

## Visiting official says Taiwan's democracy is being undermined

Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu says Taiwan's democracy may be in jeopardy because of internal turmoil. And he claims that China is undermining Taiwan, as shown by a sister-city agreement a Chinese city made with Irvine that stipulated Irvine would no longer recognize or formally visit Taiwan. Irvine has rescinded the agreement.

We caught up with Wu, 53, chairman of the [Mainland Affairs Council of Taiwan](#), the Cabinet-level body in charge of relations with China, before he was to give a talk tonight on "Taiwan's fragile democracy" at the Taiwan Center of Greater Los Angeles in Rosemead.



He will be speaking as thousands of protesters opposed to Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian are expected at the expansive square adjacent to Taipei's ornate, red-colored Presidential Office building, according to the Associated Press.

The campaign is aimed at forcing Chen to resign over a series of alleged corruption scandals involving his family and inner circle.

Before being named council chairman, Wu served as deputy-secretary general to the president.

### **Q Do you really believe cases like the Irvine sister-city agreement are an attempt by China to isolate Taiwan?**

A If you look at China, all over the world that's a typical maneuver. In doing the sister-city agreement, they were trying to impose the one-China principal. If you look at the larger picture, that's what China has been doing worldwide. Chad did that a month or so ago. China wanted Chad to sign a communiqué that stipulates the one-China principal. (According to the AP, Taiwan broke off diplomatic relations earlier this month with Chad, pre-empting what it said was a move by the central African nation to switch its recognition to the communist government on the mainland. )

### **Q Why is there political turmoil in Taiwan right now?**

A What's happening today is that some remnants of the past authoritarianism are challenging Taiwan's democracy.

(Chen's Democratic Progressive Party made history in 2000 by winning the national election, ousting the Nationalist – Kuomintang or KMT – Party that had been in control for 50 years.)

### **Q Can you give an example?**

A The KMT's challenge to the government has gone to such a degree that Taiwan's self-defense capability is in jeopardy. The weapons sale President Bush has approved in 2001 to supply anti-missile and anti-submarine capabilities (to Taiwan), but the budget continues to be stalled by the opposition.

Another example is the Mainland Affairs Council; our budget for the second half of the year is still not approved. KMT wants to stall government operations in order to prove to the Taiwanese public that the government is incompetent.

The legitimacy of the Taiwanese democracy seems to be eroding.

- By Vik Jolly. Orange County Register