

Chinese Officer Charged With Harassing N.Y. Congressional Candidate

Yan Xiong, a Chinese dissident who immigrated to America and is now a political candidate in New York, was targeted by an agent of the Chinese government, federal prosecutors said.



By Rebecca Davis O'Brien

Mr. Liu and Mr. Ziburis also targeted the dissident artist directly, according to the complaint, by having Mr. Ziburis pose as an art dealer to gain more information about his artwork and photograph his home. Mr. Ziburis also put a GPS device on the artist's car.

The artist is unnamed in the complaint, but it meets the description of Chen Weiming, a Chinese-born sculptor known for his political activism and artistic protests against the Chinese government.

In the spring of 2021, one of Mr. Chen's installations in California — which depicted Chinese President Xi Jinping as a coronavirus molecule — was destroyed by vandalism. The complaint quotes communications in which Mr. Sun, the businessman, encouraged Mr. Liu to have Mr. Ziburis destroy the sculpture, saying: "Destroy all sculptures and things that are not good to our leaders."

However, the complaint notes, Mr. Liu and Mr. Ziburis were in New York City at the time the sculpture was destroyed.

Prosecutors also said that in late 2021 Mr. Ziburis posed as a member of an international sports committee to gain access to a California-based dissident's home. That dissident, a person familiar with the case said, is Bay Area lawyer Arthur Liu, the father of U.S. figure skater Alysa Liu.

In a November 2021 report to Mr. Liu quoted in the complaint, Mr. Ziburis described going to Arthur Liu's house in the Bay Area, and asked to check the family's passports to ensure he and an unnamed family member were set for international travel. He described Mr. Liu growing angry and telling him to leave.

Prosecutors note that the F.B.I. said there was no evidence that Mr. Ziburis actually spoke with Mr. Liu, who was away from home on the date of the supposed encounter.

Aishvarya Kavi, Jonah E. Bromwich and William K. Rashbaum contributed reporting.