

The Outcome of the Investigation on School Lunch

Bribery Scandal

2012.1.17

Eight principals and ten people from four catering firms (Eau Food Co., Ltd. , Kinma Food Industrial Co., Ltd., Jinjin boxed lunches Ltd., Dragon Boxed Lunches Group Meals Co., Ltd.) were indicted on December 26, 2011 after the first-phase investigation by prosecutors from Banciao District Prosecutors Office(BDPO). The meal suppliers Li Murou, Cheng Xiaoling, Lin Mengzhen, Hong Shiyuan, and Lin Qiu all cooperated with the investigators, and made confessions of all offenses at the very beginning, helping the prosecutor clarify the facts. The prosecutor hence recommended that the court to commute their punishment by two thirds. The prosecutor also recommended the court to commute the punishment of Chen Siyu, Ke Jincheng, Ke Zhibao, Chen Xiunaun, and Liao Xianbin from lunch companies based on their confessions.

The prosecutor sought severe penalties — ranging from 15 to 20 years in prison — specifically for three of the eight principals. Of those eight indicted principals, prosecutors sought the heaviest sentence of 20 years on Yeh Chenyi from Shulin Elementary School, 18 years on Chang Chungjen of Xiude Elementary School, and 15 years on Ke Feng from Luzhou Elementary School because they denied all the offenses and refused to cooperate with investigators. Prosecutors recommended the court to commute the other five principals' punishment because they cooperated with the investigators, made confessions, and returned the alleged bribes from the meal suppliers totaling to NTD 7.221 million. Meanwhile, Tsai Pao-chun from Bihua Elementary School cooperated with the investigators by persuading other principals to surrender themselves. Prosecutors recommended the court to commute his penalty by two thirds.

After the second-phase investigation, prosecutors from BDPO indicted eleven principals (3 junior high school ones and 8 elementary school ones) and eleven people from alleged four companies on January 17, 2012. Prosecutors recommended the court to commute the punishment of Li Murou, Cheng Xiaoling, Lin Mengzhen, Hong Shiyuan, and Lin Qiuman because they confessed to crime during investigation. Liu Yuping, Ke Jincheng, Ke Zhibao, Chen Xiunuan, Liao Xianbin were also recommended to commute their punishment for the same reason.

Prosecutors sought the heaviest sentence of 20 years on Tsang Mousan from

Toucian Junior High School, sentence of 18 years each on Hou Chanli from Yonghe Junior High School, Pan Chouning from Wanci Elementary School, Fu Yuning from Zhonghe Elementary School, as well as Wu Yongyu from Lujiang Elementary School, and sentence of 15 years on Zhao Rongjing from Annhoe Elementary School because of their refusal to confess to crime and the degree of their corruption. On the other hand, Liu Chongren from Erchong Junior High School, Chiu Chungyin from Yonghe Elementary School, Luo Rongsen from Rongfu Elementary School, and Shen Binghuang from Xintai Junior High School cooperated with the investigators, made confessions, and returned all bribes from the meal suppliers in a total amount of NTD 7.438 million. Therefore, prosecutors recommended the court to commute their penalties.

The crime proceeds surrendered by the suspects have amounted to NTD 25.7295 million until January 16th. The prosecutor searched the relevant places on January 17th, and summoned three elementary school principals, one junior high school principal, one high school principal, a High School Student Affairs Officer, and a Junior High School General Services Director. One Elementary School principal surrendered himself yesterday and handed over part of the unlawful gains, amounting to NTD 200,000.