

[View this email in your browser](#)



民主進步黨

Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan



Dear friends,

This is a friendly reminder that the DPP U.S. Mission will be hosting our Happy Hour event tomorrow near Capitol Hill! If you haven't RSVP'd yet, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. For those who have already registered, a confirmation email will be sent before the event. If you are unable to attend, please kindly let us know by email.

[Event Details]

- ▶ **Date: Thursday, August 28**
- ▶ **Time: 5:30 PM**
- ▶ **Location: The Union Pub (201 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002)**

This is an invitation-only event. Please let us know if you would like to bring/refer a friend or colleague. To RSVP, please register through Eventbrite below using the Access Code: DPP2025HH to unlock the RSVP page.

👉 Please RSVP by COB on August 27.

For security reasons, we'll be sending out emails via MailChimp shortly after your RSVP to confirm attendance.

Note for media friends: We welcome members of the press to join us for this small social gathering. The event will be **OFF-THE-RECORD**.

For any questions or special requests, please contact my colleagues Cristal Chiou/Dennis Yang/Peng-Hsuan Chen at dpp.dc.office@gmail.com or call Dennis at 206-636-5637.

Sincerely,

Iris Shaw

Director, Taiwan DPP U.S. Mission

[Register Here](#)

This information is being distributed by the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the US on behalf of the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan. Additional information if on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

*Copyright © 2025 Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S., All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you are on the mailing list of DPP US.*

Our mailing address is:

Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.
1717 K St NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[View this email in your browser](#)



民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

**President Lai Ching-te Commemorated
Armed Forces Day**



September 3rd, 2025

On Sept. 3, the date marking the end of WWII, which has been celebrated in Taiwan since 1955 as Armed Forces Day, President Lai stated: “Thank you, our brothers and sisters serving in the military, for all your hard work. You do our country honor. You are the pride of Taiwan!”

"Presiding over the ceremony to recognize outstanding contributions to national defense, I expressed not only my gratitude to all our soldiers and supporters of our armed forces, but also my hope that these commemorations will make all our citizens who cherish freedom and democracy and protecting Taiwan feel proud of our military!

"Congratulations to all the units and individuals who were recognized today. Your spirit is the glory, not only of the armed forces, but of the whole nation.

"September 2 is also our Navy Day, commemorating the battle that took place 67 years ago, when our brave sailors, though outnumbered, defeated the attempts by the Communist forces to cut off islands [southwest of Kinmen] and successfully completed the resupply mission. This strategic victory laid the foundations for the subsequent victory at the 823 Artillery Battle [aka the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis]. It also proves that true peace comes from strength and the determination to fight together against aggression.

"We all know, the current security environment is becoming more severe. This is not only a threat to Taiwan's democracy and freedom, but also a challenge to the democratic world.

"We have a saying that 'unity must bring victory, and aggression must fail.' We surely know that peace is priceless, but the peace we want is true peace brought by strength. Only by strengthening our national defense and deepening national unity can we truly protect our national sovereignty and our democracy and freedom. Since our military is the bedrock of our national security, the government must fulfil its responsibility to give them steadfast support. Therefore, last year I directed Defense Minister Koo to thoroughly review and raise compensation and benefits for soldiers.

"As a result, starting this April, in accordance with the law and Constitution, we have put into effect bonus measures that raise take-home pay for soldiers.

"I must emphasize, since the defense budget embodies our national commitment, our budget proposal for next year will reach 3.32% of GDP, in line with the NATO standards. Our goal is to raise it to 5% by 2030.

"Our top priority is to raise our war-fighting ability. Through both our own research and development programs as well as foreign procurements, we will acquire even more advanced weapons and equipment. Through firm actions, we will let the world see our determination to defend our national security and maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

This information is being distributed by the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the US on behalf of the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan. Additional information if on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Copyright © 2025 Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S., All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are on the mailing list of DPP US.

Our mailing address is:

Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.
1717 K St NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[View this email in your browser](#)



民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

China Influence Tracker (X)



August 31st, 2025

In collaboration with the DPP China Affairs Department, the latest DPP U.S. Mission report provides key updates on the evolving cross-strait situation, detailing the escalation of China's military intimidation, gray zone activities, cognitive warfare, and United Front infiltration targeting Taiwan. Enclosed are the recent developments, offering a comprehensive overview of the current threat landscape, Taiwan's countermeasures, and emerging public opinion trends shaping the strategic environment.

[Key Takeaways]

CCP Historical Narrative Warfare

- **"Three 80th Anniversaries" Political Manipulation:**
The CCP continued to weaponize the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of WWII to distort historical narratives, claiming sole leadership of the anti-Japanese resistance and using the Cairo Declaration to assert sovereignty over Taiwan.
- **Systematic Cognitive Warfare Campaign:**
The CCP exploited Taiwan's August 23 recall election results to orchestrate coordinated propaganda claiming "Taiwan people reject DPP's anti-China rhetoric," mobilizing state media and scholars for public opinion manipulation.
- **Campus Infiltration Operations:** The discovery of the "Taiwan Inter-school Communist Alliance" comprising 39 high schools, reveals systematic CCP efforts to penetrate Taiwan's educational system and recruit youth through communist organizations.

Taiwan's Strengthened Defensive Measures

- **Identity Verification Institutionalization:** Government will implement routine verification of military/government personnel's Chinese document possession starting on Jan 1st, 2026, directly countering the CCP's dual-identity strategy.
- **Legal Enforcement Against Collaboration:** Expanded investigations into 20 Taiwanese artists suspected of echoing CCP united front activities, with the Ministry of Culture coordinating legal proceedings.
- **Cross-Border Fraud Network Exposure:** Documentary evidence revealed organized networks facilitating illegal Chinese identity document acquisition, with cases traced to Fujian police stations as fake addresses.

Emerging Threats and Vulnerabilities

- **Financial Coercion Networks:** Systematic use of debt and financial pressure to force Taiwanese into obtaining Chinese identity documents, creating potential "fifth column" risks.
- **Digital Platform Infiltration:** High-profile cases like "Gymnasium Manager" obtaining TikTok verification with "Cross-strait One Family" messaging demonstrate social media as influence vectors.
- **Legal System Challenges:** Chinese lawyers attempting unauthorized practice in Taiwanese courts raises judicial sovereignty concerns and systemic security vulnerabilities.

Rising Public Awareness and Resistance

- **Growing Recognition of Threats:** 65.5% of Taiwanese now recognize CCP infiltration as increasingly serious, with over 66% supporting strengthened government oversight of cross-strait exchanges.
- **Institutional Support for Countermeasures:** Strong public backing (74.5%) for prohibiting military/government personnel from holding Chinese identity documents.
- **Democratic Resilience:** Despite CCP manipulation attempts, Taiwan's democratic processes and civil society demonstrate continued resistance to authoritarian influence operations.

■ Cross-Strait Relations and Cross-Strait Policy

I. China's Political Commentary on Taiwan

1. China's Political Distortion of President Lai's Ketagalan Forum Speech

President Lai Ching-te stated at the Ketagalan Forum on August 5th that he would "maintain the status quo and ensure peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" and that "next year's defense budget will reach over 3% of GDP." He also condemned China's military actions in the Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and East China Sea as challenging the international order, calling on democratic nations to unite against authoritarian expansion. China's Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) criticized President Lai's speech as "stubbornly adhering to Taiwan

independence and separatism" and labeled him a "troublemaker." Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) countered the TAO's malicious distortion of facts and belittlement of Taiwan's sovereign status, calling the TAO's statements "repetitively tiresome."

2. Countering China's Actions to "Blur Cross-Strait Identity Recognition"

The Ministry of the Interior will amend settlement regulations requiring Chinese nationals applying for residency to provide proof of passport cancellation. Regarding the dismissal of Hualien village chief Deng Wanhua (a Chinese spouse), the MAC responded that "elected officials must only be loyal to the Republic of China," and Interior Minister Liu Shih-fang emphasized that "elected public officials cannot pledge allegiance to two different countries." Concerning Taiwan People's Party member Li Zheng-xiu potentially becoming the first Chinese spouse legislator next year, Liu Shih-fang stated that according to regulations, "foreign nationality must be renounced within one year of taking office."

II. China's Escalation of Military and Legal Warfare Against Taiwan

1. Continued Confrontation over "Three 80th Anniversaries"

On August 15th, the 80th anniversary of WWII's end, President Lai posted on Facebook stating that WWII was a historical catastrophe caused by dictators' hegemonic ambitions and appeasement policies, emphasizing that when authoritarianism rises again, everyone must remember the lessons of WWII and unite to prevent aggression and preserve freedom and democracy. He emphasized that "unity will triumph, aggression will fail."

The KMT collectively opposed the President's statements, with Chu Li-lun, Ma Ying-jeou, Hung Hsiu-chu, and Ma's office criticizing the President for "not mentioning resistance against Japan" and "erasing KMT contributions," calling it "pro-Japanese" and "shameful for a ROC President."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, after attending the Lancang-Mekong cooperation foreign ministers' meeting, claimed that "Taiwan returned to China after the Cairo Declaration," while the TAO criticized President Lai for "losing national stance and distorting WWII history."

2. New Wave of WWII Propaganda Against Taiwan Expected in Second Half of Year

MAC reports indicate that China will step up use of the "Three 80th Anniversaries" to assert sovereignty over Taiwan, including attempting to distort history and seize discourse rights over the "Flying Tigers." Taiwanese scholars also warn of recent increases in the frequency of CCP "joint combat readiness patrols," with possible more "patrols" during the "September 3rd military parade" to pressure Taiwan. The Ministry of National Defense and MAC prohibited retired generals and civil servants from participating in the "September 3rd military parade."

3. CCP's Manipulation of Public Opinion Using Recall Election Results

The CCP used the August 23 recall election failure to manipulate public opinion against the DPP government. TAO spokesperson Zhu Fenglian claimed the "August 23 recall failure" represents "Taiwan people saying 'no' to DPP farce." Chinese state media claimed "Taiwan society's strong dissatisfaction with the DPP," mobilizing Chinese scholars to promote the false notion that "recall failure" equals "Taiwan society's rejection of 'anti-China, pro-Taiwan' rhetoric."

4. International Suppression of Taiwan

i. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Exclusion:

The Solomon Islands, under Chinese pressure, excluded Taiwan along with 21 dialogue partners (including the US and China) from the September Pacific Islands Forum. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry expressed regret but called on host countries to uphold the "Pacific Way" spirit of diversity and inclusion as outlined in PIF joint communiqués.

ii. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Blockade:

China continued blocking Taiwan's participation in ICAO despite Taiwan being the world's 11th largest aviation market and Taoyuan International Airport serving as a major East Asian transit hub. Four bipartisan US legislators wrote to ICAO condemning China's unilateral activation of M503 route connections without coordination, which places civilian aircraft dangerously close to Taiwan-controlled airspace and potentially conflicts with east-west routes in the

Taipei Flight Information Region, which handles over 1.85 million flights annually.

iii. Memorial Ceremony Interference:

China pressured Japan regarding Taiwan's participation in atomic bomb memorial ceremonies. Taiwan achieved historic firsts by participating in both the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony (August 6) and Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony (August 9), represented by Representative to Japan Lee Yi-yang. However, at Nagasaki, Taiwan was deliberately seated in the "International NGO section" rather than with sovereign nations due to Chinese pressure. Lee Yi-yang stated that "Nagasaki city's inappropriate seating arrangement has its reasons - China's suppression is the mastermind behind it." He emphasized that Taiwan is "absolutely not an 'international NGO' but a sovereign state active on the international stage." Notably, China was absent from the Nagasaki ceremony this year, with the city declining to explain the reasons. Chinese Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs Director Liu Jin-song summoned Japan's chief minister in China to express "serious concern" about Taiwan's participation, demanding Japan "learn from history and handle Taiwan issues carefully."

iv. Canada:

The town of Hope, British Columbia had hung the ROC flag at a bus station for over 10 years until Chinese complaints led to its removal last year. Following protests by Vancouver overseas Chinese and Taiwan's representative office, the Hope Town Council voted to restore the flag, with staff recommending restoration as it "symbolizes commitment to democratic values, rights of self-expression, and promotion of civil connections."

v. South Africa:

Starting in October 2023, the South African government has twice requested Taiwan's representative office to relocate from the capital Pretoria. South Africa's Foreign Ministry website recently changed its listing of the Taiwan representative office names to "Taipei Commercial Office" and reclassified them under "International Organizations," and official government gazette notifications indicated a new address in Johannesburg.

vi. Eswatini Influence Operations:

China sought to infiltrate Taiwan's last African ally Eswatini through dam construction projects, demonstrating systematic efforts to undermine Taiwan's remaining diplomatic relationships through infrastructure investments and economic incentives.

5. Economic and Cultural Pressure:

i. Media Influence Operations:

The US State Department's 2024 Annual Human Rights Report highlighted Beijing's "long-arm interference," noting how China pressures Taiwanese companies with business in China to avoid advertising in Taiwanese media that publishes China-critical content, constituting an indirect threat to Taiwan's freedom of speech.

ii. Film Industry Suppression:

The Hong Kong Film Festival canceled screenings of the Taiwanese film "My Family Affairs" starring Lan Wei-hua, who also appeared in the series "Zero Day," demonstrating China's use of cultural and entertainment platforms to suppress Taiwan-related content.

iii. Twin City Forum:

The "Twin City Forum" may be held September 25-27, with Taipei Mayor Chiang Wan-an stating "there's no question of whether to hold it, only when," and the MAC confirming Taipei City Government's application to visit Shanghai. This will become a political manipulation opportunity for the CCP to signal expanded cross-strait exchanges (tourism, agricultural products) to ease cross-strait relations.

III. Taiwan Government Response Measures

1. Countering CCP's Blurring of Cross-Strait Identity Recognition

The TAO criticized the dismissal of Chinese spouse village chief Deng Wanhua as "Green Terror," claiming "Taiwan's democracy and human rights are all lies." The MAC responded that "elected officials can only be loyal to the Republic of China."

The Ministry of the Interior announced amendments to refuse restoration of Taiwan identity for "those who propagandize for the CCP," affecting Zhang Li-qi (residence permit holder) and Lin Jin-cheng (ID card holder). It also announced amendments requiring "Chinese nationals settling in Taiwan to cancel Chinese passports." The TAO responded by stating it would "pursue legal responsibility for damaging Chinese passports."

2. Routine Identity Recognition Verification

Starting January 1, 2026, the government will implement routine verification of core military, government, and education personnel's household registration and possession of Chinese documents. The MAC emphasized this measure "implements the Cross-Strait Relations Act" to prevent agencies from inadvertently violating legal provisions when hiring personnel.

3. Taiwan Artists Echoing CCP United Front Case

The MAC announced on the 14th that it had successively notified 20 artists to provide explanations, currently receiving responses from over 10 (understanding that most claimed ignorance). The Ministry of Culture stated it would cooperate with the MAC to handle subsequent legal proceedings.

4. Chinese Lawyers Practicing in Taiwan Without Permission

The Taichung District Court reported "Chinese lawyers practicing in Taiwan without permission," raising public questions about "how they entered Taiwan" and "challenging judicial security." The Taichung District Prosecutor's Office opened investigations for suspected violations of the "Lawyer Act," with the MAC working with the Ministry of Justice and National Immigration Agency for comprehensive review.

■ Cross-Strait Exchanges and CCP United Front Activities

1. Taiwan Businesspeople's Personal Safety Risks

According to the latest statistics from the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), from January to July this year, 94 cases of Taiwan businesspeople's "personal

safety" were handled. Additionally, beyond Taiwan businesspeople's risks in China, four elderly Taiwan Yiguandao members who were arrested by the CCP will not be released and will face prosecution.

2. Politics on Campus Controversy

The "Jianguo High School Communist Party" was revealed to have been leading 39 high schools to organize the "Taiwan Inter-school Communist Alliance," highlighting concerns about communist influence on campuses. The MAC advised students to "read more CCP party history" and said that "theory and reality are worlds apart." The Jianguo High School Communist Party Facebook page responded that the organization was "unrelated to the CCP" and that the "Inter-school Communist Alliance had too few active members and has already 'collapsed.'"

Additionally, a Taipei European School publication carrying board chairman Chen Chang-wen's article "advocating unification" was also questioned, with Taipei City Education Bureau saying it would ask the school to make independent judgments and provide external explanations.

3. Public Opinion Shows Awareness of United Front Threats

MAC polls revealed that "65.5% of people believe CCP infiltration of Taiwan is increasingly serious," with over 60% supporting the government to strengthen cross-strait exchange management (such as civil servants going to China, Chinese nationals coming to Taiwan, etc.).

The poll also showed:

- 83.7% of respondents oppose the CCP's "One Country, Two Systems" proposal
- 71.8% disagree with "Both sides of the strait belong to one China, Taiwan is part of China"
- 86.4% support the government's "broadly maintaining the status quo"
- 74.3% agree that "ROC and PRC are mutually non-subordinate"

4. Identity Document Fraud Networks

Anti-communist internet celebrity "Ba Jiong" (Wen Zi-yu) released a documentary "Chinese Identity Transformation Documentary: Red Contract of Bondage," revealing Taiwan pawnshop operators taking people to Fujian to apply for Chinese identity cards, then borrowing from Chinese banks to repay

debts. The documentary revealed that many young Taiwanese who applied for Chinese identity cards listed their Chinese residence as "No. 66 Tongxin Road, Jianyang District, Nanping City, Fujian Province" - which turned out to be the address of the local police station.

5. Internet Celebrity "Kuan Chang" Opens TikTok Account

Internet celebrity "Kuan Chang" Chen Zhi-han (aka Holger Chen) opened a TikTok account and it quickly grew to have over one million followers, with his bio stating "One Family Across the Strait." Previously, he had expressed interest in attending Beijing's September 3 military parade and had difficulties opening Chinese social media accounts due to being listed as a "special person."

This information is being distributed by the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the US on behalf of the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan. Additional information if on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Copyright © 2025 Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S., All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are on the mailing list of DPP US.

Our mailing address is:

Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.
1717 K St NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).