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TERRORISM

# Chinese 'agroterrorism' could threaten US 'survival as a nation,' expert warns

Kristofor Healey says America must prepare for potential agricultural attacks from foreign adversaries



By **Peter D'Abrosca** · Fox News

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Former DHS official says America needs to focus more on Chinese 'agroterrorism'



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## Former DHS official says America needs to focus more on Chinese 'agroterrorism'

A former DHS official warns that Chinese agricultural terrorism threats need more attention, especially after COVID wreaked havoc on the world.

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attack items that are key to our agricultural survival as a nation."

Healey worked for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for 15 years, first in an immigration enforcement role and then in counter-corruption operations. Now, he is a private investigator and expert witness.



Baggies seized by Border Patrol contain the dangerous fungus fusarium graminearum. (FBI)

## **CHINESE BIOTERROR SUSPECTS' ARRESTS SIGNAL COMMUNIST COUNTRY PLOTTING 'SOMETHING WORSE' THAN COVID: EXPERT**

"Obviously, we're an agricultural-based economy in many ways, so anything that's attacking our wheat, our barley, the basic standard of what goes into so many of our food products that's being introduced intentionally, that's being introduced by a foreign threat to cause disruption," Healey said. "It's the same as any sort of other type of terrorism that's attacking a civilian population. It's just attacking it from that agricultural standpoint."

Chinese nationals Yunqing Jian, 33, and her boyfriend Zunyong Liu, 34, were arrested earlier this month by the FBI for allegedly smuggling *Fusarium graminearum* into the U.S. and studying it in labs over a two-year period. Jian was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan whose research was funded in part by the People's Republic of China.

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One expert warns that agroterrorism from foreign adversaries could cause a "severe disruption" to the United States. (Anthony Kwan/Getty Images)

"I don't think Americans really understand or really recognize the threat that the [Chinese Communist Party] actually holds, and how much our economy is built into the CCP-run economy," said Healey.

### **CCP LOYALIST SHOULD BE SENT TO GITMO AFTER ARREST FOR ALLEGED PATHOGEN SMUGGLING, SAYS CHINA EXPERT**

He said that if a major event, like a war over Taiwan, were to occur, the United States would not be prepared for the wrath that China could unleash on America's crops and other critical infrastructure.

"[Agriculture] is a very vulnerable part of our nation's infrastructure if you have individuals who are coming into this country, as was the case in Michigan, who are coming to study, who have a lab background, who have a background in this sort of development of these sort of organisms, studying or working with these sorts of organisms," Healey said. "If they have ill-intent, that's the sort of thing that could cause severe disruption to our food safety, that could cause severe destruction to... what essentially goes into keeping America running."

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The U.S. should be paying more attention to agricultural and biological terror threats, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images)

## **SUSPECTED CHINESE BIOTERRORISTS SMUGGLED KILLER AGENT INTO US IN BOOTS, OFFICIALS SAY**

"I would suggest that is something we need to be thinking about a lot more, because we just came off, five years ago, the entire world being shut down by what now appears to be a biological item that leaked from a laboratory and then infected millions of people and killed millions of people around the globe," he said.

Healey warned that Americans should be prepared in the event of such an attack.

"You don't have to be a prepper and build a silo in Nebraska and bury all your food supplies and wait for the end of the road, but you do have to be thinking a little bit down the road," he said. "Be prepared in the sense that you're the kind of person who's looking down the road. Not 24 hours in the future, but looking weeks and sometimes months in the future and preparing accordingly."

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Jian and Liu have been charged with conspiracy, smuggling goods into the U.S., false statements and visa fraud. They remain in federal custody.