



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

September 28, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Attorney General Garland:

I write to you today concerned that you have opened the floodgates of illicit finance, jeopardized the safety and security of Americans currently living in China and undermined the independence of the Department of Justice.

On Friday, September 24, 2021, we learned that the U.S. Justice Department let Huawei Technologies Co. Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou return to China without any significant consequence for violating U.S. sanctions laws and attempting to conceal it.

There is incontrovertible evidence that Huawei violated our laws and Meng Wanzhou attempted to cover it up. We know from [internal records](#) that China's Huawei Technologies skirted U.S. sanctions law in December 2010 and sent prohibited U.S. computer equipment made by Hewlett-Packard Co to Iran's largest mobile-phone operator. The records, which surfaced in March 2020, echoed facts found in a U.S. indictment brought against Meng in 2018 that alleges Huawei [used](#) a now-liquidated firm Skycom Tech Co Ltd as an "unofficial subsidiary" in Iran to obtain prohibited goods while at the same time Meng [called](#) the relationship between Huawei and Skycom a "normal business relationship" when she knew the opposite was true.

As part of her release, Meng Wanzhou has finally confirmed what we've known to be true for quite some time. She's acknowledged her role in helping conceal Huawei's direct dealing with Iran and violating U.S. sanctions. In exchange, Meng's prosecution has been deferred and will be dropped soon, and in the meantime, she's flown back to China where she's received a [hero's welcome](#).

By letting her go without so much as a slap on the wrist, the United States is broadcasting to any would-be criminals that we are not very serious about enforcing our sanctions laws. This is a dream come true for Iran, Hamas, Russia, North Korea and every other entity who have been slapped with our sanctions. I am deeply troubled by this sequence and am concerned about the message you've sent to any global entity that wants to violate our laws and engage in illicit financial flows.

I am also concerned how the decision to appease China's act of hostage diplomacy affects the safety and security of Americans currently living in China. Two hours before Meng Wenzhou landed in China,

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavdor—two Canadian citizens previously held by China under suspicion of ‘espionage’—were freed and landed in Calgary. The agreement with Meng and China’s release of these two prisoners clearly suggests a prisoner swap. Doesn’t that simply teach China—or any other U.S. opponent—to hold Americans or our allies hostage under dubious claims of ‘espionage’ until they get their way? For this reason, Congress needs to know the details of the agreement made with the Chinese government and how it may lead to future hostage-taking by the Chinese Communist Party.

Last, in [February of 2021](#), you told the Senate Judiciary Committee that you would protect the integrity of the Justice Department from political influences. But, this sequence has left me wondering if the White House and State Department interfered in this prosecution case. To what extent was the decision to let Meng go influenced by politics?

This brings me to the point of the letter: Can you share with my office all documents and communications between the DOJ and the White House and the State Department about this case from January 20, 2021 to September 27, 2021 within the next 15 days?

I look forward to your prompt reply.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sincerely,

Jim Banks
Member of Congress