

# International Cooperation in the Investigation of **Cross-Border Telecommunications Fraud**

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Prosecutor, Taiwan  
LEE, Ting-Han

# 1. Background

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International cooperation in the investigation of  
Cross-border Telecommunications Fraud

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## Telecommunications Fraud In Taiwan

- The criminal offense in which the scammers use **telephones** or **internet communication devices** to defraud the victims.

# 1. Background

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## Common Scenario



I'm telecommunication customer service staff.  
(or police, or prosecutors)

Your overdue telecommunications fees have rendered you liable to **criminal charges**.

You have to **transfer the money** to specified bank accounts.



**Smartphones / ATMs / Online Banking**

# 1. Background

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## A modern telecommunications fraud organization

- **Telecommunications Section**: scammers exercising confidence tricks
- **Cyber Section** : telecommunications and internet service providers
- **Financial Section** : bank transfers and money laundering.

# 1. Background

## Cross-border Criminal Operations



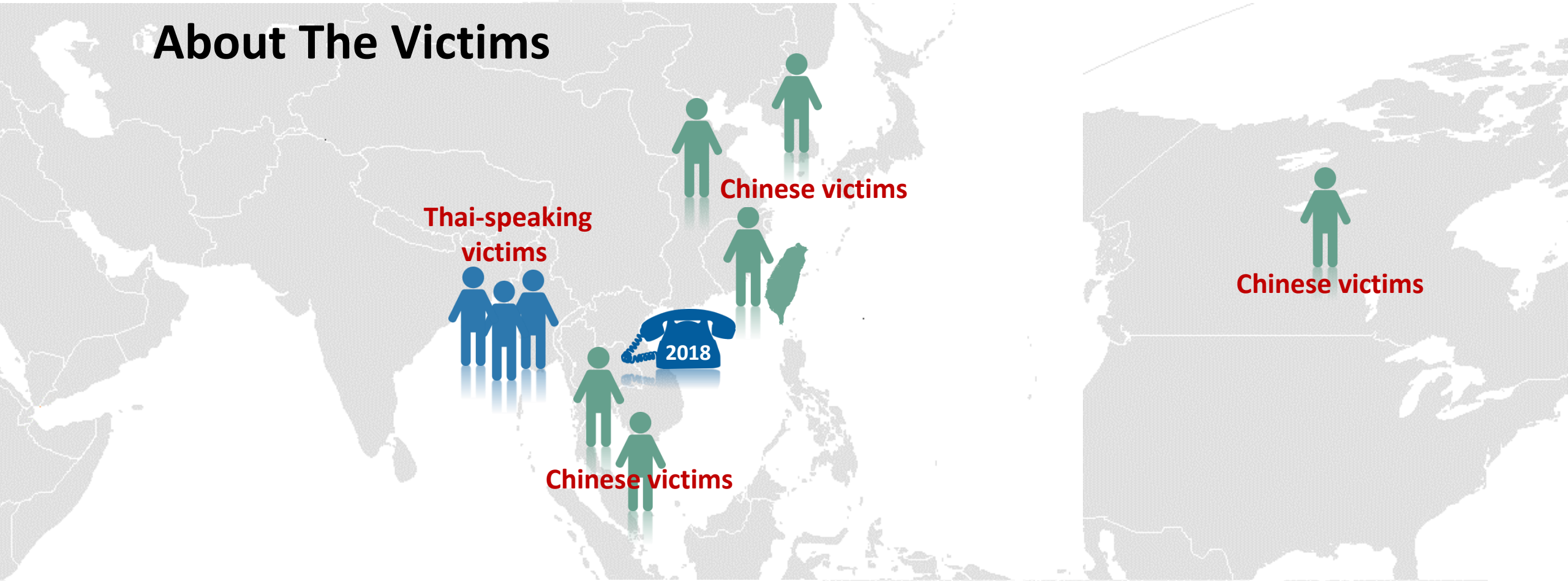
# 1. Background



# 1. Background

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## About The Victims





# 2. Judiciary of Taiwan

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International cooperation in the investigation of  
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## 2. Applicable Law of Taiwan

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### Criminal Code, Article 339-4

- A collaborative fraud crime committed by 3 or more persons constitutes **Aggravated Fraud**, which is liable to imprisonment for up to **7 years**.
- Taiwan's court has the jurisdiction for the crimes **committed by Taiwanese abroad**.

## 2. Applicable Law of Taiwan

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### **Organized Crime Prevention Act.**

- Initiating, hosting, controlling, or directing a criminal organization
- Applicable to **cross-border fraud groups**
- Perpetrators can be sentenced to imprisonment for **10 years**.

### **Money Laundering Control Act.**

## 2. Cooperation in Need

### Cooperation With Foreign Countries



Dominican Republic

Indonesia

Philippines

Poland

Slovenia

# 2. Investigations at Home and Abroad

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## The Gateways Into Initiating An Investigation

- Reports received from the **victims**
  - Electronic signals are traced back to the country the call centers located.
- Uncover the crime by **countries where it occurred**
  - Local police will conduct a search in a building where they have found many Taiwan's nationals inside.
- Cooperated by some **members of the fraud group**

## 2. Investigations at Home and Abroad

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### Weapons in hand

- The **accumulation** and **analysis** of big data.
- Good **understanding** of the modes of operation, the scammers, and the targeted countries of cross-border fraud groups
- Hold good **control** of related intelligence and **cooperate** beforehand with the countries call centers located

# 3. Latvian Case

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From the perspective of Taiwan

### 3. Latvian Case

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On **August 14<sup>th</sup>** and **15<sup>th</sup> 2017**, the police of Latvia captured **2 groups** of Taiwanese at two different locations in **Riga**, Latvia.





# 3. Latvian Case: Group A

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## Group A (be captured on 08/14/2017)

- **Fatty (under investigation)**: recruited Mr. Lin, Mr. Lee and Chang
- **Mr. Lin**: find a location for call center in Riga
- **Mr. Lee**: the organizer. Set up a call center. recruit and train scammers (telecommunications flow)
- **Mr. Chang**: record the income and maintain the telecommunication facilities (cyber flow)

# 3. Latvian Case: Group A

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**02/02/2017**

- **Mr. Lin** flew to Riga. Rented a house and telecommunication facilities with the assistance of a Latvian, Janis (unidentified).

**03/14/2017**

- **Mr. Lee** and **Chang** came to Riga and set up the call center.
- **15 defendants** came, and divided the scammers into 3 divisions

# 3. Latvian Case: Group A



Division 1

I'm the officer of the Bureau of Hong Kong Boarder Control. **Your identities have been hacked**, and you could be involved in **criminal cases**.



Division 2

I'm **a police**. You are traced by your identities and involved in criminal cases.



Division 3

I'm a **prosecutor**. Your bank account would be seized or frozen. You have to **log in a (fishing) webpage**.

**Transfer the money to dummy accounts**



Victims  
(China)

# 3. Latvian Case: Group B

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## Group B (be captured on 08/15/2017)

- **Another Taiwanese Suspect (under investigation)** : Recruited Mr. Lin, Mr. Chiu and Mr. Wu
- **Mr. Lin** (same as Group A) and **Mr. Chiu**: Prepare the location and telecommunication facilities for call center.
- **Mr. Wu**: the organizer. Set up a call center. Recruit and train scammers.

# 3. Latvian Case: Group B

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**07/03/2017**

- **Mr. Lin, Mr. Chiu** and **Mr. Wu** flew to Riga from Taiwan.
- **24 defendants** came. Started to defraud victims in China
- **By the same measures abovementioned as Group A**

# 3. Latvian Case: On date

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## **Be Deported** from Latvia

- Lin, Lee, Chang, Chiu, Wu and other some defendants were deported from Latvia.

## **the Judge** (Taiwan)

- Approved to detain Lin, Lee, Chang, Chiu, Wu.

# 3. Latvian Case: On date

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## The **Prosecutors** (Taichung District Prosecutors' Office)

- Sought mutual legal assistance from China.
- Indicted 44 defendants on 01/02/2018
  - for aggravating Fraud and Organized Crime
- **Under Judiciary Proceeding Now**

# 4. Conclusion

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# 4. Conclusion

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By **international judicial cooperation** for the exchange of...


- intelligence, investigation, collection of evidence,
- seizure, return of stolen goods,
- deportation of the criminals.

**we can collect evidence **comprehensively** and fight crimes **effectively**.**

## 4. Conclusion

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**Taiwan has been active in pursuing the cross-border telecommunications fraud with positive and useful support in the international cooperation.**



# 4. Conclusion

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**(1) The prime suspects and heads of fraud groups are predominantly Taiwanese.**

- Prosecutors, police and investigation agencies in Taiwan can track their criminal records and cooperate with the countries the call centers based before victims are defrauded, thereby preventing the occurrence or expansion of the crime.

# 4. Conclusion

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**(2) We have accumulated considerable experiences in investigating fraud.**

- We have already collected information and create a database of the (suspect) crimes.

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**(3) The prime suspects and heads of fraud groups **direct the crimes in Taiwan.****



# 4. Conclusion

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(4) The **criminal proceeds** are mostly transferred back to **Taiwan**.

- Amount to hundreds of millions.
- Fraud groups have also transferred some of these proceeds to the countries the call centers and the victims located to fund the maintenance of call centers, the expenditure of the facilities, and the transfer fees for criminal proceeds.

# 4. Conclusion

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By means of cooperative investigations with Taiwan into **cross-border money-laundering cases** of this nature

- May **seize** and **confiscate** the criminal proceeds of the fraud groups.
- Return them to the victims.
- The confiscated proceeds can also be shared by Taiwan and the cooperating countries to **benefit future investigations**.

# 4. Conclusion

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## **Fight Crimes, Uphold Justice, Protect the Rights of Victims**

- **Taiwan** has successfully solved many telecommunications fraud cases, and will continue to cooperate with countries around the world on the basis of mutual trust and benefit to **fight crimes, uphold justice, and protect the rights of the victims.**



# International Cooperation in the Investigation of Cross-Border Telecommunications Fraud

**THE END**

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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