# Australian Journalist Cheng Lei Reports Obstruction by Chinese Officials During Press Conference with Premier Li Qiang



Cheng Lei, an Australian journalist recently released from Chinese detention, reported that Chinese officials attempted to obstruct her view during a press conference featuring Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Canberra on June 17, 2024. Lei, now working for Sky News Australia, was relocated to a different seat by Australian officials after Chinese officials flanked her and blocked her from being filmed.

Video footage from the event corroborated Lei's account, showing a Chinese official standing in front of her as Australian counterparts repeatedly requested them to move. Eventually, an Australian colleague swapped seats with Lei, prompting further maneuvering by Chinese officials, which was thwarted by Australian authorities.

The incident occurred as Premier Li met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the first visit by a Chinese premier to Australia in seven years. The meeting aimed to stabilize relations and advance cooperation in various sectors, although lingering tensions were evident.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that it is vital for individuals to freely participate in such events and reiterated the importance of candid dialogue between the nations. The visit highlighted ongoing efforts to improve ties after years of strained relations.