

# About the Exhibition

Taiwan broke away from colonial rule by the Japanese after WWII. However, Taiwanese people's hopes for a new future were let down by the Taiwan Provincial Administrative Executive Office and their monopolization of resources, corruption, dereliction of duty and poor military discipline. All this, combined with soaring prices and a growing shortage of food, led to an outbreak of serious conflict on February 28 that resulted in military oppression across Taiwan and caused more than 10,000 deaths. This national trauma made survivors fearful of politics, to which they henceforth turned a blind eye, and had a significant impact on Taiwan's social development.

During the period of the White Terror, all discussions of the February 28 Incident was prohibited, and its history was left unstudied and undiscussed. This lasted until the late 1980s, after several democratization movements. With the declassification of historical documents and a collection of oral histories, we were able to find a group of people who were committed to doing the right thing: who stood up, despite their comparatively small strength, and were willing to risk their lives in order to go against the government.

This exhibition is displayed at one of the city's historical sites – the Former Old Tainan Prefecture Council. The meeting of the Taiwanese Settlement Committee for 228 Incident was held at this venue, and it is an iconic site for democracy and human rights.

Scan the QR code at each exhibition gallery with your mobile phone to explore more public archives and historical materials, watch videos, listen to podcasts, and more. You are also invited to visit the spots where these events took place and share your thoughts on the exhibition with others. Through the participation of each individual exercising a small amount of power, the authoritarian rule of the past will not repeat itself, and freedom and democracy can continue to exist in Taiwan.

# Travel information



## Tainan 228 Memorial Museum Former Old Tainan Prefecture Council

[ No. 3, Thng Tik-tsiung Boulevard,  
West Central District, Tainan City ]

**Opening Hours:** 8:30-20:30 (Tue. to Sat.) 8:30-17:30 (Sun.)  
Closed on national holidays, Mondays, and the last Friday of each month (cleaning days).

**Admission:** Free

### [ Public transport ]

From Tainan Railway Station:  
Take the No. 7 City Bus and alight at Minsheng Green Park. Walk towards Jhongyi Road for about 5 minutes.

### [ By car ]

National Highway No. 1 → Tainan Interchange (327K) → Dongmen Road → Fuqian Road → Nanmen Road → Thng Tik-tsiung Boulevard → The Museum



# 正義與勇氣 Permanent Exhibition : Justice & Courage

臺南市政府文化局  
Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tainan City Government

國家人權博物館  
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM



# Gallery Introduction

The arrangement of this exhibition is based on modern Tainan City. Galleries on the first and second floors exhibit the changes that occurred in Tainan after the 228 Incident and the post-World War II struggle for democracy and human rights.

The theme on the first floor is 'A Commitment to Doing the Right Thing'. 'The Crucial 13 Days' explores macro changes of the February 28 Incident along the axis of time, while 'Reactions and Decisions' and 'Stories of Our Predecessors' examine the incident from the perspectives of various individuals and their respective fields, as well as the choices and strength of character arrived at through a faith in justice.

The theme on the second floor, 'Freedom Comes with a Price,' displays events associated with the fight for democracy, freedom and human rights in Tainan. In order to pursue freedom, resist totalitarian rule and promote the democratic rule of law, we must not lose the courage to stand on the side of truth and justice.

## A March Flood

Poet Ngô Sin-îng wrote Who Does Expect a March Flood while he was on the run and living with his friend.

## The Crucial 13 Days

In 1947, a serious conflict between the Taiwanese people and the Kuomintang-led nationalist government broke out. This would later come to be known as the February 28 Incident. Out of all the counties in Taiwan, Tainan suffered the fewest casualties. What happened in Tainan from February 28 to March 13? How did the Tainan County government and city government respond? What were the actions of the county council and the city council?

## Reactions & Decisions

After the massacre took place, certain trains stopped operating. Telecommunications were cut off. Chinese officials, soldiers and police went into hiding, and looting was widespread. Amidst the chaos, some people initiated an effort to protect their towns and factories, while some chose to join the fight and defend their homes. Here, we look at four different areas of society to see how people responded to the incident.

## Stories of Our Predecessors

This part of the exhibition revisits the stories of our predecessors, forcing us to put ourselves in their shoes and contemplate the choices they were forced to make in the face of death threats and authoritarian oppression. Let our predecessors' convictions lead us forward on the road of freedom and democracy.

## Persistence & Courage

Our predecessors have left us, but their courageous words and brave spirits continue to reverberate in the present moment, deeply affecting the development of Taiwan's democracy.

## Blacklisted

As the February 28 Incident went through the process of political rehabilitation, more historical documents are being discovered, and witnesses are coming out. These new developments allow us to see the stories behind earlier historical resources. Do you have the courage, like our predecessors, to stand up for freedom and democracy?

## Precious Freedom

This section has three parts based on the themes of 'Freedom of Speech', 'Freedom of Political Participation', and 'Personal Liberty and the Due Process of Law'. These themes highlight the denial of freedom and human rights in Taiwan's past, and how the people fought the system during the time of martial law to achieve the freedom we have today. This section also reminds us of the importance of building a democracy governed by the rule of law.

## A Mirror of the Past

This section is presented artistically. As visitors stand in front of the mirrors, they see the reflection of a free person looking back at them – a freedom that can be enjoyed thanks to the people who fought for it in the past. The struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights connects the people of the past and the present through these mirrors, which piece together the image of a free person – the person looking into them.

## Transitional Justice

Transitional justice refers to the restorative work necessary for a country that ends its authoritarian regime and is in the process of transitioning to democracy when facing past human rights violations and collective trauma. Transitional justice is not merely the job of the incumbent government – it requires the public's understanding, attention, and participation, so that the whole of society can fully reflect on its past and continue to deepen and implement Taiwan's democratic values.

## Human Rights Walk

We invite visitors to personally walk to the historical sites where the events of the February 28 Incident took place, using the Tainan City Human Rights Memorial Sites podcast as an audio guide. Visit places such as Ông lòk-tek Memorial Museum, Thng Tek-chiong Memorial Park, and more.

## Stories Left Behind

What were the unfinished stories behind each written judgment? He Chuan, who knew that he could not escape death and wrote his final poem; Ting Yao-tiao, who left her belongings to an old friend; and many others who survived and made their stories known. We invite you to come and learn about the stories they left behind.

## Voices for Freedom

We invite you to stand on the stage and imagine yourself bravely delivering a speech on freedom, democracy, and human rights in front of the masses. We encourage you to take a picture on-stage with the mirror in the background. Hopefully, the picture will serve as a reminder that all of us are capable of showing courage and conviction, no matter what we are going through.

