

(Translation)

**LC Paper No. CB(2)1487/11-12(01)**

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

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22 March 2012

Mrs Sharon Tong  
Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Panel on Security  
Suspected "Child Abduction" Cases**

At the meeting of the Panel on Security held on 13 March 2012, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the "child abduction" cases circulating widely recently. This document sets out the number of reported cases of "child abduction" and the follow-up actions taken by the Police in recent years for Members' reference.

**Number of reports of "child abduction" cases**

The Police received a total of four reports of "child abduction" cases (i.e. stealing a child aged 14 or below) from 2007 to 2011. All four children were found. Of the four cases, three of which involved children taken away by either their father or mother as well as runaways. Only one case involved a stranger.

In the last case in question, a man took away a two-year-old girl from a park in Sham Shui Po in April 2010. The Police located the girl in the vicinity of the park on the same day and arrested the man. The girl sustained no injuries. The man was finally charged with "stealing child

under 14 years” and “indecent assault”. He was convicted and sentenced to three years’ imprisonment.

### **Follow-up actions taken by the Police for “Child Abduction” cases circulated recently**

The Police take cases of missing persons very seriously, particularly those involving stealing or missing children, and procedures are in place for thorough follow-up actions to be taken for each and every case. If the missing child is below the age of 12, the Police will categorise the case as “Missing Person at Risk”. If an immediate search for the child is to no avail, the case will be immediately referred to the crime units for follow up.

The Police have taken the initiative to attend to and follow up each of the suspected “child abduction” cases reported, enquired by the media and referred to them. From 2 February to 17 March this year, the Police followed up a total of 17 cases. After investigation, it is confirmed that six cases are misreported; four cases are not crime-related and are mere misunderstandings. For the seven remaining cases, the Police are obtaining details of the cases from the respective persons involved for appropriate follow-up actions and the cases are mainly related to children being followed, accosted or contacted by strangers. Up till now, no “child abduction” case has been found.

Besides, the Police have adopted strategic arrangements to step up patrol at the appropriate places and the school areas. They will maintain close liaison with schools through the School Liaison Officers of the respective Police Districts, and will provide assistance and suggestions on corresponding measures as necessary. They also urge the public to take good care of children in their company and call 999 immediately for assistance in case of emergency. The Police will take all reports of crime seriously and prudently, and will conduct investigation according to the case details and the evidence available.

As suspected “child abduction” cases were recently reported on the Internet discussion forums, the Police have issued press releases and responded to media enquiries on 13 March and 14 March 2012 (please refer to the [Annex](#) for details). Upon receipt of a report of “child abduction” case, or if there is a confirmed case, the Police will definitely disseminate relevant information to the media in accordance with the mechanism of disseminating information of unforeseen incidents.

The Immigration Department has also stepped up checking at control points. It will strengthen liaison with the Police when necessary to prevent criminals from abducting children out of the territory.

### **Legislation and Penalty**

“Child abduction” is a very serious offence. Any person committing the act may contravene Section 43 of the Offences Against the Person Ordinance (“Stealing child under 14 years”), Chapter 212 of the Laws of Hong Kong, which states that any person who unlawfully, by any means, leads or takes away, or decoys or entices away, or detains any child under the age of 14 years, with intent to deprive any parent, guardian, or other person having the lawful care or charge of such child of the possession of such child shall be guilty of an offence triable upon indictment, and shall be liable to imprisonment for seven years.

Yours sincerely,

( Millie NG )  
for Secretary for Security

# Press Releases

Police take suspected child abduction cases very seriously

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Police take suspected child abduction cases recently reported on the Internet discussion forums very seriously.

A Police spokesman today (March 13) said that Police had received 12 reports of suspected child abduction cases since February 2, including three cases reported by members of the public and via schools, and nine cases followed up by Police after being enquired by the media.

"After initial investigation, it is confirmed that five cases are misreported on the Internet, that such cases never happened; two other cases are not crime-related and are mere misunderstandings; and the five remaining cases are being followed up by the Police with the persons involved. So far, there is no concrete evidence suggesting that a child abduction case has occurred," the spokesman said.

"Upon preliminary assessment of the information available so far, these cases are not inter-related. They are in fact isolated cases with no specific modus operandi. Nevertheless, we have stepped up patrol at the places concerned and the school areas. We will maintain close liaison with the schools through the School Liaison Officers, and will provide assistance and suggestions on corresponding measures whenever necessary.

"We appeal to the public to contact us immediately if they spot any suspicious person or have any information to offer. We will take each and every case seriously and prudently, and will conduct investigation according to the case details and the evidence available," he added.

Police Report No. 221  
Issued by PPRB

Ends/Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
Issued at HKT 21:07

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傳真號碼 Fax No : \_\_\_\_\_  
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 日期 Date : 二〇一二年三月十四日

有關閣下的查詢，現回覆如下：

就今日互聯網上流傳一段有關近日發現小童屍體及指警方隱瞞事件的消息，警方嚴正聲明絕無此事，警方沒有接獲相關舉報，有關消息全無事實根據。警方已對事件展開調查，如證實有人蓄意在網上散布謠言引起公眾恐慌，警方會嚴肅處理。

警方自二月二日開始至今，共接獲十四宗懷疑企圖拐帶兒童事件舉報，經初步調查後，證實六宗只屬網上誤傳，未有確實事件發生；另外三宗並無涉及刑事成份，只屬誤會；餘下五宗警方正與有關事主了解事件，以作出適當的跟進。所有事件均互無關連，亦沒有特定的模式，只屬個別事件。

警方重申，近日多宗懷疑拐帶兒童事件中，直至目前為止沒有一宗有實質證據顯示涉及拐帶兒童，而所有涉及事件的兒童均十分安全，更遑論有發現小童屍體的事件。如警方證實有人蓄意在互聯網上散布謠言，定會依法處理。

警察公共關係科  
當值新聞主任

Earning Public Confidence is Our Responsibility

止壞民心 齊護法紀