

## Protesters urge Mayor Han's removal

Written by Taipei Times

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People calling for Kaohsiung Mayor Han Kuo-yu's removal from office march through the city yesterday.

**Photo: CNA**

Hundreds of thousands of people yesterday took to the streets to call for Kaohsiung Mayor Han Kuo-yu's (韓國瑜) removal from office.

Shouting slogans such as "Recall Han Kuo-yu," "Liberate Kaohsiung" and "Hang in there, Taiwan," the group set off from the Kaohsiung Cultural Center at about 2pm and marched toward the waterfront in Yancheng District (鹽埕).

The protesters formed a human snake stretching nearly 1km along Wufu First Road, aerial images showed.

Some carried banners or wore clothing bearing text, such as one that criticized the city's economic performance since the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) mayor took office, despite his promise to "make people rich."

A demonstrator carried a poster admonishing Han for almost never being in the city, as he frequently travels to other parts of Taiwan for his presidential campaign.

Some protesters said it was their first time participating in a demonstration, adding that they "could no longer stand to see [Han] showing so little concern for his poor performance."

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Because of the scope of the demonstration, participants were divided into nine groups, each with their own leader, said social advocacy group Wecare Kaohsiung, which organized the march.

The groups included Wecare members led by founder Aaron Yin (尹), the Taiwan Statebuilding Party's Kaohsiung chapter led by chapter director Lee Hsin-han (李欣漢), a group supporting Hong Kong's democracy movement led by Hong Kong student representative Tang Chun-yu (唐俊宇) and a group led by Democratic Progressive Party Kaohsiung City Councilor Kang Yu-cheng (康宇成).

It is crucial to remember the sacrifices made to achieve democracy in Taiwan after the 40th anniversary of the Formosa Incident, Wecare said.

The incident, also known as the Kaohsiung Incident, refers to a crackdown by the then-KMT regime on a rally organized by Formosa Magazine and opposition politicians on Dec. 10, 1979, to mark Human Rights Day. It is considered an important turning point in the nation's democratization.

"Thank you for being with us to the end of this demonstration, which is also the start of Han's removal from office," Yin told the crowd after taking the stage as the demonstration concluded in the evening.

Kaohsiung residents have been lied to every day for the past year, Yin said, adding that Han has taken advantage of the Civil Servants Election and Recall Act (公職人員選舉罷免法), which protects elected officials from being recalled in their first year in office.

Han has used the immunity afforded to city council members to defame others, and used his constitutionally protected right of assembly to organize a counterprotest in the afternoon, Yin said.

"Today, 500,000 of us are standing here together, demonstrating our trust in democracy and our belief in our own ability to effect change," he said.

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We care would send a petition to the Central Election Commission on Thursday to call for Han to be recalled, he said.

At least one-tenth of city residents would need to support the petition, and at least one-quarter of them would need to vote in favor of a recall for the process to succeed, he said.

Additional reporting by Hung Chen-hao, Fang Chih-hsien and Wang Shu-hsiu.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2019/12/22](#)