

ICAC suspect extradited from US to face \$2.8m fraud charge

6 February 2015

A former sub-contractor of the Highways Department (HyD), wanted by the ICAC, has been extradited from the United States (US) to Hong Kong to face prosecution for alleged conspiracy to defraud the main contractor and HyD of road maintenance works payments totalling over \$2.8 million.

Ip Ching-sang, 58, former shareholder-cum-director of Hop Hei Engineering Company Limited (Hop Hei), was arrested in Seattle by officers of the US Marshals Service on December 1, 2014 at the request of the Department of Justice in Hong Kong.

Ip later waived his right for the extradition proceedings in the US, and agreed to return to Hong Kong voluntarily.

With the assistance of the US authorities, two ICAC officers escorted Ip on board a flight from the US to arrive in Hong Kong last (Thursday) night.

Ip was then charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law, and brought to the Eastern Magistracy this (Friday) morning for mention.

No plea was taken. Principal Magistrate Ms Bina Chainrai adjourned the case to March 20 this year for mention. Ip was remanded in custody of the Correctional Services Department.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above alleged offence of conspiracy to defraud.

At the material time, Hop Hei was the subcontractor of Hung Mau Realty & Construction Limited (Hung Mau), the main contractor of a road maintenance term contract awarded by HyD.

The charge alleged that between 1999 and 2002, Ip conspired with a foreman of Hop Hei and others to defraud Hung Mau and HyD, their employees or agents.

Ip was alleged to have falsely represented that a painting material called "Nucem skim coat" was sufficiently used in works carried under the term contract in respect of road maintenance works in Sha Tin, Sai Kung and Islands Districts, and caused Hung Mau and HyD, their employees or agents to be under a false impression that the painting material was used in the contract works.

As a result, Hung Mau and HyD were allegedly induced to release payments for the contract works. The payments were said to amount to over \$2.8 million.

On January 9, 2011, Ip was arrested by the ICAC during an investigation into the corruption complaint. He was then released on ICAC bail, pending further enquiries.

Ip failed to report bail to the ICAC on January 18, 2011, and a warrant was issued by a magistrate for his arrest.

On August 16, 2012, Ip was placed on the Interpol Red Notice for his apprehension. He was arrested in Seattle by officers of the US Marshals Service on December 1, 2014.

The ICAC thanked the US Marshals Service as well as the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Department of Justice for rendering valuable assistance in securing the arrest and extradition of Ip.

HyD had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by Senior Public Prosecutor Jonathan Lin, assisted by ICAC officer Angus Wong.

廉署疑犯由美國引渡返港被控詐騙 二百八十萬元工程付款

2015年2月6日

一名路政署分判商，涉嫌串謀詐騙總承判商及路政署道路維修工程付款共二百八十多萬元，早前被廉政公署通緝。該名被通緝人士已由美國引渡返港被控相關罪名。

疑犯為葉清生，五十八歲，合禧工程有限公司(合禧)前股東兼董事。因應香港律政司的要求，葉於二〇一四年十二月一日在西雅圖被美國法警局人員拘捕。

葉其後在美國放棄就其引渡的申訴，並同意自願返回香港。

在美國當局的協助下，兩名廉署人員陪同葉由美國乘搭航機於昨晚(星期四)返抵香港。

葉隨即被廉署落案起訴一項串謀詐騙罪名，涉嫌違反普通法，並於今日(星期五)早上被帶往東區裁判法院應訊。

葉毋須答辯。主任裁判官錢禮將案件押後至本年三月二十日再提訊。葉暫時還押懲教署看管。

廉署早時接獲貪污投訴，調查其後揭發上述涉嫌串謀詐騙罪行。

合禧於案發時為鴻茂地產建設有限公司(鴻茂)的分判商。鴻茂早前獲路政署批出一份道路維修定期合約而成為有關合約的總承判商。

控罪指葉涉嫌於一九九九年至二〇〇二年期間，與合禧一名管工及其他人士串謀詐騙鴻茂及路政署，以及其僱員或代理人。

葉涉嫌訛稱根據路政署有關沙田、西貢及離島區的道路維修定期合約，在進行有關工程時採用了足夠的Nucem skim coat塗層物料，並令鴻茂及路政署，以及其僱員或代理人誤以為有關合約工程採用了該物料。

因此，鴻茂及路政署涉嫌被誘使發放該合約工程付款，款項據報達二百八十多萬元。

廉署早前就該宗貪污投訴展開調查，並於二〇一一年一月九日拘捕葉。他其後獲廉署准予保釋，以待進一步調查。

葉未能於二〇一一年一月十八日到廉署續保，裁判官遂簽發手令通緝葉歸案。

國際刑警於二〇一二年八月十六日發出全球通緝告示以逮捕葉。他於二〇一四年十二月一日在西雅圖被美國法警局人員拘捕。

廉署感謝美國法警局、美國聯邦調查局及美國司法部提供寶貴協助，將葉緝拿及引渡回港。

路政署在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由高級檢控官連普禧代表出庭，並由廉署人員黃宗輝協助。

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