

Q : Why do the Chinese Embassy in Norway publish such reality checks?

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, we have seen massive information appearing on both the media and the internet, which is accompanied by a large amount of false news, including a large number of "stigmatizing" rumors, racial discrimination, regional discrimination, conspiracy theories, anti-science therapeutic theories and fraudulent sayings. These false information are irresponsible and even with ulterior motives, which have seriously misled ordinary people, incited hatred, spread prejudice, and even endangered people's health and safety. A large amount of these false information were slandering and discriminatory false information against China, which has made China a serious victim of false news. Based on this fact, China naturally needs to come forward in time to clarify the facts and explain the truth, so as to avoid the public being deceived by rumors and deceived by people with ulterior motives. At the same

time, there are also many Norwegians who expect us to come forward and tell about the actual situations, clarify rumors, and publicize the truth.

What is the goal for the embassy / the MFA when publishing this kind of messaging?

The one and only goal for making the necessary response to the false news is of course to clarify the facts. Since a lot of false news is targeted at China, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the department implementing China's foreign policy, and the Chinese Embassy in Norway as the representative body of the Chinese government in Norway, have both the responsibility, obligation, and right to fully and objectively introduce the facts to the Norwegian public. the truth. This is also the day-to-day responsibility of the foreign service in every country, including Norway.

Q: Could the messages with facts distributed by the Chinese MFA / embassy include differing views and uncertainties if they are present in the scientific community in relation to aspects of the COVID-19 crisis?

The information release of the Chinese authorities has always been based on the principles of seriousness, responsibility and respect for science and facts. If you carefully read the facts released by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese embassies, you will find that the truths clarified by the Chinese side are always followed with objective facts and scientific evidences.

Q: How do China view the same kind of distribution of facts from other countries (i.e. the US)?

All countries have the right to do so, but the information distributed should be based on objective facts instead of subjective assumptions. You mentioned the U.S., we believe that the whole world has seen how they distribute information this time. Justice naturally inhabits man's heart.

Q: Some other reality checks and statements from the Chinese MFA have a more differing view than portrayed in international media and debate. One of them are this one about Dr. Li Wenliang: *Allegation: China arrested Dr. Li Wenliang, a whistle-blower. Reality Check: Dr. Li Wenliang was not a whistle-blower, and he was not arrested.* Why do you spread it as a fact that Dr. Li Wenliang was not a whistle-blower, and that he was not arrested? Both BBC by examining documents and the NYTimes by interviewing Dr. Li Wenliang before his death published a differing view. They present a story of a doctor trying to warn others, but then being questioned by security services in China.

First of all, the word "spread" you used in the question is inappropriate. It is not a neutral word and leaves an impression that the story you wish to tell is not an objective from the starting point. Why it is fine for other countries and the media to “express” their views, while it has to be to “spread” when it comes to China? If you

have read the full text of Reality Check by the Chinese MFA, I believe you can know why we say that Dr. Li was not a whistle-blower, and he was not arrested .

About Dr. Li, we are willing to clarify again. First of all, the reason why the eye doctor Li Wenliang is not a "whistleblower" is because that warning of the outbreak has already be issued by someone earlier. On December 27, Wuhan respiratory physician Zhang Jixian detected and reported three cases of pneumonia of unknown cause that he received. He was also the first person to report on the epidemic cases and was already awarded for this. Secondly, Dr. Li has never been arrested. On December 30, he forwarded a message to a WeChat group consisting of his alumni, saying that “7 SARS cases were diagnosed”, and asked the group members not to spread the information to the outside. But still, the screenshot of this Wechat chatlog quickly spread to the social media and caused public panic. Wuhan police summoned Li for a talk on January 3, 2020 and issued him a letter of police reprimand, asking him to stop spreading rumors. As in most countries, China has clear

legal regulations on the report and release of infectious diseases and the core point lies on scientific facts and necessary procedures. In response to issues concerning Dr. Li, a team from the National Supervisory Commission of China has conducted a comprehensive investigation and released an report of the investigation, pointing out that the issuance of the reprimand letter was inappropriate and urging the police to revoke the letter and hold those responsible accountable.

Another thing we'd like to emphasize here that the authority that issued the reprimand letter was the police, not what you call "security services". There is a clear difference between these two words. Both the Chinese government and the people recognize that Dr. Li, like many medical personnel who gave their lives during the fight against the epidemic, as a hero and will be remembered.