

Press Release
Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office
March.18,2019

Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office investigate the bloody case onboard Wen Peng and apply for the detention order

On the afternoon of Feb. 20, 2019, Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office was informed that a bloody case broke out on board Wen Peng, which is a Longline fishing vessel, No.CT6-1411, 37.5 meters in length, 255tons in weight, mainly catching tuna, swordfish, shark and bonito. It was approved to fish in the Indian Ocean from Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec.31, 2019 by Counsel of Agriculture, based and registered in Pingdong County's Donggang Township. The incident happened in the Indian Ocean approximately 1,540 nautical miles from the Mauritius capital of Port Louis(9 degrees 33 minutes south latitude and 82 degrees 1 minute east longitude) at 1:44 on Feb.20, 2019. The Filipino suspect is suspected of killing and injuring several Filipino and Indonesian crewmates with knife, while some other Filipino and Indonesian crew members jumped overboard during and after the attack. The chief prosecutor of Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office defined the incident as a case of important public interest, high social profile and should activate investigation a.s.a.p.The prosecutor appointed soon contacted Fleet Branch and Investigation Branch of Coast Guard Administration (CGA), Fisheries Agency (FA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help process the relevant affairs.

Wen Peng left the port of Qianzhen Town, Kaohsiung City after inspection on Jan. 24, 2019 and planned to fish in the Indian Ocean. Twenty-four people were aboard Wen Peng, including three Taiwanese, 10 Filipinos and 11 Indonesians. The three Taiwanese were captain Chen, chief engineer Kao and observer Yang, who was appointed by FA, according to Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Indian Ocean for Fishing Operation, responsible for checking fisheries documents, collecting marine life information and understanding fishing process.

A Filipino crew member was suspected of hacking his crewmates with knife and several crew members jumped overboard, the captain said to the vessel owner via satellite telephone soon after the case broke out, then the owner informed FA via Donggang Fishery Radio. Informed that day, CGA at once established a special

team to counsel relevant units and activated maritime and air rescue operation overseas. CGA dispatched Hsun Hu No. 8 on Feb.21 and sailed 3104 nautical miles to the Indian Ocean for rescuing.

Moreover, Investigation Branch of CGA and FA sent 4 special agents and observers flying to Sri Lanka on Feb.23 and boarded another vessel Chao Feng No. 277 to the scene for rescuing. Taiwanese vessels Hung Fu No. 88, Shang Feng No. 3, Chao Feng No. 277 and a foreign vessel STHLA also reached the area to assist in the implementation of the rescue operation. The special agents talked to the suspect via a wireless system then successfully convinced him to surrender and commandeered Wen Peng on Mar. 2. On Mar.3, special agents transferred the suspect to the detention room onboard Hsun Hu No. 8. Observer Yang and Hsun Hu No. 8. arrived at the pier of the 5th coast guard team, CGA, located in the Qijin area of Kaohsiung this morning. Wen Peng with the rest crew members including the Taiwanese captain, chief engineer and the rest Filipino and Indonesian survivors will return to Taiwan before the end of this month.

The appointed prosecutor rushed to the 5th coast guard team, CGA early this morning to direct the team to investigate the Filipino suspect and the FA observers. After the prosecutor interrogated the suspect, comprehensively analyzed the current relevant evidence, the accused Filipino suspect AURELIO Axxxxxxx Fxxxxx is strongly suspected of killing his crewmates JESUS Mxxxxx Oxxxx and CARLITO Cxxxxxx Fxxxxxx, guilty of murder of the first section of Article 271 of the Criminal Law. He has committed an offense punishable with the death penalty, life imprisonment, or a minimum punishment of imprisonment for no less than five years and there are facts sufficient to justify an apprehension that he may destroy, forge, or alter evidence, or conspire with a co-offender or witness. The prosecutor is applying for the detention order.