

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. State Department
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I am writing to inform you of my resignation as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, effective immediately.

It has been an honor to serve the American People in this role. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve my country.

It is disappointing that I have never been afforded the opportunity, or any due process whatsoever, to respond to the allegations levied against me. A character assassination based solely on innuendo was launched against me attacking my credentials and character. This was not an accident. Despite answering every question put to me by a reporter and offering a detailed rebuttal, my superiors at the Department refused to defend me, stand up for the truth or allow me to answer the false charges against me. I am attaching those answers to this letter so you can see them yourself.

Today, the politics of division and personal destruction are at their very worst, and I have found myself in the crosscurrents of that very division. What began as a willingness to serve has sadly turned into self-protection, not because I cannot serve as intended but because I have concluded that I would be unable to do so effectively in the current toxic environment of the State Department. In already difficult times, the Department of State is experiencing what I and many believe is the worst and most profound moral crisis confronting career professionals and political appointees in the Department's history. Department morale is at its lowest, the professionalism and collegiality - once a hallmark of the U.S. diplomatic service - has all but disappeared. I can speak first-hand to the consequences of that environment - being unfairly maligned, unprotected by my superiors, and exposed to a media with an insatiable desire for gossip and scandal, genuine or otherwise. The morale of my colleagues at the State Department has reached a crisis moment at the hands of a morally bankrupt leadership structure.

It is essential that my resignation be seen as a protest and not as surrender because I will not surrender my commitment to serve, my fidelity to the truth, or my love of country. Indeed, I intend to fight for those things as a citizen in the days and years to come.

I have lived my life in service to others, especially in service to my country and the other citizens of the world. I cannot continue in good conscience, however, to serve within this toxic and hostile political environment. Resigning is the only acceptable moral and ethical option for me at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mina Chang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mina Chang