

## Instances of Mainland China’s Interference with Taiwan’s International Presence, 2017

1.	January 1	Vietnam deported four Taiwanese suspects in a telephone fraud case to mainland China.
2.	January 2-4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On January 2, South Africa’s Department of International Relations and Cooperation and ruling party issued statements rebuking Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimanga for taking a trip to Taiwan and violating South Africa’s “One China Principle.”</li> <li>2. On the next day, the mainland China embassy in South Africa exerted pressure on the central government and ruling party, resulting in the issuance of a statement by President Jacob Zuma’s office that it would convene a coordination meeting pertaining to Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimang’s visit to Taiwan.</li> <li>3. The day after, the embassy mobilized the overseas Chinese community to write a joint letter to protest the visit of Tshwane Mayor Msimanga to Taiwan and demand his apologies. The wording and content indicate that the letter was clearly instigated and written by mainland Chinese officials.</li> </ol>
3.	January 11	At a joint press conference held by Nigeria and mainland China in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, mainland China’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi announced Nigeria’s commitment to implementing the “One China Policy.” Subsequently, Nigeria ordered the ROC representative office to change its name and be relocated out of Abuja, and also restricted its operations and personnel.
4.	February 4	Cambodian President Hun Sen welcomed Taiwanese enterprises to invest in Cambodia

		with the admonition that they could not raise the ROC flag due to Cambodia's one China policy.
5.	February 5	At a Lunar New Year activity held for the overseas Chinese community, mainland China's representative to the Dominican Republic Fu Xinrong openly demanded that overseas Chinese refrain from attending holiday activities sponsored by Taiwan's Embassy.
6.	February 12-16	When ROC Legislator Kuan Bi-ling led the Taiwan-India Parliamentary Friendship Association to India, mainland China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs openly demanded India to adhere to the "One China Principle" and appropriately handle the Taiwan issue. PRC Ministry also expressed strong opposition to any form of official contact between Taiwan and any country that maintains diplomatic ties with mainland China. The Global Times, a newspaper affiliated with the Communist Party of China, also published an article on the parliamentary visit, warning India to refrain from playing the Taiwan card or could face severe repercussions.
7.	February 24	The National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan's Ministry of Defense issued the <i>NIDS China Security Report 2017, Change in Continuity: The Dynamics of the China-Taiwan Relationship</i> . When depicting the relationship, the report used Taiwan's official name as the Republic of China and referred to the two sides as two political entities. According to Japan's media reports, in a meeting between mainland China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida, Wang Yi demanded that Japan retract the report.
8.	March 13-24	Representatives of Taiwanese NGOs were unable to obtain passes for the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in New York. For

		the first time, the UN headquarters pasted an announcement suggesting Taiwanese passport holders to present instead a “mainland China Travel Permit” in order to enter the UN.
9.	March 27	Japan’s State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Jiro Akama visited Taiwan for the opening ceremony of a tourism exhibition held by the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, sparking protests by mainland China.
10.	January-March	Taiwanese visitors continued to be rejected using their ROC passports to obtain a Visitor’s Pass to enter the United Nations.
11.	April 12-16	In line with past precedents, a Taiwanese team participated in the 2017 International Table Soccer Federation World Cup and World Championships in Hamburg, Germany, using the name Taiwan. At the entrance of the venue, organizers had put up a large ROC national flag, which was asked to be removed on the second day of the competition, April 13. On April 14, the ROC national flag was replaced by the Taiwan Olympic flag and Taiwanese participants were introduced as “Guest, Taiwan,”— a different nomenclature used for other years.
12.	May 1	Taiwan was invited by Australia, the host nation, to attend the 2017 Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting as a “Guest of the Chair.” However, just as the chair of the KP was about to introduce Australia’s foreign minister, Julie Bishop, members of the mainland Chinese delegation rudely interrupted by yelling into the microphone on their table, calling for a point of order (demanding to know if everyone in the room had been formally invited) with the express intention of stopping Taiwan from attending. Australia was eventually forced to withdraw its invitation to Taiwan.

13.	May 12	During the 10th Cirtaslow International General Assembly in Goolwa, South Australia, which was held from May 9 to 12 and attended by Taiwanese delegates Chang Yu-pei and Su Xiao-hui, mainland Chinese delegates lodged a written protest to the assembly prior to the May 12 meeting, demanding that the ROC national flag be removed from the venue.
14.	May 15	During the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China and Vietnam signed a Communiqué on which Vietnam reaffirmed its commitment to the one China policy, its support for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and mainland China’s grand plan for unification, as well as its firm opposition to any form of separatist activities. It also vowed to develop no official relations with Taiwan.
15.	May 12-	Mainland China pressured the WHO and other countries to block Taiwan’s participation in the 70th WHA, and demeaned Taiwan’s status as a sovereign state by referring to it as “Taiwan, Province of China.” Mainland China also violated the freedom of the press by preventing Taiwanese journalists—in spite of past precedents—from acquiring press passes to enter the WHA venue.
16.	May 17	Taiwan’s Association of East Asian Relations was officially renamed the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association during a ceremony attended by Japanese Representative to Taiwan Mikio Numata. That same day, mainland China’s Foreign Ministry reiterated its “One China Principle” and expressed strong displeasure at what it called a “plot” by the Japanese government and Taiwan to upgrade substantive relations. During a visit to Japan from May 29 to June 1, mainland Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi repeatedly urged Japan to “uphold the good faith principle and handle the Taiwan

		question in an appropriate manner.”
17.	May 24	Taiwan was not invited to attend this year’s World Health Assembly due to mainland China’s suppression. During the event, mainland China’s delegates criticized the representatives of Taiwan’s diplomatic allies Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Palau and the Marshall Islands for speaking up on behalf of Taiwan.
18.	June 12	Professor Liu Huang Li-chuan from National Chung Cheng University’s Department of Labor Relations and three students registered to attend the International Labour Conference (ILC) with the help of the international nongovernmental organization IndustriALL, but were barred from sitting in on the ILC on June 12. The same day, the group visited the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) to apply for sit-in passes for the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council using their ROC passports, but were denied passes. UNOG suggested the applicants to present instead Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents.
19.	June 13	To suppress the ROC’s diplomatic presence, Beijing authorities induced Panama to switch diplomatic recognition, establish ties with Beijing and terminate diplomatic ties with the ROC. PRC also demanded Panama to no longer develop any type of official relationship with the ROC and comply with the “One China Principle.”

20.	June 14	While speaking out on Taiwan’s behalf during the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, the Nicaraguan delegate met with a furious protest by a Chinese delegate for publicly challenging its “One China Principle”—an unreasonable act suppressing another country’s right to speak on behalf of Taiwan.
21.	January to June	To date since the beginning of 2017, Beijing authorities have continuously pressured the governments of Nigeria, Ecuador, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to force the Taiwanese missions in each country to change their names. Notably, the Nigerian government sent Taiwan’s representative written notice requesting that he leave the country within a limited period, after which it would not guarantee his safety, while under mainland China’s arbitrary demands, the name of Taiwan’s mission in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, has already been changed to the Commercial Office of Taipei from its original name, the Commercial Office of the Republic of China to Dubai.
22.	June 19	When the University of Hannover’s Taiwanese Student Association was invited to participate in the university’s Third International Day, the mainland Chinese Student Federation demanded that the Taiwanese association not be permitted to set up a booth using the name Taiwan, but instead share a booth with the mainland Chinese students and attend under the name of Chinese Taipei. The Taiwanese student association and the university rejected these demands, and through university coordination, the Taiwanese student association took part in the event using its formal name as registered with the university.

23.	June 20	Radio Taiwan International (RTI) has been a member of the Association for International Broadcasting (AIB) since 1999. However, in June 2017, China Central Television initiated a request for participation in the AIB on the condition that RTI must withdraw from the AIB.
24.	June-July	The Nigerian government began stationing 25 armed police officers around Taiwan's representative office on June 30, when the premises were sealed off in the presence of mainland Chinese embassy staff. Official mainland Chinese newspaper the Global Times published a report that day, claiming that mainland China would increase pressure on Taiwan to extreme levels.
25.	July 12	The Trade Mission of Taiwan to the Kingdom of Bahrain was renamed the Taipei Trade Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain at the insistence of the government of Bahrain, which was pressured by mainland China and lured by the promise of economic benefits.
26.	July 23	At the demand of the mainland Chinese customs authorities, Malaysia's budget airline Air Asia-X changed the nationality of its Taiwanese crew to mainland Chinese in its general declaration form for flights to and from mainland China.
27.	July 25	In his remarks at the annual conference of the Institute for China-America Studies held in Washington, DC, the mainland Chinese ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai stated, "There have been alarming developments recently. US arms sale [sic] to Taiwan is continuing. There are also attempts to upgrade official contact ... between the US and Taiwan." He considered these to be a challenge to the "One China Principle" and noted mainland China's firm opposition to such actions that are "on the wrong side of history."

28.	July 26	Following the Cambodian government’s arrest of 32 suspects—including seven Taiwanese nationals—for transnational telecom fraud, an official from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ho Chi Minh arrived in Cambodia to negotiate a consular visit with the Taiwanese suspects, as well as their deportation to Taiwan, in accordance with the nationality principle. However, the visitation request was denied, and the Taiwanese suspects were deported to mainland China on the grounds of the “One China Policy.”
29.	August 3	Indonesian and mainland Chinese police recently arrested 22 Taiwanese and 121 mainland Chinese on suspicion of operating a transnational telecom scam. Despite negotiations by Taiwan’s representative office with the relevant Indonesian authorities, 18 of the Taiwanese suspects were deported to mainland China due to its deliberate interference.
30.	August 11	The mainland Chinese embassy in Uganda put pressure on that country’s team for the 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei not to travel to Taiwan. However, after Taiwan explained relevant issues to the Ugandan government, the Ugandan team ended up making the trip to Taiwan.
31.	August 18	The Hsin Chuan Dance Studio from Puli township in Nantou County was invited to participate in an international dance festival in Peru. However, in a local Peruvian television broadcast of an outdoor parade that was part of the festival, the troupe was labeled as coming from China. In addition, prior to the festival’s opening ceremony, organizers demanded that the troupe be introduced as Hsin Chuan Puli, without

		mentioning Taiwan. Despite all of this, the head of the troupe remained firm on its position. As a result, the organizers relented.
32.	August	According to the <i>Washington Post</i> , the mainland Chinese Ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai sent letters to a number of members of the US Congress, expressing grave concern over bills aimed at strengthening Taiwan-US relations, such as drafts of the Taiwan Travel Act, Taiwan Security Act, and National Defense Authorization Act. The letter states that these bills could have serious consequences for US-mainland China relations, and cross the red line in such relations.
33.	September 14	The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Argentina cooperated with a local printing company to introduce environmentally friendly stone paper made by Taiwanese manufacturers to the Argentinean Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, which agreed to sponsor a special publication on this unique type of paper. The publication included an article by the ROC Representative to Argentina on sustainable development in Taiwan. However, at the launch ceremony of the publication, mainland Chinese embassy staff put pressure on the Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delaying the start of the event and urging Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development Sergio Bergman not to attend the event. This led to a hastily arranged end to related activities.
34.	September 25	A delegation from Taiwan's National Space Organization traveled to Adelaide, Australia, to participate in the 68th International Astronautical Congress. Mainland Chinese representatives at the event issued a protest against the use of the word "national" in the name of Taiwan's delegation. They demanded that our delegation

		change its name; otherwise, they would withdraw from the event.
35.	September	The mainland Chinese embassy in South Africa sent a letter to the Gauteng Province government to protest against official contact with Taiwan and suggest that any appearance of ROC national flag, emblem and the word “Republic of China” should be prohibited.
36.	October 4	A secretary at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Argentina was invited to visit a training facility of the Argentinian National Gendarmerie. However, following a protest by a military attaché from mainland China, Argentinian officials demanded that the secretary leave the facility.
37.	October 5	When a Taiwanese national applied for a visa at a mainland Chinese consulate on behalf of his daughter, who held a Canadian passport and whose birth certificate showed her mother’s birthplace to be Taiwan, the consulate stated that the application would be accepted only after an affidavit had been submitted indicating that “Taiwan is an inseparable part of China.”
38.	October 14	The Taiwan Medical Association (TMA) participated in the World Medical Association General Assembly in Chicago on October 14. The mainland Chinese medical association in the past had unsuccessfully demanded that the name of the TMA be changed at this annual event. At this year’s assembly, it once again issued the same demand, requesting that the TMA, in accordance with the “One China Principle,” incorporate “Chinese Taipei” in its name instead of Taiwan. To back up its demand, it also threatened to not host the 2021 WMA.

39.	October 27	The Confucius Institute at the University of Queensland in Australia sought to prevent the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brisbane from holding a Taiwan film festival at the university. As a result of mainland Chinese pressure, the university withdrew its name as co-organizer of the film festival, and also tried to remove festival posters from the movie theater and took down a webpage introducing the festival. The mainland Chinese side also unreasonably demanded that the ROC national flag not be displayed.
40.	October 28	Cambodian authorities uncovered a cross-border fraud scheme. Among the 110 suspects arrested, 19 were ROC nationals. Cambodia, however, based on its “One China Policy” and due to mainland Chinese pressure, decided to deport these ROC nationals to mainland China, violating the nationality principle as well as the wishes of the ROC nationals concerned.
41.	October	Mr. Luis Fernando Torres, member of the Ecuador National Assembly, visited Taiwan in the second half of October. During his stay in Taiwan, Mr. Torres received a message that the mainland China express concern over his itinerary. It was suggested that he return to Ecuador immediately.
42.	November 9	An EU academic delegation organized by German scholars planned to visit Taiwan to participate in the second Taiwan-EU academic seminar after attending a conference on China-EU relations and the Taiwan question in Shanghai. Upon arrival in mainland China, a Slovenian member of the delegation was denied entry by customs officials and was sent back to Slovenia despite his request to fly onward to Taiwan ahead of the rest of the delegation.

43.	November 13	Minister Lee Ying-yuan of Taiwan’s Environmental Protection Administration traveled to Bonn, Germany, to participate in the UNFCCC COP23. Due to mainland Chinese interference, however, he was unable to enter the conference venue. With regard to this issue, spokesperson Geng Shuang of mainland China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the mainland’s position on Taiwan’s participation in international events has been consistent and clear, that is, such participation must be in line with the “one China principle.”
44.	November 13	German broadcaster Deutsche Welle conducted an exclusive interview with Minister Lee Ying-yuan of Taiwan’s Environmental Protection Administration on Taiwan’s participation in the UNFCCC COP23 in its English-language international news program. It received a phone call from the mainland Chinese embassy in Germany, which strongly protested that the program addressed Minister Lee by his title and displayed the R.O.C. national flag.
45.	November 22	During a meeting with Patricio Cisneros, Prefect of Santa Elena Province in Ecuador, mainland Chinese consul general to Ecuador Hui Yiji demanded that the province terminate its technical cooperation with Taiwan based on the “one China principle” and questioned whether the prefect was friendly toward Taiwan because he had previously been invited to and visited the country. Prefect Cisneros rejected the demand.
46.	November 23	In consideration of the R.O.C. government’s sponsorship of its annual trade fair, the SME association of Ecuador’s Pichincha Province listed the name of Taiwan’s representative office in Ecuador among the sponsors, as well as a picture of the R.O.C. national flag, in its invitation for the event’s opening ceremony. It rejected a demand

		from the mainland Chinese embassy in Ecuador that the picture of the national flag be removed.
47.	December 6	Following Taiwanese media reports that Taiwan and the Philippines would be renewing their bilateral investment agreement, the mainland Chinese embassy in Manila lodged a strong protest with the Philippines. However, the BIA was signed as scheduled at the 23rd Taiwan-Philippines Joint Economic Meeting.
48.	December 8	At an event held by the mainland Chinese embassy in the US to analyze the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 passed by the US Congress was discussed, as well as the possibility of mutual port calls by US and Taiwanese navy vessels. Mainland Chinese embassy minister Li Kexin stated that “the day that a US Navy vessel arrives in Kaohsiung is the day that our People’s Liberation Army unifies Taiwan with military force.”
49.	2017	The Ministry of Health and Welfare applied to the World Health Organization for participation in 18 technical meetings in 2017. It was only invited to attend five of these; applications for the other 13 were denied.