

## The Legacy of the White Terror

The story happened in Taiwan after the end of martial law,



but the legacy of the White Terror remains.

Tai Ji Men



is an ancient *menpai* (school) of qigong, martial arts, and self-cultivation.

It is also an international non-profit public welfare cultural organization that



aims to promote Tai Ji Men culture and improve global citizens' physical, mental, and spiritual health.

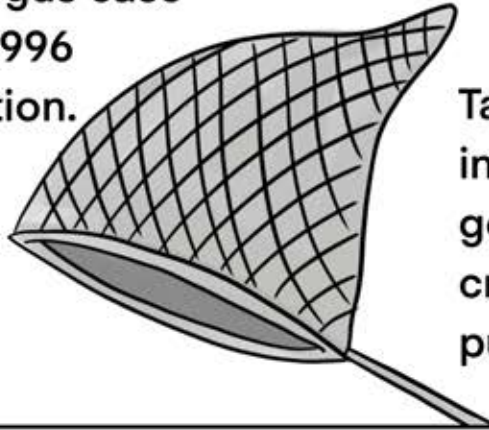
With one heart, Tai Ji Men's *shifu* (master) and *dizi* (disciples) have visited 101 countries so far to promote messages of love and peace



and Tai Ji Men has been invited to perform on the National Day in front of the Presidential Office eight times.

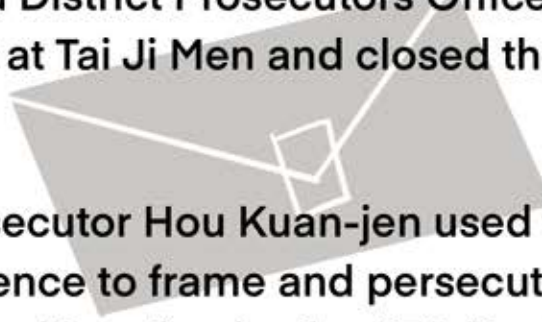
## A Bogus Case

The Tai Ji Men bogus case began after the 1996 presidential election.



Tai Ji Men was caught in the crossfire of the government's religious crackdown and political purge.

Despite poison-pen letters against Tai Ji Men, Kaohsiung and Hsinchu District Prosecutors Offices found no illegal activity at Tai Ji Men and closed the case.



However, prosecutor Hou Kuan-jen used false witnesses and fake evidence to frame and persecute Tai Ji Men, leading to illegal taxation by the NTB (tax bureau).

In 2007, the Supreme Court found Tai Ji Men innocent of tax evasion and all other charges.



In 2009, the government awarded compensation for wrongful imprisonment.

Disregarding the court's judgment, the NTB continued to impose illegal taxes.



The unlawful taxes led to Tai Ji Men's 20-plus-year battle against the corrupt NTB and administrative enforcement agency.

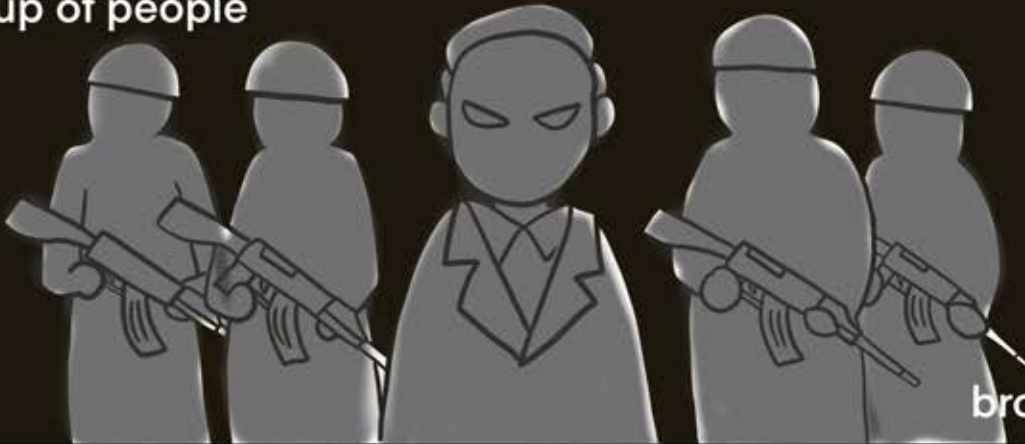
## Unlawful Searches

On the afternoon of December 19, 1996



Some Tai Ji Men *dizi* were having a good chat while cleaning up or playing with their grandchildren at the academy.

A group of people



broke in.

Prosecutor Hou Kuan-jen, famous for his harshness, commanded investigators and hundreds of armed police officers to search Tai Ji Men.

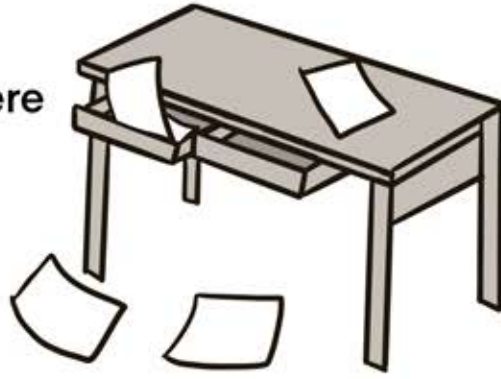


Searches were conducted in 12 Tai Ji Men academies across the nation



and several houses of Tai Ji Men *dizi*.

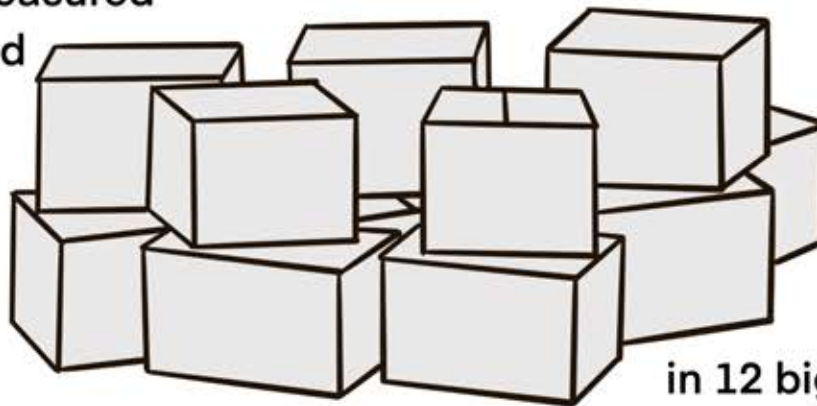
Pieces of paper were scattered, and drawers were pulled out.



Documents, video tapes, and even personal items were taken away as critical evidence,



including the treasured photos collected by *Shifu*,



in 12 big boxes.

Everyone panicked.

Tai Ji Men *dizi* decided :

What should we do?

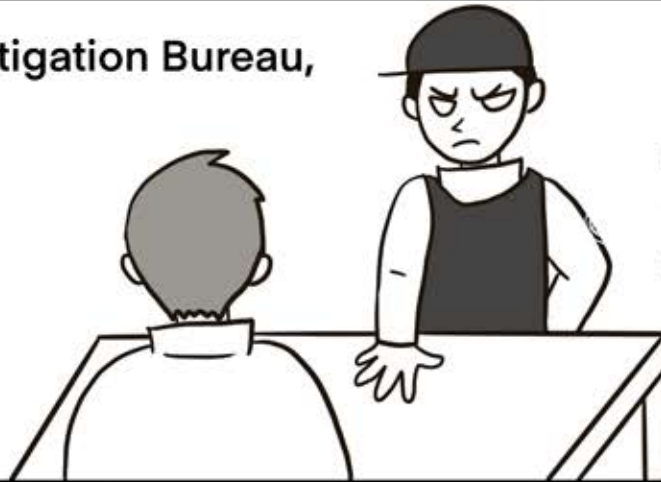
We'll wait for *Shifu's* return and see what to do next.

However,

*Shifu* didn't come back that day.

## Media Sensationalism

At the Investigation Bureau,



*Shifu* gave truthful and clear answers to the questions.

But what the investigator cared about was to get the answers that the prosecutor wanted.



On Dec. 19, 1996, *Shifu* was transferred from the Investigation Bureau to the Prosecutor's Office for investigation.

Breaking News:  
Police cracking  
down on a major  
scam group...



That night the press had a field day, broadcasting the afternoon search, and the alleged crime made headlines in the newspapers that would be published the next day.

*Shifu*



was taken into custody.

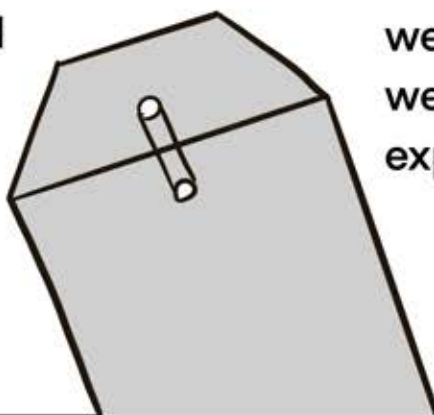
At the time, *Shifu's* wife had just had a back surgery, and Tai Ji Men *dizi* were worried that she would not be able to withstand the prolonged investigation.



*Shifu* was detained!  
Prosecutor Hou threatened to interrogate you!

After receiving a *dizi's* call...

*Shifu's* wife handed all the cash on hand to Tai Ji Men *dizi*, as if to say she didn't expect to return soon.



Some of the academies were rented, and there were utility bills and other expenses.

The *dizi* couldn't live without Tai Ji Men, their second home.

*Shifu's* wife took the initiative to go to the Investigation Bureau. The prosecutor was furious, yelled at her, teased her, and even threatened her . . .



If you don't cooperate, I will get your sons back from abroad!

Without any criminal evidence against her, *Shifu's* wife was also taken into custody.



She is a homemaker and is like a mother to the *dizi*. She was also detained for four months.

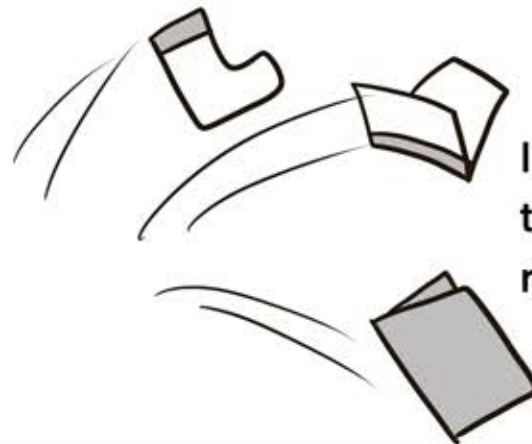
## Thousands of Victims

On December 24,  
Christmas Eve,



Chen,  
a Tai Ji Men *dizi*,  
was woken up  
by investigators  
early in the morning.

They ransacked his  
house, even his  
daughters' rooms.



In the end,  
they seized some  
random items.

While no one  
accused him of  
any crime,



Chen was held in  
custody for 116 days.

Peng,  
who had  
been infertile  
for 17 years,



just gave birth to a baby  
after joining Tai Ji Men  
and practicing qigong.

She was taken away  
from her school  
and held in custody.



Even her family was  
not informed of the  
detention,



and she seemed to  
have disappeared  
into thin air.

Her sudden  
disappearance  
caused a lot of  
stress in her  
family,



and her seven-  
month-old baby  
was emotionally  
traumatized.



Lee and Wen shared their experiences of practicing Tai Ji Men qigong in an interview by the media a few days ago.



We have grown healthier and happier after practicing qigong at Tai Ji Men.

For this reason, their houses were searched.

Investigators also came to search their houses at dawn.



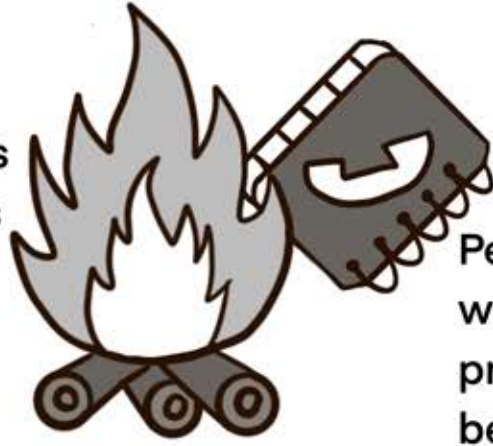
The address on the search warrant was wrong!

After the investigators ransacked their house, Lee's wife was helpless when seeing her husband being taken away rudely.



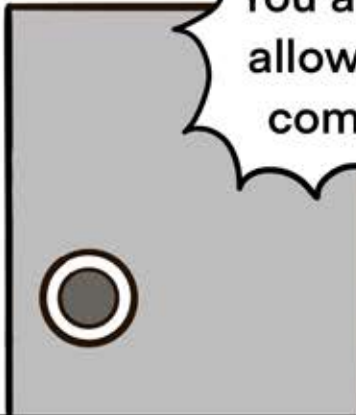
She had to pretend to be calm and comfort their 5-year-old son.

Tai Ji Men *dizi* were afraid to tell their family members or call other brothers and sisters.



Personal phone books were burned down to prevent others from being located.

Wen's house was also searched after she was interviewed, so her husband's family members blamed her.



You are not allowed to come in.

Wen was not allowed to enter her home for 7 days.

After the incident, Wen was under tremendous pressure at home and at work,



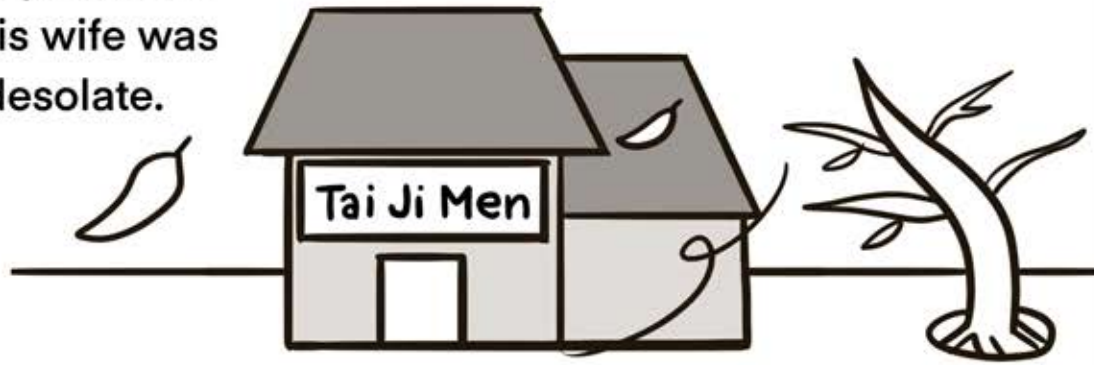
leading to a steep decline in her health and her premature death.

At that time, prosecutor Hou even kept talking via the press that he would detain 200 more Tai Ji Men *dizi*, attempting to create a chilling effect.



## Tai Ji Men *Dizi* Working Together to Protect the Academy

The academy without  
*Shifu* and his wife was  
bleak and desolate.



A sister who used to be cheerful  
had a worried look on her face.

Hey, Brothers and Sisters,  
I've packed my bag. If I was  
taken into custody, please  
hire a lawyer for me.



Yet, she was  
also fearless.

On hearing this,  
a brother became  
emotional, shouting,



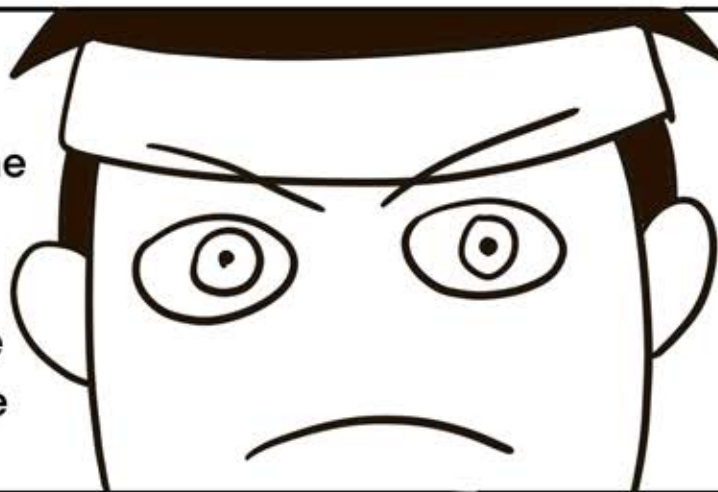
Don't be afraid.  
We are innocent.

Because of  
prosecutor Hou's  
intimidation,



Tai Ji Men *dizi*,  
who are kind-hearted  
people, felt insecure.

Making intimidating remarks via the media was prosecutor Hou's scheme to dissolve the academies.



Although the *dizi* were afraid of being caught and detained, they did not hide.

They just packed their bags,

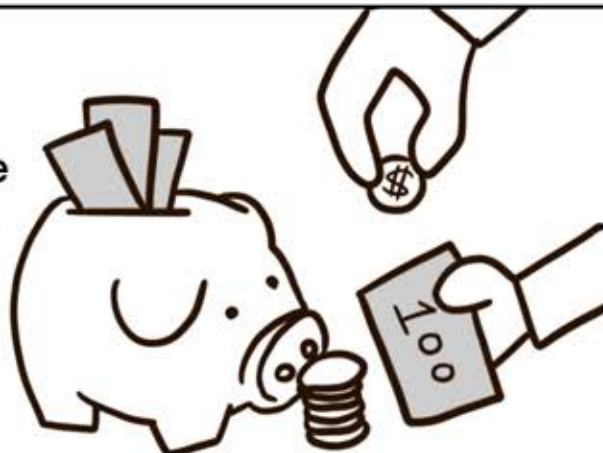


handed their bankbooks and Pin numbers to their children,

and took turns guarding the academies.



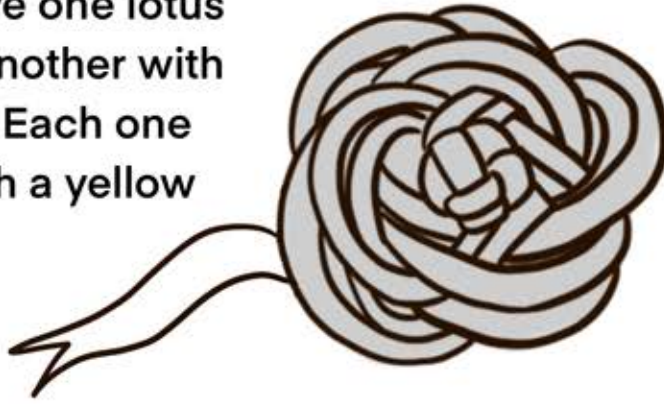
Since all assets of *Shifu* and his wife had been frozen, the 12 academies were confronted with financial difficulties simultaneously.



The *dizi* contributed money or time to keep the academies up and running.

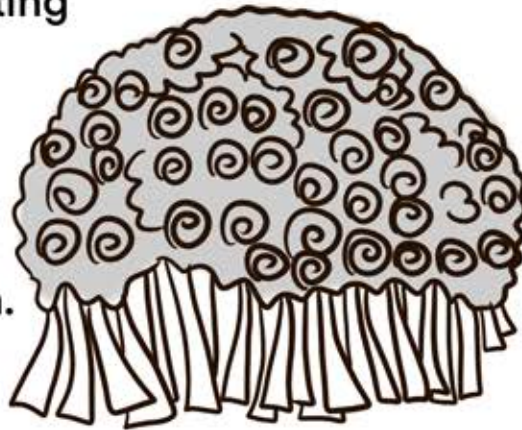
## Lotus Heart

The *dizi* wove one lotus heart after another with red threads. Each one was tied with a yellow ribbon.



A total of 16,666 lotus hearts were made,

with each representing how much the *dizi* missed their *Shifu* and his wife and how much they worried about them.



The lotus hearts connected all the *dizi's* hearts to defend Tai Ji Men together.

Aware of the possible danger and fearful,



the *dizi* still insisted on doing the right thing.



This is true bravery for love!

## Negative and Fake News Abounds

The four months following the beginning of the investigation



were like an endless nightmare for the *dizi*.

Numerous negative news headlines about Tai Ji Men



were falsely reported day after day.

During the four-month investigation, over 400 news reports were published.

Where on earth did the one-sided negative news come from?



Every single piece of the fake news shocked the *dizi*.

Tai Ji Men, a place full of laughter,



turned into a group allegedly involved in fraud overnight.

## Fabrication of the Self-help Association

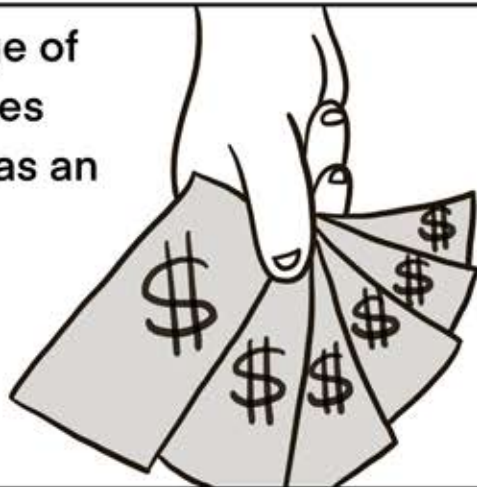
Prosecutor Hou, who had been quite popular with the media,

**Register ASAP**

made another move by openly calling for the establishment of a self-help association.

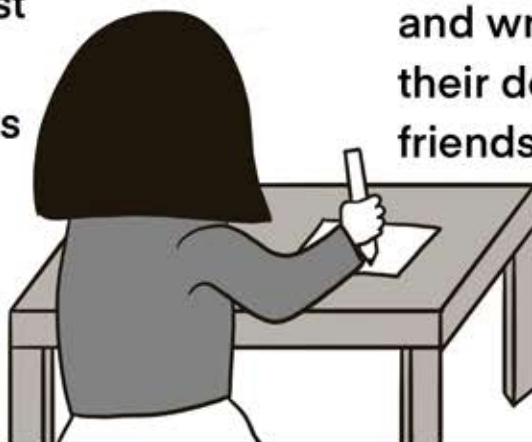
**to protect your rights!**

He took advantage of human weaknesses and used money as an inducement.



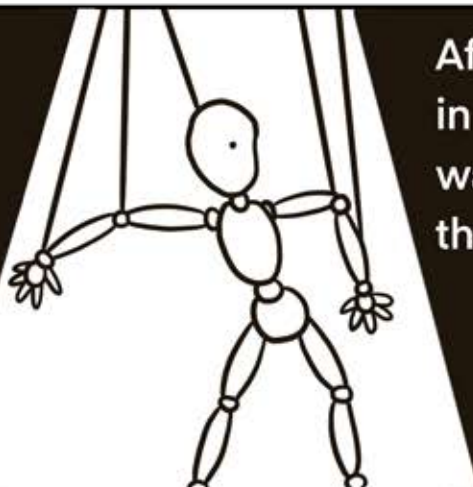
Some *dizi's* names were put on the victim list by their relatives or friends without their permission.

Some couldn't resist the temptation of greed in their hearts



and wrote the names of their deceased relatives or friends or fake identities in the self-help association's questionnaires.

The self-help association fabricated by prosecutor Hou ruined many families.



Afterwards, the judge found in court that the association was bogus and confirmed there was no victim at all.

How come there existed the self-help association?

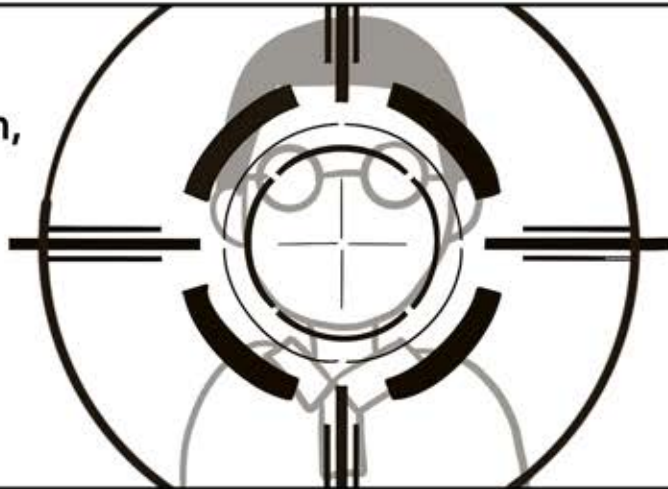
## Shifu's Kung Fu Is Real

Prosecutor Hou shot arrows before drawing the target.



His false accusations had never been justified.

He then targeted Chen,



a senior *dizi*.

When Chen was taken to the Investigation Bureau for questioning,



he saw his wife, who was working at the Ministry of Justice at that time, being locked in another detention room.

As soon as Chen entered the interrogation room,



prosecutor Hou shut down the audio recording.





Chen looked at the prosecutor, whose leveraging the safety of his wife and children



to force him to make false accusations made him very sad and mad.

Thinking of his *shifu's* teachings and his own experience at Tai Ji Men, Chen tried to stay calm and replied again,



**Shifu's kung fu is real!**

The result of his telling the truth, however,



was that his detention was extended by 2 months.

Chen's wife was smeared, being depicted as an official of the Ministry of Justice involved in the case,

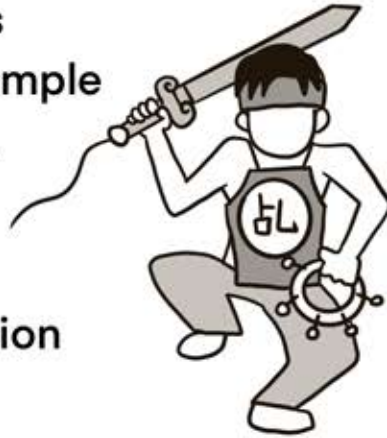


and she was forced to retire early.

## Accusation of Raising Goblins

Prosecutor Hou was associated with a temple in Southern Taiwan.

He included an outrageous accusation in his indictment.



I would include the accusation of

"raising goblins to defraud people" in the indictment.

Indictment

Tai Ji Men *dizi* were at a loss.

What is a goblin?

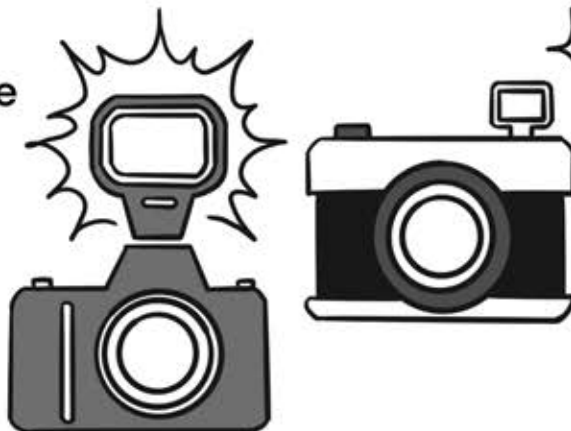
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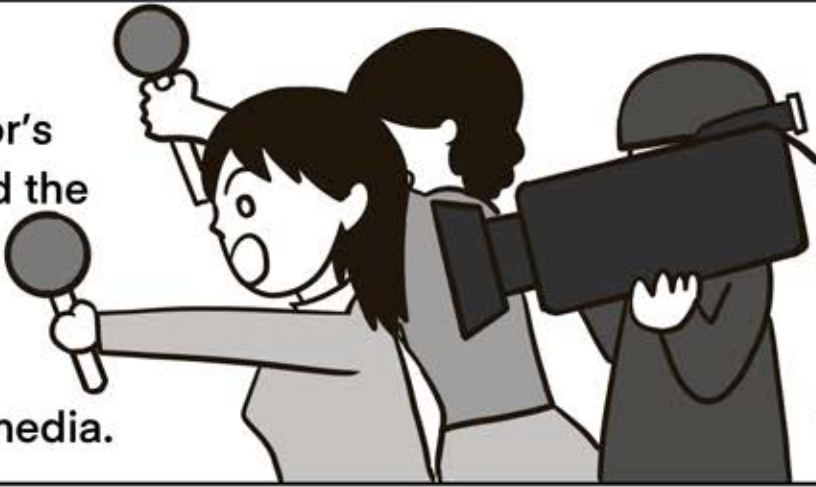
The absurd accusation became a hot topic in the media in favor of gossip and sensationalized news.



Suddenly Tai Ji Men was depicted as an evil religious organization.

## Social Bullying

The Prosecutor's Office and the Academy were crowded with the media.



TV stations scrambled to report negative news about Tai Ji Men.



The *dizi* were under even greater pressure.



Some Tai Ji Men *dizi*'s wedding engagements were broken off.

Some *dizi* were turned away by their relatives.

**Get out!**



Some *dizi* were transferred at work.



Why don't you just quit?



Don't talk to him.

Some *dizi* were isolated at work.

Many younger Tai Ji Men *dizi* were bullied and couldn't go to school.



Freak!

The *dizi* were heartbroken.



Their pain was beyond words.

## Using the Look in a Person's Eyes as Criminal Evidence?

On May 5, 1997,



prosecutor Hou was interviewed during the TV program "News 100" on TVBS.

The host Li Si-duan asked prosecutor Hou,

How did you determine that he raised goblins?



Hou was complacent and publicly said in the media,

Of course he (the *shifu*) denied it. I saw a streak of shadow in his eyes,



and as we're handling the case, my instinct tells me that he has raised goblins.

A prosecutor could simply use  
"the look in a person's eyes"  
as evidence to decide  
whether to prosecute that person?

It was the first time that the term "raising goblins" was included in an indictment in the judicial history of the Republic of China.



He obviously violated the principle of scientific investigation, empirical rules, and theoretical rules.

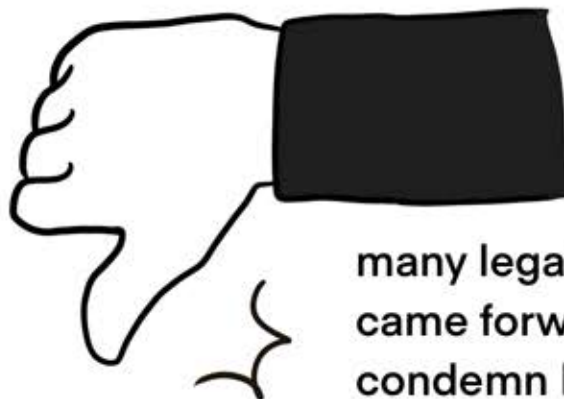


Prosecutor Hou talked about raising goblins on the TV show, causing a whirlwind of "ghostly talks" in the media at that time,



polluting the island.

As soon as the indictment with the accusation of raising goblins came out,



many legal professionals came forward to condemn him.

Prospective judicial officers are reminded not to make such a ridiculous accusation during their training sessions.



Bad Example

The absurdity has seriously undermined judicial prestige.

## Proceeds of Crime or Legal Income?

When the *dizi* got the indictment, they found more unreasonable things in it.



For example, some statements in the indictment are completely contradictory to each other.

Prosecutor Hou fabricated a large sum of money and claimed that it was "criminal proceeds" of religious fraud and must be confiscated pursuant to law.



He also claimed that the same money was the "legal income of the cram school" and must be taxed by the NTB.



Is it  
"proceeds of crime"  
or  
"legal income?"



This absurd and contradictory indictment




was used by the NTB as a "decree" to persecute Tai Ji Men for 20 plus years.



## Issuing Letters to Dissolve Tai Ji Men

In April, May,  
and June of 1997,  
without  
the approval of  
his boss,



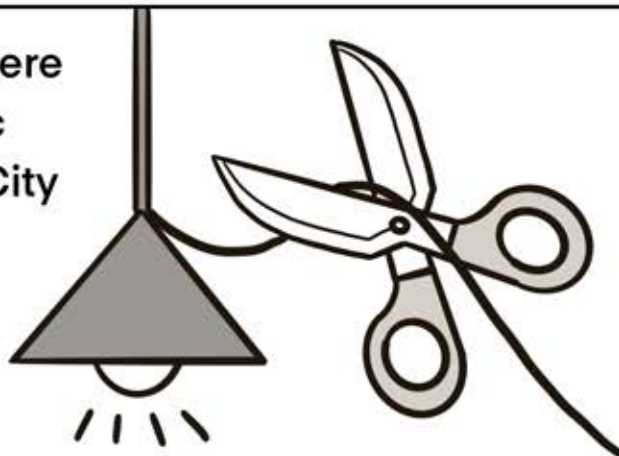
Letter  
by Hou

prosecutor Hou sent  
letters to the Ministry of  
the Interior and county  
and city governments.

Hou in his letters  
demanded the  
government agencies  
to dissolve Tai Ji Men.



In June, letters were  
sent to the Public  
Works of Taipei City  
and County



to request  
them to cut off  
water and  
electricity to  
Tai Ji Men.

This forced  
Tai Ji Men *dizi*  
to seek  
administrative  
remedies,



SOS

which took two  
years to cancel  
the orders  
completely.

## Concurrent Performance Invitation and Dissolution Order

On the same day,  
Tai Ji Men  
received a letter  
from the Taipei  
City government,



Dissolution Order  
from Taipei City  
Government

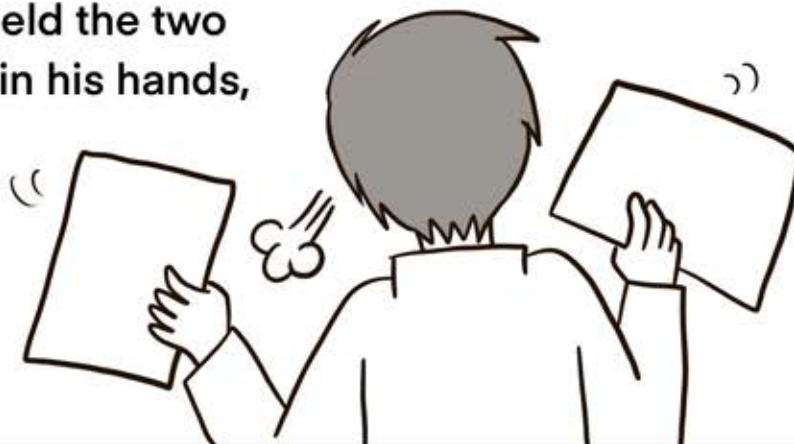
ordering the  
dissolution of  
Tai Ji Men

The Taipei City government



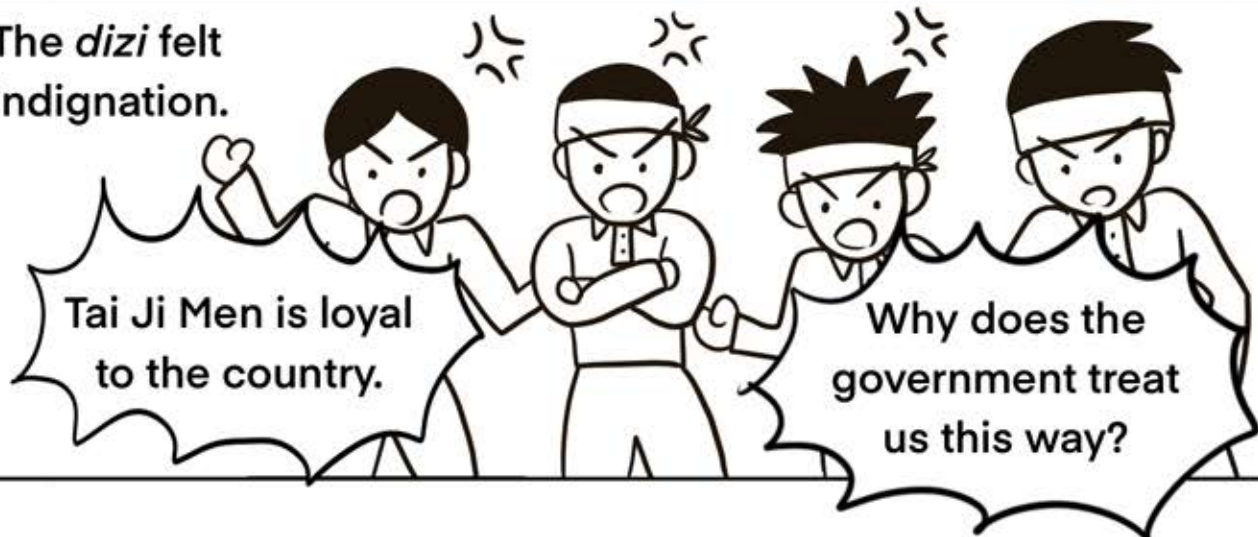
also invited  
Tai Ji Men to  
perform at the  
Dragon Boat  
Festival the  
following year  
(1998).

*Shifu* held the two  
letters in his hands,



not knowing  
whether to laugh  
or cry.

The *dizi* felt  
indignation.

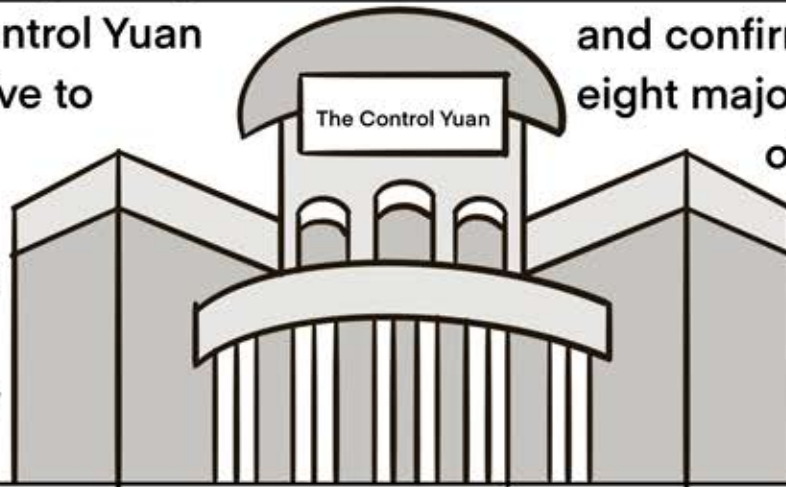


Tai Ji Men is loyal  
to the country.

Why does the  
government treat  
us this way?

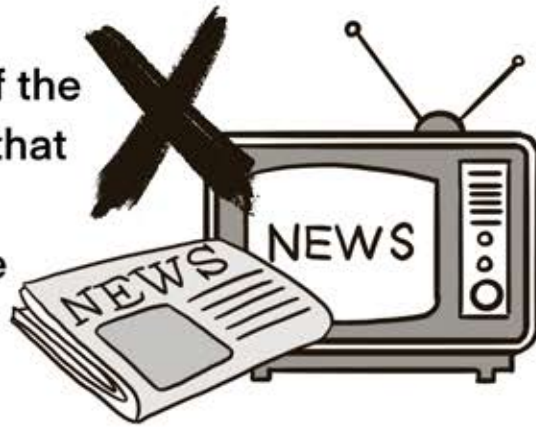
# Hou Kuan-jen's Eight Major Violations of the Law

In 2002, the Control Yuan took the initiative to investigate prosecutor Hou's handling of the Tai Ji Men case



and confirmed he had eight major violations of the law.

1. Violation of the requirement that investigation should not be disclosed



(Bringing the media to searches, getting interviewed by the media many times during the investigation, and discussing about the case openly)

2. Illegal searches



(The search reason is far-fetched; the address on the search warrant is wrong.)

3. Illegal freezing of assets



(Before the facts were ascertained, all property was frozen, which violated people's property rights.)

4. Undermining prosecutors' image of fair law enforcement



(Making a biased decision prior to the trial, illegally calling for the establishment of a self-help association in the media, and Hou Kuan-jen admitted that he did not investigate or verify whether the victim list was true.)

5. Overstepping his authority, violation of freedom of association



(Unlawfully ordering the county and city governments to shut down Tai Ji Men academies)

6. Serious infringement of the defendants' rights



(Arbitrary detention and interrogation, failure to notify the defendants' lawyers in accordance with the law, establishment of the false self-help association to commit perjury, etc.)

7. Injuring judicial prestige



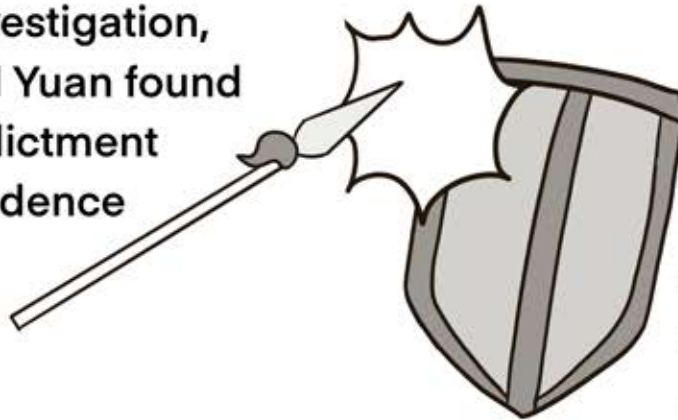
(He prosecuted the case before searching for evidence. After the indictment was released, he started searching for evidence the next day and interviewed the *shifu* on that afternoon. This violated due process of law.)

8. Serious violation of the principle of scientific investigation



(He used his imagination and made up the accusation of raising goblins.)

After its investigation, the Control Yuan found that the indictment and the evidence



contradicted each other and did not conform to the law of evidence.

The Control Yuan conducted an investigation in 2002,



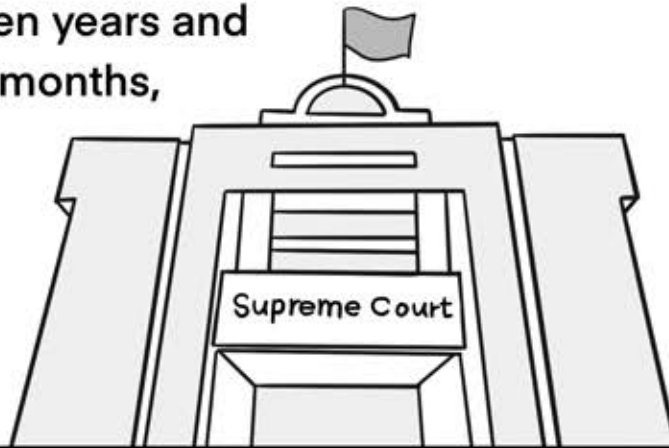
and then asked the Ministry of Justice to severely punish Hou Kuan-jen for his negligence.

The Ministry of Justice has been procrastinating.



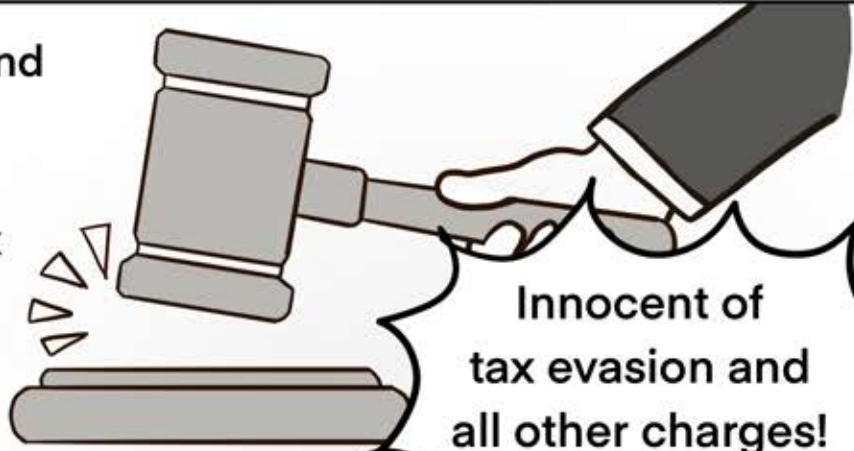
Knowing that the punishment of Hou Kuan-jen has nothing to do with the Tai Ji Men criminal decision, it insisted on conducting another "investigation" after the court decision was issued.

After ten years and seven months,



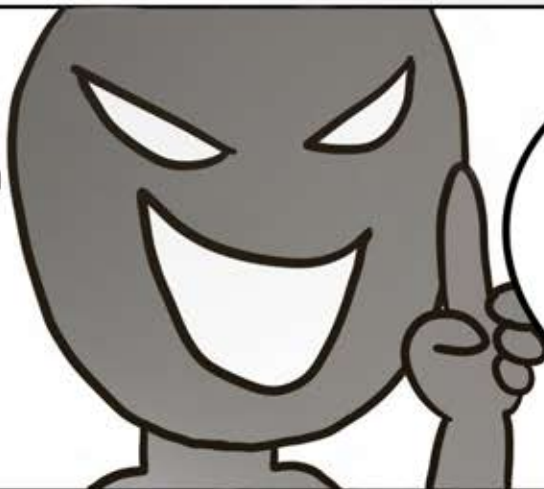
the criminal division of the Supreme Court (third instance court) issued the final decision on July 13, 2007.

Tai Ji Men was found not guilty of fraud, tax evasion, or violation of the Tax Collection Act.



Innocent of tax evasion and all other charges!

The Ministry of Justice and the High Prosecutor's Office stated,



Hou Kuan-jen could not be punished because the ten-year statute of limitations had expired last month (on June 18, 2007)!

As the officials protect one another,



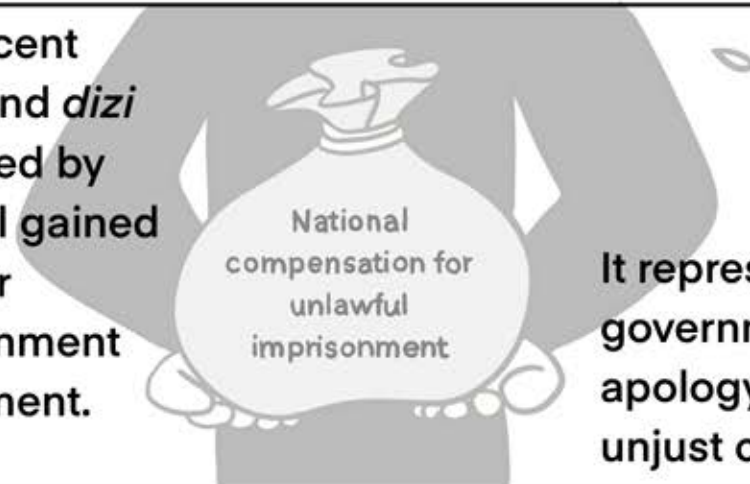
who will protect the people?

## National Compensation for Unlawful Imprisonment

In fact, it is not easy to obtain compensation for wrongful imprisonment in criminal cases in Taiwan as the court sets very high standards when it comes to granting compensation.

Granting compensation means that the prosecutor's indictment is wrong or the judge's decision is wrong; cases are usually denied on the basis of the litigant's "intentional or gross negligence."

In 2009, the innocent Tai Ji Men *shifu* and *dizi* who were detained by the prosecutor all gained compensation for unlawful imprisonment from the government.



It represents the government's apology for this unjust case.

Why are taxpayer dollars used to pay compensation when a civil servant does something wrong? A judicial officer's mistake can cause people to lose their time, money, and lives.



In fact, what the people need is not compensation for unlawful imprisonment, but real human rights protection.

Tai Ji Men *shifu* and *dizi* hope there will be "no more unlawful detention."



They hope that other people will no longer suffer gross human rights violations as Tai Ji Men does.