

‘ Peng Is Not Free’: How The Olympics’ Leaders Are Endangering Chinese Tennis Star Peng Shuai

The listed below open letter was composed to the International Olympic Committee’s leaders and [initially released here](#) on Dec. 2. The focus in the letter is initial. It is republished here completely.

Dear IOC, President Bach, Chair Terho,

With the NGO Safeguard Defenders, I have actually been paying extremely attention to the distressing circumstance of Peng Shuai in individuals’s Republic of China. Peng has actually been vanished, a minimum of briefly, just to appear in a series of ever-stranger and rather undoubtedly staged looks. This practice is strangely comparable to a persistent CCP method of stage-managed (TELEVISION) looks, where victims are paraded and required to carry out by the authorities, typically in an effort to counter global criticism.

While you might not have actually been totally familiar with this practice at the start of Peng’s disappearance, the behaviour of the IOC **has actually taken a severe turn for the even worse** following your December 2 press release on a 2nd closed-door video-call with Peng.

Contrary to your most current declarations, the actions of the IOC are straight putting Peng at higher danger. If this continued mistake is certainly due to lack of knowledge, this open letter will a minimum of be one action to correct such absence of understanding, info, and understanding.

The practice of stage-managed looks is usually described as required telecasted confessions, however just recently PRC cops will more frequently turn to publishing such videos on their social networks channels or have papers bring them on their sites. In every circumstance, the function stays the exact same: to either attack the individual her- or himself, or to counter worldwide criticism.

Safeguard Defenders lacks a doubt amongst the world’s premier authorities on the PRC’s practice of forced television confessions and the system for disappearances frequently used to “prepare” the victims for their “efficiency” (RSDL– Residential Surveillance at a Designated Location). We for that reason feel it is our task to resolve a few of the problems associated with Peng’s circumstance and the IOC’s actions. As I have actually personally been through both of these experiences– disappearance in RSDL and consequently pushed into a scripted, stage-managed, public look– reinforces me in my belief I ought to compose you this letter.

Peng is not complimentary You understand– or ought to understand– that she is not complimentary. You have actually seen the preliminary letter declaring to be from her– where she withdraws the accusations of rape versus previous top-level CCP cadre and State leader Zhang Gaoli. If she is not under control by the cops, why on the planet would she do that? Her very first “re-appearances” in a dining establishment and declared conferences with good friends have actually been dissected and revealed to be ridiculous at finest.

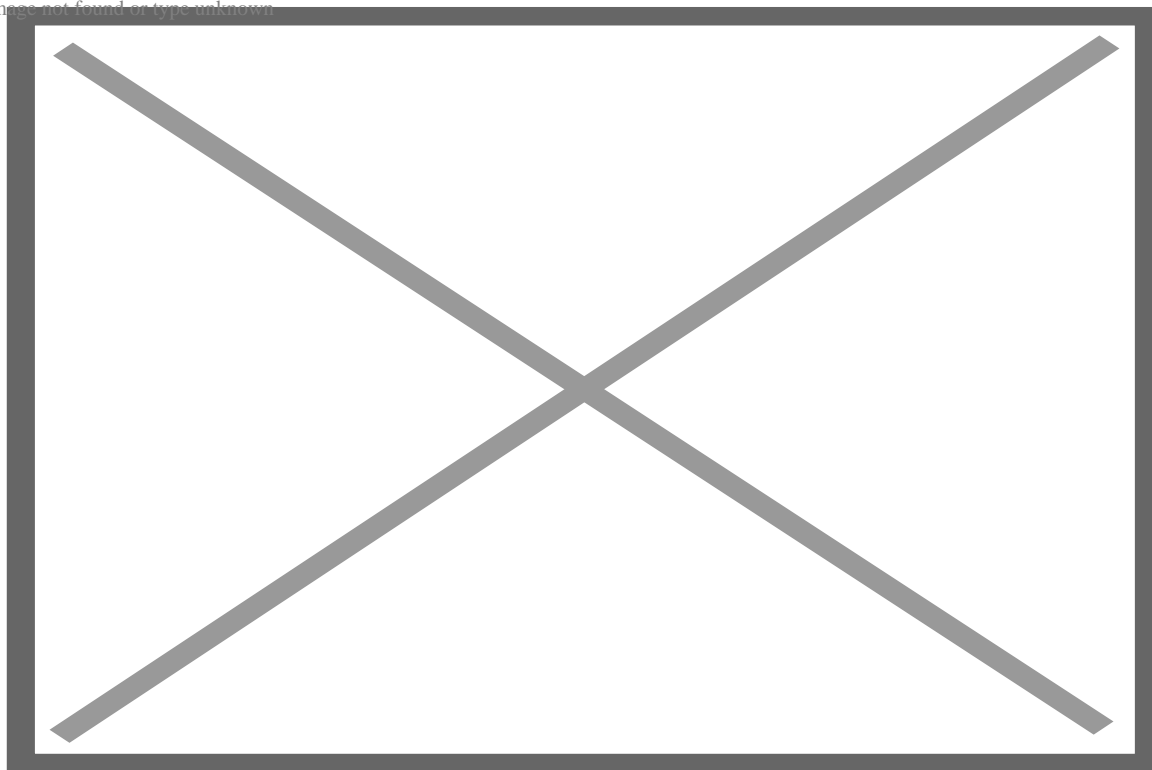
At every advancement of global criticism, **like clockwork**, Peng has either amazingly appeared or somebody has actually supplied something declaring to be from her to counter such criticism.

As stated, at the start, doing the bidding of the Chinese State and Police may have been forgivable due to absence of awareness, just like [your very first advertised video call](#) The following and prevalent criticism of your actions indicates there is merely no method that you are not mindful of how incorrect your actions were. **Yet now you have actually taken part in it once again**

Meanwhile, the WTA, nevertheless, has actually not been provided a possibility to talk with her, and definitely not in a non-coercive setting. Do you ever question why they are declining the WTA, and rather connect to you for this? Should not this alone be an indication on your end?

Sometimes a photo can inform a thousand words. Doing not have such a photo, here is rather an illustration and architectural sketch of when I was required to appear on the PRC television myself, declaring I was being dealt with well. Precisely as in Peng's case, this staged look was utilized to counter worldwide criticism of my disappearance.

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All those individuals, other than for the CCTV reporter and cameraman right in front of me, are Chinese representatives of the Ministry of State Security (MSS). They composed, produced, and directed the whole farce. The audience— individuals like you— would, naturally, just see my face on television “speaking easily” about how well I was being dealt with, and how nobody ought to fret about me at all. Like with Peng, [as you specified](#), and I’m estimating you, I “ *appeared safe and well.*”

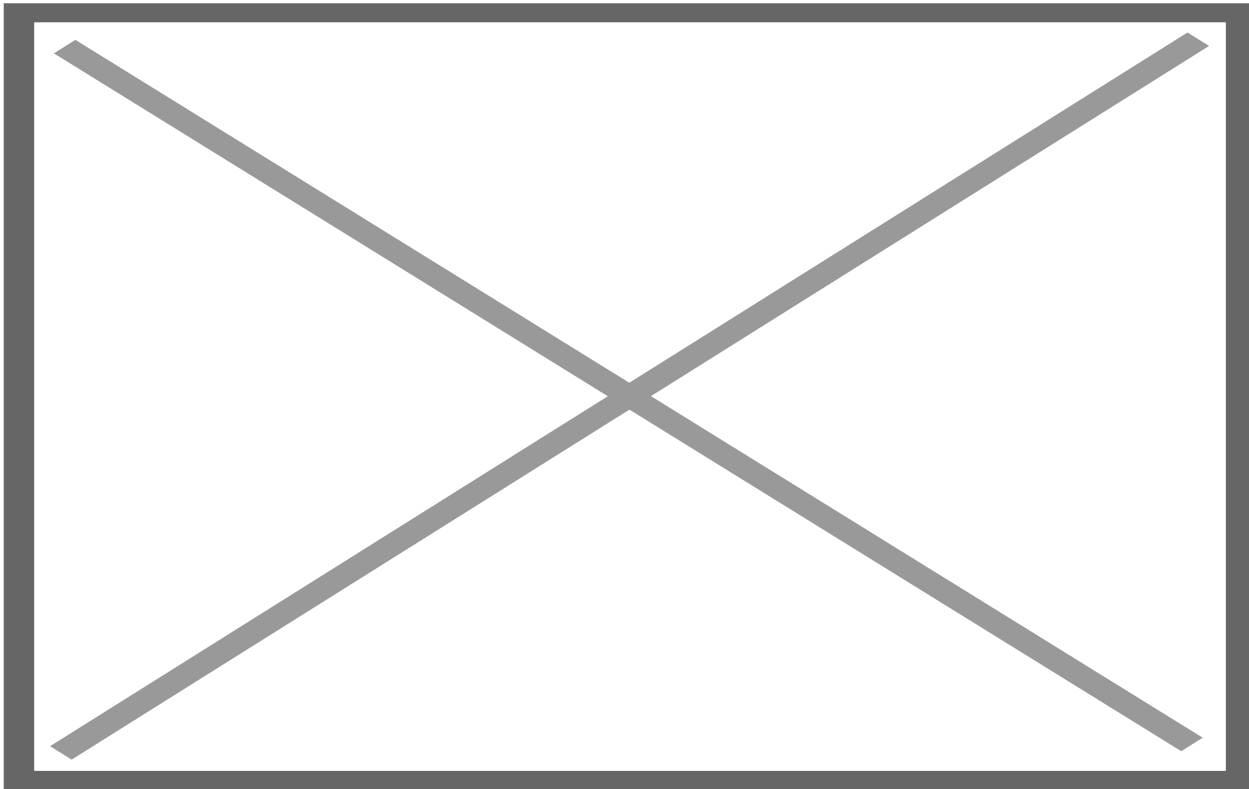
Frankly, my own experience is absolutely nothing. I personally understand some 20 individuals who have actually gone through the very same thing. The majority of them are Chinese nationals and compared to them I was treated with kid gloves. Below is a screenshot from an interview aired with well known attorney Wang Yu. Looks rather natural and good does not it?



Like me, she was vanished in RSDL without being jailed. She suffered through months and months of physical and psychological abuse, as did her spouse. They both declined to make one of these scripted looks. The authorities went after their teenage boy rather. The image above is the outcome of that: lastly succumbing to the hazards made to their boy, she appeared “ *safe and well*,” as you put it in Peng’s case.

If instead of imparting lessons to the remainder of the world on what you think might work, you might wish to discover the truth of what occurs behind the scenes of these looks, which you can do from our often pointed out report on the topic: [Scripted and Staged](#) More comprehensive testaments from a wide array of victims of this practice are offered in a book launched on the topic: [Trial By Media](#)

I do caution you; these testaments are hard reading: different types of abuse are utilized, and– when abuse alone does not work though portioned over a duration of 6 months– you will check out how loved ones, kids, and brother or sisters are being assaulted or apprehended.



Above you see an artist rendering about among numerous videos British person Peter Humphrey was required to tape. He was drugged prior to his own very first look. He was later on rejected treatment in detention and practically passed away.

If you require to read more, there is a whole Ph.D. thesis simply out now on the linguistics utilized in these stage-managed looks, which can be checked out [here](#)

Now I recognize the IOC is, by style, **a non-political organ** I likewise understand your greatest objective, each and every time, is to place on an effective Olympic Games. You need to likewise recognize that regardless of your position that you are non-political, the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese State is utilizing you and the Olympics **for political functions** By permitting yourself to be utilized in such an outright way, you are certainly acting politically– which is what you state you will constantly decline to do. Honestly, your options make little sense.

If you are undoubtedly non-political then **instantly decline the CCP's demands to assist them counter global criticism** Decline to engage on their behalf, and let them do it themselves. Limitation yourself to promoting her safe release, support the WTA completely, and guarantee that Beijing measures up to its guarantees made to host the 2022 Olympics.

Finally, about your actions putting her in higher, not lower, threat? Throughout my 10 years or two in Beijing I would, amongst lots of other things, perform what you may call exit interviews. That is: we would

talk with individuals launched from detention, arrest, or jail time, and we would inquire about how their treatment altered with media or diplomatic attention. Think what? Every individual we have actually ever talked to stated the exact same thing; it enhances, typically considerably, with more attention.

Quiet diplomacy might fit, however it is not here. And you yourself clearly do not think in it, since if you did, **why are you hyping these video calls with Peng** — specifically given that you **decline to launch them** Is somebody possibly informing you that you can not launch them?

At the extremely least inform yourself on the concern of enforced disappearance and stage-managed confessions and looks. There are many victims of both concerns, some in China, some outdoors, some Chinese, some immigrants, **happy to talk to you** I would enjoy to **organize a roundtable conversation on the subject for you**, so you can prevent these errors in the future.

I will continue to hope— giving you the advantage of doubt— that the actions up until now carried out by the IOC originate from an extensive absence of details and awareness, and not that the IOC is deliberately performing the CCP's propaganda for them. If you are undoubtedly non-political, stop being the CCP's political tool.

Peter Dahlin is the creator of the NGO Safeguard Defenders and the co-founder of the Beijing-based Chinese NGO China Action (2007–2016). He is the author of “Trial By Media,” and factor to “The People's Republic of the Disappeared.” He resided in Beijing from 2007, till apprehended and positioned in a secret prison in 2016, consequently deported and prohibited.

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