BRANDON CASEY, STAFF DIRECTOR (202) 225–4021

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
THAShington, DC 20515

September 4, 2025

Manolo De Los Santos Executive Director The People's Forum 320 West 37th Street New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. De Los Santos:

I write today to demand that The People's Forum, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that you lead, provide certain documents to the Committee on Ways and Means ("the Committee"). Since Hamas' terrorist attacks against Israel on October 7, 2023, The People's Forum has been responsible for an endless amount of chaos and disruption around the country. On October 8, 2023, just one day after the terrorist attacks, The People's Forum organized a protest in Times Square "to stand with the people of Palestine, who have the right to resist apartheid, occupation & oppression" that even Kathy Hochul, New York's Democratic Governor, condemned as "abhorrent and morally repugnant." Even worse, while promoting the event on October 7—the same day that the atrocities occurred—your organization justified the murder of over 1,200 civilians by saying that the terrorists responsible for the attack "have the right to resist." Not only have you been involved in this and other incidents as part of your anti-Israel activism, some of which have led to violence, but your organization has also participated in the recent anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement riots in Los Angeles which resulted in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Press Release Statement on Times Square Palestine Protest Held on October 8, 2023, The People's Forum (Oct. 11, 2023), https://peoplesforum.org/blog\_post/statement-on-times-square-palestine-protest-held-on-october-8-2023/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> @PeoplesForumNYC, X (Oct. 7, 2023), https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1710796636631286032.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Kelly Garrity, New York governor condemns pro-Palestinian rally, POLITICO (Oct. 8, 2023), https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/08/hochul-condemns-pro-palestine-rally-00120510.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> @PeoplesForumNYC, X (Oct. 7, 2023), https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1710796636631286032.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Press Release, Arrest Netanyahu! Artists & Intellectuals Sign On to Letter Rejecting U.S. Visit, THE PEOPLE'S FORUM (July 21, 2024), https://peoplesforum.org/blog\_post/arrest-netanyahu-artists-intellectuals-sign-on-to-letter-rejecting-visit/; Press Release, Protestor Federally Charged with Assault on Officers During the July 24 Demonstration in Washington D.C., United States Department of Justice (Oct. 10, 2024), https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/protestor-federally-charged-assault-officers-during-july-24-demonstration-washington-dc; Chris Nesi, Radical anti-Israel nonprofit urged rampaging Columbia occupiers to recreate BLM 'summer of 2020' riots, NEW YORK POST (May 5, 2024), https://nypost.com/2024/05/05/us-news/radical-anti-israel-nonprofit-urged-rampaging-columbia-occupiers-to-recreate-blm-summer-of-2020-riots/.

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violence and dozens of arrests<sup>6</sup> as well as protests in response to President Trump's strikes against Iran's nuclear program.<sup>7</sup>

On December 21, 2021, the People's Forum posted on X, formerly Twitter, admitting to receiving funding from Neville Roy Singham, a former United States technology mogul who now resides in Shanghai and is closely aligned with the Chinese Communist Party ("CCP").<sup>8</sup> Public reporting suggests that The People's Forum has received over \$20 million from Mr. Singham and his wife, Jodie Evans, the co-founder of CODEPINK,<sup>9</sup> between 2017 and 2022 through shell companies and donor-advised funds.<sup>10</sup> Multiple reports have found that The People's Forum is part of Mr. Singham's network of non-profit organizations that serve as his conduits to spread pro-CCP narratives.<sup>11</sup> This network includes The People's Forum, the organization you lead; Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, a think tank that you work at as a researcher;<sup>12</sup> and several media organizations, including the Peoples Dispatch, where The People Forum's website says your work appears regularly.<sup>13</sup>

Mr. Singham has a long history of questionable ties that have attracted the attention of federal law enforcement. According to a report by the Network Contagion Research Institute, in 1974, Mr. Singham was the subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") investigation into his ties to "groups engaged in activities inimical to U.S. [interests]." Additionally, Mr. Singham worked as a consultant for Huawei, a Chinese multinational corporation and technology

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Hudson Crozier, Group Stoking Anti-ICE LA Riots Tied to Pro-Chinese Communist Millionaire, DAILY CALLER (June 9, 2025), https://dailycaller.com/2025/06/09/group-stoking-anti-ice-la-riots-tied-pro-chinese-communist-millionaire/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Hudson Crozier, China-Linked Protest Network Wasted No Time Rallying For Iran After Trump Strikes, DAILY CALLER (June 24, 2025), https://dailycaller.com/2025/06/24/china-linked-protest-network-rallying-iran-trump-strikes/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> @PeoplesForumNYC, X (Dec. 21, 2021),

https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1473312812944531457?lang=en; Mara Hvistendahl, David A. Fahrenthold, et. al., A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech

Mogul, NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 10, 2023), https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Jodie Evans, CodePINK (accessed on July 2, 2025), https://www.codepink.org/jodie evans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Francesca Block, Meet the American millionaire Marxists funding anti-Israel rallies, NEW YORK POST (Nov. 16, 2023), https://nypost.com/2023/11/16/opinion/meet-the-american-millionaire-marxists-funding-anti-israel-rallies/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Mara Hvistendahl, David A. Fahrenthold, et. al., A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul, NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 10, 2023), https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roysingham-china-propaganda.html; Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial (Jan. 18, 2022), https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/; Micah Reddy and Sam Sole, Who Killed New Frame? AMABHUGANE (July 27, 2022), https://amabhungane.org/220727-who-killed-new-frame/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Staff, The People's Forum (last accessed July 8, 2025), https://peoplesforum.org/about/staff/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See Exhibit 1 for the FBI's report on their investigation into Mr. Singham.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States, Network Contagion Research Institute (May 2024), https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report May-2024.pdf.

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company, from 2001 to 2008.<sup>16</sup> Several reports<sup>17</sup> suggest that Huawei has deep ties to the CCP and in 2012, Huawei even admitted to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that the CCP maintains a Party Committee within their company.<sup>18</sup>

The People's Forum frequently hosts events and courses favoring CCP talking points which seem to be heavily influenced by Mr. Singham. From October 2024 to November 2024, The People's Forum hosted three courses on glorifying the Chinese revolution in honor of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In October 2021, The People's Forum hosted an event alongside the Qiao Collective—a "diaspora Chinese media collective challenging U.S. aggression on China" titled *China and the Left: A Socialist Forum.* In 2022, a peer-reviewed journal published an article examining the Qiao Collective which found that "[w]hile perhaps not directly tied or funded by the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), by ideologically aligning with the PRC, Qiao provides organizational legitimacy as a United States-based organization defending China from the U.S."

While there is nothing wrong with a tax-exempt organization receiving large donations from a private citizen, the Committee is concerned that receiving donations from an individual who lives in Shanghai, has several business ties with companies and individuals linked to the CCP, works with and physically alongside a foreign propaganda company, and attends CCP forums on how to promote the party abroad means that you and the People's Forum are acting as "agent[s] of a foreign principal" as defined by the Foreign Agents Registration Act ("FARA") while operating a taxpayer-supported tax-exempt entity in the United States. There is precedent for the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") to pursue FARA charges in cases with similar facts. Notably, in 2022, the DOJ indicted a Russian legislator and two staff members with conspiracy to act as an agent of a foreign government. <sup>24</sup> In the indictment, the DOJ said that the accused

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> May 15: Mapping Roy Singham's Pro-CCP Influence Network, TABLET MAGAZINE (May 15, 2024), https://www.tabletmag.com/the-scroll/articles/may-15-mapping-roy-singhams-pro-ccp.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Counterintelligence Strategic Partnership Intelligence Note (SPIN), Federal Bureau of Investigation (Feb. 2015), https://info.publicintelligence.net/FBI-Huawei.pdf; Gordon Corera, Huawei: MPs claim 'clear evidence of collusion' with Chinese Communist Party, BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (Oct. 7, 2020),

https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-54455112; Charles Burton, Huawei's Geostrategic Role, European Values Center for Security Policy (Nov. 2020), https://www.europeanvalues.cz/wp-

content/uploads/2020/11/Huaweis\_Geostrategic\_Role.pdf; Balding, Christopher, Huawei Technologies' Links to Chinese State Security Services (July 5, 2019). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3415726 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3415726.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Investigative Report on the U.S. National Security Issues Posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Oct. 8, 2012),

https://stacks.stanford.edu/file/druid:rm226yb7473/Huawei-ZTE%20Investigative%20Report%20(FINAL).pdf. 
<sup>19</sup> WHEN THE PEOPLE STAND UP: 75 Years of the Chinese Revolution, The People's Forum (last accessed on July 9, 2025), https://peoplesforum.org/events/when-the-people-stand-up-75-years-of-the-chinese-revolution/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Qiao Collective, About (last accessed on July 9, 2025), https://www.qiaocollective.com/en/about.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> CHINA AND THE LEFT: A SOCIALIST FORUM, The People's Forum (last accessed on July 9, 2025), https://peoplesforum.org/events/china-and-the-left-a-socialist-forum/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Nachman, L., Rauchfleisch, A., & Hioe, B. (2022). How China Divides the Left: Competing Transnational Left-Wing Alternative Media on Twitter. Media and Communication, 10(3), 50-63.

http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/mac.v10i3.5345 Retrieved from https://escholarship.org/uc/item/48n9r73f.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 22 U.S.C. § 611(c)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> USA v. Babakov, ECF No. 2 (S.D.N.Y. April 7, 2022).

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individuals used a non-profit organization "as a front for a global foreign influence campaign to advance Russia's foreign policy objectives."25

Under the First Amendment, Americans have a right to peacefully express their views, even if those views are reprehensible.<sup>26</sup> However, speech directed at inciting or producing imminent lawlessness, in addition to statements where the speaker means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals – including fighting words or true threats – are not protected under the First Amendment.<sup>27</sup> This could include, for example, The People's Forum hosting a meeting and urging attendees to re-create "the Summer of 2020" and making statements about "Zionist' Columbia administrators who 'want to be more like their masters in Israel," shortly before those same meeting attendees broke into Columbia University's Hamilton Hall and barricaded themselves inside, resulting in the arrests of 44 individuals.<sup>28</sup>

Moreover, using tax-exempt status to spread foreign propaganda while acting as a foreign agent is unacceptable and illegal.<sup>29</sup> The evidence presented in this letter makes it abundantly clear that The People's Forum has been directly funded, as you admit, 30 and influenced by Mr. Singham's CCP affiliations.

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 1(t) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters related to tax-exempt organizations.<sup>31</sup> Oversight authority of this jurisdiction is delegated to the Committee under Rule X clause 2.32 Please provide the following documents to the Committee no later than September 18, 2025.

1. A comprehensive list of all organizations that The People's Forum fiscally sponsors by providing fiduciary oversight, financial management, or other administrative services to. This list should include the i) names of the organizations; ii) the years that you've acted as a fiscal sponsor for each; and iii) the type of support that you've provided for each organization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Aneeta Bhole, Anti-Israel organization leader who received 'millions' from Goldman Sachs refuses to apologize for 'Nazi rhetoric', NEW YORK POST (Jan. 18, 2024), https://nypost.com/2024/01/18/metro/anti-israel-org-leaderrefuses-to-apologize-for-nazi-rhetoric/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Bradenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969); Virginia v. Black, 538 U.S. 343 (2003); Chaplinsky v. State of New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568 (1942); Giboney v. Empire Storage & Ice Co., 336 U.S. 490 (1949).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Chris Nesi, Radical anti-Israel nonprofit urged rampaging Columbia occupiers to recreate BLM 'summer of 2020' riots, NEW YORK POST (May 5, 2024), https://nypost.com/2024/05/05/us-news/radical-anti-israel-nonprofit-urgedrampaging-columbia-occupiers-to-recreate-blm-summer-of-2020-riots/; Joseph Simonson, Anti-Israel Group Encouraged Columbia Protesters to Re-Create 'The Summer of 2020' Hours Before Students Stormed a Building, THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (May 1, 2024), https://freebeacon.com/campus/anti-israel-group-encouragedcolumbia-protesters-to-recreate-the-summer-of-2020-hours-before-students-stormed-a-building/. <sup>29</sup> 22 U.S.C. § 611(c)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> @PeoplesForumNYC, X (Dec. 21, 2021),

https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1473312812944531457?lang=en.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Rule X, clause 1(t), Rules of the House of Representatives, (119<sup>th</sup> Cong.).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Rule X, clause 2, Rules of the House of Representatives, (119<sup>th</sup> Cong.).

- a. Please include all contracts or other legal documents between The People's Forum and all projects that The People's Forum has fiscally sponsored since 2017.
- 2. All documents and communications between any member of The People's Forum and Neville Roy Singham since 2017.
- 3. All documents and communications between any member of The People's Forum and foreign principals since 2017 including:
  - a. a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party;
  - b. a person outside of the United States, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within the United States, or that such person is not an individual and is organized under or created by the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and has its principal place of business within the United States;
  - c. and a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.
- 4. A list of individuals and organizations that have donated more than \$5,000 to The People's Forum since 2017.
- 5. A list of all The People's Forum's grant recipients located outside of the United States since 2017.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith

Committee on Ways and Means

