



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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Media Contact: Deputy Chief Prosecutor Chang

Contact number: (02)23146881

**Timber pilferers were investigated for their violations
of the Code of Criminal Law and the Code of Forest
Protection**

Summary of the Facts

12 defendants, including Chen (hereinafter referred to as Chen's group), and another 9 defendants (Ma's group), are timber pilferers.

From May to September of 2015, both groups entered mountainous areas in New Taipei City and Tao-Yuan City several times with electric saws, and other equipments. their intention was to unlawfully log forest woods, including Taiwania, then sold with high prices, ranging from 400 to 800 dollars per kilogram.

During July and August of 2015, Chen's group took advantage of the damage of Typhoon Soudelor and entered in Gui-Shan and other districts in the Xin-Dian area of the New Taipei city, to steal driftwood and unlawfully deforest. All of these activities are

prosecutable pursuant to the Code of Criminal Law and the Code of Forest Protection.

Investigation

Head prosecutor Hwang, of the Taipei Prosecutors' Office, along with prosecutors Wu and Hwang, directed the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior, along with the Military Police, to search the defendants' residences and warehouses in Taipei City, New Taipei City, and Tao-Yuan City. As a result, a thousand pieces of woods, including Taiwania, and guns, and ammunition were seized. The prosecutors subpoena the defendants and witnesses in order to investigate the facts. As a result, Prosecutors then petitioned for custody with incommunicado of the defendants, on the grounds of the flight risks, the preventing of destructions or concealment of evidence, and tampering witnesses. The petitions were all approved by Court on 24, September 2015.