



Background

1945, Republic of China received Taiwan after Japan's defeat, and in 1947, the February 28 Incident broke out due to the misadministration of Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT). Two years later, KMT was defeated by the Communists and moved the central government to Taiwan. To tackle internal and external crises and consolidate its authoritarian rule, the government promulgated the Temporary Provisions Effective during the Period of the Communists Rebellion in 1948, then Martial Law the following year in Taiwan.

Statutes for the Detection and Eradication of Spies During the Period of Communist Rebellion, Statutes for the Punishment of Rebellion were imposed in succession. Those who violated the acts were arrested, interrogated, charged, tried, imprisoned and even executed by intelligence agencies, causing many wrongful convictions. This four-decade period of repressive rule, 1949-1992, is known as the White Terror Period.

Regulations for Compensation for Improper Verdicts on Sedition and Communist Espionage Cases during the Martial Law Period Foundation statistics show that, up to 8 Mar. 2014, 10,067 applications for compensation had been received. Of these 7,965 was granted, 2,036 rejected, and 64 needed only redressing of reputation. Being labeled as communist spies and Taiwan Independence activists was the most frequent used excuse by KMT to convict dissidents. It is believed that actual victims far exceed the number of families that have applied for compensation.

The White Terror Period scarred the victims and their families, and cast a profound impact on people being silent and apathetic towards political and social issues.

Unfolding 40 Years of Authoritarian Rule

Related Events and Legal Basis of Taiwan's Authoritarian Rule

Year	Events	Legal Basis
1935		Promulgation of Criminal Code Article 100, without putting it into practice.

1945	World War II ended. On Sep. 1 Taiwan Provincial Garrison Command was organized in Chungking, with administrative chief Chen Yi served as commander. The ROC took over Taiwan and the Penghu on Oct.25	
1946		Constitution of the Republic of China was ratified on Dec. 25 and promulgated on Jan. 1 1947.
1947	February 28 Incident broke out.	
		National Mobilization Order passed on Jul. 4.
1948		Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion passed on Apr. 18.
1949	Apr. 6 Incident arrests at National Taiwan University and Normal College (today National Taiwan Normal University) campuses.	
		Martial Law in Taiwan promulgated by Taiwan Garrison Command on May 19 and effective on the following day.
		Statutes for the Punishment of Rebellion passed on May 24, effective on Jun. 21.
	ROC government moved to Taiwan on Dec. 7.	
1950	Chiang Kai-shek back in office on Mar. 1.	

	Statutes for the Detection and Eradication of Spies During the Period of Communist Rebellion Act passed on May 23, effective Jun. 13. Criminal Code Article 100 (Offences against Internal Security) also put into practice.
1958	On May 15, four agencies were disbanded, and Taiwan Garrison Command formed.
1960	Free China magazine was banned on Sep. 4 with Lei Chen, Fu Cheng and other involved parties under arrest.
1964	Sep. 20, drafters of A Declaration of Formosan Self-salvation, Peng Ming-min, Wei Ting-chao and Hsich Tsung-min arrested.
1970	Dissident political magazines--The Intellectual, Taiwan Political Review, appear one after another in the 1970s.
1979	Kaohsiung Incident, mass gathering and riot, broke out on Dec. 10.
1980	First trial open to the public for Kaohsiung Incident defendants on Mar. 18.
1987	On Jul. 15, Emergency Decree in Taiwan and the Penghu revoked and new political parties allowed. National Security Act became effective.
1988	Assembly and Parade Act passed on Jan. 11.
1990	Wild Lily Student Movement took place on Mar. 15.

1991	On Apr.22,Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of Communist Rebellion revoked and was promulgated on May 1.
1991	Taiwan Independence Association arrests on May 9.
	Statutes for the Punishment of Rebellion revoked on May 17, effective on May 22.
	Statutes for the Detection and Eradication of Spies During the Period of Communist Rebellion Act revoked on May 24.
	Sep. 21, " Action 100 Alliance" formed, aiming to repeal Criminal Code Article 100.
1992	Criminal Code Article 100 amendment passed on May 15 and promulgated on the following day. White Terror officially ended.
	Taiwan Provincial Garrison Command disbanded on Jul. 31 and replaced by Coastal Patrol Command on the following day.
	Measures for Civil Affairs Military Government in Quemoy and Matsu revoked on Nov. 5.
1995	The February 28 Incident Disposition and Compensation Act passed on Mar. 23 and promulgated on Apr. 7.
1998	Regulations for Compensation for Improper Verdicts on Sedition and Communist Espionage Cases during the Martial Law Period promulgated on Jun. 17.

2003	Redress of Reputation granted to political prisoners on Aug. 2.
2011	National Human Rights Museum Preparatory Office inaugurated and operations launched on Dec. 10.
2017	Act for Promotion of Transitional Justice passed by the Legislative Yuan on Dec. 5.
2018	National Human Rights Museum inaugurated on Mar. 15.