



# USINDOPACOM Legal Vigilance Update

## Issue #43, 8 August 2025

PREVAIL

Teammates,

Below please find the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's (USINDOPACOM) Legal Vigilance Update (LVU). To access previous LVUs, please visit <https://www.pacom.mil/Contact/Directory/Jo/Jo6-Staff-Judge-Advocate/>.

### Quote of the Week:

**"[T]he CCP's political warfare efforts are a highly orchestrated, interconnected, and multi-tiered set of activities that include so-called white, gray, and black elements:**

**White, or overt means**, involve CCP diplomatic and economic actions, official statements and state-controlled media propaganda, military operations, and trade relations that are used as levers of influence.

**Gray, or semi-overt means**, involve law enforcement and militia encroachments in the maritime space, the use of foreign media and advanced information technology tools including algorithms and bots to propagate and reinforce disinformation, funding and manipulation of political parties and front groups, discounted junkets for politicians, academics, journalists, and students to visit China (who are then subjected to influence by CCP United Front representatives), temple donations and cultural exchanges, and co-option of social media influencers and entertainment celebrities, to name a few.

**Black, or covert means**, involve agents emplaced for the purposes of espionage, influence, and/or sabotage, recruitment of former security force personnel, use of ghost fleet vessels to damage Taiwan infrastructure, establishment of sleeper cells and weapons caches, offensive cyber operations, computer network exploitation, and activation of criminal groups such as the Triads in Taiwan for various purposes ranging from harassment to potential assassinations."

[Testimony of Michael W. Studeman](#)

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Retired

For the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (July 23, 2025)

### • 3 August 2025: China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels conduct destabilizing patrol in the waters around Japan-administered Senkaku Islands.

- **Bottom-line:** the CCG vessels loitered in waters surrounding the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands and reportedly approached a Japanese fishing vessel, behavior that is fundamentally destabilizing in light Japan's longstanding and peaceful administration of the Senkaku Islands.

#### ▪ References:

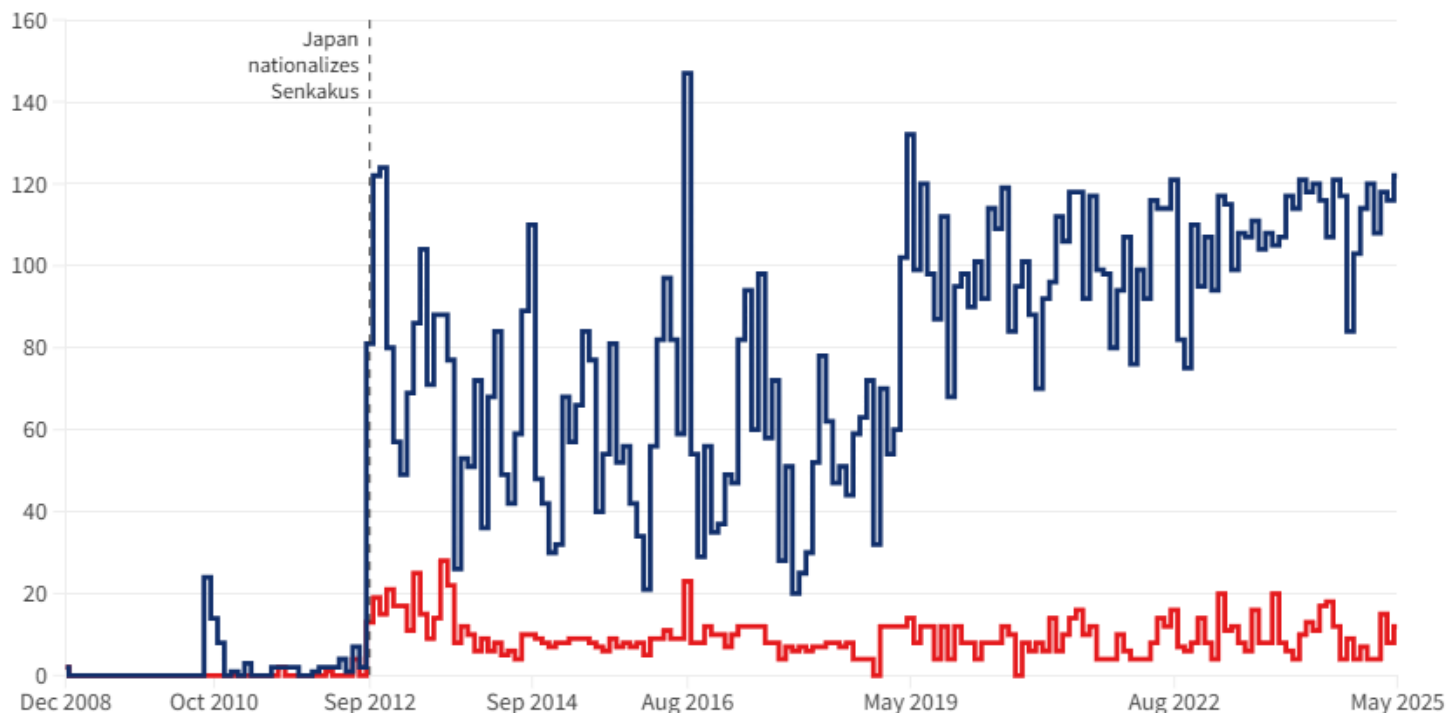
- [Two Chinese government ships again enter Japan's territorial waters off Senkakus \(NHK, Aug. 3, 2025\)](#)

#### ▪ Key points:

- The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) reported that the two CCG ships entered the Japan-administered waters on August 2 and remained for 43 hours.
- The two CCG ships returned to the area and attempted to approach a Japanese fishing vessel on August 4, and four other CCG ships entered the Japan-administered waters surrounding the Senkakus for approximately two hours on August 5.
- In February 2025, [U.S. President Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba](#) **"reaffirmed that Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security applies to the Senkaku Islands, and reiterated their strong opposition to any action that seeks to undermine Japan's longstanding and peaceful administration of the Senkaku Islands."**

## Chinese vessel activity in Japan-held Senkaku islets

No. of vessels detected in: ■ Territorial sea ■ Contiguous zone

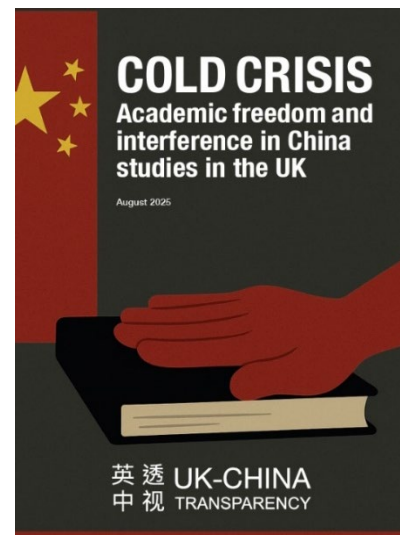


Source: [Japan Coast Guard](#)

- 2 Aug 2025: Chinese national charged in Australia for foreign interference.
  - **Bottom-line:** the Australian Federal Police (AFP) charged a Chinese national under Australia's Foreign Interference Laws for allegedly covertly gathering information on a Canberra Buddhist Association on behalf of the Public Security Bureau of China.
    - References:
      - [Joint Press Release, Chinese national charged with foreign interference offence in Canberra \(AFP and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Aug. 4, 2025\)](#)
      - [Chinese woman arrested in Australia on foreign interference charge \(Reuters, Aug. 4, 2025\)](#)
    - Key points:
      - A Chinese national accused of covertly collecting information about a Canberra Buddhist association on behalf of a foreign principal has been charged by the AFP under the Counter Foreign Interference Taskforce (CFITF).
      - ***The AFP allege the woman, who is also an Australian permanent resident, was tasked by a Public Security Bureau of China to covertly gather information about the Canberra branch of Guan Yin Citta, a Buddhist association.***
      - The Buddhist Association is banned in China, and a number of its supporters have reportedly been prosecuted by authorities in China.
      - China's Ministry of Affairs spokesperson in Beijing said, "We never interfere in other countries' internal affairs, and in the meanwhile, firmly oppose any disruption to the normal people-to-people interactions, exchanges and cooperation between China and relevant country under the pretext of foreign interference."

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- The Director General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization said:  
***“Foreign interference...is an appalling assault on the Australian values, freedoms and sovereignty...[a]nyone who thinks it is acceptable to monitor, intimidate and potentially repatriate members of our diaspora communities should never underestimate our capabilities and resolve.”***
- 3 August 2025: new report documents Chinese Communist Party (CCP) interference on UK universities.
  - **Bottom-line:** UK-China Transparency—a UK think tank—reported that the **CCP allegedly organized the harassment and surveillance of UK-based academic researchers and students studying China and Taiwan.**
    - References:
      - [Cold Crisis: Academic freedom and interference in China studies in the UK \(UK-China Transparency, Aug. 3, 2025\)](#)
    - Key points:
      - These efforts **are part of China’s coercive campaign to censor certain discussions abroad.**
      - According to the report, members of Chinese Student and Scholars Associations (CSSAs) at UK universities accosted researchers and students online and in person, at the behest of the CCP.
      - Police in China also reportedly harassed family members of Chinese nationals who lectured on subjects which China considers “sensitive.”
      - The report states: “During the last twenty years, the surge in the numbers of Chinese nationals engaged in academic study or work abroad has incentivized the widened internationalization of the CCP’s domestic apparatus for repression. This transnational repression is also motivated by broader strategic and diplomatic considerations, to the extent that disincentivizing Chinese nationals from undertaking anti-CCP activity abroad is seen as a way of protecting the CCP’s and China’s international image and preventing the emergence of exile dissident movements.”
      - China’s coercive efforts to control academic narratives about Taiwan abroad support its information operations and cognitive warfare efforts designed to erode Taiwan’s security, economy, and social system.
- 4 August 2025: Hong Kong authorities cancel passports and ban financial support to overseas-based activists previously targeted with arrest warrants and bounties.
  - **Bottom-line:** in a follow-up to Hong Kong’s imposition of arrest warrants and bounties, the government has canceled passports of overseas-based activists and banned financial/housing support, both blatant attempts by the Hong Kong government to apply its national security laws to silence or intimidate individuals on foreign soil.
    - References:
      - [Kanis Leung, Hong Kong cancels passports and bans financial support for 16 overseas activists \(AP News, Aug. 4, 2025\)](#)
    - Key points:
      - Beijing’s national security law imposed on Hong Kong in 2020 has effectively wiped-out public dissent, with many activists arrested, silenced, or forced into exile.
      - On August 8, the United States and other members of the **G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)** (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union) as well as **G7 RRM associate members** (Australia, the



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Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden) [issued a joint statement on the Hong Kong arrest warrants](#), declaring:

- ***“This form of transnational repression undermines national security, state sovereignty, human rights, and the safety of communities.”***
- “We encourage individuals to report suspicious activities and any incidents of intimidation, harassment, coercion, or threats to their law enforcement authorities in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.”

- 1 August 2025: bipartisan bill in the U.S. Senate seeks to counter China’s coercion of Latin America and Caribbean countries that maintain relations with Taiwan.
  - **Bottom-line:** a group of U.S. Senators introduced the United States–Taiwan Partnership in the Americas Act, which seeks to bolster the resilience of Taiwan’s remaining partners in Latin America and the Caribbean against Chinese Communist Party (CCP) coercion, while deepening U.S.–Taiwan collaboration in the Western Hemisphere.
    - References:
      - [U.S. Senate Bill, United States – Taiwan Partnership in the Americas Act \(introduced Aug. 1, 2025\)](#)
      - [Press Release, Merkley, Curtis, Kaine, Ricketts Announce Bipartisan Bill to Support Taiwan’s Diplomatic Partners in Latin America and Caribbean \(Senator Jeff Merkley, Aug. 1, 2025\)](#)
      - [Lee I-chia, US proposes bill to support seven allies of Taiwan \(Taipei Times, Aug. 5, 2025\)](#)
    - Key points:
      - ***Though the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the U.S. has a robust unofficial relationship.***
      - ***The United States and Taiwan share similar values, deep commercial and economic links, and strong people-to-people ties, which form the bedrock of our friendship and serve as the impetus for expanding U.S. engagement with Taiwan.***
      - The *United States-Taiwan Partnership in the Americas Act* would:
        - Affirm U.S. policy to support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan.
        - Establish a mechanism to monitor and respond to China-influenced infrastructure and development projects aimed at disrupting Taiwan’s relationships with Latin American and Caribbean states.
        - Require regular reporting to Congress on China’s pressure tactics and U.S. efforts to support Taiwan’s partners.
        - Encourage deeper U.S.–Taiwan coordination in the region, including through joint development efforts, public diplomacy, and collaboration between U.S. embassies and Taiwan’s representative offices.
      - Senator Jeff Merkley (co-sponsor) said: ***“China’s campaign to bully countries into abandoning Taiwan is part of its broader effort to reshape the global order through coercion and backroom deals.*** This bipartisan bill pushes back by supporting governments that choose to maintain ties with Taiwan and makes clear that every nation should be free to choose its partners without fear of retribution from Beijing.”
      - Senator Pete Ricketts (co-sponsor) said: “Communist China would like nothing more than to force unification without war. That’s why one of Beijing’s key objectives is to isolate Taiwan diplomatically through economic statecraft and coercion.”