

**METRO NEWS – 20 FEBRUARY 2014**[黑工求溫飽斷正囚年餘](#)**Refugees face prison sentence in order to fight hunger**

With no money and insufficient food assistance from the government, many young refugees engage in illegal work, eventually being caught by the police and becoming prisoners.

27-year-old Arif, who is currently living in Ping Che, states that there are many single male refugees living in the area; sometimes, they'd help each other when there is insufficient food, but too often they still could not make ends meet.

“When we found out that there were local residents building houses in the area, we would go work for them; a days work would fetch us around \$300. We know that we're not supposed to work, but sometimes we were really too hungry. My two friends Babu and Soheli have been arrested and are currently serving a term of 15 months in prison.”

According to the Immigration Ordinance, holders of temporary permits are not allowed to engage in employment, be it paid or unpaid, or establish or join in any business. Offenders can face imprisonment of three years and a fine of \$50,000.