



Australia 'misread' offending tweet: Chinese embassy

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China's embassy in Australia said politicians there had "misread" a tweet showing a digitally-altered image of an Australian soldier holding a bloodied knife to the throat of an Afghan child, and were trying to stoke nationalism.

1-1. China's government is playing down the controversial tweet from a Chinese official

1-2. holding a bloody knife

2-1. The Chinese embassy in Australia says politicians there

2-2. and overreacted

3-1. Earlier this week Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison called the tweet

3-2. "truly repugnant", and

4. The digitally altered photo

5-1. The Chinese embassy also says that Australia's Foreign Affairs and Trade secretary had called their ambassador

5-2. but that the ambassador had, quote

6. And, that Australia was seeking to "stoke domestic nationalism", and

7. Meanwhile, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has said

8-1. An independent investigation

8-2. found 39 unarmed prisoners and civilians were killed, and Australia has said

9. The tweet also came just days _____

[Vocabulary]

- **play down:** to understate the importance or quality of; If you play down something, you try to make people believe that it is not particularly important.
 - *Western diplomats have played down the significance of the reports.*
 - *At first the administration played down the threat to public health.*
- **controversial:** Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement; a controversial subject, opinion, or decision is one that people disagree about or do not approve of; If you describe something or someone as controversial, you mean that they are the subject of intense public argument, disagreement, or disapproval.
 - *Immigration is a controversial issue in many countries.*
 - *When it was first suggested that passive smoking was harmful, the idea was controversial and the evidence thin.*
- **doctor:** to change something, especially facts or numbers, in order to make people believe something that is not true; If someone doctors something, they change it in order to deceive people.
 - *They doctored the prints to make her look as awful as possible.*
 - *Experts suspected the police evidence had been doctored.*
- **misread:** to understand or judge a person or situation wrongly; If you misread a situation or someone's behaviour, you do not understand it properly.
 - *The government largely misread the mood of the electorate.*
 - *Mothers may also misread signals and think the baby is crying because he is hungry.*
- **Zhao Lijian:** (born November 1972) is a Chinese politician and the deputy director of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Department. He is the 31st spokesperson since the position was established in 1983. He joined the foreign service in 1996 and has served primarily in Asia. Zhao gained notoriety during his time serving in Pakistan for his outspoken use of Twitter, a social network website that is blocked within China. He has been identified as a prominent leader of the new generation of "China's 'Wolf Warrior' Diplomats."
- **repugnant:** extremely unpleasant or offensive; If you think that something is horrible and disgusting, you can say that it is repugnant.
 - *repugnant language*
 - *The Committee said his actions were improper and repugnant.*
 - *He impugned Wilde's works as morally repugnant and designed to corrupt the upbringing of the youth.*

- **secretary**: a government official in charge of a department; Secretary is used in the titles of ministers and officials who are in charge of main government departments.
 - *...the British Foreign Secretary.*
 - *...the former US Defense Secretary.*
- **refute**: to say that a statement is not true or accurate without giving proof; If you refute an argument, accusation, or theory, you prove that it is wrong or untrue; If you refute an argument or accusation, you say that it is not true.
 - *It was the kind of rumor that it is impossible to refute.*
 - *The police said he was drunk, a claim refuted by his attorney.*
- **unwarranted**: not fair or necessary; If you describe something as unwarranted, you are critical of it because there is no need or reason for it.
 - *Any attempt to discuss human rights was rejected as unwarranted interference.*
 - *He accused the police of using unwarranted brutality.*
- **stoke**: to make a feeling stronger; If you stoke something such as a feeling, you cause it to be felt more strongly.
 - *These demands are helping to stoke fears of civil war.*
 - *I didn't want to stoke her anger further.*
- **deflect**: to direct criticism, attention, or blame away from yourself toward someone else; If you deflect something such as criticism or attention, you act in a way that prevents it from being directed towards you or affecting you.
 - *He'd changed his name to deflect accusations of nepotism.*
 - *The company was criticized for trying to deflect the blame for the accident.*
- **atrocity**: a cruel and violent act, often in a war; An atrocity is a very cruel, shocking action.
 - *Those who committed this atrocity should be tried and punished.*
 - *The defeats and atrocities of the country's military were concealed from ordinary people.*
- **Jacinda Ardern**: a New Zealand politician who has been serving as the 40th prime minister of New Zealand and leader of the Labour Party since 2017. First elected to the House of Representatives as a list MP in 2008.
- **refer**: to have to do with or be relevant to ; If you refer a task or a problem to a person or an organization, you formally tell them about it, so that they can deal with it.
 - *He could refer the matter to the high court.*
 - *'disagreement arose and the issue was referred back to the Executive Committee'*
- **criminal prosecution**: the institution and conduct of legal proceedings against a defendant for criminal behavior

□ **slap**: to add something as a punishment or an extra cost; If journalists say that the authorities slap something such as a tax or a ban on something, they think it is unreasonable or put on without careful thought.

- *The government slapped a ban on the export of unprocessed logs.*
- *Thankfully the Government still hasn't discovered a way of slapping a tax on love, sunshine or air.*

□ **dumping**: selling goods abroad at a price below that charged in the domestic market; the offering for sale of large quantities (of goods) on foreign markets at low prices in order to maintain a high price in the home market and obtain a share of the foreign markets

- *There is nothing we can do about dumping - selling goods at below production cost.*
- *They have called for an investigation to determine whether dumping of products is taking place.*

□ **dumping tariff**: If a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges on its domestic market, this is dumping. Anti-dumping import duties could hit many other related industries e.g. a tariff on steel increases costs for car makers.

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]