



The 35-year-old professional tennis star and an important person in Chinese tennis, Peng Shuai, seems to have **vanished** after she shared her story of an alleged sexual assault by a former high-ranking Chinese official.

On November 2, Peng Shuai went online, and she said that former Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli forced her to have sex with him. Only minutes later, someone removed her post from Chinese social media, and since then, Peng was silent. No one has seen her publicly for two weeks.

The head of the Women's Tennis Association said she did not believe an email from the Chinese state government that said it was from Peng herself. The email and the language seemed **flippant**, as it said that Peng was safe and resting at home, and the **allegation** of sexual assault wasn't true. A lot of other people do not believe this situation. Several tennis players including Novak Djokovic, Naomi Osaka, and Serena Williams said on the news that they were shocked by Peng's disappearance and concerned about her.

Difficult words: **vanish** (to disappear suddenly and completely), **allegation** (a public statement made without giving, accusing somebody of doing something wrong or illegal), **flippant** (a less serious or disrespectful attitude).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *vanish*, *allegation* and *flippant*
2. When was Peng Shuai reported to have vanished?
3. Who did Peng Shuai accuse of sexually assaulting her?
4. How long until Peng Shuai was seen in public again?
5. Did all people believe the email from the Chinese government that it was from Peng herself? What did they think of the email and the language used?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Have you heard about this famous Chinese tennis player's disappearance?
2. Why do you think her post about the sexual assault was immediately deleted on social media?
3. Has anything like this happened in your country?
4. Do people in your country have the right to express themselves and post anything on social media without censorship?