

# Cage Series Report No.1

Real-Name Report on Border Control Cases  
involving Citizens in China



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Alliance for Citizens' Rights



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#### **About Alliance for Citizens' Rights**

Alliance for Citizens' Rights is a non-governmental organization established in 2025. It is dedicated to civic education, citizens networking and mutual support, and the advocacy and protection of civil rights. Its mission is to enhance citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities and to work toward building a Beautiful China characterized by freedom, justice, and love.

## Preface

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Article 13 of the Declaration explicitly states:

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state;
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Although the Chinese government signed the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* in New York in October 1998, it has consistently disregarded the clear provisions of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. It has arbitrarily employed border control measures—prohibiting citizens from freely leaving or entering China—to carry out long-term persecution of human rights defenders and their families, as well as the collective restriction of innocent Tibetans, Uyghurs, and members of other ethnic groups.

Since 2015, some non-governmental organizations and media outlets have drawn attention to China’s increasingly severe border-control practices. They have examined relevant laws and regulations, conducted detailed legal analyses, produced reports, and issued public appeals <sup>[1][2]</sup>. Nevertheless, the Chinese government has shown no signs of restraint. It continues to use these measures to silence dissent and restrict fundamental civil rights, arbitrarily barring citizens from leaving China without providing any explanation or justification or offering only an unsubstantiated verbal claim of “endangering national security.”

In recent years, the use of border-control measures has further expanded—restricting the ability of teachers and civil servants to travel abroad <sup>[3]</sup>, limiting the movement of Taiwanese individuals who travel to or work in China <sup>[4]</sup> and even targeting citizens of other countries <sup>[5][6]</sup>.

This report compiles verified cases of individuals who remain subject to border-control restrictions, based on information obtained through public sources or direct contact with the individuals concerned, their families, or friends. It does not include cases in which such restrictions were previously imposed but have since been lifted.

## List of Cases: Arranged and Numbered Alphabetically by Name

No	Name (Pinyin)	Occupation/Identity	Exit Ban Timeline and Records	Notes
1	Longjun Bao	Lawyer	After the 709 Crackdown in 2015, the entire family was placed under exit ban. After negotiations, the son was later allowed to go abroad for studies. Lawyer Bao Longjun and his wife Lawyer Wang Yu have been unable to obtain passports ever since. In late May 2025, Lawyer Wang Yu tried to apply for a passport in Hainan but was also unsuccessful.	Son in the US
2	Yuan Cheng	NGO Worker	Released from prison in July 2024. Nanjing State Security announced that Cheng Yuan was deprived of political rights for 5 years and prohibited from leaving the country.	Family in the US
3	Hai Cheng	Lawyer	Restricted from leaving the country for many years.	
4	Yunfei Chen	Human Rights Activist	Restricted from leaving the country for many years.	
5	Jianfang Chen	Human Rights Activist	On September 14, 2013, blocked from leaving at Guangzhou Baiyun Airport when invited by International Service for Human Rights to attend the UN Universal Periodic Review of China in Geneva. In September 2017, blocked from leaving at Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport when invited by Front Line Defenders (headquartered in Ireland) to attend a human rights forum in Ireland.	
6	Zhenya Dai	Senior Accountant	Was secretly detained for 4 months for participating in the 1226 Xiamen gathering. When requesting the police to return his passport in 2022, the police informed him that the passport had been cancelled and his exit of China was prohibited.	
7	Erwei Du	Journalist, Media Professional	Was imprisoned for 1 year 7 months for speech related crimes and was placed under exit ban since his release from prison on March 18, 2021.	
8	Jiaxi Ding	Former Lawyer	Was intercepted at Beijing Capital International Airport in March 2018 when attempting to leave China. He was still under exit ban when he forcibly disappeared in December 2019. He is Currently in Prison. His sentence ends in 2032, followed by 3 years of deprivation of political rights.	Family in the US
9	Jueping Ge	Human Rights Activist	After being released from prison in August 2021, Ge Jueping's passport application was rejected. Despite multiple negotiations with local police, he is still unable to apply for a passport to this day.	

10	Wenxiu Ge	Lawyer	He has been on exit ban since June 2014. Briefly lifted at some point, then was restricted again.	
11	Yongxi Ge	Lawyer	Restricted from leaving the country for many years.	
12	Zhicheng Gao	Lawyer	Forcibly disappeared in August 2017, whereabouts unknown to this day. Was under exit ban before disappearance.	Family in the US
13	Yu Gao	Independent Journalist	It has been under exit ban since 2012 for many years.	
14	Yuhua Guo	Sociology Professor	Informed cannot leave the country when entering Hong Kong from Shenzhen in May 2023.	
15	Feixiong Guo	Human Rights Activist	Imprisoned and under exit ban for many years. He was arrested again in 2022 and was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with 3 years deprivation of political rights.	Family in the US
16	Zhenming Guo	Artist, Independent Film Director	Informed cannot leave the country in December 2023 when departing for a film festival in Singapore.	
17	Weifang He	Law Professor	He was Informed that he cannot leave the country when departing from Beijing Capital Airport in December 2023.	
18	Wan Huang	Investor, Corporate Executive	Restricted from leaving the country for many years.	US citizen of Chinese descent
19	Tianyong Jiang	Lawyer	Since February 2010, has been intercepted multiple times at Beijing Capital Airport customs, Shanghai Pudong Airport customs, and Shenzhen Luohu/Huanggang ports. After accidentally being able to exit to Hong Kong once in May 2013, has never been able to leave again. Informed of exit prohibition upon prison release in February 2019. On May 11 and 16, 2023, he applied for passport and HK/Macau travel permit at Beijing Tongzhou Exit-Entry Administration. After review, application was accepted and fees collected. On the scheduled pickup date, he was told that a letter from Xinyang Exit-Entry Administration indicates his documents are not approved. On February 18, 2024, Jiang Tianyong's parents were told at Xinyang Exit-Entry Administration: their exit of China may endanger national security, restricted from leaving China.	Parents also under exit ban; wife and child in the US
20	Mingri Jin	Pastor	Was on exit ban since July 2018. He was detained on October 9, 2025.	Family in the US

21	Xiaojun Liang	Former Lawyer	Blocked at Beijing International Airport in August 2015, he was verbally told that exit of China would endanger national security.	
22	Xingguo Liang	Associate Law Professor	On November 2, 2024, blocked with his wife at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport while attempting to exit China, verbally told that his exit of China would endanger national security.	Wife also under exit ban
23	Sixin Liu	Lawyer	Already under exit ban during the 709 arrests in 2015. After release on bail in 2016, Lawyer Liu Sixin inquired through contacts with Beijing Public Security Bureau State Security about when the exit ban would be lifted and was told it automatically renews upon expiration.	
24	Wenzu Li	Lawyer's Family Member	Entire family placed under exit ban after the 709 Crackdown in 2015. On March 16, 2025, Li Wenzu and her 12-year-old son were stopped at the exit when departing from Wuhan Tianhe Airport to Thailand. After waiting about 20 minutes, three police officers took her and her child to a small room, where one officer announced: Because your exit would endanger national security and interests, the relevant competent authorities of the State Council have decided you cannot leave the country.	Son also under exit ban
25	Qiaochu Li	Feminist and Labor Rights Activist	Deprived of political rights for 2 years (from August 3, 2024, to August 2, 2026). The deprivation notice explicitly states that she is prohibited from traveling abroad.	
26	Heping Li	Lawyer	His children's passport application was blocked in August 2015. Blocked from going to Hong Kong in February 2016. In June 2023, Lawyer Li Heping, his wife and daughter were all blocked at Chengdu Tianfu Airport. In late October 2023, his son was blocked at Chengdu Tianfu Airport.	Wife and children also under exit ban
27	Chunfu Li	Lawyer	Under exit ban since 709 in 2015. On October 8, 2024, blocked at Luohu checkpoint when traveling from Shenzhen to Hong Kong.	
28	Guisheng Li	Lawyer	Restricted from leaving the country for many years.	
29	Qilei Lin	Lawyer	Blocked at Beijing International Airport in November 2015, he was verbally told 'endangers national security' and denied boarding. Administrative review and litigation were unsuccessful. Passport and HK/Macau travel Permit have now expired. In 2020, his child's passport application was refused without reason.	

30	Siwei Lu	Lawyer	On December 31, 2019, he was intercepted at Sichuan Shuangliu Airport without any reason. His Lawyer's license was revoked on January 13, 2021, for 'improper remarks damaging lawyer's image.' In May, he was told he cannot leave at Shanghai Pudong Airport. Arrested in Laos on July 28, 2023, deported on September 27, released on bail on October 27. Detained again on October 10, 2024. On April 18, 2025, sentenced to 11 months for illegal border crossing, fined 10,000 RMB.	Family in the US
31	Tingge Lu	Lawyer	Under exit ban since December 2019.	
32	Zhengqing Liu	Lawyer	Discovered exit ban when blocked at Shenzhen Luohu crossing in first half of 2018. Still ongoing. Last year, when invited by Independent Chinese PEN Center to attend a meeting abroad, tried to apply for HK visa at Exit-Entry Administration - couldn't even get the visa endorsement.	
33	Yanli Liu	Human Rights Activist	Under exit ban for 5 years. She was not deprived of political rights, but passport application in 2024 was denied. Liu is still unable to leave the country to reunite with family.	Family in the US
34	Dongli Lv	Human Rights Activist	Under exit ban for many years. Appeal for release was unsuccessful.	
35	Chenyue Mao	Bank Executive	Prohibited from leaving China in July 2025 after a business trip to China.	US citizen of Chinese descent
36	Shaoping Mo	Lawyer	Blocked at Beijing International Airport on June 22, 2025, he was verbally told that exit would endanger national security.	
37	Hong Qu	Rights Advocate	Online volunteer. Arrested in May 2020, sentenced to 1 year 4 months for speech crimes. Under exit ban since release.	
38	Quanniu Ren	Lawyer	Discovered exit ban on New Year's Day 2016 when HK/Macau travel permit visa was rejected. He has not attempted to leave China in recent years. He checked with stability maintenance police multiple times and was told that he is still under exit ban.	
39	Aibin Shen	Former Wuxi City Management Captain	Just released from prison and arrested again. Under exit ban for many years.	

40	Ziming Su	Pastor's Wife	Implicated due to arrest of husband Pastor Wang Lin. Blocked with two children on November 10, 2025, not permitted to leave China.	Children also under exit ban
41	Muqing Sui	Lawyer	Under exit ban since 2013 to this day.	Family in the US
42	Jingling Tang	Lawyer	Passport confiscated in 2006. After he was release from prison in 2019, managed to obtain visa during a brief gap. Exit attempts in 2019: first blocked by agents when taking the high-speed train from Hubei to Guangzhou; second, secretly went to Shenzhen but blocked by agents at Luohu customs. In 2006, had tickets for flight departing Hong Kong, blocked by agents when passing customs on train from Guangzhou East to Hong Kong.	Family in the US
43	Jitian Tang	Lawyer	Under exit ban for many years.	
44	Qiaoling Wang	Lawyer's Family Member	See description for Li Heping.	
45	Yu Wang	Lawyer	See description for Bao Longjun.	
46	Quanzhang Wang	Lawyer	See description for Li Wenzu.	
47	Lixiong Wang	Writer	Under exit ban for many years.	
48	Gongquan Wang	Entrepreneur	First restricted from leaving on January 23, 2020. Attempted to leave in February 2025, still blocked at Beijing Capital International Airport citing endangering national security.	Family in the US
49	Chun Xiao	Human Rights Activist	Not permitted to apply for a passport.	
50	Qingxian Xing	Human Rights Activist	Under exit ban since 2017, passport application was denied.	Family in the US
51	Zhiyong Xu	Legal Scholar	Was on travel ban for many years, currently in prison. His sentence ends in 2034, followed by 4 years deprivation of political rights.	
52	Yang Xie	Lawyer	Entire family was under exit ban after 709 arrests in 2015 (wife and children later fled China, but his daughter in US still cannot obtain Chinese passport). After second arrest in January 2022, he is currently still in detention center.	Family in the US
53	Du Ye	Writer	In January 2020, was blocked at Luohu Border Checkpoint when attempting to go to Hong Kong, told on exit ban list. Remains so until now.	

54	Fengchu Yuan / Bing Yuan	Human Rights Activist	Previously he had a passport. Imprisoned for 7 years from 2013-2020 for rights defense. Under exit ban since release.	
55	Jiangfan Yu	Human Rights Activist	Previously she had passport. Imprisoned for 3.5 years from 2013-2017 for petitioning. Imprisoned again for 4.5 years from September 2019 to April 2024. Under exit ban since release, passport application denied.	
56	Shifeng Zhou	Lawyer	Passport application rejected on July 3, 2024. Still restricted from leaving.	
57	Lei Zhang	Lawyer	Was Restricted from leaving China since November 25, 2014, to present.	
58	Baocheng Zhang	Human Rights Activist	Under exit ban since 2017, verbally told at Beijing Capital International Airport that leaving would endanger national security. Police asked him to provide a written guarantee not to meet dissidents or make statements harmful to the country abroad - he refused. On October 18, 2024, attempted to leave via South Korea, again blocked at airport for same reason: exit endangers national security. Currently Fengtai District State Security has informed that superiors prohibit his exit, and he must not participate in any rights defense activities or post rights defense information online.	Family in the US
59	Yi Zhang	Distributor/Dealer	In 2015, he was verbally told that a passport could not be issued to him, no explanation given. In 2022, passport application was denied. Asked police when exit ban would end, told it shows February 2023. Applied again in February 2023, rejected during on-site review. Police told him he is under long-term exit ban and should not come to apply for passport again.	Family in the Netherlands
60	Yihe Zhang	Writer	She was informed that she cannot leave the country in July 2023.	
61	Donghai Wen	Lawyer	Under exit ban since August 2016. Applied for information disclosure to Zhuhai Customs, applied for HK/Macau travel permit at Changsha Yuhua Branch Public Security Bureau but rejected. Passport expired in May 2025. Attempted to renew it on July 28 but was rejected.	Family in the US
62	Se Wei	Poet, Writer	Under exit ban for many years.	
63	Bin Wu	Media Professional	Under exit ban for many years.	

## **Case Analysis and Conclusion**

Among the above 63 verified, real-name cases collected, the affected individuals include NGO workers, urban-management officers, pastors, pastor's wife and kids, writers, artists women's-rights and labor-rights activists, entrepreneurs, senior banking executives, legal scholars, university professors, independent journalists, rights defenders, lawyers, and family members of lawyers. Lawyers (including those who have had their licenses revoked) constitute the largest group. A clear pattern emerging from these cases is that many human-rights defenders, even after imprisonment and other forms of persecution, continue to be subjected to exit bans and thus remain deprived of their freedom of movement.

The border-control measures documented in these cases generally fall into the following three categories [1]:

1. Confiscating or withholding citizens' passports or travel documents, such as Mainland–Hong Kong/Macau Travel Permits, thereby directly depriving citizens of their right to leave the country.
2. Refusing to issue passports or Mainland–Hong Kong/Macau Travel, effectively preventing citizens from traveling abroad.
3. Arbitrarily preventing citizens holding valid passports or travel documents from exiting the country at border checkpoints, typically under the vague and unsubstantiated pretext of “endangering national security.”

All 63 cases examined lack any clear legal basis or procedural transparency. Affected individuals have no effective channels for complaint or remedy. This demonstrates the complete absence of the rule of law in the application of border-control measures. Any citizen may be subjected to such restrictions at any time, and there is no predictability as to when—if ever—the restrictions will be lifted.

Within the cases analyzed, one of the cases resulted in a cross-border abduction by authorities due to the border-control restriction, ultimately leading to criminal prosecution and imprisonment. Eighteen cases involve family separation between spouses or between parents and children, and Eight cases involve border-control measures imposed on entire families. Collectively, these border control practices have inflicted profound harm and suffering on family life and on society.

As of the publication of this report, we continue to receive additional verified real-name cases from affected individuals and their friends. These will be incorporated into subsequent follow-up reports and advocacy materials. When these new cases are considered alongside the widespread exit restrictions imposed on other ethnic groups, as outlined in the preface, and the mass confiscation of passports from government officials, civil servants, educators, and others, it becomes evident that the total number of individuals currently subjected to exit bans in China is exceedingly large. The arbitrary deprivation of citizens' right to leave and enter the country has reached an alarming—and seemingly unconstrained—degree.

We hope that this report will contribute to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding within the international community of the Chinese government's disregard for the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and its persistent violations of fundamental human rights. We further urge the international community to press the Chinese government to honor the international conventions it has signed. Finally, we call upon human-rights organizations worldwide to join us in advocating for those subjected to arbitrary border controls and in demanding that the Chinese government return to its citizens their fundamental freedoms and human rights.

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