

Stealing Bikes

- (1) In a quiet neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, a group of 5 negligent teenagers were arrested for stealing expensive French bicycles in SoHo.
- (2) At first, they were reluctant to share any information with the police about their group and leader.
- (3) However, they were only charged with petty theft, as they finally cooperated with the police to hand over their leader, a generous man with a clean name in his community.
- (4) Their leader had taught them to maintain a steady hand using an eye dropper to drop nitrogen on bike locks to freeze them instantly and then break them with a hammer in a matter of seconds.
- (5) The teens had no idea that their leader was making thousands of dollars painting these bicycles, and then exporting them to different countries.
- (6) The leader tried to put blame on the 5 teenagers, claiming no affiliation to the bikes.
- (7) Nevertheless they collected enough information to indict him.
- (8) He was convicted for 20 years in jail.

語注

- (1) negligent 怠慢な
- (2) reluctant to ~するのに進まない
- (3) charge 人 with 人を~の罪で告発する petty 犯罪などが軽微な hand over 引き渡す name 評判、名声
- (4) eye dropper 点眼器 nitrogen 窒素 in a matter of seconds あっという間に
- (6) put the blame on 人 人に罪を負わせる
- (7) indict 起訴する
- (8) convict 有罪判決を下す