



# AN OPPORTUNITY TO RIGHT AN ANTIQUATED WRONG: RESTORING TAIWAN'S PLACE IN A 'FRACTURED WORLD'

By Neil Hare

**A**s world leaders in politics, business, media, science and entertainment gather this year for the 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, under the thematic banner of "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World," it is time for the status of Taiwan to finally be considered and addressed.

While it is axiomatic that the "squeaky wheel get's the grease," it is critically important to correct the human rights violations for a people who choose to lead in economic production, manufacturing and innovation, rather than engage in disruptive behavior. Taiwan is such a leader, but continues to thrive despite the facts that it is not a recognized country in the global community of nations, is not recognized by the United Nations, the countries of the G7 and G20, and does not even march under its own banner at the Olympic Games. The weight of this political purgatory has existed since the end of World War II, and it is past time for the world's leaders to join in a meaningful effort for permanent change.

This year's Davos meeting is constructed around big picture items represented in WEF's System Initiatives, which are similar to the

UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These agenda items include information technology, energy, transportation and infrastructure, healthcare, workplace issues, and the environment.

Taiwan is a leader in many of these areas despite its lack of international status. By way of example, no less than 36 Taiwanese companies manufacture components of the new Apple iPhone 8 models, including FoxConn, Pegatron Corp. and Largan Precision, according to the Taipei-based Market and Intelligence & Consulting Institute. This all from an island nation of only 25 million people.

On the geopolitical front, leaders are grappling with a shift away from the multilateral agreements and institutions constructed in the wake of World War II. Clearly, a major issue contributing to today's "fractured world" is North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Regardless of its tenuous geography, Taiwan remains a steadfast ally of the United States and Western democracies in the region.

So, why does the international community continue to ignore Taiwan's lack of international status and the human rights violations that led to it?

It is important to review the facts about Taiwan.

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First, the people of Taiwan lost their nationality post World War II and live in a condition of statelessness, which is a violation of their human rights. The UN Charter states:

[T]o affirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from the treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained.

Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Despite these organizing principals, Taiwan does not have a seat at the UN table in any capacity. It does not even have observer states in any UN affiliates such as the World Health Organization.

Second, while the Japanese relinquished control of Taiwan after World War II to the United States and its allies, memorialized in the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1952, the U.S. as well as the rest of the world, have

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chosen to pursue policies of “strategic ambiguity” and of a “One China” posture. These policies neither put Taiwan under formal U.S. control, nor provide the right of self determination, therefore keeping Taiwan in the political limbo it’s labored under for more than 70 years.

Finally, and despite this lack of recognition, Taiwan is a significant contributor to the global economy. Taiwan is the world’s 11th largest and strongest economy in the world and the 5th largest economy in Asia, and produces \$285 billion in exports annually. Taiwan is a leader in the technology, defense, and telecommunications industries, and

boasts a GDP of \$1.1 Trillion.

Is the international community punishing Taiwan and denying its people fundamental human rights because it is a strong economic actor, a peaceful partner, and strong ally of Western democracies?

Dr. Roger Lin, founder of the Taiwan Civil Government (TCG), an educational and advocacy group with a goal of normalizing Taiwan’s legal status in the global community, argues that the time for change is now. Together, the world has an opportunity to help the Taiwanese people determine their own nationality and achieve universally recognized human rights with dignity and peace.

During this prestigious gathering, the TCG implores the leaders of the world community to join its call for self-determination for the people of Taiwan. ●

**About the author and Disclosure:** Neil Hare is President and CEO of Global Vision Communications, a Washington DC-based PR and marketing agency. Materials distributed by Global Vision Communications on behalf of the Taiwan Civil Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

# Restoring Taiwan's Place in a 'Fractured World'

This year's World Economic Forum focuses on information technology, energy, transportation, infrastructure and the environment to name a few. Taiwan is a leader in many of these areas. By way of example, no less than 36 Taiwanese companies manufacture components of the new Apple iPhone 8 models! All from an island nation of only 25 million people.

Although Taiwan is an economic leader and a trusted ally of Western Democracies, it is not a recognized country in the global community and does not march under its own banner in the Olympic Games!

The people of Taiwan have had their human rights violated by being stripped of their nationality and by being kept in a position of statelessness. It is critically important to repair the human rights violations of people who rather than engage in disruptive behavior, choose to lead in economic production, manufacturing and innovation.

It is time for Global leaders to work towards an internationally recognized Taiwan.  
Learn more at [TaiwanCivilGovernment.com](http://TaiwanCivilGovernment.com)



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