

TRAPPED: CHINA'S EXPANDING USE OF EXIT BANS



China has been expanding its use of exit bans under Xi Jinping. Exit bans have become one of the many tools used by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as part of broad efforts to tighten control over all aspects of people's lives.

Changes under Xi Jinping

- Exit ban use is rising (official data, increase in laws, anecdotal evidence)
- Supervision Law (2018) legalizes exit bans on investigation targets and by a non-judicial body; used as a tool of transnational repression on family members
- Increase in exit bans on human rights defenders and families on vague national security grounds
- Foreign journalists now threatened with exit bans

Problems with China's exit bans

- Exit bans issued without legal justification nor proper transparency
- Laws complex, vague, ambiguous and expansive, any government body for any reason may issue an exit ban
- Often impossible to appeal
- Blanket ethnic-wide effective bans target millions of Uyghurs and Tibetans

