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# Espionage case involves a giant sculpture, a fake art patron and a Chinese spying ring on U.S. soil

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Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday



Emily Feng



6-Minute Listen

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The U.S. has charged 7 people with spying on behalf of China. One target was in an unlikely venue for Chinese politics: A remote sculpture park in the California desert.

## Transcript

DAVID GURA, HOST:

It is one of the most unusual criminal complaints of recent times, involving a giant sculpture, a fake art patron and the Communist Party of China. This summer, the U.S. announced it had charged seven men it says were part of a Chinese spy ring. And as NPR's Emily Feng reports from California, the alleged spies had some surprising targets.

EMILY FENG, BYLINE: The wind howls. The sun burns overhead, and gusts of sand nearly blind me. But of all places, it is here off the side of a highway in the Mojave Desert that sculptor Chen Weiming has decided to make his art.

CHEN WEIMING: (Through interpreter) This is a tourist Mecca. There are