

Five More "China Initiative" Cases Dropped

In court filings on July 22 and 23, 2021, the Department of Justice (DOJ) abruptly moved to drop visa fraud and other charges against five scientists from China in five separate "China Initiative" cases, including a mathematics and three biomedical and cancer researchers in California and a doctoral candidate studying computer science in Indiana. Prosecutors did not provide explanations in their motions to dismiss. A DOJ spokesman said in a statement that "[w]e have determined that it is now in the interest of justice to dismiss them."

The five Chinese nationals are:

- [Lei Guan](#) (关磊), Visiting researcher (mathematics), University of California at Los Angeles
- [Dr. Chen Song](#) (宋琛), Visiting researcher (neurology), Stanford University
- [Dr. Juan Tang](#) (唐娟), Visiting researcher (cancer), University of California at Davis
- [Xin Wang](#) (王欣), Visiting researcher (neurology), University of California at San Francisco
- [Kaikai Zhao](#) (赵凯凯), Doctoral candidate (machine learning and artificial intelligence), Indiana University

DOJ announced the visa fraud charges against these five scientists from China about a year ago. It was followed immediately by the ordered closing of China's consulate in Houston on July 24, 2020. FBI agents began to knock on doors to demand interviews with persons of Chinese descent, creating fear and anguish in the Chinese American community in Houston. During the [August 3, 2020, APA Justice meeting](#), Houston community leaders provided on-the-ground reports and expressed concerns about a "witch hunt for spies" by the FBI to use Chinese Americans as "scapegoat" to justify the political claim, for which the U.S. government provided few supporting evidence. OCA, UCA, Advancing Justice | AAJC, and the Asian American Bar Association of Houston co-hosted a "Know Your Rights" webinar on August 6, 2020, to address the urgent question, "What to do if you are questioned by the FBI or police?" Over 850 persons participated in the webinar.

On December 2, 2020, Former Assistant Attorney General John Demers, who headed the "China Initiative" until June 2021, claimed that "more than 1,000 researchers who had hidden their affiliation with the Chinese military fled the United States," again without supporting data and evidence.

Join the Growing Movement to Combate Racial Profiling

Racial Profiling is a form of Anti-Asian Hate. Please join the growing movement to combat racial profiling. Each of us have a part to contribute. Our democracy is participatory. What has happened in the last two months:

- 2021/06/01 APA Justice wrote a letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo calling for expanded internal DOC review <https://bit.ly/3x1T0GI>
- 2021/06/16 Judge declared mistrial in the first "China Initiative" case to go to trial against Professor Anming Hu https://bit.ly/APAJ_AnmingHu
- 2021/06/17 APA Justice wrote to White House urging response to standing Congressional and FOIA requests <https://bit.ly/3xv5KWJ>
- 2021/06/17 Rep. Ted Lieu wrote a joint letter to DOJ/IG to investigate Professor Hu's case and racial profiling <https://bit.ly/3iSrGai>
- 2021/06/30 Reps. Raskin and Chu held Congressional Roundtable on Racial Profiling <https://bit.ly/3qzvYFd>
- 2021/07/06 Advancing Justice | AAJC wrote a joint letter requesting the Acting U.S. Attorney not to retry Professor Hu's case <https://bit.ly/3dRzGF4>
- 2021/07/07 Advancing Justice | AAJC delivered a joint petition to New York University President to stop racial profiling professors of Asian descent <https://bit.ly/3wwMKWV>
- 2021/07/08 Asian American Scholar Forum wrote to University of Tennessee Knoxville calling for Reinstatement of Professor Hu <https://bit.ly/3k3mosP>
- 2021/07/13 Senate Committee released investigative report on Abuse and Misconduct at the Commerce Department <https://bit.ly/2UPe7OL>
- 2021/07/15 DOJ moved to dismiss a "China Initiative" case against former Cleveland Clinic researcher Dr. Qing Wang <https://bit.ly/3euMRvR>
- 2021/07/19 APA Justice sent a follow-up letter to DOC Deputy General Counsel <https://bit.ly/3xZDa0I>
- 2021/07/23 DOJ dropped 5 more "China Initiative" cases <https://bit.ly/3kWIU7s>
- **2021/07/28 Due date for Congressional Members to sign on to Rep. Lieu's Dear Colleague letter** <https://bit.ly/3kwCoEh>

Reminder: Congressman Ted Lieu is circulating a Dear Colleague letter to Congressional Members requesting a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation into the repeated, wrongful targeting of individuals of Asian descent for alleged espionage.

- **Please call, write, and contact your U.S. House Representatives and Senators urging them to sign on to this letter:** <https://bit.ly/3kwCoEh> **before 10 am ET Wednesday, July 28, 2021.** * Please note that only Members of Congress will be able to sign this letter. Congressional staff may fill out this form. Please do not fill out the form on behalf of your representative.

You can find your Congressional Members here: <http://bit.ly/3oFbokb>. Contact Aurora Paik at Aurora.Paik@mail.house.gov of Rep. Lieu's office if you have questions. Our democracy is participatory. Please stand up, speak out, and take action. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3hTPHwL>

Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF) will host a webinar titled "Combating Racial Profiling of Asian and Asian Immigrants: A Guide to Advocacy and How to Take Action" (与针对亚裔和亚洲移民种族定性的抗争---倡议和行动指南) starting at 8:30 pm ET on Thursday, July 29, 2021. CAPAC Chair Rep. Judy Chu will be the keynote speaker. AASF President and MIT professor Yasheng Huang will moderate the event. John Yang, Gisela Kusakawa, and Vivin Qiang will serve as panelists. Register to attend here: <https://bit.ly/3yihOvr>.

Visit <https://aasforum.org/> for more information.

In the interest of justice, it is time to end the "China Initiative." On July 22, 2021, Foreign Policy published [Time to End the U.S. Justice Department's Initiative](#), in which Seton Hall Law Professor Margaret Lewis opined that "The Biden administration should be clear-eyed about the challenge of dealing with a large and genuine espionage effort from a near-peer competitor. But it should do so in a way that both upholds the American value of nondiscrimination and that best positions the United States to be a leader in science and technology in the decades ahead. Achieving these twin aims requires adopting a country-neutral framework that does not accentuate people with connections to China (in part because people with connections to countries other than China also steal technology) as well as deepening outreach efforts with the scientific community to revise grant reporting procedures and other research security measures. It takes more than billions of dollars to strengthen innovation. By reining in the excesses of the present approach and renewing America's commitment to welcoming the best and brightest minds, the United States can regain an innovative edge that the China Initiative has eroded."

Yellow Whistle Activities

Recent distributions of "We Belong" Yellow Whistles

- On July 25, 2021, the 1882 Foundation in the Asian Festival on Main in Fairfax City, Virginia.
- On July 21, 2021, Maryland State Senator Susan Lee and others at the Korean-American Senior Citizens Association of Maryland in Rockville, Maryland.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2RDZMmB>





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