

# Huawei CFO Meng was denied her constitutional rights in Canada arrest, lawyer argues

*Meng appeared for another preliminary hearing Wednesday at the Supreme Court of British Columbia as her defence lawyers seek to discredit the U.S. handover request*



Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou is escorted by security as she leaves her home on May 8, 2019 in Vancouver. *Jeff Vinnick/Getty Images*

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Huawei Technologies Co. Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou was denied her constitutional rights when she was detained for three hours at the Vancouver airport in December before her arrest at the request of U.S. authorities, her lawyers said.

Meng's detention amounted to an "abuse" of process, according to her lawyers, who are seeking to delay U.S. attempts to extradite her on fraud charges over alleged dealings with Iran. Her lawyer, Scott

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An executive at China's biggest telecommunications manufacturer, Meng was released on \$10 million (US\$7.4 million) bail in December and is living with her husband and youngest daughter at one of the family's two luxury homes in Vancouver. She speaks regularly by phone to her father, Huawei's billionaire founder Ren Zhengfei.

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Crown lawyer John Gibb-Carsley told the court Wednesday Meng wants to move from her house valued at \$5 million to her other \$13.3 million residence once renovations at the latter are complete.

Meng appeared for another preliminary hearing Wednesday at the Supreme Court of British Columbia as her defence lawyers seek to discredit the U.S. handover request and argue Canada improperly arrested her in December. Those matters must be dealt with before extradition hearings can begin, her defence has said.

Meng entered the court at about 10 a.m. Vancouver time, wearing a long black dress and black blazer, carrying a dark blue Chanel handbag. Her husband, Liu Xiaozong, wearing a brown velvet jacket, sat in the first row of the public gallery, where about 140 people gathered.

The finance chief's lawyers are also seeking additional disclosure about the details of the U.S. case against her. Meng sued the Canadian government in March for allegedly trampling her constitutional rights during her arrest, in an effort to discredit the extradition case she's facing. Meng has been under house arrest in her Vancouver home since December.

China has accused Canada of abetting "a political persecution" against its biggest technology company and has demanded the release of Meng. Since December, China has detained two Canadians on national security grounds, holding them in secret jails. China also sentenced two other Canadians to death over drug charges, halted Canadian canola imports and last week suspended import permits for two major Canadian pork exporters.

The U.S. accuses her of tricking banks, including HSBC Holdings Plc, into conducting transactions that potentially violated U.S. sanctions on Iran. She faces multiple criminal charges, including

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was the U.S. deputy attorney general from 2011 to 2015, a period which coincides with when the Justice Department was collecting evidence in the fraud and sanctions-related case.

The politically explosive proceeding could take years, and history shows that if Canada follows the letter of its law, Meng will probably be extradited. That said, she appears to be gearing up for a legal offensive. In March, she sued the Canadian government for damages, saying that her constitutional rights were breached and that her arrest amounted to "false imprisonment."

—With assistance from Kartikay Mehrotra and Josh Wingrove.

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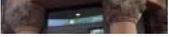
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