



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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The Taipei District Prosecutors Office received ill-gotten gains related to the Lafayette Frigate Affair transferred from Switzerland on July 11th, totaling over US\$138.04 million (approximately NT\$4.3 billion). This marks another successful recovery of overseas ill-gotten gains, following the previous transfer of over US\$11 million (approximately NT\$330 million) from Liechtenstein on February 2nd, associated with the late arms trader Andrew Wang's family.

Back in the 2000s, the Attorney General of the Supreme Prosecutors Office submitted a request for mutual legal assistance to Switzerland to freeze substantial illicit kickbacks in the bank accounts of the Wang family. By September 1995, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office had brought charges against Andrew Wang, his wife, their children, as well as Kuo Li-heng and Kuo Li-tian, along with six others, for alleged offenses under the Anti-Corruption Act and the Money Laundering Control Act. Subsequently, Andrew Wang, his wife, and their four children fled abroad, and arrest warrants were issued by the court in 2009. Andrew Wang was later found deceased in the United Kingdom on January 20, 2005, which led to a court decision to dismiss the case and withdraw the arrest warrants.

After the implementation of the revised Confiscation provision in Criminal Code, the former Special Investigation Division (SPD) filed a request with the Taipei Court on July 1, 2016, to confiscate the ill-gotten gains of individuals such as Wang, including interest, in accordance with the amended stipulations. Subsequently, the Taipei District Prosecutors' Office took over the SPD's responsibilities on January 1, 2017, and assigned specialized prosecutors and prosecutor investigators to handle this case. Eventually, the Supreme Court issued rulings in 2019 and 2021, confirming the confiscation of over US\$487.19 million (with related

interest amounts still pending review by the Taiwan High Court).

In 2020, the Taipei District Prosecutors' Office, through the Ministry of Justice, requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to approach Switzerland for the return of the ill-gotten gains of individuals like Wang. After years of effort and with the full support and assistance of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Switzerland, we have successfully repatriated over US\$138.04 million today.

The defendant, Wang, and others still possess some of their criminal proceeds overseas, Taipei District Prosecutors Office will follow up on the case and try to get the money back as soon as possible through mutual legal assistance in order to fully strip the wrongdoers of their illegal gains, conforming to the public's expectations of justice.