

## FEATURE

# Arrest of Huawei Exec

The three-day bail hearing for Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou attracted international media coverage and saw the Vancouver courtroom packed with spectators every day.

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<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/arrest-of-huawei-exec-in-vancouver-became-the-biggest-case-in-years-in-b-c-courts>



*A BC Supreme Court Sheriff watches over the crowd waiting in line to enter the courtroom to watch the bail hearing for Huawei Technologies CFO Meng Wanzhou on December 10, 2018 in Vancouver, Canada. RICH LAM / GETTY IMAGES*

***Easily the biggest B.C. court case of the year, and arguably the biggest in years, was the bail hearing for Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou.***

The arrest of the Chinese tech giant's chief financial officer on Dec. 1 at the Vancouver airport on a provisional warrant seeking her extradition to the U.S. on fraud charges went unreported for days.

Her first appearance in B.C. Supreme Court was on Dec. 3. Her team of lawyers managed to get an interim publication ban on the proceedings.

Then on Dec. 5 she appeared again in B.C. Supreme Court for a bail hearing, but had the matter adjourned for two days after her lawyers received a letter from U.S. Justice Department officials and asked for additional time to consider the matter.

One local reporter was in the courtroom for the Dec. 5 appearance but by the end of the day the word was out that the high-ranking executive, who is also the daughter of the founder

of the telecommunications company, was in Canadian custody and facing extradition proceedings.

What followed was three extraordinary days at the Vancouver Law Courts as dozens of journalists from around the world, including reporters with CNN, MSNBC, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, showed up to cover Meng's bail hearing.

Requests by the out-of-town reporters for temporary accreditation to cover the case came flooding in.

The case had caught the attention of the international media in part because it involved a wealthy and high-profile woman from China and also because it happened in the middle of a trade war between China and the U.S.

Dozens of members of the public, many of them from the Chinese-Canadian community, lined up patiently every day to get a much sought

after seat in courtroom 20, the high-security courtroom built for the Air India terrorism trial.

The courtroom was jammed to capacity every day. There were so many court watchers that officials set up TV screens in the corridor outside the courtroom so that those who were unable to get seats could follow the proceedings.

In the end, the 46-year-old mother of four was released on \$10 million bail and will be required to stay close to her home in Vancouver's west side. She will be under surveillance and GPS electronic monitoring.

Her next court appearance is Feb. 6. Meng has denied the fraud allegations being levelled against her by U.S. authorities.

The extradition hearing itself will likely take months to get underway.

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