# SupChina Video on "China Initiative"

On October 30, 2020, SupChina posted a video (21:04) on <u>Scientists in the Crosshairs: What</u> should Chinese and Chinese-American researchers do amid U.S. crackdown on 'China ties'?

While the Department of Justice and FBI's "China Initiative" is aimed at stopping and preventing espionage — but the reality is that many of the cases they have pursued so far have not been for actual espionage, but rather for mere non-disclosure of other sources of income or other affiliations when submitting U.S. federal grant applications. There have also been several cases where scientists have been wrongfully charged, where there has been no wrongdoing whatsoever. According to those who have been wrongfully accused, as well as academic and legal experts, the U.S.'s China Initiative puts a target on the backs of all people of Chinese ethnic origin who maintain any active ties to China. The post includes Advancing Justice | AAJC's Anti-Racial Profilig Project.

SupChina also has a <u>Sinophobia Tracker</u> to track paranoid rhetoric, visa restrictions, and the targeted policing of China-connected research, which combine to create a hostile atmosphere for Chinese people in the U.S.

## **Professor Ning Xi - Another Impacted Person**

The November APA Justice meeting covered Professor Ning Xi who is a world-renowned expert in robotics.

In 2011, he was honored by the MSU Board of Trustees for distinguished achievement in teaching, research and public service. He was featured in a PBS video as a University Distinguished Professor.

However, on February 15, 2018, Professor Xi was arrested and charged by the U.S. government for defrauding MSU and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) with false expense claims of hundreds of thousands of dollars. He was indicted on October 24, 2018.

Professor Xi denied the allegations and faced a jury trial in the Western District Court of Michigan. On July 11, 2019, the U.S. District Court Chief Judge ordered the dismissal of the Xi case with prejudice, which means permanently with no retrial. The government itself filed the motion to dismiss the indictment because it did not reasonably expect that the proofs would meaningfully change in a retrial or that a retrial would produce a different result.

Professor Xi is yet another innocent Chinese American scientist who was unjustly accused. Although his case was dismissed, it came with a high cost to his finances, reputation, and career.

We learned recently that Professor Xi's story did not even start with his criminal case. More to come.

Read about Professor Ning Xi's situation at: <a href="https://bit.ly/3mjtNIG">https://bit.ly/3mjtNIG</a>

#### **UCA and APAPA Condemn Newsweek Article**

On October 31, 2020, Associated Press reported on <u>UCA Denounces Newsweek Smear of Chinese-American Community as Tool of Beijing</u>. The October 26 Newsweek cover story accuses more than 600 Chinese-American organizations of being "linked to [the] Chinese Communist Party influence effort" abroad and that suggests that they are agents of "Xi's secret plan to subvert America" and constitute "600 reasons to worry about China."

On November 4, 2020, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA) issued <u>a statement denouncing the false narrative of the Newsweek article</u>. "While the Newsweek article may have some points of truth, we lament the fact that with one fell swoop, the magazine has painted a false impression and promoted a sensational story that implicates potential racial discrimination against just about every one of the approximate five million Chinese Americans and legal immigrants in the U.S.A., many of whom are loyal to the country. It is easy to find short and simplistic answers as well as convenient scapegoats in highly complex situations."

#### **Chinese Student Visas Plummet**

On November 3, 2020, TechCrunch published a report: <u>US Visas granted to students from China Have plummetted 99% since April</u>. TechCrunch quoted <u>a report in Nikkei Asia</u>, citing U.S. State Department data, that "just 808 F-1 student visas were granted to applicants in mainland China between April and September's end, which is 99% fewer than the 90,410 F-1 student visas granted during the same period last year."

"The story is much the same for students of other countries: with 88% fewer F-1 visas granted to students in India, 87% fewer for students in Japan, 75% fewer for students in South Korea and 60% fewer for students from Mexico."

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