

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We write regarding the arrest of Yujin Zhang, a Chinese national who was apprehended by Secret Service after she allegedly made false statements to bypass security at Mar-a-Lago while carrying multiple electronic devices and a thumb drive containing malicious malware.

According to the information provided in the criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Ms. Zhang was allowed access to the property after security staff employed at Mar-a-Lago believed her to be a relative of a member of the club. After she passed into a restricted area and was eventually questioned by a receptionist, Ms. Zhang stated that she had been invited to Mar-a-Lago to attend a non-existent United Nations Chinese American Association event by an apparent associate of Li “Cindy” Yang, who had reportedly promoted events at the club on Chinese-language social media.

On March 15th, senior members of the congressional intelligence and judiciary committees asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct criminal and counterintelligence investigations into credible allegations of potential human trafficking, unlawful foreign lobbying and other activities by Ms. Yang as well as an assessment of the risks or related concerns associated with any interactions between her and the President. While this request came after Ms. Yang was photographed with the President and reports that she created a business that attempted to sell access to the President and his family to clients in China, Congress has not yet received a response.

This latest incident raises very serious questions regarding security vulnerabilities at Mar-a-Lago, which foreign intelligence services have reportedly targeted. The apparent ease with which Ms. Zhang gained access to the facility during the President’s weekend visit raises concerns about the system for screening visitors, including the reliance on determinations made by Mar-a-Lago employees. As the White House Communications Agency and Secret Service coordinate to establish several secure areas at Mar-a-Lago for handling classified information when the President travels there, these potential vulnerabilities have serious national security implications.


Accordingly, we ask that the FBI, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, assess the risks at Mar-a-Lago posed by establishment of areas for classified information at facility accessible to the public and foreign nationals. We also ask that you determine, in consultation with the Secret Service, the steps needed to detect and deter adversary governments or their agents from attempting to gain access to or conduct electronic surveillance or acquire material at Mar-a-Lago or President Trump's other properties.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We ask that you provide Congress with a written response to this letter as well as the questions related to Ms. Yang that were enumerated in the March 15th letter without delay.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Dan Coats
Director of National Intelligence

The Honorable Randolph D. Alles
Director, U.S. Secret Service

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2019

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

The Honorable Dan Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Randolph D. Alles
Director
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Director Wray, Director Coats, and Director Alles:

We write regarding recent public reports about alleged activities by Ms. Li "Cindy" Yang and her apparent relationship with the President.

According to reports, Ms. Yang founded a chain of massage parlors in Florida. They are suspected of involvement in prostitution and human trafficking in which immigrant women are forced to serve as sex workers. Ms. Yang also reportedly created a business named GY US Investments that may be selling access to the President and members of his family to clients from China. On Ms. Yang's website, which has since been taken down, her company offered clients "the opportunity to interact with the President, the [American] Minister of Commerce and other political figures" and also offered to arrange "White House and Capitol Hill dinners." On at least one occasion, Ms. Yang in 2017 reportedly arranged for a group of Chinese business executives to attend a fundraiser for the President in New York. Ms. Yang is reportedly a frequent guest at Mar-a-Lago, has visited the White House on at least one occasion, and was photographed with the President at a 2019 Super Bowl party at his West Palm Beach golf club.

If true, these allegations raise serious counterintelligence concerns. China has frequently used non-traditional intelligence collectors and businesspersons to compromise targets. As Director Wray recently told Congress, "the Chinese counterintelligence threat is more deep, more diverse, more vexing, more challenging, more comprehensive and more concerning than any counterintelligence threat I can think of." And, although Ms. Yang's activities may only be those of an unscrupulous actor allegedly selling access to politicians for profit, her activities also could permit adversary governments or their agents access to these same politicians to acquire potential material for blackmail or other even more nefarious purposes.

We therefore request that the FBI conduct criminal and counterintelligence investigations into credible allegations of potential human trafficking, as well as unlawful foreign lobbying, campaign finance and other activities by Ms. Yang. We also ask that the Bureau furnish to the intelligence and judiciary committees an assessment of any counterintelligence risks or related concerns associated with any interactions between President Donald Trump and Ms. Yang. Finally, given the access to President Trump and his campaign organizations that Ms. Yang has apparently enjoyed, as well as her alleged involvement in human trafficking and prostitution, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Actions by U.S. law enforcement agencies: Prior to press reports describing her activities, were any Intelligence Community, Bureau, or Secret Service officials aware of Ms. Yang or her ties to alleged illicit business enterprises? Have state or federal authorities previously investigated Ms. Yang or her businesses for prostitution or human trafficking? Since the recent revelations about Ms. Yang's businesses and her interactions with the President, has the FBI taken any steps to investigate potential violations of law or national security vulnerabilities?
2. Counterintelligence concerns: What are the counterintelligence risks potentially posed by Ms. Yang's activities? Are there other individuals using Mar-a-Lago for similar purposes, particularly by offering foreigners access to the President, those close to him, or other senior officials in exchange for money? Do the FBI, the Secret Service, or other agencies in the Intelligence Community have visibility into or vet foreign nationals that attend events at Mar-a-Lago?
3. Access to the White House: To what extent have Ms. Yang or her foreign clients interacted with the President, Vice President, or other senior White House officials at the White House, Mar-a-Lago or the President's other properties, and for what purposes? Have Ms. Yang or her clients violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act, the Lobbying Disclosure Act, or other laws?
4. Foreign campaign donations: What efforts are undertaken by President Trump, his campaign, or his political action committee to vet donors and determine whether funds are being contributed illicitly or through straw donors? Did Ms. Yang or her foreign clients gain access to President Trump at fundraisers, in the White House, or elsewhere in connection with these political contributions? Who created the guest list for the President's 2019 Super Bowl party, and at whose request was Ms. Yang invited to the event?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We would appreciate your written

response, including answers to the questions enumerated above, by no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2019.

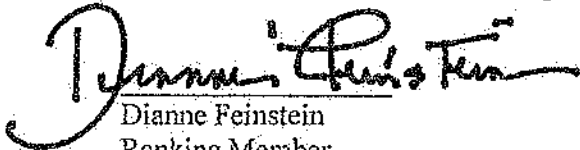
Sincerely,



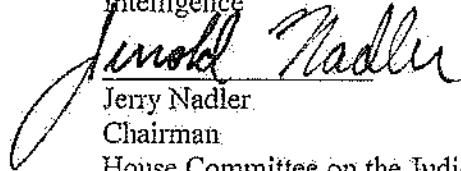
Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Adam B. Schiff
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence



Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary



Jerry Nadler
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary