

## **Press Release**

## **Taipei District Prosecutors Office**

Release Date: February 4nd, 2023 Media Contact: Deputy Chief Prosecutor Tsai Contact number: (02) 23146881

About media reports: The Communist Party espionage case was appealed by the Prosecutor of Taipei District Prosecutors Office, and it was suspected that the superior directed the case handling. The Department clarifies as follows:

1. Based on the supervision of court decisions, the prosecutor filed an appeal against Wei O-Yi and Qian O-Dong for violating the National Security Act. Unexpectedly, there was a report of "suspected superiors guiding the handling of the case", which is speculation and over-connected, so Taipei District Prosecutors Office (TDPO) would like to clarify it.

2. Before the court pronounced the verdict on January 10, 2023, the prosecutor of TDPO submitted a supplementary statement of reasons on January 6, 2023, arguing that although the defendants Wei O-Yi and Qian O-Dong pleaded guilty during the trial, they requested a lighter sentence and probation; however, because the similar case of recruiting Zhang O-Ning and other two people into the Mainland Area to develop organization by the same method, Taiwan Kaohsiung District Court in has just sentenced them to 3 years 10 months, 10 months and 3 months in prison. Zhang O-Ning's appeal was still rejected and confirmed, because it was not appropriate to lightly indulge, and asked the court to give a proper punishment.

3. Then the court sentenced the defendant Wei  $\bigcirc$ -Yi to a fixed-term

imprisonment of 1 year and 10 months (probation for 5 years), and the defendant Qian  $\bigcirc$  -Dong to a fixed-term imprisonment of 1 year (probation for 4 years), and should pay NT\$600,000 and NT\$300,000 to the public treasury, receiving legal education. After receiving the verdict, the prosecutor of TDPO believed that the court's sentencing was not appropriate, and filed an appeal on January 19, 2023. In addition to the original public prosecutor, the head public prosecutor and the investigation prosecutor also believed that the court's judgment did not comply with the criminal sentence. If there is a violation of the principle and other mistakes, so they appeal together with their names for appropriateness. In addition to citing the sentencing opinion of "similar cases should be handled in the same way" as stated in the supplementary reasons disclosed above, the grounds for appeal also admit that the actions of the two defendants seriously violated the interests of our country, and the defendant Qian  $\bigcirc$ -Dong reluctantly confessed his crimes during the trial, which is not appropriate for probation. In addition, the court's judgment did not take into account the fact that the two defendants received long-term free meals, ball games, and tourist entertainment for their illegal and criminal gains, so request to revoke the original judgment and sentence another legal judgment.

4. The two defendants committed the crime of developing organizations in the Mainland Area before the revision of the National Security Act, which is a crime that seriously endangers national security. This is an issue of great concern to the government and the whole people. The prosecutors believe that the original judgment violated the law. The appeal by the law is the responsibility of prosecutors. As for the materials attached to the appeal letter, it is not only the news clippings of the head of the judiciary's speech at the Judicial Festival, but also includes 4 media reports related to this case and 2 criminal judgments for reference, all of which are urging the court to make an appropriate judgment, and emphasized the importance of the national security case, therefore hereby clarified.