TARGETED IN TÜRKIYE:
China’s Transnational Repression Against Uyghurs

The People’s Republic of China seeks to monitor and control Uyghurs living overseas through the use of established networks in both countries. Interviews with Uyghurs in Türkiye show that one of these networks involves police and Neighbourhood Working Groups in China and Chinese mission staff and informants in Türkiye. Leveraging intelligence gathered on Uyghurs living in Türkiye and their fear for the safety of family members back in China, Chinese police coerce or threaten them into stopping activism work; producing pro-China propaganda; and/or spying on other Uyghurs in Türkiye.

Chinese police contact Uyghurs overseas directly by phone or message or indirectly via family members or Chinese mission staff in Türkiye.

Coercive approaches used to force Uyghur targets to cooperate include:
- Threats to punish family members
- Threats to prevent passport renewal
- Offers of money

These findings are based on a survey (93 respondents) and semi-structured interviews (17) with Uyghurs living in Türkiye conducted in 2022 by guest contributor Yalkun Uluyol. They are supported by many other contemporary reports on China’s widespread transnational repression of Uyghurs.