

## On the Case of the Taipei MRT Mass Stabbing Spree Attack: Initial Investigation Phase

After receiving the information in the afternoon of May 21st, 2014, that a random killing spree happened on a train of Taipei Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system's Bannan Line at around 4:20 p.m., Deputy Chief Prosecutor Li Hai-Long immediately assigned Prosecutor Chen Bo-Jun to lead a task force for further investigation. Learning that there were three dead before arriving hospitals and more than twenties injured, this Office immediately assigned three teams of prosecutors and forensic pathologists to conduct examination of the corpses.

In the evening the same day, Prosecutor Chen Bo-Jun instantly instructed New Taipei City Police Department to advance the investigation, including making a crime-scene inspection on the train, conducting searches as well as collecting evidences. Meanwhile, Prosecutor Yang Jing-Shun, Wang Xiao-Ning, Chen Xu-Hua went to Taipei City Hospital's Heping Fuyou Branch, New Taipei City Hospital's Banciao Branch, Taipei Hospital and Far Eastern Memorial Hospital to examine the corpse of victims respectively. Considering it was a serious violent crime, the Prosecutors found it necessary to temporarily freeze the bodies for further autopsies. Knowing that the family members of the victims were profoundly saddened by the loss of their loved ones, Head Prosecutor Feng Cheng and workers from Association for Victims Support(AVS) went to the hospitals to relieve their sufferings and provide assistance.

The suspect, Cheng Chieh, was immediately arrested by police and passengers at Jiangzicui MRT Station. After overnight questioning by police and prosecutors, he admitted conducting crimes including murders, a violation of paragraph 1 of Article 271 of Criminal Code. For the fact that the accused was strongly suspected of having committed the offense punishable by death penalty and also for the purpose of preventing the suspect from fleeing from justice, Prosecutor Chen Bo-Jun, at around 4:30 a.m. on May 22nd, asked the court to issue a detention order, which was granted by the court around 6 a.m. the same day.