

FACT SHEET
November 10, 2015

At least 4 Chinese American scientists in private industry, federal government, and academia were indicted in 3 cases for sharing secret data and technology with China, only to have all their charges against them dropped by the government later.

- Xiaoxing Xi, Physicist, Chair of Physics Department at Temple University, accused of sharing secret “Pocket Heater” technology with China. <http://nyti.ms/1iQGoLO>
- Sherry Chen, Hydrologist, National Weather Service, accused of sharing secret U.S. dam data with China. <http://nyti.ms/1J3RKSe>
- Guoqing Cao and Shuyu Li, Biologists, Eli Lilly and Company, accused of sharing secret information about experimental drugs with China. <http://bit.ly/10jNbf3>

Government mistakes are supposed to be rare in espionage cases, but these 3 cases were dismissed within a period of 10 months which forms an apparent pattern.

<http://bit.ly/1WPOGTV>

- Xiaoxing Xi, case dropped on September 11, 2015
- Sherry Chen, case dropped on March 10, 2015
- Guoqing Cao and Shuyu Li, case dropped on December 4, 2014

The New York Times Editorial Board has called the government to provide an explanation and an apology to Xiaoxing Xi and Sherry Chen. <http://nyti.ms/1F2pOU4>

“The charges filed against Mr. Xi and Ms. Chen traumatized them and their families and needlessly damaged their professional reputations. Neither got an explanation or an apology from the government. They deserve both.”

Congressional members led by Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, and the Asian Pacific American Caucus have raised concerns about this apparent pattern of profiling due to ethnicity, national origin, and race. A joint letter signed by 22 Congressional members was sent to the Attorney General Loretta Lynch on May 21, 2015 (<http://1.usa.gov/1PzFj9r>) followed by another letter signed by 42 Congressional members on November 5, 2015 (<http://1.usa.gov/1WENn7W>), calling for

- A full investigation by the Department of Justice into the cases of Xiaoxing Xi, Sherry Chen, and other similar cases regarding whether race or ethnicity played a role
- A full investigation by the Department of Justice regarding why it appears that there is a pattern and practice of minorities being singled out for arrest and indictment by federal officials