



Ministry of Justice

Press Release

정의와
상식의 법치

Release Date	Upon Announcement	Announcement Date	November 14, 2022
Division in Charge	International Criminal Affairs Division	Head	Director LEE, Ji Hyung
		In Charge	Prosecutor IM, Hana

Justice Minister Ordered Extradition to New Zealand ‘Suitcase Murders’ Suspect

- With regard to two dead bodies of the children in suitcases in Auckland, New Zealand, the Ministry of Justice, as the Central Authority for extradition matters in the Republic of Korea, received a Request for Provisional Arrest against the suspect LEE (female, age 42, New Zealand national) from New Zealand authorities and ordered the Seoul High Prosecutors’ Office for a provisional arrest. The said person was taken into custody on September 15.
- New Zealand Ministry of Justice (Hon Kiri Allan, Minister of Justice) submitted an Extradition Request to the Ministry pursuant to the bilateral extradition treaty. Having thoroughly reviewed the Request and a large pool of supporting evidence, the Minister of Justice, HAN, Dong Hoon, ordered the Seoul High Prosecutors’ Office to file a Request for extradition trial on October 27 and the court proceedings subsequently took place at the Seoul High Court.
- On November 11, 2022, the Seoul High Court approved the extradition. Subsequently, on November 14, 2022, the Minister of Justice finally determined to extradite the criminal to New Zealand in comprehensive consideration of the court reasoning, the nature of the crime (the Korean government has no jurisdiction over the case as it was committed by a New Zealand citizen in New Zealand; both the criminal and the victims are New Zealand citizens), and the national interests. He ordered to surrender her by issuing a Writ of Surrender to the Seoul High Prosecutors’ Office.
- In addition, the Minister ordered to surrender articles seized from the suspect at the time of her arrest by the Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office.
- The Ministry of Justice will discuss the detailed schedule with the New Zealand authority and the Seoul HPO to surrender the criminal to New Zealand within 30 days.