Accusations Of Property Crimes Increase

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Accusations of property crimes have been on the increase since the economic downturn. The Prosecutor General's Office announced Saturday that 460,127 accusations were reported last year, a 15.3% rise from 399,026 in 1997. A total of 589,553 people have been accused, meaning that one out of 100 Koreans are being investigated for property crimes. The indictment rate, however, which means that the accused is arrested and tried in court, is only 21.6%. Those who are actually found guilty only account for 7.6% of those who are indicted, indicating that reckless accusations are becoming a serious problem. Also, 1,589 people have been booked for making false accusations, with 279 of them actually arrested for giving false testimony. Of all accusations found to be false, 90% are reported to be accusations of sexual crimes, including rape, and fraud. An official at the office said that civil petitions and property crimes have increased due to the economic recession, along with company bankruptcies, adding that many accusations could be dealt with in civil lawsuits.

(Kim Hong-jin, mailer@chosun.com)

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