

TAIWAN: Impeached diplomat receives a two-year suspension

On July 5, Jacqueline Liu, the former director-general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, was suspended from her duties for two years by the Judicial Yuan's disciplinary commission for seriously tarnishing the country's reputation and on suspicion of granting her Chinese housekeeper she had privately hired access to national security information.

Liu was arrested by FBI last November on charges of violating a US federal labor law and held in custody for months. She pleaded guilty and was deported from the United States in February 2012. In the subsequent investigation by three Control Yuan members, Louis R. Chao, Yeong-Kuang Ger and Yuh-San Liu, Liu was found guilty of violating human rights and underpaying her Philippine housemaids. In addition, she disregarded relevant regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) by hiring a Chinese housekeeper to work at her official residence and allowed her to have free access to her computer and secure telephone that pose great risks to national security. In view of her misconduct, the Control Yuan proposed an impeachment against Liu on April 10 and the case was referred to the Public Functionary Disciplinary Sanction Commission under the Judicial Yuan for consideration of penalty. Recently, the Commission decided that Liu had violated Articles Five and Seven of the Civil Service Act and suspended her from her duties for two years.

Liu's case also revealed the deficiency of professional training for diplomats. Therefore, on April 18, the Control Yuan also proposed corrective measures to MOFA for improvement.

Source: The Control Yuan