



Italian thief thanks police for rescuing him from Koreans 義竊賊被受害人痛毆 感謝警察出手逮捕

An Italian thief thanked police officers for arresting him and putting an end to a beating from Korean tourists whom he had robbed in Rome, police said. "I must thank you, they were massacring me," the 48-year-old criminal told police after he was arrested near the Theatre of Marcellus, one of the monuments in Rome's historic center.

The thief, from the northern region of Liguria, stole a handbag from a Korean family when they were not paying attention. He threatened the family with a knife when he was spotted and then tried to **flee**.

Two men from the family, in their twenties, decided to **take the law into their own hands**. They chased him for several hundred meters before they got him down with taekwondo moves. They then **disarmed** the thief and continued to beat him.

A patrolling police officer **intervened**, separated the three and arrested the thief immediately.

"Normally tourists will just call us and report the incidents," the officer said. "In this case, the two got really excited and could have seriously injured the thief."

The young Koreans left after they got the handbag back. The thief was transferred to a prison in Rome and will face robbery charges.

Armed robbery in Rome experienced a sharp **decline** last year with 4,246 cases reported in 2008 compared with 5,133 in 2007. (AFP)

義 大利警方表示，一名小偷在羅馬搶劫了一群韓國觀光客，結果遭到追打，他被警方逮捕後還向警察表示感謝。

這名四十八歲的竊賊被捕後對警察說：「我一定要謝謝你們，他們就要把我給宰了。」警方在羅馬歷史中心區古蹟之一的馬塞盧斯劇場附近將他逮捕。

這名小偷來自義大利北部的利古里亞區，他趁著韓國觀光客一家人不注意的時候，偷走他們的手提包。事跡敗露後，他拿出刀子威脅他們，並企圖逃跑。

結果其中兩名二十來歲的男子決定要親手懲治這名歹徒，他們追了數百公尺後用跆拳道把他制服在地，接著把小偷的刀子打掉，繼續毆打他。

一位巡邏警員出面制止，分開三人，並立刻逮捕了這名小偷。

這名警員說：「通常觀光客發生這種事情只會打電話報警。但這起案例中，這兩名被害人相當激動，可能已經把小偷打成重傷了。」

這兩名韓國年輕人拿回手提包後就離開了，而這名竊賊則被轉送到羅馬一間看守所，將被以竊盜罪起訴。

羅馬去年持械行搶的案例大幅減少，和二〇〇七年的五千一百三十三例相比，二〇〇八年通報的案例為四千兩百四十六例。 (法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

Top: The illuminated Colosseum in Rome, on Feb. 10, 2009.

PHOTO: AFP

上圖：二月十日，古羅馬競技場在燈光下顯得耀眼。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **flee** /fli/ v.

逃跑 (tao2 pao3)

例: The thieves fled before the police had a chance to apprehend them. (那群竊賊在警方來圍捕前就逃跑了。)

2. **disarm** /dis'arm/ v.

解除武裝 (jie3 chu2 wu3 zhuang1)

例: The assailant was disarmed and taken to the police station for questioning. (那名兇手被解除武裝，帶回警局偵訊。)

3. **intervene** /,inta'vin/ v.

介入 (jie4 ru4)

例: Fortunately, the referee intervened before either of the boxers got injured. (幸虧裁判員介入，這些拳擊手才無人受傷。)

4. **decline** /dr'klaɪn/ v.

減少 (jian2 shao3)

例: This part of town has been declining for the past twenty years. (鎮上這一帶過去二十年來持續沒落。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

take the law into your own hands 體制外的制裁

When someone decides to punish someone themselves rather than wait for official legal intervention, they **take the law into their own hands**.

Examples: "Despite the recent increase in bicycle theft, the police are advising people not to **take the law into their own hands**," or "Don't even think about **taking the law into your hands**. You'll end up in a lot of trouble if you do."

當某人決定親自懲罰某人，而不等待合法單位介入制裁時，就可以說他們「take the law into their own hands」。

例如：「儘管最近腳踏車竊案頻傳，警方仍建議民眾不要擅自制裁歹徒」，或是「千萬別想要擅用私刑，否則你會給自己惹上一堆麻煩」。