Study on the Protection of Overseas Chinese Citizens’ Security

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Abstract. With the acceleration of the process of global integration, cross-border flows tend to be frequent, and the interactions between individuals, countries and international organizations are gradually deepening and the relationship between the parties is complicated. In this context, there are more and more non-traditional factors affecting international security, which poses a huge threat and damage to the security of overseas Chinese citizens. The overseas security situation is not optimistic. For the security protection of overseas citizens, China currently mainly establishes two major mechanisms: diplomatic protection and consular protection. But whether it is a single line or a double line, its power is slightly limited and weak. For China's current society, how to establish a diversified mechanism in which multiple factors are combined to play a role in responding to and solving China's problems in protecting the safety of its overseas citizens is crucial. At present, we can build a diversified protection mechanism for the safety of overseas Chinese citizens by accelerating the improvement of domestic legislation on security protection, drawing on Western experience, optimizing protection mechanisms, coordinating non-governmental resources and enhancing citizens' awareness of safety.

Keywords: Chinese citizens, overseas security, risk, diversified protection

1. Introduction

The process of personal survival is the process of constantly pursuing and realizing self-worth. The pursuit of self-value is inseparable from the social environment created by a stable country, and the existence and development of a harmonious and stable country cannot be separated from national security. Only when the country is safe and stable can the country achieve long-term stability and the people live and work in peace and contentment, and better concentrate on the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The People's Republic of China is a sovereign, independent and complete country. According to the principle of territorial jurisdiction: the land area of China's territorial land is about 1,634,057 square kilometers, the water area of the territorial sea is about 4.7 million square kilometers, and the disputes over the airspace, regardless of the nationality of the party, China Jurisdiction; according to the principle of personal jurisdiction: China exercises jurisdiction over citizens of Chinese nationality, regardless of where the dispute occurs. As of 2018, China has established diplomatic relations with 178 sovereign states, and through its embassies and consulates abroad, it protects the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens in the host country and exercises diplomatic protection rights against illegal acts committed by Chinese nationals. In practice, China has unswervingly safeguarded the sovereign independence of the country and protected the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese nationals.

On April 15, 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping first proposed the major strategic concept of the overall national security concept at the first plenary meeting of the Central National Security Council. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that the current connotation and extension of China's national security is richer than at any time in history. The space-time field is broader than at any time in history. Internal and external factors are more complicated than at any time in history. It is necessary to adhere to the overall national security concept. Take the national security road with Chinese characteristics.

In recent years, as China's pace of moving toward the world has accelerated, the number of overseas Chinese citizens has soared, and its distribution has become wider and wider. More and more Chinese people choose to travel, study and work abroad. As a result, overseas security incidents of Chinese citizens in crisis have occurred frequently, and the issue of the security of...
overseas Chinese citizens has become increasingly prominent. Under the guidance of the overall security concept, China's overseas interest protection has also given new connotations and put forward higher requirements. Therefore, we must realize that the key breakthrough to maintain China's overseas interests is to achieve a higher level. We must put the issue of the safety protection of Chinese overseas citizens first. In view of this, the author will use the overall concept of security as a guide to give a glimpse of the protection of overseas Chinese citizens.

2. Security Risks Faced by Overseas Chinese Citizens

On August 9, 1978, China and Libya established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Libya, the relations between the two countries have developed rapidly. They have repeatedly cooperated in large-scale projects such as infrastructure construction, energy and communications, and the number of employees in Lee has also increased. With the deepening of exchanges and exchanges between the two countries, a large concentration of Chinese diasporas has been formed in the three important areas of Libya and the number has been expanding. According to statistics, the total number of Chinese expatriates has reached 35,000 (as of End of 2010). Entering 2011, the sudden change in political situation in the North African region has caused concern in the world. The political changes in Tunisia and Egypt have affected the entire Middle East. The most direct impact is Libya, which is located between the two countries. From February 15th, armed conflicts occurred in Benghazi, the second largest city in Libya, and the Libyan military police opened fire. With the help of foreign intervention forces, the situation in Libya was in chaos, and there were serious disturbances and civil wars. The civil war in Libya seriously threatened the personal and property safety of China’s tens of thousands of expatriates in the country.

At about 9:00 am on August 23, 2010, a coach of Hong Kong Kanghui Travel Agency carrying 25 passengers (including 22 Hong Kong tourists) was hijacked by former Philippine policeman Mendoza near the Grandstand in downtown Quinnino, Manila, Philippines. The Chinese government attached great importance to this. Shortly after the incident, the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines sent staff to the scene to ask the Philippine side to carry out rescue operations under the premise of ensuring the safety of the hostages. After negotiations, six Hong Kong tourists were released before noon. At around 7:40 pm on the 23rd, the Philippine police carried out a surprise rescue operation. Eight people in Hong Kong were killed and six were injured.

The above incidents show that in recent years, as China's pace of moving toward the world has accelerated, the number of overseas Chinese citizens has proliferated, and its distribution has become wider and wider. More and more Chinese people choose to travel, study and work abroad. Because the incidents that threaten the security of the overseas citizens of the country and even the personal safety have occurred frequently and cannot be effectively resolved, the problem of the security of overseas citizens in the country has become more and more serious, and a plan for a complete and enforceable security protection mechanism has been formulated as soon as possible. It is imminent. The dangerous events encountered by domestic citizens abroad and the sources of danger they face are not single-type, but rather diverse and complex. Based on this, China's protection of the personal safety and property security of its citizens overseas must be more comprehensive in order to cope with the increasingly complex international social life.

Associated Professor Xia Liping divides it into three categories: the first category directly threatens life safety; the second category poses a threat to life safety, but causes huge economic losses; the third category only causes economic losses, and Not threatening life safety. This classification is based on the extent of the harmful consequences and has certain rationality. However, the shortcoming is that the standards on which it is based have certain limitations, and the information provided is less, which may make it difficult to include other conditions as a standard. Li Wei, the anti-terrorism research center of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, has divided overseas security risks from the perspective of threat sources. This classification focuses on the security risks that are small but have a significant impact on the results.
On the contrary, there is little concern about the daily safety, that is, the proportion of security risks. The specific classification criteria and classification results (security risk types) are shown below:

| Overseas security risks (using risk sources as a dividing criterion) | The first category: conflict and war |
|---|---|
| The second category: terrorist attacks | The third category: organized crime |
| The fourth category: general criminal offences | Category 5: Racial discrimination or political discrimination |
| Category 6: Safety common sense issues |

The security risks faced by overseas Chinese citizens involve various aspects. According to the “Return Security Alert” data released by the China Consular Service Network in 2015, the risks that threaten the safety of overseas Chinese citizens include the following types: criminal offences, current turmoil, terrorist activities, nature. Disasters, infectious diseases, human accidents, ethnic disputes. Due to the diversity of the expressions of civil rights, the author believes that it is not advisable to explain them one by one, and it is difficult to find all eligible rights without duplication and omission. In my opinion, incidents that endanger security refer to events that threaten personal safety, such as war, terrorist attacks, murder, robbery, and other terrorist activities and natural disasters. From the perspective of citizens, it is an incident of violation of the ordinary rights and interests of citizens, such as fines, employment restrictions or labor disputes. In general, the protection of overseas citizens is divided into the protection of their personal and the protection of property. Correspondingly, the events that threaten the safety of overseas citizens can be divided into two categories: incidents that cause harm to the personalities of overseas citizens and incidents that cause damage to the property of overseas citizens.

3. Current Problems in the Safety Protection of Overseas Chinese Citizens

Viewed from the sovereignty of responsibility, “sovereignty means dual responsibility: respecting the sovereignty of other countries and respecting the dignity and basic rights of all people. In the current international human rights conventions and international practice, the state acts as a link between international law and domestic law. The ties between the international community and the domestic society and the exercise of national sovereignty are particularly important. This is not only the foundation for the country to establish and develop based on the international community, but also the basis for guaranteeing the stability and harmony of a country's society. Therefore, the legal concept of sovereignty is also theoretical and In practice, it always highlights its dual responsibility to internal and external. The protection of the overseas security of its citizens as an important part of the state's exercise of sovereignty naturally becomes a responsibility that a sovereign state should assume for its own nationals. Protecting the overseas security of its citizens is also a requirement for safeguarding national interests. The national interest is the goal of foreign policy. The state's foreign policy is to realize or safeguard the national interest. The foreign policy is only legal in favor of the national interest. Therefore, the state acts as a Domestic interest are mainly carried The exercise of the right to protect its citizens abroad, is a manifestation of the exercise of national sovereignty of a country, it is essential to protect its interest overseas initiatives. National interests abroad is part of the overall interests of the country, its major conservation significance.

Since the founding of New China, Chinese citizens living in overseas countries and overseas Chinese have been given high priority. Before the founding of the People's Republic of China,
Chairman Mao Zedong once proposed "protecting the interests of overseas Chinese and helping returning overseas Chinese." The protection of the interests of overseas Chinese after the founding of the country remains the starting point and foundation of the CPC's policy. With the deepening of globalization, the space for countries to play games around their own interests has been expanding, and the friction of overseas interests of various countries has also increased. Therefore, the safety protection of Chinese overseas citizens is particularly important and urgent.

At present, in China's legal system and legal structure, China has formed two major branches for the protection of overseas Chinese citizens under the premise of the French system and structure, namely consular protection and diplomatic protection. These two branches are the main way for China to provide relief for Chinese citizens to experience personal safety and property intrusion overseas. These two mechanisms play an important role in protecting the safety of overseas citizens and are therefore briefly described in this section.

3.1 Consular Protection

A consul refers to a diplomat who is stationed in a certain region or city of another country. According to the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the duties of consular officials mainly include the following aspects: Promoting the development of relations between sending and receiving countries, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of nationals and legal persons, and serving as civil registrars and notaries. However, there is currently no concept of unified consular protection. In China, the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses consular protection as: within the jurisdiction permitted by international law, the diplomatic, consular or consular officials of the sending country protect the legitimate rights and interests of the sending country, citizens and legal persons in the country where they are dispatched.

The "Guidelines for China's Consular Protection and Assistance" stipulates that Chinese embassies and consulates abroad have the right to urge the host country to handle relevant disputes in accordance with the law when the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese nationals are infringed by the host country, so that they can be resolved fairly and properly, and exercise consular protection. According to this stipulation, we can see that China has always adhered to the principle of internationally universal egalitarianism and personalism. That is, as long as it complies with the relevant provisions of the Nationality Law of the People’s Republic of China, it has Chinese nationality. All of them can get the consular protection of the Chinese government. In other words, whether it is settled or temporarily living abroad, as long as it is a citizen of the People’s Republic of China, it can be protected by the consul provided by China.

At present, China's consular protection mechanism mainly includes: 1 Pre-prevention mechanism, that is, through the explicit role of the law, people can know the law and distinguish between right and wrong, and promote the basic knowledge of overseas Chinese citizens seeking consular protection. The consul is different from the ambassador, and the duties of the consul are more closely linked to the local and national citizens of the country. Under the requirements of consular duties, the consul should establish and improve the channels of communication with the nationals of the host country and provide more convenience for the nationals to seek relief and help. Under these conditions, by establishing and improving the communication channels between the two parties, it is also legal to provide domestic and national nationals with the labor, tourism and safety information of the host country, so that the security warning can be more scientific and accurate, and better protect the country's entry and exit order. Stable. The consul is different from the ambassador, and the duties of the consul are more closely linked to the local and national citizens of the country. Under the requirements of consular duties, the consul should establish and improve the channels of communication with the nationals of the host country and provide more convenience for the nationals to seek relief and help. Under these conditions, by establishing and improving the communication channels between the two parties, it is also legal to provide domestic and national nationals with the labor, tourism and safety information of the host country, so that the security warning can be more scientific and accurate, and better protect the country's entry and exit order. Stable.
citizens to maintain a sense of security risks overseas. 2 After-the-fact emergency mechanism (including evacuation operations), the Chinese government is required to respond promptly and take urgent action to deal with the situation of personal injury or property loss involving Chinese citizens. In order to improve the consular protection emergency response mechanism for the safety of Chinese citizens, relevant domestic departments and embassies and consulates abroad cooperate and cooperate with each other. In addition, in order to better provide comprehensive protection to Chinese citizens who have left the country, in order to be able to handle consular early warning and consular protection cases more professionally, the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively preparing for the establishment of the Consular Protection Division.

3.2 Diplomatic Protection

What we usually call "diplomatic protection" is actually a relatively complex system of international law. For a long time, although a large number of scholars at home and abroad have expressed their views on the definition of "diplomatic protection" to be elaborated in this book from various angles, most of them have their own opinions. For the system of "diplomatic protection" To be said, there has not yet been a definition that is universally recognized by the world, that is, universal. Since 1997, the United Nations International Law Commission has begun the compilation of laws and regulations on the treatment of foreigners and the system of diplomatic protection. In 2006, the draft Diplomatic Protection Clause was adopted, with a total of 19 articles. The draft considers that a State’s diplomatic actions or other peaceful means of settlement for the nationals in the name of the State against the internationally wrongful acts of another State is diplomatic protection.

In order to protect the personal safety and property safety of its citizens from the infringement of others, the diplomatic protection of a country cannot be arbitrarily determined. It must meet the three prerequisites shown in Table 2:

| Table 2. The three prerequisites |
|---------------------------------|
| 
| Prerequisites for the exercise of diplomatic protection |
| 
| Condition 1: State behavior | The violation of the rights of a country’s nationals is due to the state’s misconduct in the host country, that is, the violation can cause State responsibility. |
| Condition 2: International Continuity Principle | The victim must continue to have the nationality of the Protecting State during the period from the occurrence of the victimization to the end of diplomatic protection. |
| Condition 3: exhaustion of local remedies | Before making diplomatic protection, victims must exhaust all available remedies under local law, including administrative and judicial remedies. |

In the practice of diplomatic protection, China uses political consultation and negotiation to protect its citizens. Negotiations and consultations are conducive to the speedy settlement of disputes, and the results of negotiations and consultations have been well implemented by the countries concerned. It plays an important role in protecting the rights of Chinese citizens abroad. Although China attaches great importance to the protection of the legitimate and legitimate rights of overseas Chinese citizens and legal persons, the reality is that in the current existing legal system, there is no formal legislation on diplomatic protection in China. It is far from enough to reflect the spirit of diplomatic protection from only a few rare legal provisions. We need to formulate a
complete system of diplomatic protection, specifying the concept of diplomatic protection, the conditions for exercising, the procedures for exercising, and the objects to be applied. This will be able to virtually protect the rights of Chinese overseas citizens and legal persons.

In international practice, the above two mechanisms for the security protection of overseas nationals, whether single or double, are somewhat limited and weak. Therefore, as far as China's current national conditions and its international environment are concerned, how to establish a diversified mechanism in which multiple factors play a comprehensive role, in order to cope with and solve the problems encountered by China in protecting the safety of its overseas citizens. It is said to be crucial.

4. Countermeasures and Improvement Suggestions for the Safety Protection of Overseas Chinese Citizens

4.1 Accelerate Domestic Legislation to Improve Safety Protection

Legal protection is the key to the safety protection of overseas citizens. Strengthening and improving the legal system for the protection of overseas citizens can ensure the protection of the safety and rights of overseas citizens on the right track. In order for the country to effectively protect its citizens abroad, it is necessary to establish institutionalized legal norms to clarify such protection, so that the state can only follow the evidence and have laws to follow when it is protected.

Many countries in the world have enacted relevant laws and regulations on the safety protection of overseas citizens. As early as 1976, the United States enacted the National Emergency Law. After 9/11, it strengthened the security protection of US overseas institutions and citizens. Japan enacted the National Protection Act in 2004, and in 2005 passed the Basic Policy on National Protection. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also formulated a detailed National Protection Plan for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, at present, China's legislation on the safety protection of overseas Chinese citizens is far from enough. Not only is the quantity small, but the content is general, vague and unsystematic, making the relevant measures prescribed by law not operational in real life. For example, China's Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China are more of a principled and general provision for the protection of overseas citizens. There are no specific implementation rules and they are operated in reality. It is very difficult to get up; in China's current legal system, there is no systematic and complete law that specifically protects the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese overseas citizens and legal persons. The relevant contents of the consular work, related procedures and some emergency measures are only passed the "Regulations on the Consular Work of the People's Republic of China (Draft for Comment)" published by the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council on November 19, 2009, and the Consular Protection of the People's Republic of China. The Provision of Work Regulations (Draft) has preliminary provisions. The protection of the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese overseas citizens and legal persons, whether based on the principle of personal or territoriality, and whether or not to take protective measures at home or abroad, must be carried out in accordance with the law. However, the above two regulations have not yet been turned into real laws, and the state cannot take corresponding protective measures according to them. In general, the task of implementing laws and regulations, enacting relevant laws, and making up for legal loopholes is extremely urgent.

Through legislation, on the one hand, all aspects concerning the safety protection of overseas citizens are included in the scope of the law, and the objects, contents, methods, procedures, etc. of legal protection are clarified, so that the issue of security protection of overseas citizens can be legalized and citizens can be legalized. On the other hand, through scientific and sound legislation, the boundaries and division of labor for the safety protection of overseas citizens by state organs are clarified, so that they can be divided and responsible for each other, and each country can be clearly defined through specific legal provisions. The obligations and responsibilities between the organs are legally supervised to actively protect the legitimate rights and interests of overseas citizens.
Effective protection of overseas citizens is inseparable from sound and operational laws and regulations. Therefore, in the face of the current situation, it is urgent to introduce perfect, comprehensive and realistic laws and regulations as soon as possible.

4.2 Learn From Western Experience and Strengthen Security Protection

In recent years, the Chinese government has always attached great importance to the protection of the safety of overseas Chinese citizens, and has continuously strengthened its ability to respond to emergencies of various major overseas majors. The preventive consular protection methods such as risk warning, publicity and education, and safety training have been continuously enriched. The level of safety protection for citizens and institutions has increased significantly. However, China has a relatively late start to protect the safety of its overseas citizens. Compared with other countries, there is still much room for improvement in the system formulation and institution building of overseas citizens' security protection. Many rich experiences in western developed countries are worth learning from.

Taking the United States, which has the most extensive overseas interests, as an example, in the United States' centuries of international exchanges and practices, legislative capabilities and ideas have gradually matured, forming a set of detailed and relatively complete legal systems to protect the overseas interests of US citizens. In order to fill the lag and rigidity of the law, relevant departments will also issue citizen handbooks and travel tips based on the characteristics of the audience and the region to form a protection network for the rights of US overseas citizens. Another example is Japan. Although Japan’s consular protection mechanism has only been developed for decades, Japan has paid more and more attention to the protection of its national consuls. Especially after 2003, Japan has strengthened its work on legislation and further promoted the Japanese consular protection system, development of. In addition to the need to continuously improve domestic legislation, China's rational reference to the successful protection of other countries is also necessary. However, it is necessary to avoid situations in which the legal culture from the West conflicts with the Chinese domestic legal culture. Avoid knowing Western culture only, but don't know why, only introduce the surface factors of Western legal system into Chinese law. The actual situation in which Chinese written laws are increasingly separated from the Chinese legal system has become more and more obvious as an "air loft" lacking the support of social reality.

The author believes that legislators should take China's institutions and practices as the object of research, and enter the world of practice from the theoretical world. Based on a thorough understanding of the basic theories and innovative practices of Western countries, and based on China's basic national conditions, we have extracted our own new methods of operation to solve local problems based on the facts of China. Since then, we have continued to dialogue with other countries to protect overseas citizens' new methods, find our own problems and deficiencies, and constantly improve China's overseas citizens' security protection mechanism.

4.3 Strengthen Social Responsibility and Promote Civil Power

At present, China has formed a multi-faceted security protection mechanism for overseas Chinese citizens in government business diplomacy. That is to say, for the protection of the safety of overseas Chinese citizens, China is currently operating in the form of a special agency such as the central government, foreign embassies and consulates, and other government agencies under the State Council. However, in recent years, a large number of Chinese citizens have been working, studying, and traveling overseas. The activities are very extensive and the activities are spread all over the world. As a state organ does not pay attention to the safety protection of overseas Chinese citizens, it is easy to violate political factors and rise to the contradiction between countries.

In addition, in practice, some private people have actively participated in it, becoming an important force to protect the safety and protection of Chinese overseas citizens, and becoming one of the subjects of the safety protection of Chinese overseas citizens. From the nature of civil power, the following classifications can be made:
Table 3. The classifications

| Natural person | Typical form   | Formation time | Nature  | Protected range |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Natural person | Chinese patrol | Earlier        | Voluntary | Smaller         |
| Legal person   | Overseas security company | Later | profit | Larger          |

The consular protection work in western developed countries is relatively adequate, and the use of other social resources is also better. The consular protection work in the United Kingdom and the United States is mainly funded by government budgets and civil society organizations. For example, part of the funding of the British diplomatic service for consular functions relies on its cooperation with commercial organizations. In the annual budget of the Japanese government, there are funds for the consular protection, but in reality, a large part of the consular protection funds come from a large consortium in Japan. It can be seen that in the protection of consular affairs, in addition to contributing direct power, the non-government forces also provide a lot of financial support, thus providing indirect protection for overseas nationals in more aspects. Therefore, sovereign states should make more active use of civil power, moderately control them, and better enable civilian forces to play a role in protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the country and citizens.

4.4 Use New Media to Promote Citizens’ Awareness of Safety

The security of overseas Chinese citizens is largely attributed to itself, and it has become the most uncontrollable factor in the security protection of overseas Chinese citizens.

An important reason for the worrying security of Chinese overseas citizens is the lack of security awareness. On the one hand, some Chinese citizens overseas have brought some of their bad habits in the country abroad. For example, some uncivilized habits of overseas Chinese citizens, such as graffiti on cultural relics, loud noises in public places, and free queues in duty-free shops, can easily cause resentment among locals, and they also give themselves Safety has brought a lot of trouble. For example, in July 2013, a Chinese woman was arrested on the 29th for allegedly “damaging public property” for allegedly splashing paint on buildings on the 26th in Washington, DC, and other landmarks in Washington. On the other hand, overseas citizens are completely unaware of the cultural customs, laws and regulations of their country of destination, and do not pay attention to words and deeds when they are outside activities. This unintentional violation of potential rules can easily lead to contradictions and disputes, and thus to themselves. Security poses a threat.

According to the relevant data of the China Internet Network Information Center, as of June 2016, the number of Chinese Internet users was 710 million, and the Internet penetration rate reached 51.7%. The number of Internet users continued to rank first in the world. The huge Internet user base and the characteristics of Internet communication have provided the relevant departments with great use of space and audiences. The use of the network and new media for the prevention of security information and the dissemination of relevant legal knowledge has greatly improved the awareness of citizens' safety. While improving the service level, relevant institutions should also pay attention to the training of overseas citizens' safety awareness, change the traditional concept of solving problems in the past, and avoid the occurrence of problems, and truly realize the mechanism from “after-the-fact remediation” to “pre-existing prevention”. The success of the transition. Through three-dimensional and vivid media means, the use of actual cases enables overseas Chinese citizens to more intuitively understand the country's folk customs, laws and regulations, avoiding the big mistakes caused by "ignorance"; popularizing basic prevention knowledge and sudden dangers A series of measures for urgent treatment are conducted in advance, so that the problem does not happen when you are at a loss. At the same time, overseas Chinese citizens should also carry out self-improvement according to their own circumstances. If they consciously integrate into the society of the destination country, they should actively understand their culture and respect the humanities and customs between different countries so as not to cause unnecessary conflicts.
5. Summary

In the international community, individual human rights and national sovereignty are linked. Protecting their own nationals is not only the responsibility of the state, but also an inevitable requirement for the exercise of national sovereignty. This is not only related to personal life, but also to the stability of a country’s domestic society and its national image. The safety protection of overseas citizens is a problem that the country must pay attention to. Under such a severe international situation, establishing a diversified overseas citizen security mechanism and strengthening the security protection of Chinese overseas citizens on the basis of respecting the sovereignty of other countries will become the only way for China to build a society ruled by law.

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