

Canadian Man Indicted for Smuggling Cannabis into Taiwan

Indictment of Canadian National for Drug Smuggling

Taoyuan, Aug. 1 (CNA) — A Canadian citizen has been indicted for attempting to smuggle a significant amount of cannabis into Taiwan. The Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office announced the charges against 31-year-old Nathaniel Paul Xavier Awram on Thursday, following his arrest at Taoyuan International Airport.

Details of the Smuggling Operation

According to the indictment, Awram collaborated with an individual using the pseudonym “David Du.” Du allegedly orchestrated the logistics, including arranging flight tickets and accommodation, while Awram was tasked with transporting the cannabis into Taiwan. The operation promised Awram a payment ranging from CA\$2,000 (US\$1,446) to CA\$8,000 for his involvement.

Upon his arrival at Taoyuan International Airport on March 29, Awram was discovered carrying 21 packets of cannabis, weighing a total of 19,803.26 grams, concealed in two suitcases. In addition to the cannabis, authorities found NT\$12,700 and CA\$200 in cash in his possession.

The indictment also revealed that Du provided the suitcases to Awram on March 28 and accompanied him to Vancouver International Airport, where the luggage was checked in. Du gave Awram an additional CA\$700 at that time.

Charges and Potential Penalties

Awram has been charged with violating Taiwan’s Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act. Due to the substantial quantity of cannabis involved, prosecutors are seeking a 14-year prison sentence and a fine of NT\$100,000. Under Taiwanese law, cannabis is classified as a Category two narcotic. The penalties for manufacturing, transporting, or selling such substances are severe, including life imprisonment or a minimum of 10 years in prison, along with fines that can reach up to NT\$15 million.

Legal and Public Health Context

This case underscores the stringent measures Taiwan has in place to combat drug smuggling and the heavy penalties associated with narcotics offenses. The country classifies cannabis alongside other controlled substances and maintains strict regulations to prevent its illegal distribution and use.

Implications for International Drug Smuggling

The indictment of Awram highlights the risks and severe consequences associated with international drug trafficking. As the case progresses, it will serve as a reminder of the rigorous enforcement of drug laws in

Taiwan and the critical importance of adhering to local regulations when traveling internationally.

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