

Simon Cheng, victim of a CGTN-broadcast *forced TV confession*, files complaint with UK's TV regulator

Madrid, Spain, 2019-11-28: Simon Cheng, Hong Kong resident and former employee at the United Kingdom's Consulate in Hong Kong, on November 27, 2019 filed an official complaint with Ofcom against CGTN – China Global Television Network - for broadcasting his forced TV confession, extracted while Simon was tortured, held incommunicado, at a secret location, in solitary confinement. The complaint highlights a long list of sections of the UK Broadcasting code that the broadcast violates.

"They dragged me into the private van, then instructed me to lay on the rear bench seat. It felt like a kidnapping." - Simon

The complaint by Simon, about a broadcast aired by CGTN on November 21, follows multiple similar complaints earlier. One year ago, UK citizen Peter Humphrey, also with support from Safeguard Defenders, filed a complaint against multiple similar broadcasts of himself and his American wife. Shortly thereafter, Angela Gui, daughter of missing Swedish bookseller Gui Minhai, with support from Safeguard Defenders, filed a complaint against several more broadcasts by CGTN. All these complaints are against broadcasts of forced TV confessions aired before trial, sometimes even before arrest.

"I will confess whatever you want, torture is not necessary. They said it is not torture, but 'training'."
- Simon

The broadcast by CGTN comes just one day after Simon Cheng's explosive interview with BBC and several other news media. The broadcast, which presents accusations as facts, is intended to smear Simon, reduce his credibility, and released almost 3 months after it was actually made, is of little news value. It also includes direct lies, stating, for example, that Simon had been 'tried' in August, which is not only not true, but not even Chinese police have made such a claim.

Simon is filing this complaint from an unknown location. He has been threatened with being kidnapped by the Ministry of State Security if he speaks about his experience. With intelligence agent Wang Liqiang now defecting from China to Australia, and having exposed the kidnapping of UK citizen Lee Bo in Hong Kong back in 2015, those threats are very real.

You can read details about how the many different video sessions, spanning several days, unfolded, and get behind the scenes by reading our new story on it [here](#) (available Wednesday, 20.00 (8 pm), Beijing time (GMT+8)).

"I was hung (handcuffed and shackled) on a steep X-Cross doing a spread-eagled pose for hours after hours. I was forced to keep my hands up, so blood cannot be pumped up my arms. It felt extremely painful." – Simon

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For more information about these forced TV confessions as a phenomenon since the rise of Xi Jinping, see our groundbreaking report [Scripted and Staged](#), or read our book on the subject, [Trial By Media](#), available on Amazon worldwide.

Ofcom has now spent almost one year investigating CGTN for broadcasts of several “confessions” by Peter Humphrey and Gui Minhai. Last time a TV station broadcast such a TV confession was by Iran’s Press TV, which lost its license to broadcast. Ofcom is now also investigating CGTN for biased reporting on the Hong Kong protests.

One source inside CGTN, who was at the CCTV headquarters in Beijing at the time, informed us CCTV reacted in panic to the complaint and press conference held in London. Despite it being Friday evening, a flurry of urgent messages went around CCTV’s headquarters in Beijing. The recipients were being called in that very evening for a crisis meeting that would go on for the entire weekend.

After a debriefing with the Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO), UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has publicly stated they deem Simon’s testimony credible, which has also been echoed by Amnesty International. Safeguard Defenders, whose extensive work with forced TV confessions goes beyond any other institution, likewise considers the testimony credible, and in line with vast troves of testimony collected from many other victims of forced TV confessions over the last few years.

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Media contacts

Benjamin Ismail | benjamin@safeguarddefenders.com | +33-663137613 (Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp)

Peter Dahlin | peter@safeguarddefenders.com | +34-658680863 (Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp)

Note: Due to the threat of kidnapping issued by the Ministry of State Security (MSS), Simon Cheng is currently in hiding, pending secure relocation to the UK. He is not available for interviews at this moment. Please refer to his new writing detailing the filming of these confessions (included as link above), and the content of the full complaint, to read more of Simon's own words.