

Background to Kuo Kuan-ying Scandal

On March 11 an opposition member of Taiwan's legislature, **Kuan Bi-ling** (管碧玲), alleged that the Director of the Information Division at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto (TECO), Mr. **Kuo Kuan-ying** (郭冠英 *also romanized Guo Guanying*), was the author of several newspaper articles and one or more blogs referring to Taiwanese as *taibazi* (台巴子, meaning "Taiwanese rednecks") or *wokou* (倭寇, meaning "Japanese pirates"). This revelation created widespread outrage and has become a national scandal in Taiwan. On March 13 the Premier, **Liu Chao-shuan** (劉兆玄) responded "*If [allegations that Kuo is the writer] were true, he would be severely punished ... We wouldn't let him off so easily ... I can't believe that our civil servants would make the remarks.*" Mr. Kuo was recalled from Toronto and removed from his post. On March 17 the Government Information Office (the department for which Mr. Kuo works) stated that he would be referred to the Commission on Disciplinary Sanctions of Government Officials for investigation. On March 18 legislators demanded stronger action and the Control Yuan stated it would look at impeaching Mr. Kuo.

Other articles or blog entries under the name Fan Lan-chin (范蘭欽) denied any government wrong doing in the February 28, 1947 massacre, in which something upwards of 10,000 Taiwanese were killed by KMT troops. The writer claimed that only "*800 Mainlanders* (Chinese who came after 1945) *and one thousand or so Taiwanese were killed or injured*", and that these were armed gangs rebelling against the government. The "228 Incident" is officially observed as a national day of remembrance in Taiwan, so that such a statement makes the author a denier of the meaning and scope of this national tragedy.

Other revelations by Taiwan bloggers have suggested that Kuo is associated with the pro-Chinese Communist "China Unification Party" (中華統一促進黨) on whose website entries have been posted under the name "Genius Kuo" (郭才子). In other articles "Fan Lan-chin" asserted that "Taiwan is simply a rebellious province of China" advocated that after China gets Taiwan back they should use strong military measures to repress Taiwanese.

(Detailed English Language reports can be found in the Taipei Times (www.taipeitimes.com) on March 13, 14, 17 and 19 and 20 using search term "Kuo Kuan-ying")