



Over a decade ago, several Taiwanese Americans and the Human Rights Action Center worked together for several years<sup>1</sup> to free Chen Shui-Bian, former President of Taiwan from 2000 to 2008, from his jail cell, then from his prison hospital bed, and finally got his freedom to go home in 2015, after six years in prison. He did not receive fair trials and many Taiwanese think that the cases against him were political motivated, orchestrated by the Ma administration of the KMT (Chinese Nationalist Party) government from 2008 to 2016.

Before voted into power in 2016, President Tsai Ing-Wen of DPP promised to wash clean his records in many campaign rallies<sup>6</sup>. However, that has not happened during her eight years of presidency. I wonder why and that is the reason I wrote Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland a letter<sup>3</sup>, asking him to call on President-elect Lai Ching-Te, also DPP, to take actions.

On the website of Human Rights Action Center, the case of Chen Shui-Bian is still listed as an on-going project<sup>7</sup> because until he is fully pardoned, our mission is not accomplished.

I cannot figure out why the DPP has not taken this necessary step for Mr. Chen. President Tsai, stepping down after May 2024, as well as President-elect Lai and Vice-President-elect Hsiao all called for President Chen's human rights<sup>4,5</sup> when the government was led by President Ma of KMT.

Making hard decisions and taking decisive actions are traits of a great leader. Ironically, it seems to be easier to call on people with power to take actions. The same people once given the power could be unwilling to do the thing which they had called on others to do. Is this the case with President Tsai?

President Tsai will go out of office in May of 2024. Washing Chen's record would be a nice gift to Mr. Chen as well as the nation, as well as to DPP that the DPP keeps its word with the party and the nation. Taking no action, President Tsai could be remembered as a leader with fake campaign promises and moral courage, among the allegations of corruptions and silencing critics. Is this how she wants to be remembered for her eight years of presidency? Will President-elect Lai fulfill his campaign promise if President Tsai fails hers?

Congratulations to Janice Chen who won her seat in the Congress and was the leader of the medical team to free Chen Shui-Bian. Ms. Chen aided our human rights team when they visited Taiwan for the Save-Chen mission in September of 2012<sup>2</sup>. We look forward to her active role to lead a new push in the new congress to pardon President Chen.

Jack Healey

*Jack Healey*

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Director, Human Rights Action Center

451 First St. SE  
Washington DC 20003  
(202) 957 3289  
[jack@healey@gmail.com](mailto:jack@healey@gmail.com)

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