

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 猶有餘悸

*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*

Another backup battery pack burst into flames while being charged overnight, causing a fire at a Tin Shui Wai housing estate.

The occupant of the unit was hurt, so were two children next door. Hundreds of residents had to be evacuated, and the idiom “猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*) was used to describe them as they waited helplessly on the pavement for permission to get back home.

“猶” (*you2*) is “still,” “even,” “有” (*you3*) “to have,” “to exist,” “餘” (*yu2*) “surplus,” “spare,” “remaining,” “悸” (*ji4*) “to throb with terror,” “to palpitate,” “palpitation of the heart,” “fear”. Literally, “猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*) is “heart is still palpitating,” “there is remaining fear.”

The idiom means “even now I am scared,”

“there is lingering fear,” “still feeling scared.”

“猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*) is used to describe people who have survived calamitous events, and have yet to get over the terrifying experience.

Sing Tao used the idiom in its headline to describe the feelings of survivors in the earlier terrorists attack in Istanbul. Passengers who escaped from a firebomb attack in an MTR train carriage said they were “猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*) when talking about the terrifying incident.

If someone nearly gotten hit by a bus and feels fear every time he or she crosses the road afterward, it is the effect of “猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*). And after your mean boss shouted at you, you can tell others you are “猶有餘悸” (*you2 you3 yu2 ji4*).

### Terms containing the character “餘” (*you2*) include:

剩餘 (*sheng4 yu2*) – a surplus; the remnants

餘力 (*yu2 li4*) – strength or energy to spare; the remains of strength

餘震 (*yu2 zhen4*) – aftershock

廚餘 (*chu2 yu2*) – kitchen waste