

4 acquitted men get millions of state compensation

Four people who were acquitted from a wrongful conviction of 13 years ago have each received 2.27 million yuan (\$330,000) from the state, the Jiangxi Higher People's Court said.



Cheng Lihe (second from the left), Fang Chunping (third from the left), Cheng Fagen (fourth from the left), three of the four men from Jiangxi Province who were sentenced to death in 2003 on charges of robbery, rape and homicide that happened in 2000. The four are expected to receive over 2.27 million yuan each from the state as compensation, citing a document issued by the High People's Court in Jiangxi Province on August 4, 2017. [File Photo: Wechat]

Huang Zhiqiang, Fang Chunping, Cheng Fagen and Cheng Lihe were sentenced to death by the Intermediate People's Court of Jingdezhen city in July 2003 for murder, rape and robbery on May 23, 2000 in Leping City, in central China's Jiangxi Province. The appeal process has been continuing since 2003.

In 2016, the Jiangxi Higher People's Court ruled that the facts were unclear, the evidence insufficient, and the authenticity and legitimacy of their confessions in doubt.

Xia Keqin, vice president of Jiangxi higher court, made an apology to the four after their acquittal.

77 telecom fraud suspects returned to China from Fiji

A total of 77 suspects in telecom and online fraud cases have been brought back to China from Fiji, the Ministry of Public Security announced Saturday.



Suspects in telecom and online fraud cases are brought back to China from Fiji at Changchun Longjia International Airport, Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, Aug. 5, 2017. A total of 77 suspects in telecom and online fraud cases have been brought back to China from Fiji, the Ministry of Public Security announced Saturday. The suspects are accused in more than 50 cases involving more than 6 million yuan (892,000 U.S. dollars). (Xinhua/Lin Hong)

It was the first time for Chinese police to bring back so many suspects from an Oceanian country.

The suspects are accused in more than 50 cases involving over 6 million yuan (892,000 U.S. dollars).

On Sept. 22, 2016, one of the victims in northeast China's Jilin Province was swindled out of 1.3 million yuan and committed suicide, which triggered large-scale investigations at provincial and state levels.

An illegal online gambling and lottery gang was soon revealed, directing to

more than 200 suspects based in China, Indonesia and Fiji, with nearly 100 million yuan illegal gains involved. Victims were from over 20 provinces and municipalities across China.

Chinese police sent a team to Fiji on July 2 to work with local police. On July 18, they took action, destroying five dens, arresting 77 suspects and confiscating equipment, including mobile phones, computers and bank cards.

In the meantime, police busted eight dens and two technical teams, arresting 83 suspects in China.

In a separate case, the ministry announced on Friday that it had brought 143 such suspects to China from Indonesia. Another 10 suspects, who had been arrested, remained in Indonesia under investigation. Their cases involved more than 20 million yuan, said the ministry.

Heat wave continues in southern, central China

China's meteorologists issued a yellow alert on Saturday for high temperatures, the second in a four-tier warning system, with some southern provinces expected to see temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius.



People in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality take a form of an "ice bucket challenge" to beat the heat at a waterpark in, July 25, 2017. Many districts of Chongqing fell under a red alert for high temperatures, with air temperatures rising above 40 degrees Celsius in certain areas. [Photo: Chinanews.com]

The heat wave led to historic high temperatures in some areas in July, and will continue to bake southern and central China on Saturday, the National Meteorological Center said.

The observatory expects some regions in Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou and Xinjiang to see temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius.

Temperatures in downtown Chongqing, and parts of Shaanxi, Henan, Hubei and the southeastern provinces could rise to 39 degrees Celsius, it said.

The public was reminded to pay attention to the weather and take precautions in outdoor activities. Authorities are closely watching the power supply to avoid accidents.

Heat waves have hit most of the country's southeast over the past month. Shanghai, for example, recorded a temperature of 40.9 degrees Celsius on July 21, the highest on record in the city in 145 years. The extreme hot weather has increased the number of people suffering from heatstroke.

China has a four-tier color-coded system for severe weather, with red being the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

Beijing: a promising land for tech talent

A scanner magnifies a traditional Chinese painting by 200 times in an Artificial Intelligence Technology Center (AITC) in Beijing.

Based on big data technology, the machine is capable of recording the specific details of certain cultural relics. This can be used to tell fakes from originals.

The startup AITC in Yizhuang Economic and Technology Development area in the suburban Daxing district of Beijing was started in March by Hans Uszkoreit, scientific director at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence.

Uszkoreit said the center would focus on creating an AI service system and big data public technology platform. It will cooperate with companies that

need the application of AI technology, such as JD.com, to make breakthrough in the fields of natural language processing and big data analysis.

Professor Uszkoreit and his company epitomize the foreign entrepreneurial rush in Beijing.

Beijing has hoped to attract more “elite foreigners” since it eased permanent-residence requirements in 2016. Twenty measures took effect on March 1, 2016, mainly targeting managerial-level professionals, Chinese born abroad, entrepreneurs and recently-graduated foreign students.

Zhongguancun, known in some quarters as “China’s Silicon Valley,” has offered permanent-residence certificates in China to more than 280 foreigners since 2016.

Jahangir Raza from Pakistan just graduated from North China Electric Power University. He is working in the capital as a service manager for Beijing Aeonmed and is getting his work visa in China.

He expects a lot from his future career, and says he decided to stay in Beijing because of the great opportunities here.

Yang Zhongwei, International Marketing & Sales Director of Beijing Aeonmed, said the company would like to hire overseas staff because they can become the strong link between overseas markets and Chinese companies.

From common entrepreneurs to Nobel laureates, an increasing number of foreigners see Beijing as an ideal place for their business ideas.

THOMAS Beijing Research and Development Center was founded in Beihang University this February. The center named after Professor Thomas C. Sudhof, a winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, was jointly founded by the city of Beijing, Beihang University and Professor Thomas C. Sudhof.

Focusing on repairing central nervous system injuries, the center has a multidisciplinary advantage and undertakes research into many areas, including pathophysiology, biomaterial modification, preparation techniques and repairing neural injuries.

Nils Pihl, a tech CEO in Beijing, born in Sweden, moved to Silicon Valley and then New York, but founded a tech startup in Beijing.

He wrote an article for the Business Insider, an American news website, to explain why he chose Beijing for his startup. Pihl believes Beijing is great for innovation.

“Beijing offered us cheap housing and food, a network of experienced mentors that were happy to take the time to help, steady access to some of the world’s greatest engineering talent at a sixth of the cost of a junior engineer in Silicon Valley and access to a vast market of clients,” he wrote.

Though for Pihl it was never about costs alone.

“Beijing attracts large numbers of truly driven, creative and interesting people,” he wrote.

Former senior legislator sentenced to life imprisonment

Wang Min, former Communist Party of China chief of northeast China’s Liaoning Province and senior national legislator, was given a life sentence Friday for embezzlement, accepting bribes and dereliction of duty.

The sentence was handed down by the Intermediate People’s Court of Luoyang City in central China’s Henan Province.

Wang was also deprived of his political rights for life, with all his personal assets confiscated.

Wang was found to have taken advantage of his various positions to help others with business and promotions, among other offences, and accepted money and valuables worth more than 146 million yuan (21.7 million U.S. dollars) personally or through others when he served in senior positions in Jilin and Liaoning provinces between 2004 and 2016.

He was also found to have embezzled public funds worth one million yuan, when he was Party chief of Jilin Province.

The court also convicted Wang of dereliction of duty. During his time as Liaoning Party chief, Wang failed to properly supervise local elections and was responsible for serious election fraud including vote buying.

His negligence undermined the election system, resulting in major losses in the national and public interests and had an especially vile social impact, the court said.

The court decided to be lenient as Wang pleaded guilty, expressed remorse, returned his illegal gains and offered information on other crimes.