# British businessman faces US extradition over espionage for China’s PLA



A British businessman, John Miller, has been embroiled in a sensational espionage case, accused of spying for China and attempting to procure sensitive military technology for the People’s Liberation Army (PLA). Miller, 63, was apprehended in Serbia on April 24, following a coordinated sting operation led by the FBI. He now faces extradition to the United States, where he faces serious criminal charges.

Court documents reveal that Miller was involved in a scheme to buy military equipment, including missile launchers and advanced surveillance technology, which he intended to send to China. In interactions with undercover agents posing as arms dealers, Miller reportedly communicated with significant enthusiasm about his plans, referring to Chinese President Xi Jinping as “The Boss.” This phrase, according to FBI agents, provides incriminating evidence of his awareness of operating under the directives of the Chinese government.

Neighbours in Miller’s affluent community in Tunbridge Wells have expressed astonishment at the revelations. Described as a ‘respectable family man,’ Miller's domestic life reportedly showed no indication of his alleged activities. His wife is known for her volunteer work at a local church, and their daughter attended a prestigious school. One neighbour remarked, “They are the perfect family to have as neighbours,” highlighting the shock surrounding Miller's arrest.

The indictment filed against Miller outlines a disturbing pattern of alleged espionage. Documents detail how he sought to procure hardware valued in millions, suggesting methods of smuggling sophisticated devices hidden inside domestic items like a food blender. It has been noted that these actions occurred in a geopolitical climate increasingly tense, particularly concerning fears of Chinese aggression towards Taiwan.

Furthermore, the indictment expands on Miller’s alleged collaboration with Cui Guanghai, a Chinese national based in the U.S. Both men are accused of not only trafficking military technology but also of conspiratorial harassment against a Chinese-American artist critical of Xi. Prosecutors assert that Miller aimed to intimidate this critic to prevent him from protesting during Xi Jinping's state visit to the U.S.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche condemned the defendants' actions, emphasising that their activities constituted a direct threat to U.S. national security and democratic principles. The Department of Justice has signalled its intent to confront foreign entities seeking to undermine freedom and security on U.S. soil.

The pair faces a maximum of forty years in prison if convicted on the various charges outlined in their indictment, which also includes allegations of interstate stalking. In a move indicative of the calculated nature of their conspiracy, the indictment describes how they hired individuals to surveil and disrupt the artist’s activities, up to and including attempts to damage his property.

The implications of this case resonate far beyond individual accountability. It raises critical questions regarding the ongoing tensions between the U.S. and China, particularly with respect to espionage and the suppression of dissent. In recent years, the U.S. government has ramped up its scrutiny of Chinese efforts to exert influence and conduct espionage on American soil, alongside calls for a more robust response to such threats.

In light of these developments, experts have reiterated the need for vigilance against foreign interference, with many calling for stronger policies to safeguard U.S. interests. The fallout from Miller's case could further complicate already strained diplomatic relations, as concerns mount over security vulnerabilities linked to both espionage and transnational repression.

As the case unfolds, it remains to be seen how Miller will navigate the legal challenges ahead, and what repercussions his actions may have on international relations and the broader discourse on security in an increasingly interconnected world.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/five-individuals-indicted-crimes-related-transnational-repression-scheme-silence)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-and-chinese-defendants-charged-economic-espionage-and-theft-trade-secrets-connection), [[6]](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/two-indicted-alleged-efforts-supply-iran-us-materials-gas-centrifuges-enrich-uranium)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/), [[7]](https://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/library/news/2025/intell-250425-doj01.htm)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme), [[4]](https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/five-individuals-indicted-crimes-related-transnational-repression-scheme-silence)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme), [[3]](https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-and-chinese-defendants-charged-economic-espionage-and-theft-trade-secrets-connection)
* Paragraph 9 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme), [[3]](https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/)
* Paragraph 10 – [[6]](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/two-indicted-alleged-efforts-supply-iran-us-materials-gas-centrifuges-enrich-uranium), [[7]](https://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/library/news/2025/intell-250425-doj01.htm)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14768365/British-father-spying-China-FBI-sting-US-jail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme> - On April 25, 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the arrest of two foreign nationals, Cui Guanghai and John Miller, in Serbia. They were charged with orchestrating a conspiracy to harass and intimidate a Los Angeles resident critical of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The scheme involved enlisting individuals within the U.S. to surveil the victim and disrupt their activities, including attempts to prevent protests during Xi's visit to San Francisco in November 2023. ([justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-arrested-serbia-directing-interstate-stalking-and-harassment-scheme?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/> - Following the arrests of Cui Guanghai and John Miller in Serbia, the U.S. government sought their extradition. The indictment detailed their efforts to prevent a Los Angeles artist from protesting during Xi Jinping's visit to San Francisco in November 2023. The plot included surveillance, harassment, and attempts to destroy the artist's work. Both defendants faced charges of conspiracy and interstate stalking, each carrying a maximum prison sentence of five years. ([frominsideasia.com](https://frominsideasia.com/us-seeks-extradition-of-2-suspects-arrested-in-serbia-over-scheme-targeting-los-angeles-artist/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/five-individuals-indicted-crimes-related-transnational-repression-scheme-silence> - In a separate case, five individuals were indicted for their roles in a transnational repression scheme aimed at silencing critics of the People's Republic of China residing in the U.S. The indictment revealed that Liu, a co-conspirator, hired individuals to obtain sensitive personal information of PRC dissidents, which was then used to target and harass them. The scheme involved improper access to federal law enforcement databases to gather confidential information. ([justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/five-individuals-indicted-crimes-related-transnational-repression-scheme-silence?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-and-chinese-defendants-charged-economic-espionage-and-theft-trade-secrets-connection> - The U.S. Department of Justice charged U.S. and Chinese defendants with economic espionage and theft of trade secrets. The charges related to a conspiracy to sell trade secrets to Chinese companies. The indictment highlighted the defendants' efforts to steal sensitive information from U.S. companies and provide it to Chinese entities, undermining U.S. national security and economic interests. ([justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-and-chinese-defendants-charged-economic-espionage-and-theft-trade-secrets-connection?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/two-indicted-alleged-efforts-supply-iran-us-materials-gas-centrifuges-enrich-uranium> - Two individuals were indicted for allegedly attempting to supply Iran with U.S.-origin materials intended for gas centrifuges used in uranium enrichment. The indictment detailed their efforts to procure and export sensitive materials, violating U.S. export control laws and international sanctions. The case underscored the U.S. government's commitment to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. ([justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/two-indicted-alleged-efforts-supply-iran-us-materials-gas-centrifuges-enrich-uranium?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/library/news/2025/intell-250425-doj01.htm> - An article from GlobalSecurity.org provides an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Department of Justice's announcement regarding the arrest of Cui Guanghai and John Miller in Serbia. The piece discusses the details of the indictment, the methods employed by the defendants to harass and intimidate the Los Angeles resident, and the broader implications for U.S.-China relations and national security. ([globalsecurity.org](https://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/library/news/2025/intell-250425-doj01.htm?utm_source=openai))