

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE
14 JUNE 2013**

Issuance of Letter of Warning to Lee Seng Lynn for Contempt of Court

The Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC") has today issued a letter of warning to Ms Lee Seng Lynn ("Ms Lee"), through her counsel, for her having committed contempt of court.

2 On 28 January 2013, Ms Lee published videos of two interviews with one He Jun Ling ("He") and one Liu Xiang Ying ("Liu") ("the videos") on her blog 'Lianain Films' under the heading "I Have Ways to Make You Confess" and thereby made the videos available to the public at large.

3 The videos contained allegations by He and Liu that, in the course of investigations into offences under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act (Cap 67, 2000 Rev Ed) ("the Act") committed by them, they had been assaulted by officers from the Singapore Police Force for the purpose of extracting confessions.

4 At the time of publication, Ms Lee was aware that criminal proceedings in respect of offences under the Act were pending against He and Liu, as well as two other individuals, namely Gao Yue Qiang and Wang Xianjie ("the criminal proceedings").

5 AGC has completed its review of Ms Lee's conduct and has assessed that Ms Lee's conduct amounted to contempt of court by creating a real risk of prejudice to the criminal proceedings which were pending then. This form of contempt is known as *sub judice* contempt. The specific allegations made by He and Liu that were published were serious allegations against the police; the publication created a real risk that parties connected with the criminal proceedings, namely the trial judge, witnesses, co-accused persons, and He and Liu themselves, would be improperly influenced in relation to making findings of fact or giving evidence on the issue of the admissibility of confessions made by He and Liu. These are matters that should be determined at a trial and not by publications that are made outside the court.

6 Taking all the circumstances of the case into account, including the nature of the contempt committed and the resolution of the criminal proceedings on 25 February 2013, AGC is of the view that a warning is sufficient in this case, rather than proceedings in Court to commit Ms Lee for contempt of court.

7 All members of the public should note that contempt of court in its various forms harms the proper administration of justice in Singapore. Left unchecked, such conduct can obstruct the determination of the truth or erode respect for our judicial institutions. This would in turn harm the public interest in the proper administration of justice.

8 In appropriate instances, AGC will not hesitate to take firm action, including the institution of committal proceedings for contempt of court. The aim of such proceedings is to protect the integrity of the judiciary's role in determining the facts. These proceedings do not target legitimate complaints or criticism. Indeed, those who bring such complaints and criticism to the attention of the proper authorities through proper channels need not worry that they commit contempt of court by doing so. Members of the public are also able to criticise or question the correctness of judicial decisions, after these have been given, so long as they do not make unfounded allegations of bias or partiality.

9 Separately, we are aware of remarks made by the family of the late Mr Shane Todd in relation to the Coroner's Inquiry which is currently in progress. We urge the public and the media not to make or report any statements which could be construed as trying to improperly influence the decision of the Coroner, or cast aspersions on the independence of this proceeding.

Thank you.