

## Lin starts anti-nuclear hunger strike

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 23 April 2014 08:03 -

---



Former Democratic Progressive Party chairman Lin Yi-xiong closes his eyes at Taipei's Gikong Presbyterian Church yesterday as he begins a hunger strike he intends to sustain until construction of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant is halted.

**Photo: CNA**

Former Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairman Lin Yi-xiong (林義雄) yesterday began a hunger strike at Taipei's Gikong Presbyterian Church to demand that the government halt the construction of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant in New Taipei City's Gongliao District (公寮), saying that the President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) administration's pledge that the plant would be safe was "a trick to fool the public."

"So-called nuclear safety is questionable because even if the plant was completed and became operational, unassailable damage could still take place in the event of a natural disaster or human error," Lin said.

"My mind is at peace because I'm about to do something meaningful and helpful for Taiwan," the 73-year-old said after arriving at the church at 10:55am, about an hour later than scheduled.

Lin, who announced his fasting campaign last week, is staging the hunger strike at the site of the Lin family's former residence, where his mother and twin daughters were murdered on Feb. 28, 1980, by an unknown assailant. His eldest daughter, then nine years old, survived the attack and the Lin home was eventually converted into a church.

Lin — a well-known anti-nuclear advocate — said he appreciated his wife and daughter supporting him, despite knowing that they are doing so with "a heavy heart."

## Lin starts anti-nuclear hunger strike

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 23 April 2014 08:03 -

---

After delivering an opening statement and conducting a 20-minute question-and-answer session with the media, Lin attended a brief prayer ceremony with friends before entering a renovated corner of the church that used to be the living room of his family residence to start the hunger strike.

The staunch anti-nuclear advocate has vowed to neither eat, speak to nor meet visitors during his indefinite one-man protest.

Asked if he would end the hunger strike if the DPP-proposed special statute on the incomplete Gongliao station — which would lower the national referendum threshold to a simple majority and set a clear question for a plebiscite on completing the plant — was adopted, Lin said he would welcome such a development, but “it has not happened yet.”

Lin's protest is drawing increasing attention from political figures, with DPP Chairman Su Tseng-chang (蘇貞昌) and Premier Jiang Yi-huah (江宜樺) both visiting the church.

Su and Jiang's visits came a day after they met on Monday to discuss the statute, but failed to reach a consensus, with the premier saying the plan was unfeasible.

Su arrived at the church at 12pm and wrote a message in a notebook prepared by church staff, saying afterward that he had been “racing against time” to resolve the issue so Lin's hunger strike would be unnecessary, but had failed to reach an accord with the government.

“I'm not sure how many days Mr Lin will be able to sustain [the hunger strike.] After four decades of struggle [with the nuclear issue], what more can we do?” Su said as tears fell on his cheeks.

Jiang arrived about 10 minutes later to loud protests from Lin's supporters outside the church, who chanted: “Jiang Yi-huah step down” and “Stop the construction of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant,” and was again heckled when he left.

## Lin starts anti-nuclear hunger strike

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 23 April 2014 08:03 -

---

The premier also wrote a message to Lin in the notebook, saying: “Please take care of your health,” before leaving quickly without speaking to the media.

The Executive Yuan’s information office said Jiang was representing Ma on the visit to express the president’s concern about Lin’s health.

Given Lin’s age, his health could be at risk just two days into the fast, said National Taiwan University physician Ko Wen-je (柯文傑), who is also an independent aspirant in the Taipei mayoral election.

Former DPP chairperson Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) also visited Lin, arriving at the church in the afternoon and reiterating on Facebook the party’s determination to stop the construction of the Gongliao plant.

Former president Lee Teng-hui (李登輝) — a supporter of nuclear energy — yesterday said he was saddened by Lin’s protest, urging the Ma administration to “listen to the public” and work on new nuclear technology to erase people’s doubts about the project’s safety.

The Chilin Foundation, founded by Lin, and the Taiwan Rangers have organized events near the church every night starting yesterday as vigils for him. Similar activities are also planned in Taoyuan, Greater Taichung, Chiayi, Greater Tainan and Greater Kaohsiung.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2014/04/23](#)