



Press Release

Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office

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Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office Prosecutor Yi-Tsai Yeh Indicts Etomidate Manufacturing Lab and Drug Dealers, Honored by Executive Yuan as Outstanding Personnel in "Operation Safe Home Drug Enforcement"

Prosecutor Yi-Tsai Yeh of the Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office recently directed law enforcement authorities to dismantle and indict a local manufacturing laboratory producing Category 2 Controlled Substance Etomidate, seizing a substantial quantity of Isopropoxate (an Etomidate analog). On June 9, 2026, Prosecutor Yeh was recognized as an Outstanding Personnel in "Operation Safe Home Drug Enforcement" at the Executive Yuan's Press Conference on Operation Safe Home and Major Drug Enforcement Achievements.

I. Origin of the Investigation

Upon receiving intelligence from the Criminal Investigation Corps of the Yilan County Government police bureau indicating that unlawful individuals were renting studio apartments in Yilan City to conduct drug trafficking operations, the Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office immediately assigned Prosecutor Yi-Tsai Yeh to command a specialized task force with the Yilan County Police. Following rigorous surveillance and tactical deployment, the task force obtained search warrants from the court when the opportunity matured. On March 18, 2026, law enforcement executed simultaneous searches across six locations associated with Defendant Mr. L. and two others.

Inside the apartment rented by Defendant Mr. L., officers seized processed Etomidate, raw drug materials, finished products, and processing equipment such as

beakers. Confiscated items included 74 bottles of Isopropoxate (an Etomidate analog, total gross weight: 7,925 grams), 5 bottles of finished Etomidate-infused vape juice (total gross weight: 421.31 grams), large quantities of mixing chemicals, packaging equipment, empty vape pods, and beakers. Task force officers arrested Defendant Mr. L., Defendant Mr. H., and others on site. Following interrogation, the prosecutor successfully petitioned the court for the pretrial detention and incommunicado status of Defendant Mr. L.

II. Summary of Indicted Facts

In early March 2026, Defendant Mr. L. purchased 80 bottles of raw Isopropoxate oil for NT\$500,000 at a venue in Zhongli District, Taoyuan City. Subsequently, he procured chemical raw materials, containers, and related equipment from e-commerce platforms and hardware stores. Beginning around March 16, 2026, at his rented residence, Defendant Mr. L. mixed the aforementioned Isopropoxate oil with the chemical raw materials according to specific proportions, heated, weighed, and bottled the finished substance into empty dispensers, thereby manufacturing Etomidate-infused vape juice. This operation was undertaken with the intent to sell the illicit product at exorbitant prices for substantial profit.

Separately, at approximately 4:48 AM on February 8, 2026, Defendant Mr. H. sold a 2 ml vape pod containing Etomidate, a Category 2 Controlled Substance, for the price of NT\$1,000 to another individual for financial gain, directly outside his residence located on Ci'an Road, Yilan City, Yilan County.

III. Statutory Charges

The Prosecutor hereby indicts the Defendants on the following charges:

- Defendant Mr. L. is charged with the manufacturing of a Category 2 Controlled Substance, pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 2 of the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act.
- Defendant Mr. H. is charged with the sale of a Category 2 Controlled Substance, pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 2 of the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act.

IV. Prosecution's Sentencing Recommendation

When determining the appropriate sentences, this Court is respectfully urged to consider the widespread proliferation of Etomidate vape pods—commonly known as "Zombie Vape Pods"—in contemporary society.

Because Etomidate-infused e-liquid is predominantly consumed via electronic cigarettes, it is exceedingly difficult to visually distinguish between ordinary e-cigarettes and those containing Etomidate. This physical similarity, combined with low retail costs, poses severe regulatory challenges and engenders a risk of distribution far exceeding that of traditional Category 1 and Category 2 narcotics such as heroin or methamphetamine. Furthermore, instances of drugged driving (driving under the influence of drugs) resulting from Etomidate abuse have recurred frequently, causing catastrophic casualties and inflicting immense harm upon public safety. Consequently, neither the illicit manufacture nor the sale of Etomidate can be tolerated or treated with leniency.

Additionally, Defendant Mr. H. committed the present offense intentionally within five years of a prior conviction for an offense of a similar nature under the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act. Pursuant to the statutory provisions governing repeat offenders (recidivism), an enhancement of his sentence is warranted.

Accordingly, to uphold the rule of law and maintain public order, the Prosecution specifically requests that this Honorable Court sentence Defendant Mr. H. to eleven (11) years of imprisonment, and Defendant Mr. L. to fifteen (15) years of imprisonment.

V. Subsequent Institutional Actions

In light of the recent surge in drugged driving incidents causing casualties among innocent citizens, the Taiwan Yilan District Prosecutors Office, in accordance with directives from the Ministry of Justice and the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, will strictly investigate such offenses pursuant to law and persistently request severe sentences without leniency. Furthermore, the Office will collaborate closely with judicial police agencies to enforce the law, strengthen preventative measures, strictly forestall the hazards of drugged driving, and safeguard public traffic safety and social

peace.