

Student leaders offered protection following threats

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Two leading student representatives of the Occupy Legislature Movement received a police guard on their way to address a mass sit-in Taipei yesterday.

Lin Fei-fan (林飛帆), a National Taiwan University graduate student and Chen Wei-ting (陳偉霆), a graduate student at National Tsing Hua University, were guarded by plainclothes police when they took part in the rally in front of the Presidential Office Building in protest against a cross-strait service trade agreement with China, the Taipei City Police Department told a press briefing yesterday.

The department had received information, without specific details, that some people intended to harm Chen and Lin, who have become the faces of the student protesters whom have occupied the Legislative Yuan since March 18 in protest against the government's handling of the service trade deal signed with China in June last year.

Later yesterday, when a car was taking Chen from the legislature to the protest on Ketagalan Boulevard, an elderly man threw a painting frame at the car.

The man left the scene quickly and police were investigating the incident.

Chen and Lin have not received threatening cellphone text message. However, some other student leaders have received threatening text messages that read: "Don't make trouble anymore, or there will be bloodshed" and "Have them [Lin and Chen] be careful, or there will be bloodshed," Chen said.

Chen said students who received the text message have reported it to police.

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