

# 無理取鬧

wu2 li3 qu3 nao4

Four passengers were sent to jail after assaulting airline workers at Hong Kong International Airport. A fifth was fined and another pleaded not guilty to assault charges and is awaiting trial (候審).

They stirred up trouble at the departure gate (登機閘) due to the long delay of their flight by air traffic control in Shanghai. They rushed into the boarding gate and pushed and kicked airline staff who tried to stop them.

Flight delays are rather common, caused mostly by bad weather or air traffic control problems. Anyone who thinks they can make an aircraft take off by yelling and screaming is, of course, totally unreasonable. Taking emotions out on others and beating up people because you are frustrated is, as the judge said, "uncivilized" (不文明的) conduct.

Those who stir up trouble like this are called

## Idiom by Lon Yan

troublemakers (惹麻煩的人, 鬧事者, 搗亂者), and such unruly (不守規矩的) behavior can only be called “無理取鬧” (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4).

“無” (wu2) means “no,” “without,” “理” (li3) is “reason,” “justification,” “取” (qu3) is “to take,” “get,” “obtain,” and “鬧” (nao4) means “to make loud noises, stir up trouble.” Literally, “無理取鬧” (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4) is “without reason get to make loud noises.”

It means to create confusion or trouble, cause disturbance and disrupt order without justification. “大吵大鬧” (da4 chao3 da4 nao4) is to “create noisy disturbance,” which is exactly what the passengers did.

### Terms containing the character “理” (li3) include:

理由 (li3 you2) - reason, justification

合理 (he2 li3) - conforming to reason

推理 (tui1 li3) - to reason logically, study the reason

真理 (zhen1 li3) - truth (religious, scientific)