

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2021

Michael E. Horowitz
Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

As Members of the House Judiciary Committee, we are deeply troubled by the alleged misconduct of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the unsuccessful prosecution of University of Tennessee at Knoxville associate professor Anming Hu. The FBI allegedly falsely accused Professor Hu of being a Chinese spy; falsely implicated Professor Hu as an operative for the Chinese military; and used false information to put Professor Hu on the federal no-fly list — among a number of other actions. The prosecution of Professor Hu, which was purportedly conducted under the China Initiative, has now ended in a mistrial.¹ We are referring this case for your review.

According to media reports:

“FBI Agent Kujtim Sadiku admitted last week in an ongoing trial in Knoxville that federal agents:

- Falsely accused former UTK associate professor Dr. Anming Hu of being a Chinese spy.
- Falsely implicated him as an operative for the Chinese military in meetings with Hu’s bosses.
- Used false information to put Hu on the federal no-fly list.
- Spurred U.S. customs agents to seize Hu’s computer and phone and spread word throughout the international research community that Hu was poison.
- Used false information to justify putting a team of agents to spy on Hu and his son, a freshman at UTK, for nearly two years.
- Used false information to press Hu to become a spy for the U.S. government.”²

¹ Aruna Viswanatha, “Trial of scientist accused of hiding China work ends in hung jury,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 2021.

² Jamie Satterfield, “Trial reveals federal agents falsely accused a UT professor born in China of spying,” *Knoxville News Sentinel*, June 13, 2021.

If these allegations are true, the FBI's misconduct is alarming. We request that you investigate this matter and look at a range of issues, including but not limited to the following:

1. Did FBI agent Sadiku or other agents make false accusations and/or use false information against Professor Hu?
2. Did prosecutors at the Department of Justice know about the alleged misconduct of the FBI in this case?
3. Was the investigation or prosecution of Professor Hu conducted under the China Initiative?
4. Did racial or ethnic profiling occur in this case?
5. Was there an adequate non-racial or non-ethnic factual predicate to open this investigation?
6. Does the China Initiative put untoward pressure on FBI agents or Department of Justice prosecutors to engage in racial or ethnic profiling?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

cc:

Attorney General Merrick Garland
FBI Director Christopher Wray