



## SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

The United States has a moral responsibility to stand up for victims of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, as well as the brave individuals who take immense personal risks to expose these abuses to the world. We also have a legal responsibility to protect those who seek refuge in our country from persecution by authoritarian governments, such as the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, recent reports suggest that instead of standing up for and offering refuge to these human rights defenders, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) may actively be seeking to deport "a young man from Henan, China [who] drove alone into Xinjiang . . . [and] us[ed] a telephoto lens to document the concentration camp facilities hidden in the wilderness, towns, and military camps."<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, I am writing to urgently seek information on any efforts of ICE to deport individuals who bravely exposed human rights abuses in China and urge, at a minimum, that Mr. Guan Heng (关恒) be released from detention and his asylum petition granted.

In 2019, Mr. Guan – a PRC citizen – rode his motorcycle from Shanghai to Xinjiang expecting to enjoy a vacation. Instead of a scenic destination, he found himself in an obvious surveillance state. In 2020, he decided to return, determined to expose the so-called 're-education camps' he had subsequently read about in an American news article. As recently reported, "[h]e spent three full days traversing the vast landscape of Xinjiang, verifying each coordinate point marked in the article as gray (low suspicion), yellow (medium suspicion), or red (high suspicion)." His videos and photographs provided essential evidence of human rights abuses, and Mr. Guan was forced to flee his country. He reportedly arrived in the United States over water from the Bahamas, enduring a 23 hour journey at sea to seek safety and freedom. He has a pending asylum application, and the circumstances of his departure from the PRC are a textbook example of why asylum exists.<sup>2</sup> As Mr. Guan's mother stated, "if he gets sent back [to China], he's really dead."<sup>3</sup>

These words, unfortunately, are not hyperbole. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) does not hesitate to imprison entire communities merely on the basis of their heritage or religion, and it similarly does not hesitate to imprison and even execute those it accuses of subverting its authority, regardless of ethnicity. While I am not versed in all of the details of Mr. Guan's case, as Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, I know firsthand the fate individuals like him will face if deported to China. The United States should not be complicit

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<sup>1</sup> [Man who filmed Uyghur concentration camps now fights for his own freedom in the United States](#)

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Id.



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in the detention, torture, or worse of individuals who bravely documented the human rights abuses of the Chinese Communist Party.

And unfortunately, I fear Mr. Guan's case is not an aberration. By indiscriminately targeting immigrant communities in an effort to meet aggressive deportation quotas, ICE is putting fear in the hearts of individuals who came to America to escape fear. While Mr. Guan's case has come to the attention of the American people, it is equally urgent for Congress and the public to understand who else who has stood up for human rights in China is detained and at risk of deportation.

Accordingly, I urge USCIS to grant Mr. Guan's asylum petition and request that your Department explain to Congress why he has been detained over the past months. Furthermore, no later than January 1, 2025, I request a written response to the following questions.

1. How many asylum or CAT (Convention Against Torture) applications or petitions are currently pending in which an individual asserts they were a victim of human rights abuses in the PRC, an advocate on behalf of victims of the foregoing, or face a risk of persecution in the PRC as a result of their human rights-related activities?
2. How many individuals with asylum or CAT applications or petitions described in the preceding question are currently detained or in deportation proceedings?
3. How many individuals who had asylum or CAT (Convention Against Torture) applications or petitions in which an individual asserted they were a victim of human rights abuses in the PRC, an advocate on behalf of victims of the foregoing, or faced a risk of persecution in the PRC as a result of their human rights-related activities have been deported since January 1, 2025.

Your immediate attention to this matter is not only critical to Congress' oversight function, but to the safety of an individual who bravely stood up to the authoritarian abuses of the Chinese Communist Party.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Ranking Member  
House Select Committee on the CCP