



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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**Regarding the Non-conviction based confiscation
order made by Taipei District Court in the case of La
Fayette-class Frigate for Approx. 900 million USD, the
illegal proceeds of Defendant Wang Chuanpu and
others**

1. The Special Investigation Task Force of the Supreme Court Prosecutor's Office (hereinafter, the Task Force) had been probing the illegal proceeds acquired by defendant Wang Chuanpu and others in the La Fayette Frigates Procurement case for 15 years. The Task Force, with legal assistance from Switzerland, had seized Wang and others' illegal proceeds in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Austria, Jersey and Isle of Man. Wang and others were also indicted for, among other crimes, violating the Anti-corruption Act on September 27, 2006. Two defendants in the case were convicted on April 16, 2014. Wang (died on January 20, 2015) and other defendants on the run have been wanted since May 8, 2009.
2. The revamp of the confiscation laws in the Criminal Code, advocated by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), was passed by the Legislative Yuan in 2016. The new law permits a non-conviction based confiscation of illegal proceeds if the prosecution or conviction of the defendant suffers legal or factual impracticalities. After the new law came into effect on July, 1, 2016, the Special Investigation Division (SID) under the

Supreme Court Prosecutor's Office petitioned to Taipei District Court for a non-conviction based confiscation of Wang and others' illegal proceeds of 969.75 million USD, including principal and interests. Following the amendment of Article 63-1 of the Court Organization Act which abolishes the legal authority and establishment of the SID, the Supreme Court Prosecutor's Office referred this case to our office.

3. Designated prosecutors and prosecutor investigators of our office have continued to pursue this case since January 1, 2017. The responsible prosecutors have requested legal assistance overseas for updated information on the defendants' bank accounts and modified the petitioned amount of illegal proceeds for confiscation accordingly. Taipei District Court confiscated the illegal proceeds, including principal and interests, of 900,146,887.18 USD acquired or controlled by the defendants and the interests that will be accrued before the completion of the confiscation. Our office will appeal against the court's holding overruling the petition for confiscating the interests of approx. 53 million USD accrued from the illegal proceeds of approx. 90 million USD wired to Hong Kong, the Bahamas, and other countries by the defendants.
4. The significant progress of this case so far should be attributed to the MOJ's fully support and its efforts in pushing the amendment of the confiscation laws, the extraordinary legal opinions issued by Professor Lin Yuhsiung and Yang Yunhua, and the court's efficient ruling. The principle of "Crime doesn't pay" (or "Verbrechen dürfen sich nicht lohnen") is therefore honored.