

# Complaint to US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Against China Global Television (CGNT) and China Central Television (CCTV) Channel 4

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Date: 2019-12-16

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## This complaint

Clear evidence will be presented in this complaint that the PRC Chinese state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) and its English-language channel CGTN have each broadcast known and intentional distortions of facts *and* clear lies on US air waves for the benefit of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Such intentional distortions and clear lies are broadcast in the US not only on TV (through terrestrial, satellite, cable and IP-TV), but are also published on their website for CGTN America.

This directly violates the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rule that "Broadcasters may not intentionally distort the news" and the FCC's position that "rigging or slanting the news is a most heinous act against the public interest". As recently as 2019-11-21, CGTN aired a broadcast about the UK's Hong Kong Consulate worker Simon Cheng having been on 'trial', when no such trial had ever taken place, a CGTN lie that even contradicted statements of the Chinese police and the Chinese foreign ministry and which it also aired to US audiences.

We are submitting this complaint in its present form because FCC rules hold that the "FCC may act only when it has received documented evidence, such as testimony from persons who have direct personal knowledge of an intentional falsification of the news. Without such documented evidence, the FCC generally cannot intervene." Here in this document, we will set forth such evidence.

This complaint targets two specific entities / channels which are parts of Communist-Party-controlled CCTV, the world's largest TV broadcaster. Those two TV channels are:

**CCTV-4** – This is the Chinese language TV channel under direct CCTV operation which broadcasts internationally into at least 121 countries including in the US.

**CGTN** – China Global Television Network (CGTN) is the foreign-language arm of CCTV, designed to spread Communist Party influence globally including in the US, with its *CGTN Americas* hub based in Washington DC. (**Note:** CGTN America is not a separate channel from CGTN, it's merely a production hub).

In addition to English language, CGTN also operates channels in French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, and Spanish, at the very least CGTN-Español is *also broadcasting* in the US. Besides its TV broadcasting activity, CGTN America operates its own website<sup>1</sup>. CCTV-4 and CGTN also broadcasts its television content on US media platforms, and has dedicated YouTube channels<sup>2</sup>.

This complaint has been made and is being submitted by *Safeguard Defenders*, a Pan-Asian NGO working for the promotion and protection of rule of law and human rights. The complaint is supported by five individual victims, each of whom has been targeted with intentional distortion or lies in CCTV-4 and/or CGTN broadcasts on the air waves of the US. These victims are:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://america.cgtn.com/>

<sup>2</sup> CCTV4 on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cctvch/featured>

CGTN on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CCTVNEWSbeijing>

CGTN America on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CCTVAmerica1>

- Mr Simon (Man-kit) Cheng, worker at UK Consulate in Hong Kong,
- Ms. Angela Gui, daughter of detained/disappeared Swedish bookseller Gui Minhui,
- Mr Lam Wing-Kee, Hong Kong citizen and book publisher,
- Mr Peter Dahlin, Swedish human rights advocate and director of Safeguard Defenders, and
- Mr Peter Humphrey, UK citizen, fraud investigator and former Reuters journalist and editor, one broadcast which also includes his wife, **an American citizen**, who also were forced to give a false televised 'confession'.

## Basis for this complaint

Due to the strict limitations under which the FCC acts, this complaint is based on several **specific broadcasts** in which detained or 'disappeared' persons, were forced to appear in, either with CCTV and Chinese police, or only with Chinese police, in "Forced TV Confessions" which were then broadcast before any trial, and in many cases even before arrest or indictment. **Five individual victims**, four of whom are now free and a fifth who is still in a state of unlawful captivity in China but who is represented here by his daughter, are now in a position to cite in detail the specific distortions or lies aired in those broadcasts, and will testify that those responsible for those broadcasts knew that these were distortions and lies. One broadcast also includes a second victim, namely his wife, an American citizen. For the fifth person, whose exact whereabouts is still concealed by the Chinese police, his daughter is able to point out clear and provable lies in her father's repeated forced "confessions" aired by CCTV-4 and CGTN.

This complaint provides evidence of **lies or intentional distortion** in four (4) CCTV-4 broadcasts, and in five (5) CGTN broadcasts. However, we have uncovered at least 27 and nine such broadcasts based on "forced TV confessions" broadcast by CCTV-4 and CGTN respectively, between 2013 and 2019, extracted from victims 13 and 57 victims respectively, against their will; additional analysis of most of those cases would demonstrate further clear and intentional and systematic distortions and lies by CCTV-4 and CGTN on a large scale. Even this would not be all. The nine and 27 that we have logged are not all, merely what we have uncovered. Many are also broadcast repeatedly, and sometimes in different editions as well. Here, however, we confine ourselves to the five stated victims and their nine broadcasts on US air waves.

## What are Forced TV Confessions, what is the role of CCTV in them?

The proliferation of "Forced TV Confessions" is one of several abusive trends spawned from the ascent to power in 2012 of Xi Jinping, marking a sharp deterioration in rule of law and human rights in China. These confessions are always extracted, produced and aired before a victim's trial to deny them their legal right to a fair trial and for the purpose of convicting them in and by media. Many times they are also made and broadcast even before any formal arrest. A great many of the all-in-all 51 "Forced TV Confessions" that we have found, inflicted upon at least 85 different victims, were perpetrated while the victim was held captive under yet another new abusive practice proliferating in the Xi Jinping era,

namely ‘Residential Surveillance at a Designated Location’, or RSDL, which is a form of “Enforced Disappearance”, as it was termed by several United Nations bodies in August 2018<sup>3</sup>.

While in RSDL, the person’s whereabouts are not disclosed and by law they cannot be placed inside ordinary custody centers, police stations or prisons but are instead placed into custom-built facilities or converted rooms within military, police or government run ‘guesthouses’ or other facilities. Inside, a person is always kept in solitary. No access to lawyers is allowed. In all known cases, even state prosecutors, who are supposed to supervise prisoners held in RSDL, are denied access.

This RSDL and other forms of incommunicado detention are closely related to the televised “confessions”. Many of the victims are rights defenders or foreigners being used by the CCP as a foreign policy tool, i.e. diplomatic hostages, where CGTN and CCTV-4 are active collaborators and instruments.

The true nature of these “Forced TV Confessions” and their aggregate dawned only in 2018. That knowledge forms a basis for making this complaint. Safeguard Defenders in April 2018 released the first ever report on the reality behind them in an extensive report titled [Scripted and Staged](#), which with numerous victim testimonies was able to show how the films are produced and the role that CCTV and its journalists play in collaborating not only in their broadcasting, but many times also in *extracting, recording and producing* these “Forced TV Confessions” from prisoners held under duress and torture. The same report and a subsequent associated database that logs all discovered occurrences allowed the world to better understand these “Forced TV Confessions”.

In November 2018, one of the many victims, Safeguard Defenders’ own Director, Peter Dahlin, released a book, titled [Trial By Media](#), which further explored the role of CCTV not merely as passive broadcasters of these “Forced TV Confessions”, but as being actively involved in extracting and falsifying them. In the same month, in London, Peter Humphrey filed the first regulatory legal [complaint](#) to the UK’s broadcasting regulator *Ofcom* against both CCTV-4 and CGTN for broadcasting two such confessions that he was forced to make under a level of duress equating to torture. Ofcom, the Office of Communications bureau which acts as an enforcer of UK broadcasting law, is still investigating CCTV and CGTN. As per that complaint, CCTV (CGTN) had severely violated that UK law by broadcasting on UK air waves Mr Humphrey’s and many other “Forced TV Confessions”. Three more individual victims soon afterwards filed similar complaints in the UK to Ofcom. **The Ofcom complaints filed by Peter Humphrey and Angela Gui are currently under its formal investigation.**

As per Mr Humphrey’s complaint in the UK, which shows the reality behind the creation of these “Forced TV Confessions” and the direct lies and intentional distortion that they contain:

*“They [the police] drugged me, locked me to a tiger chair, and placed me and the chair inside a small metal cage. China Central Television (CCTV) journalists then aimed their cameras at me and recorded me reading out the answers already prepared for me by the police. No questions were asked.”* The CCTV journalists could see the script the police were holding standing by the cage, a script written before the recording.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://rsdlmonitor.com/incommunicado-detention-must-go-say-un-experts/>

There are a number of key traits in most of these “Forced TV Confessions” which bring a sharp focus to this present (FCC) complaint.

- Many of the victims are lawyers, journalists or others working for change – i.e. considered as political targets.
- Direct lies by news anchors and in packaging and presentation, such as stating Simon Cheng had been on ‘trial’, or adding words to victims’ language in translation, for example adding ‘illegal’ to words spoken (under duress and drugged) by Peter Humphrey.
- Victims are often held incommunicado and for long periods under profound duress, before the “Forced TV Confessions” are extracted and broadcast, and most of the victims gave no consent.
- Because many victims refuse, they are subjected to both mental and physical torture, as defined by the *Convention Against Torture*, and in several cases, their children or loved ones are targeted and threatened with harm or arrest if they still refuse to play along.
- The broadcasts, when victims are foreign, serve both as propaganda, as with domestic/Chinese victims, and often as foreign policy statements, in which the foreign victim is compelled to praise the PSB or the CCP, or in which they are forced to attack their own government.
- CCTV often adds extensive post-production material, often containing direct lies or intentional distortion, to make the victim appear guilty, despite no trial having taken place, and in some cases even before a formal arrest. These added lies serve to complement the lies that the victim is forced to state in the ‘confession’ recording itself.
- The lies that victims are forced to state under duress in the “confession” recording are often blatantly obvious as lies to the CCTV/CGTN ‘journalists’ who are present.
- Journalists from CCTV very often partake in the making of these videos and are sometime even given the list of questions by the PSB or MSS officers to ask the prisoner, and will also see the victim’s pre-scripted, pre-prepared answers to those questions before filming.
- In almost all cases where victims have provided testimony to us, the police wrote down the questions and answers, then gave the paper to the victim, and told them to memorize it.
- During filming, police act as stage directors, ordering re-takes, and instructing the victim how to sit, how to speak, etc; in the cases where CCTV journalists partake in the recording process, it will be done in front of them.
- Some “Forced TV Confessions” have even been recorded in CCTV’s own Beijing studios, despite CCTV’s knowledge that the victim is being held illegally, uncharged and untried in police custody.
- Most people are told the recording is for internal use, for police superiors to see, and not for TV or the public. Even with CCTV staff present, as is often but not always the case, it has still been maintained that it’s not for TV. (All branches of state works for the CCP, so it’s not *entirely* unbelievable that CCTV is called in to help make a recording.)

Regardless whether CCTV journalists are pro-actively involved in the production and extraction of these “Forced TV Confessions” or not, they will then undergo extensive post-production before being aired, with CCTV anchors and reporters adding content, often intentional distortions and direct lies, along with the graphics needed to present these newscasts, to support the outcome desired by the Communist Party authorities. Below we have set out detailed information on eight (1-8) such broadcasts, with detailed analysis of direct lies and intentional distortion contained within.

## Broadcast violation 1, CGTN on 2019-11-21: Simon Cheng

**Title of Broadcast:** CASE CLEARED Shenzhen police releases video evidence showing truth behind Simon Cheng case

**Program:** China24

**Channel:** CGTN

**Date of broadcast:** 2019-11-21

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 20:15-21:00

**Length of broadcast:** 00:55 minutes

**Language of broadcast:** English

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POjaAsNQy3Q>

On 2019-11-21 CGTN aired a near minute long broadcast on Simon Cheng, the Hong Kong resident and worker at the United Kingdom's Consulate who had earlier been detained, incommunicado, in mainland China during 15 days in August that year. The broadcast came less than 1 day after Mr Cheng gave an extensive interview with the BCC, and other international media.

CGTN online, and its YouTube page, also posted additional, longer segments for Mr Cheng's Forced TV Confession<sup>4</sup>, with highly degrading content creating further distortions.

### **The victim and recording of video**

Hong Kong citizen Mr Cheng, employed by the United Kingdom's Consulate in Hong Kong, and working normally as a Trade and investment officer, was officially tasked with boosting interest in Chinese investment in Scotland and had recently also been tasked to gather information on the ongoing protests in Hong Kong, a fairly routine task for any embassy or consulate observing local politics.

On August 8, while returning from a one day trip from Shenzhen, a city in mainland China bordering Hong Kong, he was stopped by Chinese police at the West Kowloon high-speed train station within Hong Kong territory. Having a PRC Chinese immigration post on Hong Kong soil has been very controversial. PRC immigration officials told Mr Cheng he was being stopped on "orders from the top". He was then taken by train back to mainland China, into Shenzhen and detained by police of the Public Security Bureau (PSB). As soon as he was in custody, agents from the Ministry of State Security (MSS) took over.

After this, after a first night spent in a regular detention center with other cellmates, he was moved to solitary confinement and was kept in solitary for the rest of his captivity. The world, including his employer the UK government, and his parents and family, were not aware of "my place of disappearance or what was happening to me". He was held incommunicado the entire time, not allowed any access to a lawyer, nor to his family. His whereabouts were kept secret, even after news broke about his detention after 11 days.

On or around August 20, after a prolonged period of both physical and mental torture, as defined by Article 1 of the Convention Against Torture, ratified by both China and the US, he was made to start

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPiLX-VpAn4>

recording a number of videos by the MSS and the police. The first filmed recording comprised questions and answers between him and a uniformed officer. Later he was taken out of the interrogation room to a reception hall and re-filmed. He was also asked to write two letters of repentance, and then to read both of them into the camera. Later, on August 24, he was handed a script written by the MSS and told to read it out and this was filmed, with the officers requiring many re-takes.

Some three months later, CGTN broadcast a news segment which included a small part of his many forced TV “confessions”, as well as a news show that presents allegations as facts. This appeared to be a direct retaliation after Simon gave an explosive interview to the BBC and other international media.

## **Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast**

The cited CGTN broadcast states that Mr Cheng had been ‘tried’ in August. They say, and we quote; *“Shenzhen police has released videos of Simon Cheng soliciting prostitutes and of his trial on [sic] August”*. This is a direct lie. **There has been no trial at all**, not even an indictment. In fact, he was, according to Chinese police, placed in “administrative detention”, which is not a judicial process at all, it is an administrative measure, an extrajudicial measure. Based on Chinese law, there cannot even theoretically be a trial, as it is a matter decided by the local police under the same administrative regulation as a petty fine. Hence, **this statement by CGTN is a direct lie**.

The broadcaster states that Mr Cheng is guilty of ‘soliciting prostitutes’, despite no evidence to this effect having been presented by the police, other than an alleged “confession” film recorded by the police themselves while he was held incommunicado and under severe duress at an unknown location, in solitary confinement, and without legal counsel. Furthermore, his speaking has deliberately been blurred, and instead the newscaster merely states that in the video of him speaking that he is confessing to the police’s allegations; but it is merely stated by the news presenter, not by Mr Cheng himself, as his voice is deliberately made incomprehensible and (almost) inaudible.

In addition, CGTN states that the surveillance footage that it includes in the broadcast shows him visiting prostitutes. It does not name the place, which police have merely called a “club” but which, by appearance, could be a massage parlour. It simply resembles a hotel lobby. The video does not show him visiting or soliciting a prostitute, or anything remotely closed to anything like that, yet the CGTN newscaster and CGTN graphics added to the broadcast states that as a fact. Also, CGTN does not identify the type, name or location of the place where Simon was filmed. Nothing in that surveillance footage shows him, or indicates him in any way him, soliciting prostitutes. All it shows is a lobby and a corridor. Yet, CGTN states all these things as facts.

The broadcast does not state in what situation the recording was made, despite the situation being well-known to CGTN and the world at large, and CGTN presents the recording as though it were filmed with his will and consent, which it was not.

The recording used by CGTN is pasted together from several separate clips, not a straight-through or genuine interview but an on-camera interrogation shot in separate takes. CGTN took and used this video from police hands without prior familiarity with the recordings, between or after these cuts.

The allegations by police, despite Mr Cheng not having not been tried or convicted of the alleged offence, nor of any crime at all, actually, was falsely presented by the newscaster as fact.

## Broadcast violation 2, CGTN on 2013-08-27: Peter Humphrey

**Title of Broadcast:** Identity theft / Personal data protection – Shanghai arrests husband and wife over misuse of personal data

**Program:** China24

**Channel:** CGTN

**Date of broadcast:** 2013-08-27

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** Unknown

**Length of broadcast:** 05.38

**Language of broadcast:** English

**Link:** This broadcast has been removed and is no longer available on CGTN website nor on its YouTube channel. We have preserved a copy. A link to download it as video media file is provided in the appendix.

### The victim and recording of video

Peter Humphrey, a UK citizen, 57 years old at the time, China specialist, fraud investigator, prominent member of the foreign business community in China, senior Rotarian, and former senior Reuters journalist, had since 2003, along with his American wife Yingzeng Yu (surname Yu), run a corporate due diligence and fraud prevention consultancy firm, ChinaWhys Co Ltd, with their main operational office in Shanghai and their principal family home in Beijing. Prior to this, until the late 1990s, Mr Humphrey had been a well-known reporter and editor for Reuters in Europe and Asia. He was a noted expert on China for four decades, a thought leader on due diligence in the foreign business community, and president of the Rotary Club of Beijing.

*“They drugged me, locked me to a tiger chair, and placed me and the chair inside a small metal cage. China Central Television (CCTV) journalists then aimed their cameras at me and recorded me reading out the answers already prepared for me by the police. No questions were asked.”*

- British citizen and former Reuters journalist Peter Humphrey on his forced TV confession in China.

On August 27, 2013, UK citizen, China resident, and former Reuters journalist Peter Humphrey was seen on China’s state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) supposedly “admitting” to crimes he and his wife had not been indicted for, nor tried for nor convicted of. This so-called “confession” on TV happened a year before he and his wife were formally indicted and put on “trial”.

Since being detained on 10 July 2013 and placed in a Shanghai detention center, he had refused to make any such a confession, but was in return maltreated and later on even denied cancer care, making him fear for his life. Despite specifically saying No to “meeting TV journalists” and refusing to be filmed or photographed, he was drugged one morning and taken to a special interrogation cell to record such a “confession” anyway.

He was handcuffed and locked to a chair inside a steel cage inside the cell. CCTV journalists aimed their cameras at him through the cage bars, and police, present in the room, asked prepared questions to the

captive, who appears clearly visibly drugged when he appears on the CCTV footage slurring his words. One officer held the papers of the script, visible to all the journalists there, including CCTV, and Peter was being pressured to give the answers that had been prepared for him.

CCTV journalists cooperated with police to extract, record, and package the post-production and then broadcast his false “confession”. CCTV then released it worldwide, airing it in the US on CCTV-4. Later, CGTN, its international arm for English broadcasts, aired an English-language edition in the US as well.

Besides airing the forced statements made by Mr Humphrey, who was clearly under duress and in distress, and who was supposed to say only what the PSB told him to say, a scenario that was clearly visible for the CCTV journalists and other supposed Chinese media people in the room, CCTV added significant post-production material to further distort the facts and incriminate Mr Humphrey and his American wife in an extrajudicial and illegal “trial by media” scenario.

### **Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast**

Overall, the presentation by the newscaster intentionally distorted a professional corporate due diligence firm as a mass personal data trafficker, which was untrue, as personal data was used only for analytical work for corporate clients in the due diligence process and for SOX and FCPA compliance purposes.

The presenter stated that police had arrested the two people in the newscast, Mr Humphrey and his American wife Yingzeng Yu, on charges of *selling* personal information. **This was a lie.** They were not arrested or charged for *selling* personal information. The broadcast went on to repeat this by a both a second and third reporter/narrator. The couple had in fact only been preliminarily charged (and this was known by CCTV/CGTN) with *illegally obtaining personal information*, and never with selling it or trafficking it.

The broadcast again stated that the couple obtained and illegally sold such data, implying it was a profit-making activity. After a **direct lie** about what they were charged with, the newscast now sought to distort facts, to present them as people arrested for trafficking in personal data. However, it later contradicted this claim by saying such information was obtained for screening (i.e., due diligence) work, and not for selling. It finished this section by stating that the reports created by the couple contained information that violated Chinese people’s rights. However, at this time, the couple had not been indicted, tried or convicted for any crime at all, and the charge against them was under Chinese police investigation. Yet **CGTN presented them as guilty**, despite not being convicted of the crime in question.

The newscast stated that the company ChinaWhys made 6 million RMB per year. However, no reporter ever asked Mr Humphrey about the annual turnover; and the financial data and documentation seized from ChinaWhys and reviewed by the police did not state or contain information saying that this was so. **The figure had been plucked from thin air and made up.** And in fact no CCTV reporter or any other journalist was allowed to ask Mr Humphrey any questions at all. Only the police officer, one of his daily interrogators, asked questions during the filming session in the cage.

The most outrageous **direct lie**, perpetrated by CGTN staff, was that Mr Humphrey says, in *Chinese*, in the so-called “confession” recording, “we obtain personal information” but the English overlaid narration and translation used in the broadcast, added by CGTN, **inserted the word “illegally” into his words**. The Chinese that you can hear behind the English narration simply contained the phrase “we obtain personal information.”

The newscaster further stated, “this is the first case of the Chinese police to crack [down] on a foreign registered company who are operating illegally on research and trafficking personal information.” This implies *illegal business operations*, a serious offence under Chinese law but one which the couple was never arrested nor charged with, and this was **intentionally distorting** the facts.

## Broadcast violation 3, CGTN on 2014-07-14: Peter Humphrey, Yingzeng Yu

**Title of Broadcast:** GSK China private-eye agents indicted in Shanghai for illegal investigation

**Program:** News Hour

**Channel:** CGTN

**Date of broadcast:** 2014-07-14

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** Unknown

**Length of broadcast:** 01:37

**Language of broadcast:** English

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHuxlz5a4qs>

### The victim and recording of video

This “forced TV confession” was recorded about a year after the first one with Peter Humphrey as its victim once again. The recording of the forced “confession” by Mr Humphrey and (separately) his **American wife Yingzeng Yu** was this time made (and the newscast in question broadcast) just after they had been indicted on a single simple charge, but before any trial was held or any verdict was issued, and was thus deliberately timed to prejudice their trial, which Chinese law actually prohibits. The news anchor for the CGTN broadcast was the same as for the year-earlier CGTN broadcast, Mr James Chau.

Unlike the earlier broadcast, this second time the filming did not take place in a cage in an interrogation cell in the Shanghai Detention Centre, but in a meeting room in the Shanghai Detention Centre, and a CCTV reporter asked all the questions from a script.

### Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

Unlike the earlier broadcast, this CGTN broadcast at first stated, correctly, that the couple had been indicted for *illegally obtaining personal information*, whereas the earlier CGTN broadcast a year ago had falsely claimed that they had been “arrested for *illegally selling personal data*”.

However, the CGTN narrator then reverted to and revived the original lie by stating that the couple were found to have *illegally trafficked a huge amount of personal data*, and that this had been for the purpose of profit. This was both **incorrect and a lie**, and repeated the same wrongful accusations of earlier broadcasts. They had not been arrested, nor charged nor indicted for *trafficking in personal data*, nor had they ever *sold* personal data. Both accusations were used to smear the foreign couple and made it appear they had profited from selling personal data on Chinese citizens, with emphasis on the alleged but un-convicted perpetrators being *foreign* and the victims being *Chinese*. Considering that the arrest and indictment were now fully public and had been covered extensively by media, CGTN was well aware of this fact and the real charge, but it chose to broadcast this lie, **intentionally distorting the facts**. The broadcast goes on repeat that they *‘traded’ personal data*, once again, a naked lie. The broadcast was very clearly intended to prejudice the trial, and the Chinese and international publics.

Next the broadcast asserted that Mr Humphrey had admitted to using '*illegal means*', which was again a **lie**. The newscast showed footage of him speaking against his will and under great duress and in distress as a captive and with no ability to give or withhold consent. But despite that, he never said that he admitted to having used *illegal means*. He simply states, "if we have broken any law, I am sorry". The broadcast **intentionally misrepresented his words and the truth** in order to paint him as though he had admitted to the allegations made by CGTN, in an another instance of **intentional distortion**.

## Broadcast violation 4, CGTN on 2016-01-18: Gui Minhai

**Title of Broadcast:** “Missing” man reappears

**Program:** News Desk

**Channel:** CGTN (CCTV News)

**Date of broadcast:** 2016-01-18

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 00:18:35

**Length of broadcast:** 02:17

**Language of broadcast:** English

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z0wFNGLrc> (full broadcast of entire news show at <http://tv.cntv.cn/video/C19133/af7e3e673ebf474ab78e657c2a6d2abb>)

### The victim and recording of video

This complaint section is provided by Ms. Angela Gui, daughter of victim Mr Gui Minhai (surname Gui). Ms Gui and her father are citizens of Sweden, where Ms Gui was born. Thus, her father is of Chinese descent but exclusively holds Swedish citizenship and should enjoy Swedish consular protection, which the Chinese authorities have obstructed.

“My father, Gui Minhai, a Swedish citizen, went missing while on vacation in Thailand in October 2015. It is believed he was placed into ‘residential surveillance at a designated location’ (RSDL), and his whereabouts remained unknown. Shortly afterwards, a building surveillance video from the compound of his holiday home in Thailand surfaced showing how several Chinese men had entered the compound where he was staying, and how he had left with them in a van. Thai authorities have stated that there are no records showing him leaving Thailand. “

Later, Chinese authorities stated that he had returned to China voluntarily to face punishment for an alleged – never proven – hit-and-run traffic incident that allegedly had occurred 12 years earlier, in 2003. My father was based in Hong Kong, where he sold and published books on the Chinese Communist Party and the government leadership. These books are banned in China. On January 17, 2016, he appeared in a “Forced TV Confession” aired by CCTV-4, and which was also broadcast by CGTN in English, as well as on “CGTN Francais” in French. Despite his whereabouts being unknown, he would later appear in two more such “confession” videos broadcast by CCTV and/or GCTN, the latest one being aired in 2018.

### Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

Of note, none of the background information on Mr Gui provided in the newscast (the alleged road accident of 2003, him fleeing China in 2004, or him being listed by Chinese police as a fugitive, nor his alleged sentence/verdict issued in 2004) was supported by any legal documents. In fact, no such records exist or are referred to in China’s Supreme Court’s database. Neither his family members, nor the Swedish government have received any such documents to underpin these allegations.

The newscaster stated that he went to China to turn himself in to authorities voluntarily, with Mr Gui himself stating so in a recording made while he was a captive in a state of “enforced disappearance”. This statement was a lie, and CCTV production knew it was not factual.

When he disappeared, he was spotted on real estate surveillance cameras in Thailand being escorted into a van by Chinese-looking men. He was well aware it was dangerous for him to travel to PRC China. His travel documents, including his passport, were found in his Thai holiday home, and Thai authorities have publicly affirmed that there are no records of him leaving Thailand.

Not only was this so-called “voluntary return” to China impossible in those circumstances, but the circumstances were well known at the time and had been publicized extensively.

It was imperative to the Chinese government to propagate the lie that he had “returned voluntarily”, because kidnapping him in Thailand and smuggling him from there to China could cause an international diplomatic uproar. This intentional lie broadcast by CGTN was to serve this propaganda goal of the Chinese authorities and cover up an act of kidnapping and hostage-taking.

## **Broadcast violation 5, CGTN on 2018-02-11: Gui Minhai**

**Title of Broadcast:** Bookseller detained again over suspected violations

**Program:** The World Today

**Channel:** CGTN

**Date of broadcast:** 2018-02-11

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 10:08

**Length of broadcast:** 01:44

**Language of broadcast:** English

**Link:** [https://news.cgtn.com/news/34457a4e32677a6333566d54/share\\_p.html](https://news.cgtn.com/news/34457a4e32677a6333566d54/share_p.html)

### **The victim and recording of video**

See background information provided in Broadcast violation 4, CGTN.

In this broadcast by CGTN, CCTV stated that it interviewed Mr Gui while he was in detention. But the location of his detention was not disclosed nor has it been disclosed to this day. He has had no access to lawyers and has never been allowed to freely disclose his true circumstances.

### **Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast**

The video repeated the claim first made in a broadcast two years earlier (broadcast violation 4), stating that he had turned himself in to Chinese authorities inside China. As per broadcast violation 4, described above, that was impossible, and CGTN and CCTV staff knew this was impossible, yet still took these lies to air, including on US airwaves.

## Broadcast violation 6, CCTV4 on 2016-01-19: Peter Dahlin

**Title of Broadcast:** 中国执法部门破获一起危害国家安全案件 (Chinese law enforcement have cracked a case regarding endangering national security) (re-broadcasted under same name or using variations of that name)

**Program:** 中国新闻 (China News)

**Channel:** CCTV4 (CCTV4-Asia, CCTV4-Europe, CCTV4-Americas)

**Date of broadcast:** 2016-01-20

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 12:33

**Length of broadcast:** 07:07 minutes

**Language of broadcast:** Mandarin Chinese

**Link:** <http://tv.cctv.com/2016/01/20/VIDE07RACg7DbeJJuyswdbz9160120.shtml>

On 2016-01-19 CCTV13, China's main news channel, aired a 07:59 minutes long segment on Peter Dahlin, which included a falsified "confession" recording made by CCTV and the Ministry of State Security (MSS) a day or two beforehand. Following the CCTV-4 broadcast in the US (cited above), several other broadcasts, at different lengths, rebroadcast the same material, and were also aired on both CCTV-4 in the US as well as on other CCTV channels inside China.

### The victim and recording of video

Peter Dahlin was the co-founder of a Hong Kong registered, Beijing-based NGO that provided support to China's legal community and its "human rights lawyers". He was *alleged* to have violated national security (art 107 of PRC Criminal Law). He was never arrested, prosecuted nor tried on this charge.

When he was taken, several coworkers were also taken and were also placed into RSDL. Two of them would similarly be forced to record "confession" films, which were used to attack Mr Dahlin. In addition, his girlfriend was also taken and placed into RSDL, and kept for as long as he was. The MSS used the threat that they would keep her in solitary for up to six months as well as the threat of deporting Mr Dahlin, to pressure the confined Mr Dahlin to "agree" to record a "confession" statement.

The MSS always maintained the recording was **not** for TV or the public, but for their superiors, to be used as a basis to determine the fate of Mr Dahlin (and his girlfriend). Besides small clips showing what Mr Dahlin was forced to say, CCTV presenters added graphics, all of which was inserted in post-production, as well as false accusations by others (such as coworkers, extracted through threats).

During recording, the CCTV journalist was given a paper by MSS agents with the questions to ask. She also saw the paper Mr Dahlin had been given with both the pre-scripted questions and answers. This paper was authored by the MSS and Mr Dahlin was told to memorize it. The room, inside the clandestine prison, was filled with almost a dozen people, including the CCTV journalist and CCTV cameraman who had brought in CCTV-labeled equipment, including microphones, professional TV video camera, tripod, etc.

Mr Dahlin states: “At one point the CCTV journalist, after I failed to give the right answer to MSS agents satisfaction, leaned in and asked me ‘you really don’t want to say that line, do you?’ The line was ‘I have hurt the feelings of the Chinese people.’ On the fifth take, MSS agents, who directed the whole thing, asking for many re-takes, and instructed me on my posture, tone of voice, etc., approved, and it was used in the broadcast later. “

## Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

Throughout the broadcast, the newscaster/anchor presents mere, unsubstantiated accusations against Mr Dahlin as facts. This is done despite the then widely-known fact that Mr Dahlin was being investigated, and that no formal legal arrest had been made of him, and certainly no trial or conviction of him had been made. Thus, CCTV intentionally distorted the facts.

All statements made by Mr Dahlin, he affirms, **were known by CCTV to have been made under duress**. “The videographer and the journalist both were aware that I was kept in a facility for investigation, and **were aware that my answers were pre-determined**, and were being read from a sheet of paper that both CCTV staff saw. The journalist asked questions supplied, on paper, by the security agents, and no questions of her own. They were also aware that those security agents were guiding and directing the whole pre-scripted staged recording, being present in the room throughout. They instructed on tone of voice, posture as well as on re-takes, as well as updated questions and answers.”

The presence of a large number of security agents in the room making the “confession” video and the physical attributes of the interior of this secret, prison-type facility where it took place, were **concealed** in the CCTV “confession” newscast.

The newscast began by stating that security forces have successfully cracked down on an organization that was **engaging** in activities **threatening** national security. The organization, and its director Peter Dahlin, were merely under investigation. The broadcast convicted him in public of this accusation despite no arrest, no indictment nor trial of him, despite the prevention of a fair and transparent trial free from prejudice being illegal under Chinese law.

The newscast falsely stated that Mr Dahlin’s work and his group **operated under instruction from a foreign, non-specified, institution** (they mean National Endowment for Democracy). This is false, and this statement was known by the security personnel involved to be false. No such a statement, nor anything similar, was ever made by Mr Dahlin to CCTV.

The **newscast included statements against Mr Dahlin that could not possibly have been verified by CCTV**. Those are statements from two of his coworkers. Neither of these two were interviewed by CCTV; those clips were filmed by the Ministry of State Security while both coworkers were held locked away incommunicado. CCTV had no access to either of these two persons and thus had no way to verify such statements from them, yet it included them in the broadcast to add further defamatory content. This included the false allegation that Mr Dahlin intentionally collected negative or damaging information

about developments in China and that he would distort and exaggerate them and would even fabricate such information. It also said his work sought to intensify disputes inside China.

The newscast, voiced with one of these forced statements from a detained coworker, but also with newscaster narration, states, as a fact, that Dahlin's group, "in collusion with overseas forces, planned and assisted the smuggling of a person across China's border into Burma." **This was false, the Chinese security services knew that it was false, and CCTV did not ask about it in the interview, but issued it as a statement of fact nonetheless, in order to incriminate Mr Dahlin in a trial by media.**

The newscast **directly lied when it then stated that he confessed to the above accusations.** "I did not, and no video of me exists where I confess to any involvement in this smuggling," he says. The newscast also said that he admitted that any report made "did not reflect the true situation". **This was false. No such admission was made, nor does it exist.** This is a false statement, and the CCTV interviewer did not ask about this, yet included this as a statement of fact by the newscaster in the broadcast.

"In addition, I was **forced to use the word "criminal" against two people.** I made it clear, repeatedly, that neither of those two people had been tried and convicted of any crimes, therefore by definition were not criminals, but MSS agents refused to change it," Mr Dahlin affirms. CCTV staff were aware that neither of those two people had been convicted, nor even formally arrested with official charges. Despite that, they intentionally included this forced statement from Mr Dahlin in the newscast, in an intentional distortion of the truth.

Finally, the newscast stated that he said his group paid Chinese professional lawyers to launch lawsuits against the government. **"I did not say that, and it is false.** Professional lawyers provide criminal representation for those facing criminal prosecution. This is not in any way related to lawsuits against the government. CCTV did not ask about this, yet presented it, in newscaster/narrator's voice, as having been admitted and said by me. This is both a direct lie and an intentional distortion," he affirms.

The newscast ends by stating that Mr Dahlin had been placed in "residential surveillance". **"This is false, and knowingly false by CCTV.** I had been placed into "residential surveillance at a designated location" (RSDL), a very different situation and coercive measure, and me being held in an MSS-run facility would be blatantly clear to CCTV staff as they visited this secret jail to interview me. "

## Broadcast violation 7, CCTV4 on 2016-07-06: Lam Wing-Kee

**Title of Broadcast:** 香港铜锣湾书店店长林荣基案始末 (The case of Lam Wing-Kee, manager of bookstore in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong)

**Program:** 中国新闻 (China News)

**Channel:** CCTV4 (CCTV4-Asia, CCTV4-Europe, CCTV4-Americas)

**Date of broadcast:** 2016-07-06

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 14:14

**Length of broadcast:** 04:10

**Language of broadcast:** Mandarin Chinese

**Link:** <http://tv.cctv.com/2016/07/06/VIDEgOXIUE4gJdlJzXddwFRp160706.shtml>

### The victim and recording of video

Lam Wing-Kee (surname Lam) is one of five “Hong Kong Causeway Bay booksellers” whose unlawful disappearances into China from Hong Kong and from Thailand captured the world’s attention in 2015 and 2016. Mr Lam has explained what happened, and how he was made to record numerous videos, while kept in a state of extrajudicial disappearance, in the hands of the Chinese police:

I was taken and blindfolded when crossing the border from Hong Kong into China in Shenzhen, on October 25, 2015, just eight (8) days after a colleague, Swedish citizen, Gui Minhai, disappeared in Thailand and later showed up in police custody in China. On October 15 to 17, two other coworkers who were in China at the time also went missing. At the end of the year a fifth and final colleague, a UK citizen, went missing. The five of us all disappeared and were kept incommunicado, with our whereabouts being kept secret.

I was at first tied to a metal chair by police in Shenzhen, before being transported to eastern China and placed into ‘residential surveillance at a designated location’ (RSDL), a system that allows for 6 months incommunicado detention, with whereabouts kept secret, and in solitary confinement. During my time inside, I was forced to make some eight (8) or nine (9) video recordings with the police, both in the facility I was kept in, but also driven to a larger facility for such recordings. As I was blindfolded, I do not know where the other facility was, but I know it was a police station. They [the videos] were all [said to be] made for internal police use, for their superiors in Beijing to see. None of these videos were [said to be] made for TV or the public.

After six months in ‘RSDL’ I was released on bail and under heavy scrutiny, not allowed to return to Hong Kong. Later, in early summer 2016, I was told to return to Hong Kong, take computers from the bookstore office and return with them to China. Once I made it to Hong Kong, I called a press conference instead and exposed what had been going on. The rest is, as they say, history.

The videos recorded of me were then used by CCTV, with significant post-production, and aired, without any consent ever given, with the clear aim of defaming and attacking me. Several other colleagues have likewise been forced to record such videos, sometimes together with CCTV journalists themselves, and aired in the US, such as Gui Minhai.

## Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

Due to the very high profile of this case, where CCTV was broadcasting a defense of the position of the Chinese state, it was well known that Lam had been in ‘residential surveillance at a designated location’ (RSDL), and that any film provided to CCTV broadcasting staff for the purpose of bringing it to air would have been made while he was kept incommunicado and in solitary confinement against his will. Despite this, and knowing the situation under which he was made to record such “confession” videos, these videos were used by CCTV and presented as facts. CCTV did not reach out to Mr Lam in any way to question him or obtain verification or consent.

Despite knowing he was being held incommunicado and in solitary, where any recording by Lam would have been performed with him under extreme duress, CCTV uses video recordings that are filmed or edited in such a way as to disguise his clandestine prison environment. Lam is deceitfully made to wear his civilian clothes and to hold a cup of tea or coffee. They also pasted into the newscast film snippets of him being treated well, eating alone, reading a book, all while wearing his civilian clothes, to further and **intentionally distort** Lam’s situation for the purpose of the videos where he supposedly “confesses”.

While CCTV-4 broadcast this film, CGTN supported the smear campaign against him by posting a companion news story on its website, claiming that Mr Lam’s girlfriend, who had also been made to disappear at the same time (having been inside China when this occurred), ostensibly stating that Lam’s claim that he was forced to sign away his right to access a lawyer and to sign away his right to contact his family, were untrue<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://america.cgtn.com/2016/07/06/mainland-informs-hong-kong-on-management-of-bookseller-case>

## Broadcast violation 8, CCTV4 on 2016-01-18: Gui Minhai

**Title of Broadcast:** 香港铜锣湾书店老板“失踪”事件调查 (Investigation into the "missing" owner of the bookstore in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong)

**Program:** 中国新闻 (China News)

**Channel:** CCTV4 (CCTV4-Asia, CCTV4-Europe, CCTV4-Americas)

**Date of broadcast:** 2016-01-18

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 07:33

**Length of broadcast:** 04:48

**Language of broadcast:** Mandarin Chinese

**Link:** <http://tv.cctv.com/2016/01/18/VIDEsgEfvRYUXnr0BKLH0qxJ160118.shtml>

### The victim and recording of video

See background information provided in Broadcast violation 8, CCTV-4.

### Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

In this broadcast on CCTV rather than CGTN, the newscaster claimed that Mr Gui, ethnically Chinese, *also* held Swedish citizenship. This was a lie: There was no “also” and it was misleading to imply he held some kind of Chinese ID. Mr Gui holds only Swedish citizenship, having renounced his Chinese citizenship long ago. Publicly, the Chinese state has repeatedly defended the detention of Mr Minhai (without mentioning his abduction from Thailand) by claiming that he is a Chinese citizen, and here CCTV intentionally distorts fact by making this false statement.

This lie is undermined when he is shown saying that yes, he is a Swedish citizen, but he *feels* Chinese. This is, however, yet another attempt to distort the facts and claim sovereignty over a foreign national of Chinese ethnicity. (If this were a valid claim, then China would be asserting sovereignty over every US citizen who is of Chinese ethnic heritage.) It is then followed by Mr Gui, speaking under duress, asking the Swedish government and any institution committed to helping him to stop doing so. His then current situation, that of being disappeared and held in RSDL, without any formal arrest, would have been very clear to the CCTV staff filming and broadcasting the segment.

The newscaster stated that Mr Gui had turned himself in to Chinese police, with he himself stating so in a recording made while he was in a state of “enforced disappearance”. This statement was a lie, and CCTV production staff would have known it was a lie at that time. Mr Gui was identified on a real estate security surveillance camera’s footage being herded into a van in Thailand by Chinese-speaking men. He was well aware of it being dangerous for him to travel to China.

His travel documents, including his Swedish passport, were found in his Thai holiday home. Thai authorities have publicly stated that there are no records of Mr Gui leaving Thailand. Not only was his voluntary “return” to China impossible in those circumstances, but these conditions were well known at the time, and had been reported on extensively.

It was imperative to the Chinese government to propagate the falsehood that he had “returned” voluntarily, as kidnapping him in Thailand could cause an international diplomatic incident. Thus, CGTN intentionally aired a proven lie for this purpose.

## Broadcast violation 9, CCTV4 on 2013-08-27: Peter Humphrey

**Title of Broadcast:** 上海公安打掉首个外国人在华开办的非法调查公司 (Shanghai Police breaks up the first illegal investigation company opened by a foreigner in China)

**Program:** 中国新闻 (China News)

**Channel:** CCTV4 (CCTV4-Asia, CCTV4-Europe, CCTV4-Americas)

**Date of broadcast:** 2013-08-27

**Start time of broadcast (China time, GMT+8):** 07:30

**Length of broadcast:** 03:09

**Language of broadcast:** Mandarin Chinese

**Link:** <http://tv.cctv.com/2013/08/27/VIDE1377559803276802.shtml>

### The victim and recording of video

See information provided in Broadcast violation 2, CCTV4. Recording process the same.

### Direct lies and intentional distortion in the broadcast

In this broadcast on CCTV rather than CGTN, the newscast falsely alleges that the company that Mr Humphrey operated, ChinaWhys, existed to buy and sell personal data. This is not the case, as is well known to the many American corporations, law firms and chambers of commerce who used his services for many years. The broadcast also alleged that the company had been doing this, in violation of law, since its founding in 2003. This was nonsensical, since the law about the acquiring of personal information did not take effect effective until 2009, and even then did not cover the due diligence and anti-fraud activity of ChinaWhys, which did not involve the illegal acquisition of information.

The newscast stated that ChinaWhys made 6 million RMB per year. In fact, CCTV never asked Mr Humphrey any questions during the fake interview and never asked about his company's annual turnover and earnings. Nor did any financial data and documentation seized and analyzed by the police state or contain the numbers cited by CCTV at all. **The figure was taken out of thin air and made up.**

The broadcast stated that his company was illegal. **This was a lie. It was legally incorporated in Shanghai and in Hong Kong with applicable registrations, certifications and licences.** Also, **the company and Mr Humphrey were never charged with "illegal business operations"**, a nebulous blanket charge that is frequently used in China in order to exact harsher and arbitrary penalties which are based on multiples of transaction volumes and years of business operations.

The broadcast stated that Shanghai police had discovered the company after being tipped off by members / or a member (Chinese language having no plural) of the public. **This was a lie.** And CCTV never asked Mr Humphrey about this in the "interview" because CCTV in fact asked Mr Humphrey no questions at all. A year later, in court, even the prosecutor admitted this was wrong.

His company's registration and operation was presented as murky and illegal. Yet, it was properly registered, and carried out legitimate corporate due diligence and fraud prevention work for many

Fortune 500 firms. It was an active member of several leading chambers of commerce, including the American Chamber of Commerce in both Beijing and Shanghai, where Mr Humphrey delivered many fraud prevention lectures and was well known and respected in his field and was considered a thought leader for fraud risk management and FCPA-style bribery prevention at American firms in China.

In the newscast, a police officer was shown, away from the cell with the steel cage where the filming took place, saying, “this company has no premises nor any employee, it is in fact a shell company.” **Every part of this sentence was a lie.** “CCTV never asked me any questions about this, nor was it discussed in my fake ‘interview’.” **It was broadcast that “since 2003, Peter’s company has been involved in illegally obtaining citizens’ private information”. This was nonsensical, since the law referred to did not exist until 2009, and even then it did not cover the activities of legitimate due diligence firms.** Only after the Humphreys’ June 2015 release, namely in November 2015, did China finally bring in such a law.

The broadcast went on to state, “Their behaviour seriously violated the legal rights of our citizens”. Mr Humphrey and his American wife Ms. Yu had at this point not been tried, and the case had not even been indicted. Hence, this CCTV/CGTN broadcast not only deprived Mr Humphrey and Ms Yu of their right to a fair and transparent trial, which exists in Chinese law, **but blatantly stated accusations as fact and was a direct lie.** The status of the legal proceedings against Peter was well known to CCTV, yet CCTV still aired this segment containing these falsehoods. The broadcast stated that household registration, vehicle ownership and real estate information were obtained illegally. However, all these types of information were acquired through searches of public records conducted by local law firms (it is only *illegal* if obtained through bribery), and police knew this. CCTV did not ask Mr Humphrey about this, **yet they broadcast it as a fact.**

The footage of Mr Humphrey speaking, seated inside a cage with steel bars, noticeably drugged and speaking in slurred words in Chinese, has **been significantly edited** to suit the purposes of the Chinese police. (“I was struggling to navigate between answers that would help get me out of that cage but which would not falsely incriminate me with crimes I had not committed.”) He actually phrased each “answer” with qualifiers and conditional clauses, and those have been **edited away** by CCTV in their broadcast.

## Other “Forced TV Confessions” broadcast in the US

CGTN has, since 2013, broadcast nine (9) “Forced TV Confessions”, one of which includes an American victim, Ms. Yingzeng Yu, the wife of UK national Peter Humphrey. The table below lists the broadcasts.

**Table 1. CGTN broadcasts**

| # | Date of broadcast | VICTIM INFORMATION  |                |             |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
|   |                   | Main confessor (or target)  | Nationality    | Broadcaster |
| 1 | 2013-08-27        | Peter Humphrey (main)   | UK             | CGTN        |
| 2 | 2013-10-26        | Chen Yongzhou (main)  | CN             | CGTN        |
| 3 | 2014-07-14        | Peter Humphrey (main)<br>Yu Yingzeng (supporting)                           | UK<br>US       | CGTN        |
| 4 | 2014-08-04        | Guo Meimei (main)<br>3 others (blurred) (supporting)                        | CN<br>CN       | CGTN        |
| 5 | 2014-08-19        | Ko-Chen-tung (main)   | TW             | CGTN        |
| 6 | 2016-01-18        | Gui Minhai (main)   | SWE            | CGTN        |
| 7 | 2016-05-02        | Taiwanese telecom fraud (main)<br>Mr Lun (supporting)<br>Mr Xu (supporting) | TW<br>TW<br>TW | CGTN        |
| 8 | 2018-02-09        | Gui Minhai (main)   | SWE            | CGTN        |
| 9 | 2019-11-21        | Simon (Man-kit) Cheng   | HK             | CGTN        |

At the very least, CCTV-4 has broadcast at the very least 25 “Forced TV Confessions”. In those 25 broadcasts there have been some 49 victims paraded. An additional 5 broadcasts were made, but the forced TV confession segment either muted or removed on the international broadcast. Two of those broadcasts include another American victim, the financier Charles Xue. Mr Xue also appeared in a third video which was *not to our knowledge* broadcast in the US. The table below lists the broadcasts.

**Table 2. CCTV-4 broadcasts**

| #  | Date of broadcast | Main confessor (or target)  | Nationality                        | Broadcaster |
|----|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1  | 2013-07-15        | Liang Hong (main)<br>Weng Jianyong (supporting)   | CN<br>CN                           | CCTV-4      |
| 2  | 2013-08-22        | Qin Huohuo (main)<br>Lier Chaisi (main)   | CN<br>CN                           | CCTV-4      |
| 3  | 2013-08-27        | Peter Humphrey (main)   | U.K.                               | CCTV-4      |
| 4  | 2013-08-29        | Charles Xue Biquan (main)<br>Ms Zhang (supporting)<br>Ms Liang (supporting)<br>Ms Ma (supporting)<br>Ms Wang (supporting)<br>Ms Li (supporting) | U.S.<br>CN<br>CN<br>CN<br>CN<br>CN | CCTV-4      |
| 6  | 2013-09-29        | Dong Liangjie (main)<br>Charles Xue Biquan (supporting)   | CN<br>U.S.                         | CCTV-4      |
| 9  | 2013-10-26        | Chen Yongzhou (main)  | CN                                 | CCTV-4      |
| 12 | 2014-05-13        | Xiang Nanfu (main)  | CN                                 | CCTV-4      |
| 15 | 2014-06-26        | Ning Caishen (main)   | CN                                 | CCTV-4      |
| 16 | 2014-06-29        | Zhang Yuan (main)   | CN                                 | CCTV-4      |
| 19 | 2014-08-19        | Ko-Chen-tung (main)   | TW                                 | CCTV-4      |
| 20 | 2014-08-27        | Nurmemet Abidilimit (main)<br>Ghesi Hasan (supporting)  | CN (UI)<br>CN (UI)                 | CCTV-4      |
| 22 | 2014-09-26        | Ilham Tohti (main) (offscreen target)<br>Luo Yuwei (supporting)   | CN (UI)<br>CN (Yi)                 | CCTV-4      |

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|    |            |   |         |        |
|----|------------|---|---------|--------|
|    |            | Perhat Halmurat (supporting)  | CN (UI) |        |
|    |            | Shohret Nijat (supporting)  | CN (UI) |        |
| 26 | 2015-07-12 | <b>Zhou Shifeng, Wu Gan, Liu Sixin, Zhao Wei (main) (all offscreen)</b> | CN      | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Zhai Yanmin (supporting)  | CN      |        |
|    |            | Liu Xing (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Huang Liqun (supporting)  | CN      |        |
| 27 | 2015-07-19 | <b>Zhou Shifeng (main), Wang Yu, Wu Gan (offscreen)</b>                 | CN      | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Liu Sixin (supporting)  | CN      |        |
|    |            | Huang Liqun (supporting)  | CN      |        |
|    |            | Xie Yuandong (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Liu Jianjun (supporting)  | CN      |        |
|    |            | Liu Xing (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Ms Gou (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Ning Huirong (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Zheng Yuming (supporting)   | CN      |        |
|    |            | Zhai Yanmin (supporting)  | CN      |        |
| 28 | 2015-07-19 | <b>Tursan (main)</b>  | CN (UI) | CCTV-4 |
| 29 | 2015-07-20 | <b>Ai Ke Abai Er (main)</b>   | CN (UI) | CCTV-4 |
| 30 | 2015-08-31 | <b>Wang Xiaolu (main)</b>   | CN      | CCTV-4 |
| 33 | 2016-01-18 | <b>Gui Minhai (main)</b>  | SWE     | CCTV-4 |
| 34 | 2016-01-19 | <b>Peter Dahlin (main)</b>  | SWE     | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Wang Qiushi (supporting)  | CN      |        |
|    |            | Xing Jianshen (supporting)  | CN      |        |
| 35 | 2016-02-01 | <b>Ding Ning (main)</b>   | CN      | CCTV-4 |
| 38 | 2016-04-15 | <b>Taiwanese telecom fraud (main)</b>                                   | TW      | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Mr Jian (supporting)  | TW      |        |
|    |            | Mr Xu (supporting)  | TW      |        |
| 39 | 2016-05-02 | <b>Taiwanese telecom fraud (main)</b>                                   | TW      | CCTV-4 |

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|    |            |                           |     |        |
|----|------------|---------------------------|-----|--------|
|    |            | Mr Lun (supporting)       | TW  |        |
|    |            | Mr Xu (supporting)        | TW  |        |
| 42 | 2016-07-06 | Lam Wing-kee (main)       | HK  | CCTV-4 |
| 44 | 2017-03-02 | Jiang Tianyong (main)     | CN  | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Xie Yang (supporting)     | CN  |        |
| 45 | 2017-05-09 | Xie Yang (main)           | CN  | CCTV-4 |
| 47 | 2018-04-23 | Guo Wengui (main)         | CN  | CCTV-4 |
|    |            | Chen Zhiheng (supporting) | CAN |        |
|    |            | Chen Zhiyu (supporting)   | CAN |        |
| 51 | 2019-11-21 | Simon (Man-kit) Cheng     | HK  | CCTV-4 |

A full database with more information on specific programs, times, etc., is included in Appendix.

## Other victims and information

The true nature and scale of these “Forced TV Confessions” was brought into the light on April 10, 2018, when *Safeguard Defenders* released the first ever in-depth report on this abusive practice, in a report titled *Scripted and Staged*, which includes testimony from 11 victims. On November 23, 2018, Safeguard Defenders Director Peter Dahlin, himself a victim, released a book on the subject titled *Trial By Media* which further explored the role of CCTV/CGTN in making and recording, and not merely broadcasting, these “Forced TV Confessions”, using eight (8) detailed testimonies from victims.

Other victims have spoken on the subject in a separate book, *The People’s Republic of the Disappeared*, a book about RSDL, the system that many victims are held in when they are first compelled to make such “Forced TV Confessions”, and which also uses (12) detailed testimonies from victims of such detainment.

However, despite having plenty of testimonies and information about lies and intentional distortion in broadcasts featuring many other victims, we have not asked all of them to participate in this complaint at this time, because doing so could place their and their families’ lives at risk or lead to their further imprisonment by the Chinese Communist Party dictatorship.

## CCTV-4 in the United States

Terrestrial, WCETV Channel 31.8  
Satellite, DirecTV Channel 2052, Dish Network Channel 9916  
IPTV, KylinTV Channel 1, FiOS TV Channel 1795  
(in selection)

## CGTN in the United States

Terrestrial, DTTV/DTT Channels 31.9, 36.3, 61.2, 32.2  
Satellite, DirecTV Channel 2119, Dish Network Channel 279, Galaxy 3C 11780 h SR 20.760  
Cable, Comcast Channel 171  
IPTV, AT&T U-verse Channel 3602  
(in selection)

901-921 11th St NW, Washington, DC 20001, US

## Appendix

All videos herein referred to, and other materials, can be downloaded at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q9uPYiVaFh6KrG9a\\_7V2PVTvpC2O1KcO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q9uPYiVaFh6KrG9a_7V2PVTvpC2O1KcO?usp=sharing)

- A1: CGTN 2019-11-21 Simon Cheng
- A2: CGTN 2013-08-27 Peter Humphrey
- A3: CGTN 2014-07-14 Peter Humphrey
- A4: CGTN 2016-01-18 Gui Minhαι
- A5: CGTN 2018-02-09 Gui Minhαι
- A6: CCTV-4 2016-01-19 Peter Dahlin
- A7: CCTV-4 2016-07-06 Lam Wing-Kee
- A8: CCTV-4 2016-01-18 Gui Minhαι
- A9: CCTV-4 2013-08-27 Peter Humphrey
  
- B1: 'Scripted and Staged' report (pdf)
- B2: Forced TV Confessions database (excel)
- B3: 'Trial By Media' book (pdf)