

13th Foxconn worker reportedly attempts suicide

May 27 2010, By WILLIAM FOREMAN , Associated Press Writer



Workers surround a local resident holding flowers and a sign that reads "Foxconn, twelfth jump, not harmonious" to mourn the workers who committed suicide at the entrance of the Foxconn complex in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen Thursday, May 27, 2010. A young man became the 10th worker to jump to his death at a Foxconn Technology Group factory in southern China, just hours after the company's chairman toured the plant that makes iPods and other top-selling gadgets, state-run media said. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

(AP) -- A Foxconn Technology worker tried to kill himself Thursday, becoming the 13th person to commit suicide or attempt to do so this year at the company, which makes high-tech products for industry giants such as Apple, Dell and Hewlett-Packard, state media said.

Police said the man survived after cutting himself in his dormitory room

at the factory, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It said the 25-year-old man, surnamed Chen, migrated from central Hunan province and began working at [Foxconn](#) two months ago.

Foxconn officials and police did not immediately answer calls by The Associated Press.

The 12 previous [suicide](#) attempts at Foxconn Technology Group's operations in southern China involved workers who jumped from buildings. Two survived. Another worker killed himself in January at a factory in northern China.

On Wednesday night, a 23-year-old worker from the northwestern province of Gansu killed himself by leaping from a dormitory balcony. Hours earlier, Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou had led a media tour of the industrial park and promised to work harder to prevent more deaths.

Gou said he couldn't sleep at night and dreaded answering his phone in off hours, fearing more news about deaths.

The Foxconn chairman showed off a motherboard factory, hot line center and even a swimming pool for employees. The walled-in industrial park, where 300,000 people work, looks like a small city, with palm tree-lined streets, fast-food restaurants, banks and a bookstore among huge factory buildings and towering dormitories.

Gou said the company would do everything possible to prevent more deaths. Safety nets were being installed on buildings and more counselors were being hired. He also said all the employees were being divided into 50-member groups, whose members would watch for signs of emotional trouble within their group.

Labor activists accuse the company of having a rigid management style,

a too-fast assembly line and overwork. Foxconn denies the allegations.

The company, part of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., is the world's largest contract maker of electronics. Its long list of big-name customers include Apple Inc., Sony Corp., Dell Inc., Nokia Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co.

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Citation: 13th Foxconn worker reportedly attempts suicide (2010, May 27) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-05-13th-foxconn-worker-reportedly-suicide.html>

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