

WORLD

# Huawei Executive Seeks Dismissal of U.S. Extradition Request

Lawyer for CFO Meng Wanzhou says arrest violated her rights and Trump comments were political abuse



Huawei Technologies CFO Meng Wanzhou wearing an ankle-mounted monitoring device as she is escorted from her home on Wednesday in Vancouver, British Columbia. PHOTO: JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

*By Jacquie McNish and Bob Mackin*

May 8, 2019 7:04 p.m. ET

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Lawyers for senior Huawei Technologies Co. executive Meng Wanzhou told a Vancouver court they would ask it to dismiss the U.S. request to have her extradited, saying the U.S. interfered in the case politically and Canadian border officials violated her rights.

In court Wednesday, Scott Fenton, one of Ms. Meng's lawyers, said comments by President Trump were "intimidating and corrosive" and amounted to political abuse. Mr. Trump has said he would consider intervening in the case if it helped the U.S. secure a strong trade agreement with China.

Mr. Fenton also said Canadian border officials violated Ms. Meng's rights in December when they held her and searched her belongings for more than three hours at Vancouver

International Airport before arresting her. Border authorities searched Ms. Meng, her luggage and iPad, cellphones and computer, her lawyers said.

Ms. Meng's arrest on the extradition request escalated tensions between Washington and Beijing amid divisive trade negotiations. The U.S. has sought to extradite her over allegations that she violated sanctions against Iran as the chief financial officer of Huawei, the world's largest supplier of telecommunications gear.

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The arrest also put Canada at the center of the dispute. Since Ms. Meng's arrest, two Canadians have been jailed in China, which has stopped importing Canadian canola oil.

Ms. Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, has denied wrongdoing and is fighting extradition in a legal process that could last years. She is out on bail and living in Vancouver.

After the hearing, Huawei said it had trust in the Canadian judicial process and looked forward to seeing Ms. Meng released.

Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes of the British Columbia Supreme Court said she would hear evidence from prosecutors and Ms. Meng's lawyers about the extradition case starting Sept. 23. In the meantime, she said she would allow Ms. Meng to move from her current residence in Vancouver's West Side neighborhood into a more secluded and secure mansion she owns with her husband on the same block as the residence of the U.S. consul general.

The allegations against Canadian border officials amount to the second time Ms. Meng has accused the government, police and border officials of violating her rights when she was detained. Ms. Meng alleged in a civil lawsuit filed in March that the authorities violated her constitutional rights and a judge's arrest order when they held and searched her belongings. The judge had ordered her arrested immediately after her flight from Hong Kong landed in Vancouver, the lawsuit said.

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