

Premier in court over violent evictions

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:26 - Last Updated Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:33



Protesters hold banners with Premier Jiang Yi-huah's portrait outside the Taipei District Court yesterday, where he was questioned about the handling of the Sunflower movement protests.

Photo: Liao Chen-huei, Taipei Times

Under a heavy police presence and with more than 100 demonstrators calling on him to resign, Premier Jiang Yi-huah (江宜華) yesterday afternoon appeared in court to face charges of attempted murder filed against him and high-ranking police officers in a private prosecution over the violent crackdown on protesters who briefly took over the Executive Yuan in March.

"Mastermind behind the violence. Abuser of democracy. Face the trial. Jiang Yi-huah, step down," more than 100 demonstrators affiliated with several civic groups, including Taiwan March and the Black Island Youth Front, shouted as Jiang, as well as National Police Agency Director-General Wang Cho-chiun (王卓雄), Taipei City Police Department Commissioner Huang Sheng-yung (黃聲揚) and Zhongzheng First Police Precinct Chief Fang Yang-ning (方仰寧), arrived at the Taipei District Court as defendants.

More than 300 officers were deployed to maintain security, and the street in front of the courthouse was closed off since the morning, even though the court appearances did not start until 2:30pm.

A total of 23 demonstrators who took part in the occupation of the Executive Yuan compound from the evening of March 23 to the early hours of the morning on March 24 and were injured during a crackdown by the police filed charges against the officials.

The occupation of the executive compound took place while the legislative floor was also occupied.

Premier in court over violent evictions

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:26 - Last Updated Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:33

Under orders from the premier to clear the executive compound and the streets around it before the morning rush hour, police used water cannons and truncheons against demonstrators, who were mostly engaged in peaceful sit-ins, resulting in bloodshed.

“I understand that the judge must be under tremendous pressure as he or she decided to summon government officials to appear in court,” said Chen Wei-ting (陳偉廷), one of the Sunflower movement’s student leaders. “I would like to call on Jiang to be a man and shoulder his responsibilities. He should tell nothing but the truth in court, and shoulder any political and legal responsibilities that he may have.”

“I would also like to call on the judge to review the case from a constitutional point of view. This court meeting is only the first step; our ultimate goal is to have Jiang step down,” he added.

Unlike a public prosecution, in which prosecutors lay charges, in a private prosecution, the court hears cases directly filed by the accusers.

The hearing held yesterday was part of preliminary proceedings in which the judges are questioning the officials about their decisionmaking process and handling of the Sunflower movement protests. In line with the Code of Criminal Procedure (刑事訴訟法), preliminary hearings are held behind closed doors. Only if judges decide that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a trial would subsequent legal proceeding continue and the court be open.

Jiang was questioned for about two hours.

Facing questions from the media, Jiang refused to comment, both when he arrived and when he left the court.

Wang said in response to media queries that he would “respect the judiciary.”

Premier in court over violent evictions

Written by Taipei Times

Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:26 - Last Updated Thursday, 31 July 2014 09:33

Meanwhile, Fang again drew fire because he was serving as the commander of the police maintaining security at the scene even though he was appearing in court as a defendant.

“How can a defendant in a manslaughter lawsuit serve as commander of 300 police officers outside the courthouse while he is in court at the same time?” asked attorney Cheng Wen-lung (程文龍), who was among the protesters. “This is an abuse of power.”

However, Fang said that he had transferred authority to his deputy chief when he was in the court.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2014/07/31](#)