The Chinese Communist Party and the Coronavirus Faith & Law April 24, 2020

Chen Guangcheng and William Saunders

Greetings! Today I am going to talk about human rights and the coronavirus in China

As the corona virus has spread across China and around the world, causing harm to people everywhere, it is time to recognize the threat the Chinese Communist Party poses to all humanity.

The CCP suppresses and manipulates information to strengthen its hold on power, regardless of the toll in human life. Over the past weeks, the CCP has told the world that it has controlled the virus, that it has been victorious. Many people and leaders around the world seem to believe this. And many people are saying we should do what the authoritarian regime has done in China.

This is dangerous. There is nothing to believe in what the CCP reports. The city of Harbin in Heilongjiang Province is now seeing a major resurgence of the disease. Each day there are more than 6,000 new cases. Harbin is now closed and the neighborhoods within the city are also being closed off, just as previously in Wuhan. Also similar to Wuhan is that they are barricading people in their own homes. In Wuhan whole families have been found dead in their apartments because they could not get out. Now this is happening in Harbin too. More places are coming under lockdown, like Handan, in Hebei Province, in Guangdong Province, and Wuhan again. This is despite the authorities ordering everyone back to work and telling the outside world that they have the virus under control.

The resurgence is directly related to the CCP hiding the truth and cracking down on people who tried to share information on the virus. Moreover, the CCP is taking advantage of the pandemic to carry out its suppression campaign. So-called quarantine sites are in fact secret detention sites where they can hold human rights activists.

In February, during the lockdown of Wuhan, citizen journalists like Fang Bin, Chen Qiushi and Li Zihua recorded what was happening in Wuhan's hospitals and crematoriums. They used their smart phones. They documented people collapsing in the streets, body bags piling up in vans, a hearse carrying seven bodies, hearses and vans carrying bodies working 24 hours a day. Then they shared their findings on line.

Their documentary evidence contradicted CCP propaganda. So the CCP sent public security to break into Fang Bing's home and take him away. Chen Qiushi was also disappeared. As of today no one knows where the whereabouts of either of them. Li Zihua, recently released from quarantine, described how he was chased by public security, and then captured and detained. Meanwhile the authorities said he was under quarantine.

The writer Fang Fang from Wuhan wrote daily journals of the epidemic in Wuhan to let people know what was happening in her city. Netizens applauded her work and were glad that someone was describing the shocking things that were going on, despite the fact that many said her writing only covered about 1% of what was happening. However, the CCP organized its fake commentators to attack her on line, cursing her, and sending her death threats. The reason people were giving was that by sharing the truth of the pandemic, she was giving America and other Western countries fuel with which to attack China. Even the smallest speaking of the truth can result in these terrifying reactions and threats to personal safety.

As for the data, there is nothing about the CCP's numbers that are believable. What people are calculating is that roughly 700,000 people may have died in China. In terms of people who have been infected no one knows the numbers. Recently the CCP has raised the official number of deaths. Previously the number was a little more than 3,200 in the entire country. Then they said they had missed 1,290 people, so they have adjusted the amount to over 4,600 people. But no one believes this - not the Chinese people and no one outside China either.

None of the numbers from the CCP are believable. If they say, "a little" then you translate as "a lot."

Many people don't understand how the CCP regime operates. Under authoritarianism, there is no rule of law. China's political system is a party-state system, where the party controls everything. Rule by the Communist Party is written into the constitution. Many people don't realize that the so-called government is a puppet that the Party uses to protect single party rule. The Communist Party makes all decisions about who is appointed to government positions. At every level of authority, party committees and party secretaries have the real power. Whether it's the premier of the country

or a local village mayor, any government position is beholden to the party secretary of that level.

This is why there are no independent courts and no independent legal system in China. The judiciary obeys the party. The media is controlled by the party. Corporations are controlled by the party.

The CCP seeks total control of the population. It is doing this through its huge surveillance network, using facial recognition and movement recognition. If you go, for example, to Xinjiang, where the Uighur people live, your phone will be confiscated at the border and any apps the Party deems threatening will be deleted. Although places like Tibet and Xinjiang are extremely controlled, all people throughout China are under surveillance and could be victims of persecution by the party.

Authoritarianism is evil and breeds cruelty. In Wuhan there have been many reports that people who were not dead, who were still breathing and whose bodies were warm, were put into body bags and sent to the crematoriums.

In the early days of the virus, the CCP used unconventional methods to purchase medical supplies from abroad. They used their underground organizations now in many countries around the world - including Australia, Italy, and the Americas - to buy up supplies in vast quantities. Just masks and gowns totaled 2,200,000,000. This left many countries depleted of vital supplies. This is not the work of an individual - individuals don't have that much purchasing power. This is the result of the CCP at work, and it shows the extent of the infiltration of the CCP into the United States and other democracies.

Like fire and water, authoritarian dictatorships do not mix with democracies. No matter how nice the free world tries to be, dictators will not change. The reality you have to face is that dictators see you as the enemy. And it's not only the people directly ruled by dictators who face harm, as you now see from the coronavirus. That is why leaders of other countries can't ignore or simply make a show of confronting dictators. If free nations do not face the difficult task of deciding how to eradicate communist authoritarianism - a cancer on humanity - they will become its victims.

So the virus and the way it has played out is directly related to the authoritarian regime. And solving the crisis will also depend on dealing with the regime.

As of today, the total number of infected people in the United States is over 890,000, and deaths total more than 50,000. This number is more than nine times the amount of deaths in 9-11 and Pearl Harbor combined. After 9-11 America decided to do whatever it could to eliminate terrorism. After Pearl Harbor America immediately entered the war in the Pacific, and thus eventually destroyed fascism. The CCP has suppressed the truth about this virus and has allowed it to spread around the world, creating a catastrophe. When the epidemic is finally under control, the rest of the world must come together to confront the CCP.

A top priority should be to consider how to directly and effectively assist the Chinese people in understanding, resisting, and overthrowing the CCP dictatorial regime. The West needs to take specific measures to weaken the CCP's capability to oppress, including technological, economic or other forms of assistance. If the CCP persecutes human rights activists, religious believers, and democracy activists, it should pay the highest price for its actions. If the CCP does something that causes hundreds of thousands of deaths world-wide, it also needs to be held responsible.

In summary: the CCP is the biggest and most serious virus of all. With over 193,000 people dead worldwide from the coronavirus, there should be no question of the regime's threat. If we cannot work together to stop the CCP, we will continue to be in danger even after the coronavirus has passed. People in the free world need to understand that the CCP's threat is not just to the Chinese people, but to the whole world.

Thank you.

Bill and I look forward to your questions.