminded the expansion of "re-education camps" in Xinjiang and helped organize the surveillance apparatus used to monitor Uyghur Muslims.¹¹
- Chen Zongnian, Chairman, Hikvision¹²
 - Oversees the company that manufactures and supplies Xinjiang's security services with surveillance equipment used to monitor its Uyghur minority.¹³

¹ <http://www.wh.gov.cn/zwgk/?channelid=30316>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/07/world/asia/Li-Wenliang-china-coronavirus.html>

³ http://www.wh.gov.cn/zwgk/wzr/202004/t20200419_1023318.shtml; http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/10/c_138215329.htm

⁴ https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-02-08-20-intl-hnk/h_7db7078e5b48df6fe066f47a9b8182d8

⁵ <http://en.nhc.gov.cn/leadership.html>

⁶ <https://apnews.com/68a9e1b91de4ffc166acd6012d82c2f9>

⁷ https://www.fox10tv.com/news/coronavirus/chinese-diplomat-promotes-conspiracy-theory-that-us-military-brought-coronavirus/article_b294fa1c-98ba-58ee-94aa-021efdd293e7.html

⁸ https://twitter.com/zlj517/status/1238111898828066823?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1238111898828066823&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2020%2F03%2F13%2Fasia%2Fchina-coronavirus-us-lijian-zhao-intl-hnk%2Findex.html

⁹ http://www.xinhuanet.com/local/2020-02/25/c_1125621925.htm


¹⁰ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/02/26/coronavirus-brings-new-awful-repression-uyghurs-china/>

¹¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinas-hard-edge-the-leader-of-beijings-muslim-crackdown-gains-influence-11554655886>

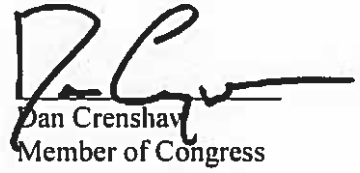
¹² <https://www.wsj.com/market-data/quotes/CN/XSHE/002415/company-people/executive-profile/64805147>

¹³ <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/08/768150426/u-s-blacklists-chinese-tech-firms-over-treatment-of-uyghurs>

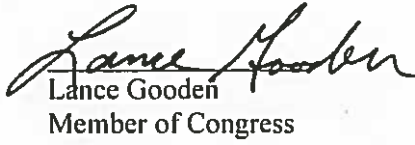
Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress