

## Group holds vigil to push for axing of dog races

Leong Lok Ian and Davis Ip

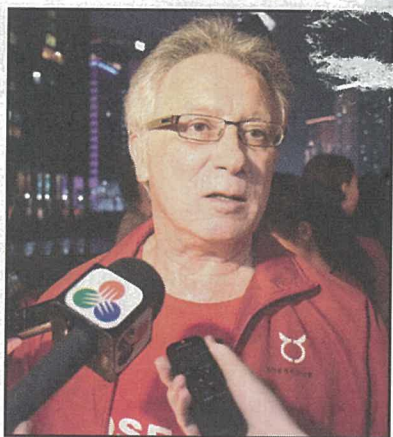
About 100 people attended a candlelight vigil held by the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA) near Nam Van Lake opposite Government Headquarters last night, urging to government to terminate greyhound racing in Macau.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, ANIMA President Albano Martins said dog racing should stop in December. "We're here because every month around 30 dogs, young and healthy, are killed by the [Yat Yuen] Canidrome," Martins said, adding that the city should no longer "kill animals because of profits".

According to the website of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the Yat Yuen Canidrome recorded a gross revenue of 145 million patacas last year, just 0.4 percent of the gaming industry's total.

The Macau Yat Yuen Canidrome's concession will expire at the end of this year. On Monday, the government said that it had commissioned the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming (ISCG) of the University of Macau (UM) to carry out research on whether to renew the lease or not.

"The last [concession] contract was [for] 10 years. We've [been] talking about this since 2012. So, over the past three years, [why is it that] the government couldn't order



Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA) President Albano Martins speaks to reporters on the sidelines of last night's candlelight vigil outside Government Headquarters in Praia Grande. Photos: Leong Lok Ian

a report from the university? Why order it only now, three months before the concession expires?" Martins asked. He said his organisation had sent several letters about their concerns to the government over the past three years, but had yet to receive any response.

Martins said ANIMA would be able to take care of some of the dogs living at the racetrack, adding that they would send the remaining dogs to the organisation's "friends all over the world".

Asked by reporters about what the site should be used for if the racetrack was to be shut down, Martins said the residents in the area should discuss the issue with



Participants hold candles outside Government Headquarters during ANIMA's vigil last night to urge the government to shut down the Yat Yuen Canidrome for good when its concession contract with the government expires at the end of the year. Expatriates made up a major segment of the vigil.

the government, adding the group hopes that it would be replaced with a green space and an underground car park, but no housing.

According to Martins, 26 cities around the world, including Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, the UK and the US, will also be holding their own candlelight vigils this week to urge the local government to close the racetrack. The global effort was being helped by GREY2K USA Worldwide, a non-profit greyhound protection organisation founded in 2001.

According to a GREY2K USA statement, every greyhound exported from Australia to Macau is eventually culled, considering that the government hasn't any adoption programme in place. It added that according to the racetracks' own records, 30 to 40 greyhounds are imported and the same number is "euthanised" each month.

ANIMA set up an online petition earlier this year, gathering over 300,000 signatures worldwide, urging the government to close the racetrack. The group has slammed the

Yat Yuen Canidrome for causing the highest rate of injuries to greyhounds during a race in the world, due to the poor condition of the racetrack.

"We'll try to continue to convince the chief executive," Martins said last night.

The racetrack first began operations in 1931, but was closed after five years. The track was then taken over by the Macau Yat Yuen Canidrome Co. Ltd. and resumed business in 1963. The company is headed by gaming executive-cum-lawmaker Angela Leong On Kei. ■

## Macau businessman's US probe yielded earlier arrest: lawyer

Patricia Hurtado

NEW YORK – The US secretly arrested a third person as part of an investigation of prominent Macau businessman Ng Lap Seng, a lawyer for his assistant told a federal magistrate yesterday.

That person's name is being withheld by the government, the lawyer said during a court hearing on Tuesday. The person, a woman,

was described in court papers filed against Ng as having had "business dealings" with him. The charges against the woman are pending under seal in federal court in Brooklyn, the lawyer said.

Ng, 68, who reportedly has a personal net worth of about US\$1.8 billion (14.4 billion patacas), has been held in a federal jail in Manhattan since he was arrested

on September 19, accused of bringing US\$4.5 million into the US and lying about its purpose to US authorities. Federal law requires people entering the US to disclose to customs agents if they are carrying more than US\$10,000 in cash.

His assistant, Jeff Yin, 29, who was also arrested and charged, was ordered held without bail after a federal magistrate concluded

on Tuesday he may try to flee the country if he's released on bond.

Yin's lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, said at a bail hearing on Tuesday that the government was attempting to prosecute her client and the woman, described as "Individual-1" in a criminal complaint against Ng. Shroff said the government wants them to provide information against Ng, who she called "the real person they're after."

Shroff said her client had severed all ties with Ng and rejected a lawyer he'd sent to represent him.

"It's very clear they have many other fish to fry," Shroff said. "My client is just a link, as is Individual-1 in Brooklyn."

The case is US v. Ng, 15-mj-03369, US District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

— Bloomberg

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### Filipino child workers risk lives in gold mines: group

Thousands of Filipino children, some as young as nine years old, risk their lives by working in illegal, small-scale gold mines under terrifying conditions and the government has not done enough to protect them, an advocacy group said yesterday.

Full story on p. 8

### Mob kills Indian man over beef rumours: police

Indian police said yesterday they had arrested six people after a 50-year-old Muslim man was beaten to death over rumours he had eaten beef, a taboo in the Hindu-majority nation.

Full story on p. 14

### National Day holiday

The Macau Post Daily will take a National Day holiday break. The next issue will be published on Monday. We wish all our readers, advertisers and distributors a pleasant holiday.