

The Crackdown of Naked Photos Taking and Sexual Assault Against Internet Model Applicants

In November 2010, Banciao District Prosecutors Office (BDPO) received information indicating that the suspect Mr. Wang used the alias "Little Softie" in the "UT Internet chat rooms" and "Peas chat room" online, falsely claiming that a worldwide chain of beauty salons, operated by his aunt, were currently seeking young models between the age of 13 to 15 to promote beauty products. The applicants were required to have their nude photos taken, and were later allured by Mr. Wang to his residence and sexually assaulted by him.

BDPO assigned this case to Prosecutor Xie Zhi-Wei immediately. Prosecutor Xie further directed Taipei County Police Bureau Criminal Brigade to launch a full-scale investigation in which the relevant evidences were collected and the victims were visited and questioned. On December 8th, with search warrants issued by judge, the police searched Mr. Wang's residences and successfully impounded computers, digital cameras, CD-ROMs and other evidences. A preliminary report also showed that there were about 200 victims involved in the case.

Based on Mr. Wang's significant suspicion of sexual assault and breaching Article 27 of Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act, which outlaws shooting and manufacturing videos or CD-ROMs containing sexual intercourse with minors under the age of 18, and his likelihood to flee and contaminate other co-offenders, as well as his dangerousness to the society as a potential repeat offender, Prosecutor Xie made a request to the court that the pretrial detention be ordered against him. Furthermore, the prosecutor also ordered the police to pursue the remaining accomplices.

BDPO calls for other victims to come forward to testify, and ensures that their identities shall be remained confidential. Young girls with dreams to become models should proceed with more caution as they cast their job applications in the woods of internet, where nightmares might await.