

## CHINA

# Interpretation highlights trafficking

## Courts directed to accept applications for civil compensation from families

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Courts should facilitate and accept applications for civil compensation from families of human trafficking victims, according to a judicial interpretation that will take effect on Friday.

In recent years, the abduction and trafficking of women and children have attracted widespread attention and public outrage, urging the country to strengthen its fight against such crimes, said the Supreme People's Court, China's top court.

"These offenses not only seriously violate the legitimate rights and interests of the trafficked women and children, but also cause great mental agony and place financial

burdens on the victims' families," the top court added.

Considering the amount of time and money the family members have to spend, the judicial interpretation clarifies that their requests for compensation from convicted perpetrators covering reasonable expenses incurred during their search for loved ones should be granted by courts nationwide.

"The clarification is meant to maintain social stability and protect human rights, as well as rectify the inconsistent handling of relevant cases in legal practice," the top court said.

In addition to human trafficking, the 26-article interpretation has also provided answers for some other hot social issues and new prob-

lems in civil disputes, including school bullying, juvenile protection, throwing objects from high-rise buildings and injuries caused by aggressive dogs.

Under the interpretation, for instance, if dangerous dogs — which are not allowed to be kept as pets in China — injure others, the owners or breeders should be held civilly liable, regardless of whether the victims are at fault.

The stipulation was made as the number and variety of dogs being raised in the country have continuously increased over the past few years, leading to frequent disputes involving dog-inflicted injuries, especially those caused by fierce dogs, the top court explained.

Last year, a distressing incident occurred in Chongzhou, a county-level city of Chengdu, Sichuan province, in which a 2-year-old child was attacked by a Rottweiler. The inci-

dent received massive public attention and led several cities across the country to tighten their dog management policies.

In February, the top court disclosed a few other cases in order to encourage people to abide by the laws and raise their pets in a civilized manner.

In one case, a 7-year-old child surnamed Xu was scratched in the face by an Alaskan Malamute he was playing within a residential area in August 2019. Xu's parents filed a lawsuit against the dog's owner, surnamed Liu, as the two sides had failed to reach an agreement on compensation.

The local court eventually ruled in favor of Xu's family and required Liu to pay over 30,000 yuan (\$4,200) in compensation, as dog management regulations in that city clarified that Alaskan Malamutes are classified as large and

aggressive dogs that are prohibited from being raised.

When introducing the case to the media in February, Chen Yifang, chief judge from the top court's No 1 Civil Adjudication Tribunal, revealed that more specific rules would be written into a judicial document to help judges resolve such lawsuits more efficiently and unify standards in case handling.

That document was issued by the top court on Thursday, and the judicial interpretation is meant to further ensure the accurate implementation of the Civil Code, the country's fundamental law for regulating civil activities.

Adopted in 2020, it is the first law to be called a "code" since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949. The Civil Code is considered a milestone legislation in comprehensively advancing the rule of law.

## China tells NZ to avoid sowing discord

By YANG ZEKUN  
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The Ministry of State Security of China has strongly condemned New Zealand for hyping the narrative of a "Chinese intelligence threat" and mistreating Chinese people in the country.

In a statement released on Thursday, the ministry urged New Zealand to adopt a rational and objective stance on China, prioritize its own long-term interests and avoid straying further from historical and moral correctness.

The ministry emphasized that sowing discord between China and New Zealand — whether driven by speculation, hidden motives or external influences — will not resolve New Zealand's issues but will undermine its national interests and bilateral relations.

In early September, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service released an annual report asserting that China "remains a complex intelligence concern in New Zealand".

The report claimed that China engages in foreign interference activities targeting New Zealand's Chinese communities, using "complex and deceptive" front organizations to influence local groups and manipulate community perspectives.

This report has reportedly led to instances of harassment against Chinese people in New Zealand by those claiming to be "New Zealand intelligence personnel".

In response to these incidents, the Chinese Embassy in New Zealand lodged a formal complaint with local authorities on Sept 19, condemning the mistreatment of Chinese expatriates and calling for an immediate halt to such actions.

The embassy reiterated that the Chinese government encourages its expatriates in New Zealand to abide by local laws and integrate into mainstream society.

The Ministry of State Security criticized New Zealand for fabricating false information about China, particularly regarding the so-called Chinese intelligence threat.

In August 2023, the NZSIS first released the report on New Zealand's security threat environment, accusing China of "interfering in the internal affairs of other countries".

Additionally, from 2023 to 2024, New Zealand repeatedly stirred up the so-called Chinese intelligence threat without providing substantive evidence, even fabricating so-called Chinese spy cases.

The ministry described these baseless accusations as reflective of New Zealand's ideological biases and Cold War mentality, which diverges from the spirit of cooperation agreed upon by both nations and hinders the development of healthy bilateral relations.

As a member of the "Five Eyes Alliance", known for its extensive surveillance and intelligence-gathering activities, New Zealand has participated in operations that the ministry claims include cyber espionage against China. It cited documents from the "PRISM" project, alleging that New Zealand collaborated with the US National Security Agency in hacking operations against the Chinese Consulate in Auckland in 2013.

## Bijie-Zhejiang medical center aids critically ill

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and ZHANG YU

Nearly four months ago, a patient with oropharyngeal cancer from Bijie in Southwest China's Guizhou province successfully had a tumor removed after receiving a resection surgery, becoming one of the many beneficiaries of a newly developed regional medical center.

Located in Bijie city, the Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital Bijie Hospital was unveiled last November as a public Grade III best-grade comprehensive hospital, jointly built through cooperation between the government of Guizhou and the hospital in Zhejiang province.

The joint hospital was developed with the aim to enable the residents in Bijie and surrounding areas to enjoy high-quality medical services near their homes.

As a populous city with more than 6.7 million people, Bijie used to face issues such as uneven distribution of medical resources, a shortage of high-quality medical facilities and relative scarcity of top medical talent. Patients, particularly those with severe and rare illnesses, often had to turn to hospitals far away for quality treatment.

To tackle such issues, Guizhou and Zhejiang, which boast relatively high-quality medical services, signed an agreement in November 2022 to construct the hospital jointly.

The tumor resection surgery on the Bijie patient was carried out by a medical team in Zhejiang led by

Ge Minghua, director of Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital.

Ge is a member of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, a non-communist political party mainly composed of intellectuals in multiple fields, including medicine and health, education and ecological environment.

In August 2022, Ge went to Bijie to present academic lectures and surgery presentations, during which he met Zhang Guangqi, also a member of the CPWDP in Guizhou. Both discussed ways to help people based on the abilities of the party members to enhance social services.

Both sides reached a consensus on starting the joint hospital project, providing high-quality medical resources and achieving balanced regional distribution.

Subsequently, a two-phased project was initiated with an investment of 2.3 billion yuan (\$328 million). The first phase included the establishment of 1,000 beds, with a total planned capacity of 1,960 beds in the future. As of now, the hospital in Zhejiang has dispatched more than 30 key personnel to the joint hospital in Bijie, who are serving as department heads and head nurses.

The hospital in Zhejiang has also established a talent cultivation project studio in the hospital, aiming to vigorously foster quality medical personnel.

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Medical workers conduct surgery on a heart disease patient at the Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital Bijie Hospital in Bijie, Guizhou province, on Feb 24. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Thank you



Local residents line the streets to bid farewell on Wednesday to power line workers from the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region who came to their aid after Typhoon Yagi caused power disruptions in Wenchang, Hainan province. After the storm earlier this month, power restoration teams from Guangxi and the provinces of Guangdong and Guizhou worked tirelessly in the hardest-hit areas to help residents regain electricity. LI TIANPING / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Big progress made in achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goals

By YAN DONGJIE  
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A recent report released by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals has revealed that China has made significant strides toward achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The report, titled "Big Earth Data in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals Report-2024," was presented to global representatives at the UN Summit of the Future last weekend. It uses satellite data and artificial intelligence to assess progress on the SDGs in China and worldwide.

Progress toward the 2030 goals has been modest, with only 17 percent of targets met over the past eight years. In contrast, China has achieved 55.5 percent of the

assessed indicators. The report reveals that from 2017 to 2021, global industrial heat sources decreased by 9.05 percent, with China contributing 33.61 percent of this reduction.

Additionally, from 2000 to 2023, offshore wind power deployment surged globally, largely driven by China, which accounted for approximately half of the world's cumulative installed capacity by the end of that period.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by 193 UN member states in September 2015, outlines 17 SDGs and 248 associated indicators.

"Measurement is only possible with data, and it is essential to achieving the SDGs," said Guo Huadong, director-general of the research center and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

He noted that decision-makers highly value the big data reports from China, which have been published on the UN's official website for six consecutive years.

Csaba Korosi, president of the 77th UN General Assembly, said the report provides clear and practical information for scientists and policymakers, guiding efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda.

"With only six years left until the UN's 2030 deadline, 2024 is a critical period for the international community to accelerate progress. This can be achieved through technological innovation, international cooperation and policy reforms," Guo said.

He expressed confidence that leveraging technological advancements, particularly in science and technology, will expedite the achievement of the SDGs.

## Honoree calls table tennis glory 'an inheritance'

By XING WEN  
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In the late 1940s, next to a dimly lit clock shop on Shanghai's Xinzha Road, it was a common sight to see several young students practicing table tennis on a chalk-outlined rectangle on the sidewalk at night.

On this makeshift ping-pong table, Zhang Xielin, then a second-grader at a local elementary school, began forging his lifelong bond with the sport. He later rose to become a player and then a coach of China's national team, witnessing generations of players contribute to the nation's table tennis glory.

Recently, the 84-year-old was awarded the national honorary title of Outstanding Contributor to



Zhang Xielin

Sports on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"Choosing to play table tennis is a decision I absolutely do not regret," Zhang said.

During times of scarcity, he even crafted his own paddles. He would buy old photo frames from thrift stores made of plywood to fashion into paddle bases, then affix rubber for a simple paddle.

"The 'clang' sound when hitting the ball with such a paddle was particularly pleasing," reminisced Zhang.

He formed a team named Red Flag at school, and during holidays they engaged in friendly matches with ping-pong lovers from nearby factories and schools. He frequented various table tennis venues in Shanghai, observing high-level players and learning from them.

Initially favoring a fast attack with a penhold grip, Zhang's approach transformed when he witnessed a skilled player's elegant defensive maneuvers at a local ping-pong club.

"His movements were so graceful and attractive," he said. "I then decided to learn the approach."

Zhang was later widely hailed as the "magic chopper," renowned for his adept combination of consistent chops and unpredictable spins. He



gradually made a name for himself in the city's table tennis scene, progressing from district-level competitions to city-level tournaments.

While apprenticing at the Shanghai Turbine Factory Technical School, he was chosen to join Shanghai's municipal team in preparation for the inaugural National Games in 1959.

This marked the beginning of his professional table tennis career. Soon after the National Games, he earned a spot on the national team.

At the 26th World Table Tennis Championships held in Beijing in

1961, he clinched third place in the men's singles event. He also won the first-ever men's doubles championship and mixed doubles championship for Team China in the history of the World Table Tennis Championships.

In 1975, Zhang became the head coach of the Chinese women's table tennis team. By the 43rd World Table Tennis Championships in 1995, Zhang had led the team to victory in 10 team events, nine singles events, eight doubles events and nine mixed doubles events. The team also secured three Olympic gold medals.

Under his guidance, the Chinese team never missed out on a women's singles title in Olympic table tennis competitions.

In analyzing the Chinese women's team's success, Zhang stressed the significance of "nurturing players according to their unique strengths,

given the team's diverse range of playing styles".

Table tennis legend Deng Yaping was one of the exceptional athletes spotted and nurtured by Zhang.

"Despite her short stature, Deng saw every ball coming her way as an opportunity, a high ball," he noted. "This allowed her to launch more attacks than others. Moreover, she had a strong thirst for victory and trained exceptionally hard."

When discussing the enduring success of Chinese table tennis, Zhang attributed it to "inheritance".

"We always hold our country in our hearts while keeping a global perspective," he explained. "Table tennis is not a solo endeavor against a wall. Instead, it thrives on mutual assistance, with some excelling and others sacrificing and contributing. We should wholeheartedly embrace patriotism and the spirit of collectivism."