

Yilan Prosecutors Office Bringing Charges to 5 Penetrators Falsifying Labels of Expiring and Expired Meat Products

Prosecutor Mingcheng Huang conducted investigation with Central Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Interior, and Yilan County Government Police Bureau on 5 citizens --Lin, Huang, Wu, Hao and Ting, who committed selling false labels products (Criminal Code Article 255.1 and 255.2), falsifying occupational documents (Article 216 and 215), as well as fraud by three or more persons (Article 339-4). This case has been brought to the Yilan District Court by the prosecutor on September 15, 2023.

1. Summary of Fact:

Lin was the owner of 8 companies that ran food import business, Huang was the secretary to the manager, Wu was the vice manager, and Hao and Ting were the chiefs of food storage. Due to the pandemic, the meat products imported from foreign countries had become expiring or expired. To prevent loss, Lin conspired with Huang, Wu, Hao and Ting to change expiry dates to longer periods for the expiring or expired meat products. Lin and the other four defendants would instructed companies employees to tear open the original wrap, cut the meat and remove the mildew, and put it in vacuum packaging. The employees would also produce false labels by office computers that contained product names, contents, expire dates, preserve methods, importers names, etc., and stick the labels on the meat products, falsely indicating these products were freshly produced by the factory or were within expiry dates. Since 2017, these products had been sold to 145 food companies and restaurants, causing pecuniary loss to those businesses. The fraud proceeds was around NTD 10,374,066.

2. Sentencing Recommendation

The 5 defendants had sold huge quantity of expiring or expired meat to the market, severely threatening public health. During the investigation, defendant Lin did not confess to the crime and still tried to escape responsibility, while other four defendants pled guilty. Prosecutor asked the court to consider the severity of their acts and attitudes after the crime for a proper sentencing.