

FAMILIES IN FEAR: COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT IN 21ST CENTURY CHINA

The **Chinese Communist Party** (CCP) is using **collective punishment** as a **political tool** to target human rights defenders and their families. This feudal practice is now being employed to **punish loved ones from toddlers to pensioners**. Anecdotal accounts indicate the CCP has been expanding this illegal practice under Xi Jinping in terms of victim numbers, frequency of use and type of punishment. Collective punishment is used to **coerce confessions, frighten family members from advocacy and silence overseas critics**. It is also increasingly adopted as a **tool of transnational repression** in persuade to return operations to coerce overseas targets, including telecom fraud suspects, to return to China.



Collective punishment / kə'lek.tɪv 'pʌn.ɪʃ.mənt / *noun* A state-sanctioned punishment or threat to punish an individual based entirely on their relationship (usually familial) to someone suspected of a crime, found guilty of a crime, or a political target. Collective punishment is an arbitrary punishment. Also known as family punishment, kin punishment, or guilt by association.

CHINA'S SIX MAIN TYPES OF COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

LOSS OF FREEDOM

Prison, enforced disappearance, detention, involuntary psychiatric commitment, house arrest



LOSS OF INCOME

Loss of job, demotion, freezing of bank account, freezing of social welfare payments



LOSS OF EDUCATION

Children kicked out of school, new school applications denied, even kindergarten



LOSS OF SHELTER

Home eviction, even mothers with young children



EXIT BAN

Blocked at the border, confiscation of passport, denial of passport application



PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Beating, kicking, threats, even death

