

Idiom by Lon Yan

窮追猛打

qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3

Youngspiration members Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung Chung-hang have lost their appeal, and now it is clearly payback time.

The Legislative Council has started the process to find replacement to fill in their vacant seats. It has also sent demand letters to the duo, giving them two weeks to repay about HK\$930,000 that each had received as legislators in salaries and advances, or face legal actions.

What the authorities are doing against the two can be called “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*).

“窮” (*qiong2*) is “poor,” “thoroughly,” “exhaustively,” “追” (*zhui1*) “to chase after,” “to pursue,” “猛” (*meng3*) “fierce,” “vigorously” and “打” (*da3*) “to attack,” “to beat,” “to strike.” Literally, “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) is “thoroughly pursue and beat vigorously.”

The idiom means “to hotly pursue and fiercely attack,” “to vigorous pursue and fiercely beat.” “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) to hunt down and destroying a retreating enemy relentlessly.

When the police “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) a drug-selling racket, it is determined to wipe it out. “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) is to make sure that the enemy’s defeat is complete, and that it wouldn’t have the chance of a comeback. You must show no mercy.

“窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) can also be used to describe dogged efforts or resolute actions to achieve an objective, like a detective who exhausts all avenues to investigate a crime, or a prosecutor who keeps on grilling a lying witness until the truth comes out.

Terms containing the character “猛” (*meng3*) include:

猛烈 (*meng3 lie4*) - fierce; vigorous; violent

勇猛 (*yong3 meng3*) - brave and fierce; bold and powerful

生猛 (*sheng1 meng3*) full of life; fresh

猛地 (*meng3 dea3*) - suddenly