

China court sentences 7 over falsifying air quality data

A Chinese court Friday sentenced seven people, including the heads of two environmental protection branches, to imprisonments of over one year for falsifying air quality monitoring data.

Xi'an Intermediate People's Court in northwest China's Shaanxi Province convicted the two of interfering in data collection of the automated air quality monitoring system and using cotton to fill the sampling instrument to lower the pollution data, in February and March 2016.

He Limin, then head of Chang'an District Branch of Xi'an Environmental Protection Bureau, and Tang Shixing, then head of Yanliang District Branch under the bureau, ordered staff from national monitoring stations in the two districts to falsify the data, said the court.

The court found them guilty of damaging the computer information system. The court sentenced He to one year and seven months and Tang to one year and five months.

Li Sen and Zhang Feng, then heads of the Chang'an and Yanliang monitoring stations respectively, were given imprisonments of one year and ten months, and one year and seven months, respectively. Three others were also sentenced.