

## Legal authorities are ‘abusing powers’

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Taiwan March representatives Chen Wei-ting, left, and Lin Fei-fan, right, speak at a press conference in the Legislative Yuan in Taipei yesterday organized to protest at what they called the government's excessive reliance on lawsuits and invasion of people's medical records as it investigates the occupation of the legislature.

**Photo: Liao Chen-huei, Taipei Times**

Lawyers, student leaders and a legislator yesterday accused law-enforcement agencies, including prosecutors and the police, of abusing their powers and intimidation for summoning and questioning hundreds of Sunflower movement participants since the movement's protests ended on April 10.

More than 400 people have been questioned or investigated by the prosecutors and the police, who obtained the protesters' personal and medical information — sometimes illegally — since the three-week-long occupation of the Legislative Yuan's main chamber, they said.

“There are people who were simply sitting outside the Executive Yuan [during the storming] being investigated, and some students have been summoned for questioning just because they left their contact numbers when accompanying their friends to a hospital,” Democratic Front Against Cross-strait Trade in Services Agreement convener Lai Chung-chiang (賴清光) told a press conference at the Legislative Yuan.

Lee Chun-ta (李俊達), a representative from the student group Democracy Tautin, and Black Island Nation Youth Front spokesperson Huang Yu-Fen (黃宇芬) criticized Taipei hospitals for providing visit records to authorities. They accused the hospitals of flouting medical ethics and

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said that the hospitals had become the authorities' stooges.

"Hospitals are supposed to be a place where lives are saved and injuries attended to, but now they have become the abettor of the authorities' persecution as people are being hunted down by the state power for visiting a medical facility," Huang said.

However, Lee Wui-chiang (李維章), head of the Ministry of Health and Welfare's Department of Medical Affairs, denied that hospitals had turned over personal information about patients to the police, adding that the ministry had confirmed and reconfirmed with hospital officials that such details had not been given out.

Democratic Progressive Party Legislator Yu Mei-nu (俞梅努) said she wanted to know why, "if the police could identify participants involved in the movement so easily, without help from the hospitals, those police officers who wielded batons against protesters have been so difficult to find?"

A National Fire Agency official said the Taipei City Fire Department did hand over information on 36 people, out of the 42 requests that it received from the Taipei City Police Department.

"They were all processed as confidential documents," he said.

Attorney Liu Chi-wei (劉奇偉) said the Emergency Medical Services Act (緊急醫療服務法) prohibits the disclosure, without permission, of "information, known or held from performing ... duties."

"Officials have not been held politically accountable for the state violence committed, while people are now intimidated by the state power... The laws are simply tools and toys for the Chinese Nationalist Party [KMT] government to play with," said Dennis Wei (魏德聖), a key figure in the Sunflower movement.

Lin Fei-fan (林飛帆), another student leader, said prosecutors are going beyond the call of duty as

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part of the government's intimidation measures against those who "dare to express their dissent against the establishment."

Student leader Chen Wei-ting (陳偉廷) questioned the need to interrogate hundreds of people when the main actors of the movement have already, on their own initiative, offered to help prosecutors and police clarify what occurred during the protests.

"President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) said on June 4, commemorating the Tiananmen Square Massacre, that he hopes 'democracy and rule of law could one day become the common language of the two sides of the [Taiwan] Strait.' Ma is truly working toward that goal, since now we are getting closer to China's standard [of repression]," Chen said.

Source: [Taipei Times 2014/06/06](#)