

北檢中小盤緝毒的堅實與創新

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台北地檢署近十年來,在查緝中小盤 毒品投注了大量的人力與資源,成績斐然。 我在北檢任職緝毒組期間,也見證了這一 切。

壹、台北都會區的中小盤毒品 特色

由於台北市都會區高度商業化、娛樂 化及人口密集,新舊社區混合雜處,夜店 與酒店文化盛行,這些客觀環境反映在毒 品市場上,呈現出各類傳統及新興毒品大 幅擴散流傳的地下經濟現象,也使得中小 盤毒品交易在本轄相當明顯。

尤其,台北首善之區,警方對夜店、 酒店的高強度掃蕩與密集臨檢,再加上海 關及國際郵包檢查業務就鄰近本轄,以及 台北市調處、新北市調處、刑事局毒品查 緝中心亦密接於本轄,都使得台北地檢署

^{1.} 本文作者為本署檢察官。

甲小盤緝毒

緝毒組獲取了廣泛而多元的案件類型,並 且和各機關建構了相當綿密的緝毒網絡。

貳、建置毒品資料庫之緣起與

成效

北檢在面對龐大的毒品中小盤市場, 在 2011 年開始建置毒品資料庫。最特別的 是,北檢毒品資料庫的研發,完全是由緝 毒組檢察官構思實務蒐證的需求,並由具 備資訊專長的檢察事務官自主撰寫程式, 並且設計整套從法警室收案到內勤檢察官 偵訊的表格與行政流程,讓所有毒品人口 的資訊完整記錄,提供有效進行資料探勘 的基礎,並且確保後續調卷、分析、發交 指揮的偵查作為。

我於 2011 年 1 月受指派參與北檢毒 品資料庫的建置工作,3 月間系統初步建 置完成並試營運,6 月時在北檢同仁通力 合作下,已累積數萬筆資訊,並且透過資 料探勘,比對出了第一筆毒品上游,並且 向警察局發出了第一張指揮書。從那時起, 北檢在中小盤毒品的緝毒上,透過大數據 和資料探勘的工作,大量主動挖掘出毒品 上游嫌犯,每月主動發交警方偵辦的案件 約上百件,這是北檢於檢察機關中能自主 研發,主導辦案的特異之處。

參、偵辦中小盤之繁複與辛勞

中小盤毒品查緝是一項費力、耗時的 工作,檢警的辛勞不在話下,有時真是一 個體力活,靠得是熱血和意志力在堅持。 因為,中小盤毒品的交易雙方,就是最底 層的施用者,以及長期施用而升格兼營販 毒的小盤,和提供小盤的中盤商,他們每 次交易的毒品數量大約都只有幾克到幾十 克。儘管每次交易的數量少,但非常密集 頻繁,而且透過短暫臨時的通訊聯絡和快 速面交,夾帶大量的術語和酒店、夜店、 KTV 等場所的隱蔽,猶如微血管間的串連 流動,形成了綿密的交流網絡,不易查緝。

所以,檢警在監控、監聽、追蹤中小 盤毒品上,非常耗費心力,而往往執行搜 索時,在通訊保障監察法的嚴格管制下, 讓原本已經艱難的蒐證作為,需要耗費許 多心力加強舉證才能取得法院核准的搜索 票。即便執行搜索和逮捕行動,也要在刑 事訴訟法限定的24小時內,快速而大量偵 訊可能高達10多個犯嫌,包括繁複的許多 藥頭和藥腳的相互指證與辨認。所以偵辦 中小盤毒品的檢察官,在每次執行專案時, 從下午連續偵訊到深夜,在凌晨趕辦聲押 交保等程序是家常便飯。北檢緝毒組許多 檢察官均是懷抱著熱血與使命,在這個崗 位上默默地奉獻。

我曾偵辦一件青少年販賣愷他命及運 動網站賭博案,主嫌是4位約20歲的年輕 人,他們經營賭博網站兼賣毒品,每天收 付賭資時順便交易毒品,賭客從17歲高中 生到30歲上班族都有,內湖分局偵查隊的 偵查佐辛勤地監聽了半年,賭客至少上百 人。執行搜索行動的當天,動員的警力高 達上百人,逮捕約30人,包括了4位主嫌、 3位幫助犯及20多位藥腳。但是,當天查 扣的毒品總重量,卻只有約15克的愷他 命。接下來檢警的偵訊工作,包含監聽譯 文的比對及30人之間彼此的指證,都是非 常耗費腦力和體力的。

我還記得,當時只有包括我在內的三 位檢察官負責偵訊,24小時的時效壓力和 體力考驗都是艱鉅的,而這就是中小盤毒 品查緝的例行工作。相對於大盤毒品的查 緝而言,執行搜索行動當天的犯嫌人數可 能只有1到3位,身上查扣動輒500公克 到數公斤不等,甚至上百公斤的毒品,新 聞報導與數量績效的風光情景,這是中小 盤毒品查緝所無法企及的。事實上,中小 盤毒品的查緝,就是一個勞心更勞力的紮 實工作。

肆、一群沒有鎂光燈的無名英

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但是,從毒品溯源的角度,不查中小 盤毒品,如何向上追出大盤毒品?因此, 檢察官在中小盤毒品的查緝上,可謂一群 默默付出的無名英雄,但卻是建構打擊毒 品市場的最堅實力量。而且,正由於北檢 聯合警方積極打擊中小盤毒品,在降低底 層毒品需求的市場上,發揮了有效的掃毒 功效。自100年6月起,北檢毒品資料庫 每月均主動挖掘出大約100到105件的中 小盤犯嫌情資,經警方繼續追查後,大約 有三分之一能進一步確認犯嫌身分並進行 監聽或蒐證,其中又約有三分之一可有效 破獲販毒集團。正因為北檢毒品資料庫的 高效建置,大量挖掘出了中小盤毒品的案 件,也大幅加重了緝毒組檢察官的工作負 荷。

儘管北檢緝毒組工作繁重,卻因此 吸引了許多熱血的檢察官投入。北檢緝毒 組辦公室是全地檢署最熱鬧的場所之一, 隨時都有警察和調查官前來請票和報告案 情,而高度機動的緝毒專案和掃蕩行動, 有時更讓辦公室像個作戰指揮中心。許多 年輕檢察官就是在這樣的環境下,歷練他 的檢察實務經驗。

伍、結合警方共同掃蕩酒店毒

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此外,本署從2013年起,在打擊中 小盤毒品上,每年一定期間都會透過毒品 資料庫的比對,鑑別出供應毒品最大宗的 前幾名酒店,並且指揮警方進行大規模搜 索與掃蕩。由於供應毒品的酒店(俗稱藥 店)內包廂動輒百間,一間酒店所需執行 的警力就超過二百人,檢察官若一次指揮 警方同步搜索四家酒店,動員警力往往超 過八百人以上,專組檢察官更是全員投入, 當然後續的偵訊與結案工作,更是備極艱 辛。緝毒工作儘管必須犧牲許多個人的生 活,但正是基於檢察官打擊犯罪的使命感 與流淌於血液中的熱血基因,驅策我們繼 續向前。

陸、緝毒須由中小盤向上溯源

大家都知道, 毒品市場來是由供給與 需求的各方組成。國際反毒策略上, 也都 強調抑制供給與減少需求同等重要。查緝 大盤、嚴懲製毒是抑制供給的重要手段; 而查緝中小盤交易則是減少毒品需求市場 的有效良方。位於需求市場最底層的中小 盤交易, 是基於藥頭和藥腳之間的信任所 建立起的買賣關係。如果只專注打擊大盤 走私和製毒, 不去收拾中小盤交易市場, 反毒成效是有限的。

單以市場價格來說,偶爾破獲大盤未 必會讓中小盤毒品價格明顯上升,就算發 生波動也很快回穩,而且毒品種類太多很 容易替代。這是因為,需求既然一直存在, 毒販自然會找來足夠貨源滿足消費者需 求,大盤偶爾被查獲沒收也是毒販的預期 損失,早已被他們內化為交易風險與成本 了。 中

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禁止象牙交易,我們會說「沒有買 賣,就沒有殺害」,道理很簡單。可是, 如果政府想要禁絕魚翅,不思減少民眾吃 魚翅的習慣,坐視餐廳和宴席大啖魚翅, 卻一味派海巡去抓漁民走私,抓到以後在 碼頭上,把大批魚翅擺開供記者拍照,這 樣的做法能有甚麼效果呢?殺頭的生意有 人做,抓了一個漁民還有千千萬萬個漁民。 正確的作法,當然應該同步瓦解消費者的 需求市場,盡可能降低毒品的需求。

柒、緝毒工作精益求精

本署建置毒品資料庫,以及投入大量 創新、資源和人力在中小盤查緝,就是從 抑制毒品需求市場的理念而出發。我在北 檢曾兩度進入緝毒專組,承辦緝毒工作逾 三年,見證了它的艱辛與榮耀。現在,緝 毒專組已經擴編為兩組,有更多熱血檢察 官前仆後繼地發揮戰力。在全國各地,同 時有上百位檢察同仁在緝毒工作上兢兢業 業,他們是我國反毒工作的前線戰士,也 是把守關卡的無名英雄,我以有幸與他們 並肩作戰為榮。 Commitment and Innovation of Taipei District Prosecutors Office in the Crackdown of Wholesale Trading and Small-Time Sales of Illicit Drugs

Ta Lin

- I. The feature of drug wholesalers and service wholesalers in Taipei urban areaII. The grounds and effects to set up drug
 - transaction databank
- III. The complexity and effort to investigate drug wholesalers

IV.Prosecutors, the unknown heros

- V.Collaboration with the police to crack drug transaction in night clubs
- VI.The bottom-up drug investigation VII.Elaborated investigation in drug

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Over the past ten years, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has invested a large amount of manpower and resources in the investigation of the wholesale and small-time trading of illicit drugs. Our efforts have paid off. During my tenure in the Anti-Drug Division, I stood as a witness to this journey.

I. The feature of drug wholesalers and service wholesalers in Taipei urban area

Taipei is a highly developed metropolitan area with a high concentration of population, shops, and entertainment venues. New and old communities are blended together, and there are many bars and night clubs. As result, the underground drug market is vibrant, with traditional and new types of substances flowing around. Wholesalers and small-time drug dealers are active.

As Taipei is the capital city of Taiwan, the police frequently raid pubs and night clubs. As our offices are adjacent to the customs administration, the international post inspection offices, the Taipei City Field Office and the New Taipei Field Offices for the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, as well as the Drug Investigation Center of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office is exposed to a wide variety of cases and has constructed a closely-knit network with relevant government agencies in cracking down on drugs.

II.The grounds and effects to set up drug transaction databank

In the face of the massive market for illicit drug wholesalers and small-time dealers, in 2011 the Taipei District Prosecutors Office began to deploy a drug tracking database. It is worth noting that the development of this database was entirely based on the practical requirements for evidence gathering by the prosecutors responsible for drug seizures. The program was written by investigator officers specialized in information technology. The database starts from the acceptance of case files by the Court Police Office to the interrogation forms and administrative workflows for the prosecutors on duty. It contains the complete records of all the individuals associated with the drug trade, in order to serve as the basis for effective data mining, archiving, analytics, investigation, and operation instructions.

In January 2011, I was assigned to take part in the deployment of the drug tracking database in the Taipei District Prosecutors Office. In March, the preliminary development was completed and a trial run was conducted. By June, with the collective efforts from our colleagues, the database had collated tens of thousands of data entries. We cross checked the first upstream transaction with data mining and issued the first warrant of execution to the police. This marked the beginning of using Big Data and data analytics in the examination of illicit drug wholesalers and small-time drug runners, in order to uncover the suspects in the upper stream.

By releasing about one hundred cases to the police each month, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has built its reputation for R&D and taking control in investigations.

III.The complexity and effort to investigate drug wholesalers

The tracking down of wholesale and small-time activities of traffic trafficking is a tedious and time-consuming job. Of course, it is a taxing process for both prosecutors and police officers. Sometimes it is a challenge to our physical stamina. What keeps us going is willpower and enthusiasm. The network for wholesale and small-time trading consists of the drug users at the bottom of the pyramid, the chronic drug takers who have become parttime dealers, and the wholesalers who supply the small dealers. The quantity changing hands each time is from a

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few grams to a few dozen grams. Each transaction is small in volume, but the transactions are brisk and frequent. The buyers and sellers get in touch through temporary communication setups and quickly meet up for the trades. The vast network of miniature transactions is like a capillary network running through KTV, pub, and night clubs, and it is masked with jargon and slang.

In brief, the monitoring, surveillance and tracking of wholesale and smalltime drug dealings is a daunting task for prosecutors and police officers. The stringent reinforcement of the Communication Protection and Monitoring Law renders the difficult process of evidence gathering almost impossible. Extensive evidence is required to obtain search warrants from the court. After the search and arresting operation. it is necessary to quickly interrogate numerous suspects within the 24 hours specified by the Code of Criminal Procedure. This has to cover the identification between multiple drug traffickers from upstream to downstream. As a result, working from the afternoon into the late-night hours is commonplace for the prosecutors in charge because

they have to complete the detention and bail procedures in the early morning. Many prosecutors in the Taipei District Prosecutors Office have been dedicated to the war on drugs for years with enthusiasm and commitment.

I was involved in a case where four individuals in their twenties were running a sports betting site and peddling Ketamine. They sold drugs when they collected wagers and distributed winnings on a daily basis. Their customers ranged from senior high school students who were 17 years old to office workers at the age of 30. Detectives in the Neihu Police Office taped their communications for six months and identified at least 100 gamblers. The search and raid operation mobilized over one hundred police officers. About 30 people were arrested, including four main suspects, three accessories, and over 20 small-time drug dealers. However, the seized drug amounted only to approximately 15 grams of Ketamine. The interrogations, the cross references to the tape transcriptions, and the witnesses among the arrested 30 individuals were all required great mental and physical stamina.

I recalled that I was one of the three prosecutors responsible for the interrogations. It was taxing to our minds and bodies that we had to do everything within 24 hours. Yet this was one of the drills and routines for the cracking down of wholesale and small-time drug trafficking. Police operations for large drug dealings may arrest one to three suspects and seize 500 grams, a few kilograms, or even up to one hundred kilograms of substances. The attention from the media and the recognition for such work performance (measured by quantities) is much more glamorous. However, the tracking of wholesale and small-time drug trading is the groundwork that requires mental and physical endurance.

IV.Prosecutors, the unknown heros

How can we arrest drug lords and trace the origins without identifying the small players? It is fair to say that the prosecutors focusing on the crackdown of wholesale and small-time dealers are nameless heroes who lay down the foundation for anti-drug efforts. By aggressively combating wholesale and small-time drug trades, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has been effective in undermining the demand for illicit drugs from the bottom of the pyramid. Since June 2011, our database has uncovered information about 100-105 wholesalers and small dealers each month. After the investigation by the police, approximately 1/3 of these cases lead to the confirmation of suspect identities in order to start taping or gathering evidence. Then, about 1/3 of such cases can lead to the effective disruption of drug trafficking operations. The efficiency of our database has revealed a large number of wholesalers and small-time dealers, but it has also increased the workload of the prosecutors in the Anti-Drug Division.

Despite the long hours, the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has attracted many keen prosecutors. Our offices are one of the busiest spots throughout our organization. Police officers and investigators flow in to request warrants and provide updates. The high mobility of anti-drug projects and raid operations make our offices feel more like a war room, and many young prosecutors have accumu-

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ing evidence.

lated real-life experience in this environment.

V.Collaboration with the police to crack drug transaction in night clubs

Since 2013, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office has allocated some work days each year to cross referencing the drug tracking database in order to screen out the night clubs where the largest quantity of illicit drugs change hands. Police operations are then organized for an extensive sweep at these venues. As each of these night clubs (colloquially known as the "pharmacists") contains numerous VIP rooms. the raiding of one night club may require over 200 police officers. For a simultaneous search of four clubs at one sitting led by the prosecutors, over 800 police officers must be mobilized. The dedicated team of prosecutors are then confronted with long hours of interrogations and case closings. Whilst we have to sacrifice our personal lives, it is the sense of purpose to combat crimes and the passion to make a difference that keep us going.

VI.The bottom-up drug enforcement

As we know, the illicit drug market consists of forces from supply and demand. The anti-drug strategy in the international community also emphasizes that supply clampdown and demand suppression are equally important. The attacking of drug lords is an important means of deterring supply, whilst The war on drugs will have a limited impact if we only focus on the investigation of large dealings and smuggling, without tidying up the market for wholesalers and small-time drug runners.

the tracking of wholesale and small dealers is an effective way of reducing demand. The small and medium sized trades sitting at the bottom of the pyramid are hinged on the trust between the source and the drug takers. The war on drugs will have a limited impact if we only focus on the investigation of large dealings and smuggling, without tidying up the market for wholesalers and small-time drug runners.

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Also, the occasional busting of heavyweight drug dealers does not always significantly boost prices in the wholesale and retail market. The depth of the illicit drug market (given the large variety of substances and the high substitution effects) can always stabilize any short-term fluctuations. As demand is always there, drug traffickers can always find sufficient sources to meet market requirements. The occasional loss from police raids has been factored into the transaction costs and risks in the books of drug dealers at the source.

When it comes to the ivory trade, we would say that there will be no killing if there is no buying. It is easy to understand. If the government wishes to place a ban on the selling of shark fins, there is no point in just cracking down on the smuggling by fishermen, without changing the consumption of shark fins at restaurants and on banquet tables. What good does it do if we just lay out the seized shark fins on the dock so that journalists can take pictures? As long as it remains a profitable business, there will be hundreds and thousands of fishermen chasing this market. The right approach is to reduce the demand whilst disrupting the supply.

VII.Elaborated enforcement in drug

The deployment of the drug tracking database by the Taipei District Prosecutors Office and the investment of manpower and resources in innovations all aim to suppress the demand for drugs by cracking down on wholesalers and small-time drug dealers. I served in the Anti-Drug Division of the Taipei District Prosecutors Office for two terms and was involved in drug enforcement for more than three years. I have seen how difficult and rewarding it is. Now that we have two teams dedicated to anti-drug efforts, more prosecutors are working around the clock. Up to one hundred prosecutors throughout Taiwan have been dedicated to the war on illicit drugs. They are the warriors and heroes at the front line of this battlefield, and I am proud to be part of this endeavor.





