



Taiwan Shilin District

Prosecutors Office Press Release

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Prosecutors of Shihlin District Prosecutors Office Indicted the Case about the Extortion Ring.

The Head Prosecutor of Taiwan Shilin District Prosecutors Office, Tseng, Yang-ling, and Prosecutor on duty, Chiang, Wen-Hsuan co-commanded the New Taipei police department criminal investigation corps to bust an extortion ring that lured victims with offers of jobs and then imprisoned them, and have brought up an indictment charging against surnamed Fu and other suspected members with offenses against personal liberty that resulted in death.

The prosecutors brought charges against 29 suspects, and the district court ruled in favor of detaining the 27 suspects following inquests. The prosecutors also found the extortion ring was able to scam 307 victims out of nearly NT\$397 million. Including 61 victims who had fallen for fake job ads that promised high salaries, and ended up imprisoned and abused; the other 246 victims swindled in an investment scam to hand over their money.

Working collaboratively and colluding with foreign scam hubs, the suspects tricked and deceived victims throughout Taiwan. First, the suspects used various ruses to lure the victims to specific locations and forced them to surrender their bank accounts. The victims then were held against their will in tiny spaces. During the captivity, the suspects keep the victims blindfolded, mouths stuffed with a towel, handcuffed, and feet tied with belts. The suspects also beat or used tasers and retractable batons to pepper-sprayed and electric shock uncooperative captives. Last but foremost, the suspects also ground up illegal drugs and added them to the victims' food. Three victims ended up death, and their bodies were

disposed of by the suspects to gloss over the crimes.

All the suspects are youth adults. However, they perpetrate outrage to earn money by forming a criminal group. The suspects also imprisoned and maltreated their victims, not only severely injuring the victims' human dignity but also jeopardizing the victims' lives. In addition, the property interests and financial order they infringed on are very serious. They also have not yet compensated any of their victims. On top of that, the suspects' complete disregard for the law have left an unsettling society and tarnished Taiwan's international image. The prosecutors are seeking heavy sentences for the suspects, including life imprisonment, 20 to 30 years' custody, or appropriate punishment depending on the extent of their participation in imprisoning, abusing, feeding drugs to, and controlling the victims.

The prosecutors have investigated and tracked down this extortion ring case promptly and properly to indict the criminal and address public grievances. The prosecutors also alert the public to the fraud scheme that uses the pretext of interviewing for a high-paying job to get away with fraud.