

Statement by Association of Taiwanese Organizations in Toronto on the Kuo Kuan-ying Affair March 20, 2009

It is credibly reported that the Director of the Information Division at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto, Mr. Kuo Kuan-ying, has been publishing articles under the pen name “Fan Lan-chin”, demeaning Taiwan and Taiwanese people, seriously distorting Taiwan’s history, twisting facts and provoking ethnic hatred.

Is Kuo Kuan-ying the writer “Fan Lan-chin”? On this Kuo has made contradictory statements. When first asked by his superior, Kuo said the pen name was shared by “a group of friends”. Subsequently he denied he had written any of these articles. However, with ongoing discoveries by web searchers, the Government Information Office’s internal investigation, and the recent disappearance of several of these controversial articles from the blogs in questions, it is hard not to conclude that Kuo is indeed their author.

In his writings Kuo appears to have no feeling at all for the Taiwan which has raised him since birth, calling it “*evil spot*” (note - a pun that sounds like “Taiwan”) or “*haunted island*”, and insulting Taiwanese people as “*Taiwanese rednecks*”. Though born in Taiwan he actually urged the Chinese Communist regime to use military force to conquer Taiwan, even advocating “*The reform and opening in the motherland should be slow, first removing western evil influence and ideas. After securing Taiwan by military force they must definitely not allow any political liberalization. Opposition must be suppressed for a long time, to do a thorough thought reform, and completely remove the cancer cells*”. These opinions are already in violation of regulations for government officials. If he also revealed national secrets in his work then this would be the crime of treason. **We demand that the government of President Ma take a clear stand, recall Kuo and remove him from any official position. We further urge the government to make a clear statement that people who hold such views cannot represent Taiwan overseas.**

Kuo also seriously distorted events in Taiwan’s modern history. He defends the corrupt governor (note - during the February 28, 1947 massacre) Chen Yi as “*a virtuous official*”. He blames the victims of the 228 massacre as “*armed rioters*”. Among civilized nations all who use state power to systematically kill their people are considered tyrants, and deserving of condemnation and sanction. **We call on Taiwan’s government to act in the spirit of UN General Assembly Resolutions 60/7 (establishing a global day of holocaust remembrance) and 61/255 (condemning holocaust denial) and bring in legislation confirming the historical status of the 228 massacre, and forbidding any minimization or denial of the same.**

With regard to the statement of the Canada East Branch of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and four allied groups supporting Kuo as a “*patriotic and exemplary good public servant*”, we must disagree. According to internal investigation by the Government Information Office his office computer in fact had these controversial articles. This proves that he was writing these articles, not connected with his work, during work time. To this civil servant loyal to the People’s Republic of China the government of President Ma incredibly gave only the lightest punishment of transferring him to another job, treating him with courtesy on his return to Taiwan, and let him get away with leaving the country the day after he was punished. We find this shocking.