

## Prosecutor Led Police to Crack Down A Fraud Gang

The Sanxia Precinct of the New Taipei City Police Department received reports of suspicious ads on the internet which lured people with financial needs to approach their offices in the Sanxia District of the New Taipei City for small loans. The unsuspecting lenders were then tricked into handing over their deposit books, bank cards, identification cards and other related documents to the gang members and taken into custody against their wills at an unknown place in the Ying-Ge District. Their bank accounts were at the same time used to receive money wired by other fraud victims. Those accounts were often frozen after being reported as suspicious accounts. After the local police reported their findings to the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office, Prosecutor Chen Shi-Shi was in charged of the case and directed the police in conducting further investigations.

On January 8, 2022, 17 law enforcers were deployed for the search of the identified location. The Ying-Ge Fire Department provided an aerial ladder that allowed the police to break the windows to enter the apartment on the third floor. An adult suspect named Cheng and five underage suspects were arrested. Seven victims under illegal custody, including an infant not even 12 months old, were rescued. A great number of deposit books, bank cards, cellphones, monitoring cameras, baseball bats, and commercial papers were seized. After interrogating the suspects and examining the evidence, Prosecutor Chen deemed that there were sufficient facts to support the concern that related evidence might be destroyed, fabricated or altered and potential witnesses might be colluded, and also the main suspect Cheng was very likely to commit the same offense again. Therefore, the prosecutor filed the petition to the court for the detention of the suspect and it was approved by the judge. The other five underage suspects were escorted to the Juvenile Court and taken into protective custody by their parnets afterwards.

The New Taipei District Prosecutors Office will proceed with the following investigation of this criminal organization in a speedy manner in the effort to protect the safety of the general public and their properties. We also urge that people take loans with legitimate institutions so as to avoid becoming the victims of such criminal gangs.