



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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Taipei District Prosecutors Office Concludes Investigation on Attempted Murder Case Involving Defendant Yang

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office has concluded its investigation on a case involving the defendant Yang, who is accused of attempted murder on December 20, 2024. A brief summary is provided below:

I. Investigation Overview

This case was investigated under the direction of Prosecutors Lin Hsiu-Tsung and Wu Yi-Chien, in collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Taipei City Police Department and the Zhongshan Precinct.

II. Investigation Findings

The defendant Yang has been indicted for the crime of attempted murder under the Criminal Code.

III. Brief Summary of Criminal Facts

1. Acquaintance and Relationship:

Yang met a 23-year-old Australian exchange student, Alexander (hereinafter referred to as "Alex"), who was studying in a Chinese language program at a university in northern Taiwan through a language exchange group on Facebook. Between January 20, 2023, and March 24, 2023, although they were not officially in a romantic relationship, they met frequently. On March 20, 2023, Alex informed Yang that he planned to return to Australia on April 16 after completing his studies in Taiwan.

2. First Poisoning Attempt (March 24, 2023):

Unhappy with Alex's decision to return to Australia alone, Yang

attempted to delay his departure by poisoning him. With the intent to cause harm, Yang planned to mix liquid rat poison into his food and drinks, causing him to fall ill and thus forcing him to stay in Taiwan under her care. On March 24, 2023, Yang mixed the poison "Rodenticide" into grape juice and gave it to Alex to drink. From March 25, 2023, Alex began experiencing severe symptoms, including diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, continuous nosebleeds, hematuria (blood in urine), petechiae (small red or purple spots on the skin and tongue), and coagulation disorders indicative of an unknown superwarfarin-type poisoning. On April 9, 2023, Alex's father, Stephen, arrived in Taiwan to care for his son and was received by Yang at her rental apartment in Taipei. Stephen arranged to return to Australia with Alex for medical treatment on April 16, 2023.

3. Second Poisoning Attempt (April 16, 2023):

After knowing of the confirmed travel plan, Yang, unwilling to accept her plan's failure, escalated her actions from harm to an intentional attempt to kill. She mixed liquid rat poison and the antihypertensive drug Amlodipine ("Myodipine") into Alex's food, causing him to suffer from vomiting, abdominal pain, dizziness, weakness, and hypovolemic shock, which led him into the intensive care unit on April 17, 2023.

4. Third Poisoning Attempt (April 30 – May 2, 2023):

Stephen later raised funds through a public crowdfunding campaign abroad to arrange for a medical evacuation flight, planning to take Alex back to Australia for treatment on May 3, 2023.

Upon realizing that her plan had failed again, Yang discovered intimate photos of Alex and an young girl on his phone. This triggered feelings of jealousy and resentment, prompting her to attempt to kill Alex once more. Between April 30 and May 2, 2023, under the guise of caregiving, Yang again mixed liquid rat poison and Amlodipine into Alex's food. As a result, Alex's condition deteriorated from April 30, despite receiving vitamin K1 treatment, his coagulation function worsened.

5. Discovery of Poison and Rescue (May 1, 2023):

On May 1, 2023, Alex's mother returned to Yang's rental apartment in Taipei to pack Alex's belongings in preparation for

his departure to Australia. While doing so, she discovered an empty bottle of "Taiwei Quick Rodenticide Bait Solution," which contains lethal rat poison. Realizing its possible connection to Alex's symptoms, she promptly arranged for Alex to be evacuated by medical flight to Australia, where he received further treatment. His survival meant the crime remained an attempted murder.

IV. Sentencing Recommendation

Considering the severity of the defendant's actions, the malicious nature of the crime, the process by which it was committed, and the defendant's lack of remorse, there are no extenuating circumstances warranting leniency. The prosecution, therefore, requests that the defendant be sentenced to no less than **eight years of imprisonment** as a warning and deterrent.