

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

We write to express our grave concerns regarding reports of “Overseas Chinese Service Centers” (OCSCs) operated by an intelligence service of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in conjunction with the PRC’s national police force. One such OCSC is reportedly housed at the Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the other centers are collocated with nonprofits in San Francisco, California; Houston, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; St. Paul, Minnesota; Salt Lake City, Utah; and St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>1</sup> These seven OCSCs have reportedly been openly operating for several years and were established throughout the U.S. during this past decade; for example, the Charlotte OCSC was first announced in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

According to this report, OCSCs are run by the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) United Front Work Department (UFWD), which the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission has identified as a “Chinese intelligence service” in its annual report to Congress.<sup>3</sup> Further, the report states that U.S.-based OCSC representatives met with officials of the PRC’s national police force, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), on a trip to China to discuss the use of technology to conduct “cross-border remote justice services” overseas. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has warned that MPS conducts covert “intelligence and national security operations far beyond China’s borders,” including “illicit, transnational repression schemes” on U.S. soil.<sup>4</sup>

Further, the ongoing discovery of additional OCSCs raises the question of whether DOJ’s response sufficiently addresses the threat, particularly because OCSCs have openly operated for several years and their activities have been reportedly documented in Chinese state media and social media posts.

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<sup>1</sup> Philip Lenczycki, *EXCLUSIVE: Chinese Intel Arm Quietly Operates ‘Service Centers’ In 7 US Cities*, DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUND. (June 17, 2023), <https://dailycaller.com/2023/06/17/china-intelligence-service-centers-ccp>.

<sup>2</sup> 冉文娟, 裘援平、许又声为第四批“华助中心”揭牌, 中国侨网 (Sept. 29, 2017), <http://www.chinaqw.com/sqjg/2017/09-29/163291.shtml>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S.-China Econ. & Sec. Rev. Comm’n, 2016 Report to Congress, [https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/annual\\_reports/2016%20Annual%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf](https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/annual_reports/2016%20Annual%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> David Newman, Principal Deputy Asst. Att’y Gen. for Nat’l Sec., Dep’t of Just., Remarks Announcing Transnational Repression Cases (Apr. 17, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/principal-deputy-assistant-attorney-general-david-newman-delivers-remarks-announcing>.

The DOJ must ensure that our adversaries such as the CCP are not operating intelligence operations or engaging in repression on U.S. soil.

Due to the serious nature of this issue, we request that DOJ brief the undersigned Senators or their staff, and to respond to the following questions by July 31, 2023:

1. Does DOJ assess that any of the seven aforementioned OCSCs is engaging in any illegal activity? If so, please describe this illegal activity.
2. What action, investigative or otherwise, is DOJ taking in relation to the seven aforementioned OCSCs?
3. Is DOJ aware of additional OCSCs or similar PRC facilities operating in the U.S. that have not been previously acknowledged by DOJ? If so, please identify and describe them.
4. What actions will DOJ undertake to ensure that it has identified every OCSC or similar PRC facility in the U.S.?
5. What actions will DOJ take to ensure that the PRC does not establish additional OCSCs or similar facilities in the U.S.?

Sincerely,



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



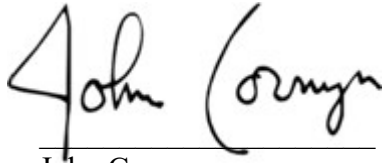
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt  
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Mike Lee  
United States Senator



Mitt Romney  
United States Senator