



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS POLICE DEPARTMENT U R B A N A - C H A M P A I G N

The University of Illinois Police Department is searching for Yingying Zhang, a 26-year-old visiting scholar who has been missing since June 9. We know our campus community has questions, and we want to keep you updated on the investigation.

Please visit <http://police.illinois.edu/search-updates> for regular information on our search.

The FBI poster says “kidnapping.” Have police confirmed it was a kidnapping?

While we categorize this as a missing person case, the FBI may use different terminology to categorize its investigations, and kidnapping of course is one possibility of many that we are pursuing. At this point in the investigation, there is no way to confirm exactly what happened, and we are not ruling anything out.

Has the FBI taken over the investigation?

The FBI does not “take over” investigations like that. We have a very good working relationship with the FBI and the Illinois State Police, and they have investigators onsite working literally alongside our detectives. We pool all of our resources to make sure we’re covering every detail and every possible angle. This is a very complex investigation, and the ability to use local, state and federal law enforcement resources helps us work through the massive amounts of information we’ve collected much more quickly.

There have been reports of a black sedan driving around posing as an undercover officer and trying to lure women into his car. Is that connected?

Since Ms. Zhang disappeared, we have spoken to at least one person who reported that, and we gathered valuable information about that encounter. At this point, we do not have information to say definitively that it is connected, but we also cannot rule it out. It is among the scenarios which we are investigating.

Have police identified the license plate yet?

We have used vehicle records to identify a list of people who drive that make and model vehicle, and we’re speaking to people who drive that kind of vehicle.

What can the community do to help?

Exactly what you’re doing right now by being here. Stay up to date on the investigation, and help us disseminate accurate information. The more people to whom we can deliver verified, accurate information, the more likely we are to find Yingying. We are very appreciative of the help many of you have already provided.

Does this incident pose a danger to the general public?

Even under normal circumstances, we always ask members of our community to be observant, to be aware of their surroundings and to call police if they notice anything suspicious. That remains the case here. Should you ever feel uncomfortable or concerned for your safety, please call 911 immediately.

For more information about personal safety on campus, please visit <http://police.illinois.edu/services/campus-safety-tips/>.