

Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada
November 2009 Report - Michael Stainton



June 2007

THRAC made the banner for the June 2 **China Rights NOW! Forum**, and gave \$200 for that conference. This was sponsored by the China Rights Network. Michael Stainton spoke on religious policies in China. Sam Chang, Harry Chen, Columbus Leo and Albert Lin attended.

Nov 2007

As part of the China Rights Network, we tried to get the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) to make a statement on China's failed promise to improve human rights before the Olympic games. Because of a \$200 donation to THRAC from friends in the US, THRAC paid the cost of a mailing to the entire Canadian Olympic Committee on this issue. (\$59.48.)

August 8, 2008

THRAC members and friends took part in China Rights Network demonstration protesting opening of Olympics. Michael Stainton presented "medal" to Chinese Communist Party for world record achievements in suppression of human rights.



Sept 2008 THRAC supported a talk by Chinese democracy pioneer Xu Wen-li 徐文理 at York Centre for Asian Research (\$150). This is one way of showing support for struggles for human rights in China. THRAC support was recognized in the publicity and at the talk.

We donated THRAC's collection of Taiwan Communique (#1 to #75) to the East Asian Library at University of Toronto, where it will be catalogued and available to everyone. We also donated some books on "228"

November 2008

THRAC issued Statement on Chen Shui-bian Case (statement attached to report). Sent Christmas Cards from THRAC to A-bian and Qiu Yi-ren in prison

Dec 23, 2008

Drafted China Rights Network letter to President MA Ying-jeou, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice, and Toronto Chinese media (who did not report on it). In January 2009 we received a long response from Government Information Office minister Su Jun-pin, to which we again responded refuting some of his assertions.

March 2009

Michael Stainton drafted ATOT statement on Kuo Kuan-ying affair. Harry Chen did the Chinese Translation. Michael arranged meetings with Canadian Jewish Congress and researched possible Hate Speech complaint to Human Rights Commission on Kuo Kuan-ying. In the end lawyers advised that as Kuo was in diplomatic service he had diplomatic immunity so could not be prosecuted in Canada.



March 29, 2009

THRAC executive met to plan membership meeting and other activity, focused on how we can engage second generation Taiwanese Canadians in human rights work. Decided to try a movie and pub nite.

June 11, 2009 – Michael Stainton visited former President Chen Shui-bian in prison to express our concern for the procedural violations of human rights in his case. Visit was reported in Taiwan newspapers.



June 2009 – Michael Stainton made several visits in Taiwan to follow-up on Kuo Kuan-ying case, asking for support for our proposal that Taiwan develop legislation on hate speech. The visits included the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Taiwan Truth and Reconciliation Commission (台灣民間真相與和解促進會), Democratic Progressive Party and Taiwan Association for Human Rights (台灣人權促進會).

August 25, 2009 - THRAC Vice President Kokki Yeh visited A-bian in prison

November 7, 2009 - THRAC Treasurer Piling Lin spoke at conference in Toronto training Uyghur women to do political and human rights work.