
Shooting comment draws threats

Minorities group fears for safety after e-mails

The founder of an ethnic-minority support group has received several threatening e-mails since she raised concerns about the case in which a Nepali man was shot dead by police last week.

Fermi Wong Wai-fun, founder and campaign director of [Unison Hong Kong](#), said it was the first time the NGO had received a threat after commenting on minorities' issues since it was established in 2001.

The e-mails were received after she said the shot man might not have understood warnings shouted at him by the police officer in Cantonese and suggested the officer could have shown more cultural sensitivity.

Two were received on Thursday, two days after the shooting and a day after she made her remarks, and one on Friday.

The first e-mail, sent by "Johnnychannn", says: "Fermi Wong is illiterate and lacks wisdom. Your bulls**t will make us Hongkongers hate Nepalis more."

The second, from "diechineseunison", says: "I will upload some of your personal information, not very personal ones, in xanga and facebook, and describe you as the whore that you are. I will take pictures of you outside your office, and play around with you slowly. That will be very interesting."

The third e-mail says 12 messages have been written on blog site xanga on behalf of Ms Wong to "make her become famous".

Ms Wong said yesterday she was worried about the security of [Unison](#) staff because of the message that mentioned taking pictures outside the office. "These threatening emails {hellip} make us feel uncomfortable and threatened," she said.

[Unison](#) also received hundreds of supportive calls from ethnic minorities calling for action over the shooting, which took place on a wooded Ho Man Tin hillside after the man - at the time suspected to be an illegal immigrant - attacked the officer with a chair after being asked for his identity card.

"We will not succumb to these threats and will continue to speak for ethnic minorities and fight for justice," Ms Wong said.

[Unison Hong Kong](#) will report the threats to the police, Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data.

Human Rights Monitor director Law Yuk-kai said he was deeply concerned that a human rights defender had been threatened after speaking up.

"We are worried about the harassment and intimidation in this case," Mr Law said. It raised questions about whether any police officers might be involved, because not many other people would have a motive to make such a threat.

"We hope the police will conduct the investigation in a fair and impartial way," he said.

Chief Superintendent David Ng Ka-sing, of the police public relations bureau, called on anyone who had received a threat to report it to police as soon as possible. The force would conduct an investigation in a serious and impartial manner.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data said it could not comment on an individual

case without knowing all of the circumstances.

The Equal Opportunities Commission also would not comment on individual cases.

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Phyllis Tsang

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