

TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR LIU BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

JUNE 4, 2026

WASHINGTON DC

Chairman Sullivan, Co-Chairman Smith, and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for inviting me to testify here today.

My name is Arthur Liu. I am a political dissident from China and the father of Olympic Gold Medalist Alysia Liu.

It is especially meaningful to testify before this Commission on June 4, the anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, because the story I am telling today began in 1989 and, in many ways, continues to this day.

June 4 is a day that I will never forget.

Thirty-seven years ago today, the Chinese government sent tanks and soldiers into the streets of Beijing and used military force against its own people. Thousands of students and civilians who had gathered peacefully to call for democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the rule of law and basic human rights lost their lives. Hundreds more were severely injured.

At that time, I was in Guangzhou attending graduate school in Zhongshan University. I was one of the principal organizers of the democracy movement there.

When news of the massacre reached Guangzhou, I was devastated. I could not understand and believe how a government that claimed to serve the people could turn its weapons against its own young people.

In response, I organized additional peaceful protests and demonstrations condemning the violence. Soon afterwards, I became the most wanted democracy activist in southern China.

I was fortunate to escape to Hong Kong. I came to America as a refugee in the end of 1989.

After I came to America, I continued to organize protests in front of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco and in front of the Chinese Embassy here in Washington, D.C calling upon the Chinese government to release political and religious prisoners in China. I have spoken publicly many times about the human rights abuses in China.

Like many refugees, I believed that once I arrived in America, I had left political persecution behind.

An incident in late 2021 proved me wrong!

To explain what happened, I must first tell you a little bit about my daughter, Alysa Liu.

Alysa recently won two gold medals for the United States of America at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan-Cortina. Before that, she became the youngest U.S. women's champion in history when she won the U.S. Figure Skating Championships at ages 13 and 14. She set records as the youngest female skaters in history ever to land a triple Axel in international competitions, at the age of 12, and she was the first female skater in history to land both a triple Axel and a quadruple jump in the same competition program. In 2021, it was clear that she was on her way to represent the United States of America in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

One day in late October or early November 2021, I received a phone call. The caller identified himself as an official associated with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. He told me that he was conducting travel preparedness for international travels for me and my daughter and needed copies of our passports. He gave me a fax number to fax them to him. I told him that I would do it the next day. But I never did. That request felt unusual to me given that I knew how to submit our passports to the US Figure Skating Association for international competitions.

A few days later, I got a phone call from the FBI and they wanted to meet with me.

During that meeting, agents informed me that my daughter and I were the targets of a Chinese government intelligence operation. They told me that an individual operating on behalf of the People's Republic of China had come to the San Francisco Bay Area and was attempting to obtain personal information about us, including passport information.

I was shocked.

My first thought was not about myself. It was about my daughter. I felt fearful for Alysa's safety not only in Beijing, but also in the United States. When Alysa returned from a competition in Japan, I decided to take her to another city for training.

As we were boarding our flight, I received a telephone call from the FBI.

The agent informed me that the spy was on his way to our home.

I will never forget that moment. It's a scene straight out of a movie! I was feeling chills in my bones.

The FBI agent informed me that they were prepared to move forward with the arrests of the spies. But I was terrified for Alysa's safety in Beijing and mental stress if the spying operation

came to light. I asked the FBI not to take any actions until after the Olympic Games and until Alysa returned home safely from China. I also requested additional security precautions for her during the Olympic Games.

Throughout her time in Beijing, Alysa was accompanied by two adults as she traveled between venues and participated in the Olympic Games. That gave me some comfort. But it never completely eliminated my fear for her safety. As a father, I was worried every day and prayed for her safe return to America, every day.

On March 16, 2022, after the Olympic Games, the Department of Justice announced criminal charges against the spies, one of them was Matthew Ziburis.

According to the federal criminal complaint, I was identified as "Dissident 3" and Alysa was identified as the "family member."

The complaint alleged efforts to obtain information about me and my family, including passport information, personal identifying information, and details about our lives. The complaint further alleged surveillance efforts directed at me, including placing GPS tracker on my car, to track my daily activities.

After the spying operation came to light in the news, a neighboring business owner came over to me and told me that he had seen the spy identified as Matthew Ziburis several times lingering around the lobby in front of my office.

I am personally grateful to the brave FBI agents who provided security for me and my daughter. I appreciate that the US government took forceful actions to prosecute those spies. However, America cannot just stop there.

We all must understand that America will not be safe until China becomes a democracy!

We all must understand that America will not be safe until China has a government which respects basic human rights and honors the rule of law!

We all must understand that America will not be safe until people all over the world can live peacefully and harmoniously together.

America, we have a lot of work to do! Thank you!

Thank you again for inviting me to testify here today. I look forward to answering your questions.