

窮追猛打

qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3

Anti-corruption action continues in the mainland. A former top military officer will be prosecuted while his major general son is being probed (被調查).

Guo Boxiong, 73, was a vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (中央軍事委員會) until he stepped down in 2012. His old age and ill health did not help him escape prosecution (起訴).

Xinhua News Agency reported that Guo abused his position “to seek promotion and other benefits for others and accepted bribes (賄賂) personally or through his family” and that “his acts seriously violated the Communist Party’s discipline and had a vile (邪惡的, 卑劣的) impact.”

President Xi Jinping (習近平) is widening his campaign against deep-rooted (根深柢固的) graft and unrelenting action against corruption can be described as “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*).

“窮” (*qiong2*) is “to pursue to the limit,” “追” (*zhui1*) is “to chase after,” “猛” (*meng3*) means “fierce” and “打” (*da3*) is “to hit.”

Idiom by Lon Yan

Literally “窮追猛打” (*qiong2 zhui1 meng3 da3*) is “pursue to the limit, chase after, fiercely hit.”

The meaning is actually quite clear. The idiom means to hotly pursue and fiercely attack.

It can be used to describe the action of an army determined to root out and destroy its enemy, or the persistent efforts of law enforcement agencies in bringing criminals to justice.

The character “窮” (*qiong2*) also means “poor.” “貧窮” (*pin2 qiong2*) and “窮困” (*qiong2 kun4*) both mean poor, needy or poverty-stricken. But it is an insult to call a poor person “窮鬼” (*qiong2 gui3*) or “窮光蛋” (*qiong2 guang1 dan4*), because these terms mean “poor devil” and “penniless good-for-nothing” respectively.

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

勇猛 (*yong3 meng3*) - fearless

凶猛 (*xiong1 meng3*) - fierce, ferocious

猛獸 (*meng3 shou4*) - beasts of prey

猛火 (*meng3 huo3*) - hot fire