

KENYA INCIDENT: Su calls for action over seizure of Taiwan nationals

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Members of the Democratic Progressive Party legislative caucus hold a press conference in Taipei yesterday, calling on China to return the Taiwanese nationals sent there from Kenya.

Photo: Chen Chih-chu, Taipei Times

Legislative Speaker Su Jia-chyuan (蘇嘉全) yesterday said that he was infuriated by the Chinese “abduction” of Taiwanese nationals, calling on the nation and the public to “take action” to demand an unconditional release and return of the seized Taiwanese to Taiwan.

Su said China’s illegal behavior was deplorable, and that Beijing’s justification that it was based on the idea that Taiwan is part of China is unacceptable.

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Legislator Su Chih-fen (蘇智芬) asked whether the Kenya imbroglio was the “fruit of Minister of Justice Luo Ying-shay’s (羅英祥) recent visit to China.”

Su Chih-fen said the incident has proved that the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and President Ma Ying-jeou’s (馬英九) diplomatic policy has been based on a dead-end policy of “kneeling” to China.

She said that Luo had just come back from China, where the minister, according to the ministry, trumpeted the effect and the outlook of the Cross-Strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement (海峽交流兩岸犯罪防治及司法互助協議).

“Is China’s flagrant arrest of [our nationals] and returning them to Taiwan later under the table, or the internalizing of international affairs, what Luo’s visit to China delivered?” the lawmaker

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asked.

DPP Legislator Lo Chih-cheng (洛智成) said China has “expanded its jurisdiction beyond all bounds,” putting all Taiwanese abroad at risk.

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Johnny Chiang (江丙坤) said that China’s action has destroyed the “tacit judicial agreement” between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, and that if China could force Taiwanese nationals abroad to be deported to its land, it could one day indict Taiwanese nationals abroad and have them forcibly sent to China.

“If every country follows what Kenya has done, the Chinese government could arrest Taiwanese nationals and send them to China for trial through its diplomatic allies,” former DPP legislator Tsai Huang-liang (蔡煌良) said on Facebook yesterday.

“Beijing could use this tactic to fabricate accusations and then have those who fail to conform to Beijing’s political standards deported to China. This would have a chilling effect and seriously damage Taiwan’s sovereignty, human rights and democracy,” he said, calling on all Taiwanese to “get angry” and “protest to China and raise the country’s voice in the international community.”

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