

Understanding and Preventing Transnational Repression

Transnational repression is when a foreign government threatens, surveils, or intimidates people living in the United States.

Common targets include researchers and students.

Governments may use both physical and digital tactics to influence political behavior, suppress speech, or obtain sensitive information.



Why does this matter for UNT?

Universities are global institutions. Our campus includes international scholars, dual citizens, and students with family abroad. These individuals may face:

- Pressure to report on peers or family
- Threats to family members overseas
- Harassment for participating in academic or political activities
- Digital surveillance of research or communications
- Coercion to return to their home country

Digital tools such as social media, online harassment, and disinformation have made transnational repression easier and more widespread.

Common Tactics Used by Perpetrator States

Transnational repression may take the following forms:

- stalking
- online disinformation campaigns
- harassment
- intimidation or threats
- cyber-hacking
- abusive legal practices and more

How to Recognize Warning Signs

You or someone you know may be experiencing transnational repression if:

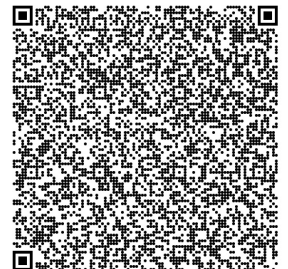
- Receive unexpected contact from foreign officials or individuals claiming to represent them
- Are asked to share info about colleagues, research, or student groups
- Feel pressured to avoid certain topics, events, or collaborations
- Your family reports visits, threats, or questioning
- Experience persistent online harassment tied to your nationality or political views
- Are urged to return to your home country for unclear reasons

How UNT Supports You

We want to protect our researchers and students.

Please:

- Notify campus police if you feel unsafe
- Report through the UNT Trust Line:



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