



Press Release

Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office

Release date : Aug 29th, 2022

Media Contact : Head Prosecutor Liang

Contact Number : (03) 9253000

Email Address: ktjack@mail.moj.gov.tw

The Yilan District Prosecutors Office has concluded investigations regarding the Nanfang'ao Bridge collapse and indicted six individuals, further explanations are as follows:

On December 31, 1995, the Yilan county government began open tendering procedures for the construction project of the Nanfang'ao Bridge. The bids opened on January 16, 1996 and the construction contract was awarded to LI***CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD. on January 22, 1996. Defendant Lin*Feng, formerly known as Lin*Zhong, was the responsible person of the company and defendant Wu*Qian was the site supervisor. The contractor then subcontracted the main bridge anchoring system to NINE***POST-TENSIONING CO., for whom defendant Mr. Bian acted as vice president and site manager. The county government also entrusted the construction supervision to *** AND ASSOCIATES, INC., who appointed defendant Mr. Chen as the on-site supervisor during the construction period. Construction began on January 27, 1996 and was completed by July 23, 1998. However, the cumulation of failure to adhering to approved manufacturing plans for the anchoring system, the supervisory company failing to perform its duty, and the Su'ao Port Branch of Taiwan International Ports Corp. failing to conduct regular checks, maintenance and repairs as required resulted in the Nanfang'ao Bridge collapse which led to death and injury. Thus the six individuals, namely Lin, Wu, Chen, Bian, Fang and Huang, are suspected of involuntary manslaughter and other charges.

Considering the Nanfang'ao Bridge was once an important landmark of the Nanfang'ao region and its imperative role as the main pathway between the Su'ao Port and the Tofu Cape, the safety and integrity of the Nanfang'ao bridge was never under question, seeing as countless vehicles passed through the bridge each day. Unfortunately at 9:30 am on October 1, 2019, the gross negligence of the six defendants resulted in the first ever bridge collapse unrelated to natural disaster in Taiwan history, causing six deaths and two injuries. Due to the substantial degree of negligence demonstrated by the defendants and their continued denial of committing any crimes, the prosecutor recommends the court to consider all facts as stated above and impose appropriate sentences as punishment.