

Declaration of Zhao Wei as PNG

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The Commission has been provided with all relevant intelligence and assessments, which indicates information on reliability and corroboration of the information contained therein.

Declaration of Zhao Wei as PNG

1. Zhao Wei was an official at the People's Republic of China (PRC) Consulate General in Toronto who arrived in Canada in April 2018. As of May 8, 2023, Zhao Wei was declared *persona non grata*, and left Canada.
2. During the timeframe under review by the Commission, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) formally exchanged information on several occasions regarding foreign officials suspected by CSIS of conducting foreign interference activities in Canada. CSIS also disseminates intelligence to relevant Government of Canada partners concerning any suspected threat related activity undertaken by foreign officials.
3. In January 2022, during the first high-level engagement between Canada and China following the release of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs raised concerns about foreign interference and the activities of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) with her Chinese counterpart.
4. From January 2022 until April 2023, Government of Canada officials repeatedly raised foreign interference with the PRC counterparts, including at the foreign minister and leader levels. During this period, Canadian officials made it clear that if the foreign interference continued, PRC would face increasing consequences from visa delays to visa denials, and position-creation denials. Specific concerns were raised, including with respect to the activities of PRC diplomats, the presence of PRC police stations, and the overflight of "spy balloons". Additional information can be found in the summary "The PRC Targeting of Parliamentarians for the Purpose of Exerting Influence."
5. A limited number of CSIS intelligence reports referencing the PRC's interest in MP Michael Chong were produced and sent to GAC prior to May 2021. These reports do not link Zhao Wei to foreign interference activity.
6. On May 1, 2023, the Globe and Mail published an article linking Zhao Wei to the targeting of Michael Chong. Media appears to have reached this conclusion based on their own interpretation of some events summarized in the topical summaries on "The PRC Targeting of Parliamentarians for the Purpose of Exerting Influence" and "Michael Chong".
7. A separate body of intelligence reporting suggests that some of Mr. Zhao's activities while serving as a diplomat in Canada constituted foreign interference. Given the repeated efforts described in paragraph 4, along with the impact of the article published on May 1, 2023, which effectively meant that Mr. Zhao could no longer function as a diplomat in Canada, on May 4, Deputy Minister of Foreign

Affairs, David Morrison, called in the PRC Ambassador in Canada to advise that Zhao Wei's position in Canada was no longer tenable. From May 4 to 8, 2023, Mr. Morrison and Canada's Ambassador to the PRC conducted a series of high-level *demarches* with PRC counterparts to convey Canadian concerns, again referring specifically to the activities of PRC diplomats, the presence of PRC police stations, and the overflight of "spy balloons".

8. On May 8th, 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that Canada had declared Zhao Wei *persona non grata*.
9. On May 9, 2023, the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared a Canadian diplomat *persona non grata*.