

Huawei chief says US may 'escalate' but confident on business

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Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei says he believes any additional measures by the United States against his company will not have a very significant impact

The chief executive of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei on Tuesday said he was ready for the United States to escalate a "campaign" against the

firm this year but insisted it would not have a significant effect on business.

The comments by Huawei chief executive and founder Ren Zhengfei to [business leaders](#) at the World Economic Forum in Davos come amid a bitter court fight in Canada over a US demand to extradite Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, who is his eldest daughter.

Huawei, the global leader in telecom networking equipment, has also been effectively banned by the United States from working with American firms on the grounds that it poses a national security threat — an accusation the company has consistently denied.

"This year, the US might escalate their campaign against Huawei, but I think the impact on Huawei business will not be very significant," Zhengfei told a session at Davos.

He said the company had invested intensely in protecting itself and was well-prepared this year.

"That's why we could withstand the first round of attack. In the year 2020, since we already have this experience from last year, we are more confident that we can survive, even further attacks," he added.

'Used to being number one'

Meng Wanzhou went to court on Monday to fight extradition to the United States, with her lawyers calling the accusations against her "fiction".

The US alleges Meng lied to HSBC Bank about Huawei's relationship with its Iran-based affiliate Skycom, putting the bank at risk of violating US sanctions against Tehran.

Meng has denied the allegations. She has been out on bail, living in one of her two Vancouver mansions for the past year.

Zhengfei has previously suggested that the case is part of a US plot to crush Huawei, seeing it as a security risk.

Huawei said in December that "survival" was its top priority after announcing 2019 sales were expected to fall short of projections as a result of US sanctions.

Washington has banned US companies from selling equipment to Huawei, locking out the smartphone giant from access to Google's Android operating system.

"The United States... it is used to being the world number one and if someone is better than them, they might not feel comfortable," commented Ren.

He said Huawei "used to be" an admirer of the United States and had notably been inspired by American management systems.

"From that perspective, the US should not be overly concerned about Huawei and Huawei's position in the world."

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