



Press Release

Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office

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Yilan District Prosecutors Office Conclude Investigations on Missing Crew Members of the Su'ao Yong Yu Sing No. 18 Fishing Boat after Finding No Criminal Activity Involved Regarding the Disappearances.

Taiwan deep sea fishing boat Yong Yu Sing No. 18 lost contact offshore of Hawaii on December 30th, 2020. The Su'ao registered vessel was soon reported missing along with the captain (Captain Li) and 9 Indonesian crew members. The Yilan District Prosecutors Office appointed prosecutor led an investigation with the support of the Coast Guard Administration to determine whether if the damages of the vessel and disappearance of its crews were results of unlawful conducts. A thorough examination of the case found no criminal conducts involved and investigation has been concluded through administrative closure.

After observing signal loss of Yong Yu Sing No. 18 on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and failure to establish communications with the fishing boat, government officials requested aids of nearby countries in search of the vessel and its crew. Subsequently on January 1st, 2021 Hawaii time, United States Coast Guard discovered the missing vessel. The Taiwan Coast Guard Administration then dispatched open ocean patrol ship No. 8 (巡護八號) to coordinate rescue efforts with the help of Taiwan fishing boat, Yi Jong No. 18. Coast Guard agents boarded Yong Yu Sing No. 18 on January 31st in search for potential evidence and found all crew members missing with no signs of physical altercations, blood, or explosions on the ship. The fishing boat was then towed back under supervision and arrived at the Su'ao Port on March 8th for further inspections.

Upon further investigation and inquiry in Taiwan led by the prosecutor, findings regarding the case are as follows: multiple structural damages found on the hull of Yong Yu Sing No. 18 indicates the boat underwent strong wind waves from multiple directions. The investigation did not uncover evidence that suggests occurrences of homicide or other crimes. Through cross data analysis of time and projected route of Yong Yu Sing

No. 18, it was found that the vessel was sailing through rough waters with hazardous weather in the form of explosive cyclogenesis with a storm radius of up to 750 nautical miles when signal was lost at 16:50 PM of November 30th, 2020. Taking all factors and evidence into account, it has been concluded that this incident was resulted by hazardous weather conditions. Having found no relevant crimes pertaining to the case, Yilan District Prosecutors Office have concluded investigations and issued a press release to inform those concerned with the development of this matter.



Port side of Yong Yu Sing No. 18
(Picture taken on sea area
northeast of Midway Atoll)



Coast guards on patrol ship No. 8
approaching starboard side of Yong
Yu Sing No. 18 (Picture taken on
sea area southwest of Midway Atoll)



Yong Yu Sing No. 18 towed back to
Su' ao Port (Picture taken at Yilan
Su' ao Port)



Coast Guard forensic team conducting
investigation under direction of Yilan
District Prosecutors Office (Picture
taken at Yilan Su' ao Port)