

Instances of Mainland China's Interference with Taiwan's International Presence, 2016

1.	April 18-19, 2016	A Taiwanese delegation led by Shen Wei-cheng, a division director at the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Industrial Development Bureau, was in Brussels to attend the High-level Symposium on Excess Capacity and Structural Adjustment in the Steel Sector held by the OECD and the Belgian government on April 18, as well as the OECD Steel Committee meeting the following day. After the delegation participated in the April 18 morning session for industrial representatives, it was asked by the Belgian authorities—under pressure from the mainland Chinese delegation—not to attend the afternoon session for high-level government officials.
2.	May 2016	WHO Director-General Margaret Chan did not issue an invitation to Taiwan to attend the WHA until May 6. The invitation came with the unilateral inclusion of unnecessary political content related to UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, WHA Resolution 25.1, and the one-China principle. In a departure from past precedents, it did not provide the username and password for online registration by the Taiwanese delegation.
3.	June 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lee Li-hua, Secretary-General of the Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union, and volunteer Chen Yu-hao twice applied for entry passes to observe the International Labour Conference using their ROC passports, ID cards, and health insurance cards, but their applications were rejected by the International Labour Organization visitor registration counter. 2. Professor Liu Huang Li-chuan and students from National Chung Cheng University's Department of Labor Relations, as part of an international labor project, presented their

		ROC passports to apply for entry passes to observe the ILC, but their applications were rejected.
4.	June 24 – September 20	From June to August, the Cambodian government arrested a number of ROC nationals accused of cross-border telecommunications fraud. In its full efforts to negotiate the matter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dispatched Director-General Liang Kuang-chung of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to Cambodia. Under pressure from mainland China, the Cambodian government denied ROC officials access to the ROC nationals, and, also ignoring Taiwan’s position on the principle of nationality, deported the said nationals to mainland China.
5.	July 2016	Delegates from the ROC Council of Agriculture were denied participation in the 32nd session of the Committee on Fisheries—a subsidiary body of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization—held at FAO headquarters in Rome from July 11 to 15, on the grounds that they were using ROC passports. A member of Taiwan fishermen’s associations who had already entered the venue as a representative of an intergovernmental organization was also forced to leave by the FAO under pressure from the mainland Chinese delegation.
6.	August	Under pressure from mainland China, on the evening of August 7 the Kenyan government deported to mainland China five ROC nationals who had been found not guilty of telecommunications related crimes in a Kenyan court.
7.	End of August – September 7	After the police in Armenia detained and seized the passports of 78 ROC nationals, the said nationals were then forcibly deported to mainland China.

8.	September 4, 2016	The Ramat Gan city government in Israel displayed the ROC national flag at an event it had organized for visiting Youth Ambassadors from Taiwan. The mainland Chinese embassy later lodged a protest with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs over this action.
9.	September 23, 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs made proactive efforts to communicate with President of the ICAO Council Dr. Olumuyiwa Aliu via diplomatic allies, the executive and legislative government branches of likeminded countries, as well as other individuals and groups, urging ICAO to accept Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive participation and recognize its efforts. However, in the end, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to attend the 39th ICAO Assembly. 2. A Paraguayan ambassador to Canada, reportedly stated at a reception hosted by the Taiwanese representative office in Canada that delegates at the ICAO Assembly were told not to mention Taiwan, and that if they did, their microphones would be cut off.
10.	September 28, 2016	In its <i>Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017</i> , the WEF listed Taiwan as Chinese Taipei instead of Taiwan, China as it had done in previous years. On September 29, the day after the publication was released, the WEF issued a press release stating that its use of Chinese Taipei was a technical error and that it did not signify a lack of support for the one-China policy.
11.	September 29, 2016	The <i>Irish Times</i> reported that the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had sent an email asking government ministers not to attend the ROC National Day celebrations, stressing that their participation would evoke a strong protest from mainland China and undermine Ireland's policy goals concerning mainland China.

12.	October 20, 2016	Representatives of 10 indigenous cultural and creative businesses led by the ROC Council of Indigenous Peoples were in mainland China to participate in the 10th Hangzhou Cultural and Creative Industry Expo. On the eve of the October 20 expo, the event organizer removed the name CIP from the Taiwan booth. The CIP promptly lodged a solemn protest and pulled out of the expo.
13.	October 27 – November 29	On October 27, the Malaysia Royal Police Commercial Crimes Investigation Department raided a telecommunications fraud facility in Penang, arresting 27 suspects (21 Taiwanese, six mainland Chinese). On November 29, Malaysian authorities deported the 21 Taiwanese suspects and 53 mainland Chinese suspects to mainland China.
14.	November 7-18, 2016	Taiwan had initially assigned Deputy Minister of the Environmental Protection Administration Thomas Chan to lead its delegation to COP22 under the UNFCCC. However, the UNFCCC Secretariat expressed concern over the level of ROC officials attending COP22. In order to participate in the event and allow it to proceed smoothly, Taiwan instead designated Dr. Chien Hui-chen, Counselor and Executive Director of the EPA Office of Greenhouse Gases Reduction Management, as head of the delegation.
15.	November 11, 2016	The chairman of the Taiwan Foundation for Rare Disorders was invited to deliver a speech at the inauguration of the UN-affiliated NGO Committee for Rare Diseases in New York on November 11, but was barred from the event due to mainland Chinese intervention.
16.	November 17, 2016	Former President Ma Ying-jeou was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the Eighth World Chinese Economic Summit in Malaysia. Because of mainland Chinese intervention, the organizer changed his title from former president to former leader in the summit handbook distributed at the opening ceremony.

17.	December 21	Deputy Speaker of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament Nurbek Alimbekov visited Taiwan on December 16, calling on Legislative Speaker Su Jia-chyuan on December 21. Upon returning to Kyrgyzstan, Deputy Speaker Alimbekov came under pressure from mainland China and resigned his position as deputy speaker, despite saying that the trip had not been taken on official parliamentary business and that he had visited Taiwan in a private capacity.
18.	December 21 - 26	When the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe terminated diplomatic relations with the ROC on December 21, the ROC resolved to terminate such relations on the same day so as to maintain the nation's dignity, withdrawing its diplomats and Taiwan Technical Mission staff, and ceasing all bilateral cooperation projects. Given São Tomé and Príncipe's significant financial needs, and mainland China's manipulation of the so-called one China principle, its requirement that São Tomé and Príncipe commit to not maintaining official relations of any kind with Taiwan, and the need to "fully support and assist" São Tomé and Príncipe's socioeconomic development and people's livelihoods, the two sides signed a joint communique restoring diplomatic relations in Beijing on December 26.