

Headline	Housing officials in the soup		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	29 Dec 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	World	Circulation	288,916
Page No	26	Readership	866,748
Language	English	ArticleSize	138 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,299
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 9,897



Housing officials in the soup

Four given disciplinary warnings in HIV/AIDS harassment case

ZHENGZHOU: Four officials were reprimanded and five suspects held by police in a central China city after six people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were hired to harass residents who refused to vacate their homes for construction projects.

The housing officials – including deputy head of the Wodong District housing bureau in Nanyang City, Wang Hesheng – were given disciplinary warnings over dereliction of duty, the Nanyang City government said on Saturday.

Police have detained five suspects and are pursuing more.

To expedite demolition work, Yi'an, a local construction company, recruited a man, identified as Liu, to head the demolition project.

It is alleged that Liu asked a PLWHA, identified as Cui, to organise a team of fellow PLWHA to form a “demolition team”.

The six-member team harassed residents who refused to sign demolition contracts, set off firecrackers in the outside yard and shot residents’ windows with slingshots and steel ball bearings.

The demolition team even brandished their AIDS identity cards in

an attempt to intimidate residents.

A photograph of a piece of graffiti read: “AIDS demolition team” surfaced on Chinese social media, triggering public outcry. The slogan was reportedly found written in a community slated for demolition under a government plan.

Some residents left out of fear, one local said.

The province of Henan was once known for having a high number of PLWHA, many of whom were infected as a result of selling their blood to illegal “blood gangs”. – China Daily/Asia News Network