



Chinazi Repression in America

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“A California woman was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport on Oct. 4 on a charge of acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign government,” [reports](#) *The Epoch Times*. “The woman is accused of surveilling Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te’s U.S.-based son.”

Foreigners spying on Americans, and on other foreigners on American soil, goes back at least to 1798, when the Adams Administration kicked Constantin François Chassebœuf — that is, [Volney](#), author of *The Ruins* (1791) — out of the country.

But it’s not just spying. “A Bronx man was convicted of

the same charge in May, accused of operating a Chinese undercover police station in New York City for China’s Ministry of Public Security.” *The Epoch Times*’s article calls it “transnational repression.”

These “police stations” are all over the place. [Four years ago](#), I quoted one source saying that there were at least “54 of these Chinese ‘service stations’ in 30 countries . . . including [one](#) in New York City.” While this all technically follows under the rubric of “[rendition](#),” these fake cops don’t usually “arrest” and transport targets as prisoners. Instead, they threaten harm, often to relatives back home.

The Epoch Times quotes Attorney General Todd Blanche, who says the Department of Justice will keep investigating “as long as the conduct persists.” The AG admits, however, that it’s “hard to catch because once you catch one, there’s a lot of others.”

The problem, Blanche says, is not the lack of existing laws to counter transnational repression, but that there is just so much of it and it is inherently hard to sort out.

But worth the attempt, surely . . . if America is to continue to be the “land of the free” and a refuge for dissidents fleeing totalitarianism.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.