

Miserable Stories of Electromagnetic Radiation Hazard Victims in Taiwan

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Preface

In Taiwan, numerous protests about radar, transformer stations, HV (high voltage) cables and base stations have been held continuously. Although singular events are probably made by some small groups of people, the number of such events will be considerably large in sum. It may be the environmental issue with the greatest number of most-seriously victimized protesters in Taiwan history. However, due to scattered locations, these protests are not united, resulting in victimized protesters' never-ending protest transmigration. The mistakenly loose standards and specifications make people have no choice. Because of the numb public departments as well as experts and scholars with conservative perspectives, many victims who suffer from *symptom-complex* of electromagnetic radiations such as cancers have no way to ask for help; they have to die with grievances not clarified. Therefore, many people choose to move away and escape, which has made telecommunication companies and the power company more aggressive in strengthening their expansion. We seem to have no choice but to endure.

This article introduces several miserable stories of electromagnetic radiation hazard victims in Taiwan in the past few years. For the base stations and HV cables are densely-covered and improperly-installed, records of hazards resulted from those who located near the electromagnetic radiation sources. We represent the current situation of electromagnetic radiation hazard in Taiwan. As a part of global village, we welcome assistance from every country's people who concerns about this, for the purpose of making legislation and for chasing a safer electromagnetic-radiation environment.

Index

1. Base stations and the “Cancer Map”
 - 1.1 An elegy for Be-Tou village
 - 1.2 Appalling blood cancer
 - 1.3 The Chi-Lou Community’s joint belief to tear down the stations
 - 1.4 The The Yun-Lin victims
 - 1.5 Cancer Map of San-Ho *Village*, Majia Township

- 2 The terrifying facts about HV cables, the radiation disaster in Jiayin Village, Wufong Township ·

- 3 Chi-Gu Yen-Cheng Village’s Anti Doppler Weather Radar Electromagnetic Radiation Petition

Article

1-1 An elegy for Be-Tou village

In the cool evening after a day of scorching heat, the people of Be-Tou Neighborhood love to sit by the shores and have the gentle seaside breeze blow upon them. What they do not know is that with each wave crashing upon the coastline, comes a wave of dense electromagnetic radiation. Only with the help of testing equipment, do they realize the intensity of the seaside radiation. Direct exposure to electromagnetic radiation such a high price to pay for merely enjoying the seaside breeze!

In the year of 1999, a number of stores in this neighborhood had cell phone base stations installed on their rooftops. Just after a few years, eleven people who had a habit of resting in the shade beside the port had developed cases of cancer. In the past, more specifically, from the year of 1991-1999, there were absolutely no cases of cancer within this region. The trouble started in 1999 when one citizen died of cancer. From 2000-2007, the number of cancer victims increased to eleven, eleven times that of the prior amount. In comparison to the nearby Nan-Yah Neighborhood which had similar racial and population structures, this neighborhood showed obvious increases in cancer cases after the installment of the base station. However, prior to this, the two neighborhoods had practically no differences in the number of cancer cases.

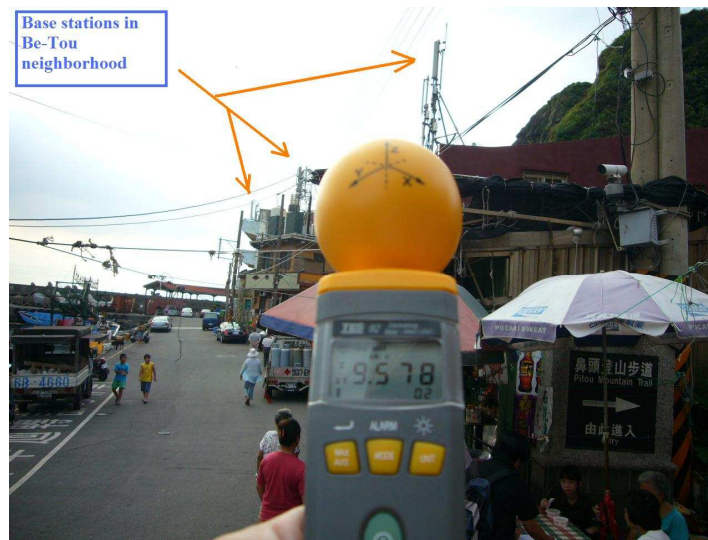


Fig.1 A number of stores in Be-Tou Neighborhood had cell phone base stations installed on their rooftops from 2000-2007.



Fig. 2 Mr. Yeh and his son and daughter-in-law who had a habit of resting in the shade beside the port near the base stations and all had developed cases of cancer.

The most heart-breaking example is of the Yeh family. The adults in this family often spent time near the seaside port where they were exposed to high dosages of electromagnetic radiation. The 60-year-old grandpa, his son and daughter-in-law developed cases of bladder cancer, lymphatic cancer and stomach cancer, respectively. The daughter-in-law passed away during 2006 and his son, 2008. Today, the family of one grandparent and three young children survive on a monthly fisher's pension of 6000NT\$. As a result, the eldest granddaughter, who had just graduated from junior high, gave up her academic ambitions and found work doing odd jobs in a local seafood restaurant. For the majority of her time, she remains unemployed.

1-2 Appalling blood cancer

In the Shin-Ann neighborhood of southern Tainan, Mr. Huang, a fit youth in charge of training Olympic bowling athletes, unexpectedly died of leukemia. Such a tragic incident outraged the locals and provoked waves of protest against the base station housing a cell phone antenna tower. Mr. Huang died just a month after being diagnosed with the disease. On his deathbed, even when he was deemed incapable of speech, he still endeavored to write a note, begging the head of the neighborhood to ensure the removal of that base station. Further investigation revealed that his bedroom window was directly facing the station, within proximity of 100 meters. Here, electromagnetic radiation levels peaked at nearly $7000 \mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$, 7000

times that of the normal background value. Even in the neighboring Nan-Shing Elementary school, radiation tests indicated a stunning amount of $6743 \mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$. Not being able to endure these overwhelming levels of radiation, Mr. Huang, the Olympic bowling trainer, fell.



Fig. 3 Girl in picture got blood disease after the installation of the base stations in the Shin-Ann neighborhood of southern Tainan, over 6 persons (at least 5 were children) live within a range of 200 meters from the stations got blood disease .

1-3 The Chi-Lou Community's joint belief to tear down the stations

Beside the Shing-Da Port of Kaoshiung County, a cell phone antenna station had been set on the rooftop of an eight story structure for over ten years. Everywhere in the village showed sharp increases in cases of cancer with over forty cancer related deaths. On Chi-Lou Street of the old district, the amount of such deaths was particularly high with them making up a fifth of all deaths in five years. Within a radius of two hundred meters from the cell phone station, there were over twenty new cases of cancer with 3 families having at least two cases each. Within a hundred meter range, there was even a three-year-old toddler with cancer. Tests showed that electromagnetic radiation levels were at 1000 times the normal background value in the homes as well as neighboring homes of these cancer victims.



Fig.4 High electromagnetic radiation in the room of the cancer victim who suicide in 2007 at Chi-Lou community. The base stations had been asked to tear down in 2008.

1-4 The Yun-Lin victims

In the Hui-Lai Neighborhood of Yun-Lin, four residences within a hundred meters of each other had cell phone base stations installed on their third floors over 10 years. Five to ten years after this installation, **the people living nearby fell ill with examples including cancer, tumors, insomnia, headaches and constant anxiety.** Due to the fear of the cell phone base stations, one by one, the neighboring people moved away, and those who were financially incapable of the move, remained, demanding the removal of these base stations. The base stations had been asked to tear down in 2008.

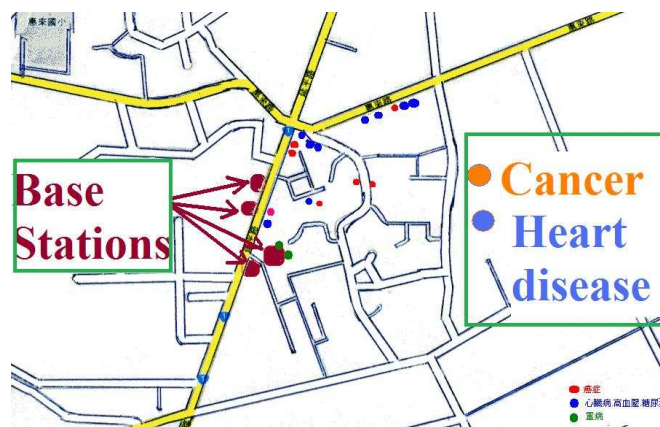


Fig.5 Cancer map of the Hui-Lai Neighborhood of Yun-Lin, four residences within a hundred meters of each other had cell phone base stations installed on their third floors over 10 years.

1-5 Cancer Map of San-Ho Village, Ma-Jia Township

The San-Ho Village of Ma-Jia Township was home to a mountainous aboriginal tribe which included the north, center and south villages. Two cell phone base stations were installed in the center village with one in a residence and the other beside Ma-Jia Junior High. A town representative commented that the installment of these stations induced the resentment and complaints of the village people as they suffered from insomnia, constant headaches, strokes and even cancer. Everyone had reached their limits of tolerance and has stepped forth to demand the removal of these cell phone base stations.

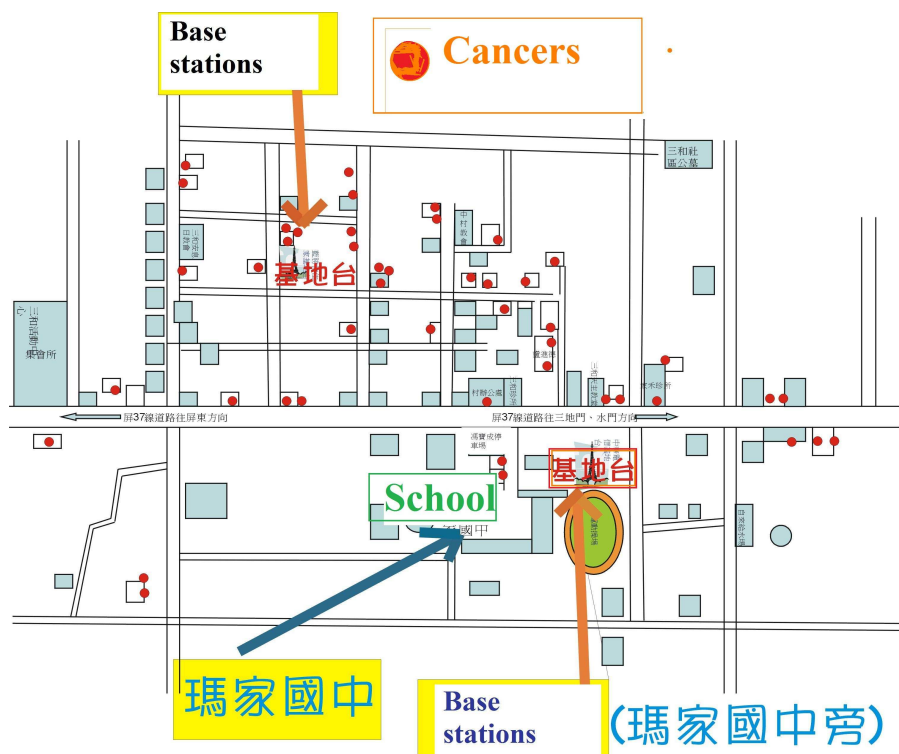


Fig.6 Cancer Map of San-Ho Village, Ma-Jia Township, the cancers in red dots were developed around the base stations after the installation of the base stations.

The previously mentioned base stations have been installed for ten and five years, respectively. Due to the fact that the village revolved around agriculture and that the farmlands were in close proximity to the base stations, the people were constantly exposed to high levels of electromagnetic radiation. A farmer's wife living across from Ma-Jia Junior High contracted a case of cancer after the installation of the nearby station. Her legs failed her, and she was rendered incapable for farming, thus

depriving her of her farming, her only means of survival. A doctor working at a nearby hotel also developed a case of cancer after the installation.

The majority of the village population had no habits of drinking or smoking, yet just a few years of the installation of these base stations, many came down with severe cases of cardiac arrest, diabetes and cancer. The derived reason is that the people were farming outdoors most of their time, thus increasing their chances of electromagnetic radiation exposure. Chung-He Village of Ma-Jia Town, with a population of only 690, had at least nineteen cases of cancer and twenty strokes in the recent six years.

The cell phone station located at the outskirts of the center village was in close proximity to the classrooms, track and dorms of Ma-Jia Junior High. The two house mothers of the dorms often complained of headaches and insomnia after the installation of the station. The house mothers who live on campus can be often seen with furrowed brows and in a state of frustration. Their only concern is that the students living there will also be exposed to the dangers.

Living in the dorms are students from all corners of the town, many of which have athletic potential. However, the cell phone base station erected next to the track has caused the electromagnetic radiation levels to be over a thousand times that of the normal background value. Thus, many are gravely concerned about the well-being of the athletes who train and exercise for long hours, unprotected and in the open, on the track and field.

2 The terrifying facts about HV cables

Numerous thesis reports have indicated that prolonged exposures to an environment with over 4mG of electromagnetic radiation will double the risk of leukemia for younger children. Yet on Zhi-Chiang Street of Wo-Fong Jia-In Village, many high-voltage electricity towers are located close to the community district with many web-like cables carrying this electricity passing over rooftops. Even during hours of minimal electricity usage, testing equipment show high levels of electromagnetic radiation.



Fig.7 On Zhi-Chiang Street of Wo-Fong Jia-In Village, many high-voltage electricity towers are located close to the community district with many web-like cables carrying this electricity passing over rooftops.

Upon arrival in the Jia-In Village, you can find a grandmother and her two grandchildren exposed daily to a radiation dosage of 15mG outside and 20mG in their bedroom. This is because a thick electricity cable, carrying a 161KV charge, is hanging over the rooftops of residences in the 81st alleyway of Zhi-Chiang Street. The grandmother has revealed that she constantly suffered from shooting pains in her abdomen of unknown causes, and after the cables were brought directly over her home, she additionally suffered from headaches and had trouble sleeping.

In western countries, it is regulated that electric cables with a voltage of 161KV or 345KV must at least be distanced thirty or fifty meters from residential areas.

However, in the case mentioned above, this distance has been completely neglected, and the people have been deprived of their rights to a safe and sound environment. Over a hundred households are exposed to this low frequency electromagnetic radiation.

The people of this area share common symptoms of headaches and insomnia. The relocation of an electric voltage convertor station to an even closer area was followed by cases of cancer and other serious illnesses. However, Taipower company in Taiwan has completely disregarded the people's protests and are continuing their plans on expanding the 345KV electric network.

At the "crime scene", ten high voltage electric towers could be seen with thick overhanging electric cables passing over the roofs of houses. Testing meters indicated extremely high levels of electromagnetic activity, thus meaning that the residences were engulfed in a field of extreme electromagnetic radiation.

3 Chi Gu Yen-Cheng Village's Anti Doppler Weather Radar Electromagnetic Radiation Petition

The weather bureau started test-firing radar at Chi-Gu's Yen Cheng Village around the year of 2000. During the year of 2001, the Doppler radar was installed and test-fired, and the system was officially activated in 2002. A fisherman with surname of Chen who often fished in close proximity to the radar station throughout the year once fainted and crashed while riding his motorbike along the fisheries in this region. He was diagnosed with the symptoms of mental disease in mid-2000 and often becomes lost while traveling as a result of forgetting to take medication. Six years subsequent to the installation of the radar station in Yen Cheng village 10 of the sixty or so fishermen residing within the village have contracted cases of cancer while another 10 have developed handicaps, and of the households within a range of 100 meters from the radar, three children have become mentally retarded.



Fig. 8 The weather bureau started test-firing radar at Chi-Gu's Yen Cheng Village around the year of 2000, the nearest household is within a range of 100 meters from the radar.



Fig. 9 The households within a range of 100 meters from the radar for six years, three children have become mentally retarded.

In the year of 2002, the Doppler radar installed in Chi Gu's Yen Cheng village was officially activated and upon activation, the entire village was engulfed by colorless, odorless electromagnetic radiation. The 2836MHz waves emitted by the radar station didn't have the results as promised by the weather bureau, "They're beamed towards the sky and won't have any affect towards the surface." According to the results of on the spot tests conducted by the NTU's Yen Ching-Ling industry foundation at an area close to the "Southern Saint" Temple where the people often congregated, the energy carried by the radiation was at $4027 \mu W/m^2$, over 4000 times higher than that of background levels. In the range of 100 to 200 meters within the radar, the radiation strength is at 10000-20000 times that of background levels. Usually, there was nothing out of the ordinary except a little interference to the TV signal at an interval of a few seconds. There was just a big white ball floating over the village, and people went to work at their fisheries as usual, having toilsome yet normal lives.

--An exponential increase in cases of cancer and handicaps



Fig.10 Chi Gu Yen-Cheng Village's Anti Doppler Weather Radar Electromagnetic Radiation Petition

Upon activation of the radar, the villages weren't aware of anything out of the ordinary, but after 2 or 3 years, those who lived or worked within close proximity of the radar suffered from diseases such as but not limited to sudden palpitations, cardiac arrests, heart diseases, liver cancer, pharynx and larynx cancer, intestines cancer, lymphatic cancer, uric acid tumors, brain tumors, bladder cancer, breast cancer and

throat cancer. There has been a gradual increase in the number of many different kinds of compound symptoms which induce fear amongst the people. In 2007, it has been confirmed that electromagnetic radiation is the source of these problems, yet the weather bureau has disregarded this issue.

According to research, within the range of 2000 meters and from 2002 to 2007, there has been a total of 16 new cases of cancer. Between the years of 1996 and 2001, Yen-Cheng village only had 4 cases of cancer related deaths. According to the information provided by a report on recorded cases of cancer in the years of 2002 and 2003 from the Sanitation Department's national health division of the Executive Yuan, a crude approximation can be made that since the installation of the weather radar system, from 2002 to 2006, this region has had a higher ratio of cancer cases than the average ratio of Taiwan. To be exact, the yearly ratio of cancer cases is 3 to 6 times higher than that of Taiwan's average.

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