



The original "Goddess of Democracy" statue, built by students at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, has become the most potent symbol of the hopes of the students who gathered on Tiananmen Square. MIKE CLARKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Democracy arrested

DEMOCRACY CONTINUED FROM P1
Lee Cheuk-yan, a pro-democracy legislator, was amongst those arrested. "This is an escalation in political persecution. They can't even tolerate a Goddess of Democracy statue. What kind of government is this? What kind of Hong Kong is this?" Mr. Lee said.

The Pillar of Shame remembers those students killed in the Tiananmen Square Massacre. The confiscations and arrests on Saturday and Sunday were part of a struggle over whether the public memorialization of the violent suppression of students in Beijing will be allowed in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is the only place in China where commemoration of the June 4 massacre has been allowed. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) had a democratic system under British colonial jurisdiction until 1997. Although Hong Kong was handed back to Chinese governance that year, it is supposed to operate under the "one-country, two-systems" policy, preserving the civil liberties of those in Hong Kong.

Inside China, with the exception of Hong Kong, news of the massacre has been suppressed to the point that many of the younger generation have never heard of it. The annual Hong Kong June 4 demonstrations have worked to keep the memory of what was done that day alive.

The display of the statue and the pillar was shut down by Hong Kong authorities on the grounds that organizers had not obtained permits required by the Public Entertainment Ordinance to hold an entertainment event.

James To, a Hong Kong Legislative councilman, says the event was clearly a political protest and not an entertainment event.

"In fact, there is no legal basis for the police to [seize the statues]. It is clear from the past that these exhibitions do not need to apply for a licence under the Public Entertainment Ordinance."

One of the organizers, Richard Tsoi from the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China (the Alliance), says that "there is an increasing level of political censorship of the commemoration of the June 4 [killings]."

Nevertheless, Mr. Tsoi says this would not deter his group. "The Alliance will never compromise. We will have the candlelight vigil at Victoria Park on time at 8 p.m. on June 4."

Mr. Tsoi believes that the police intervention appeared to be on direct orders from officials in Beijing.

Albert Ho, secretary of the Alliance, said, "Evidently the action was designed to suppress the march and public rally to commemorate the June 4 killings."

The Goddess of Democracy statue, built by students at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, has become the most potent symbol of the hopes of the students who gathered on Tiananmen Square.

One of the students who created the statue is reported to have said at its unveiling: "At this grim moment, what we need most is to remain calm and united in a single purpose. We need a powerful cementing force to strengthen our resolve: That is the Goddess of Democracy. Democracy... you are the symbol of every student in the square, of the hearts of millions of people. ... [It is] the symbol of the people's hearts, she is divine and inviolate."

The student reportedly continued, "On the day when real democracy and freedom come to China, we must erect another Goddess of Democracy here in the square, monumental, towering, and permanent. We have strong faith that that day will come at last. We have still another hope: Chinese people—arise! Erect the statue of the Goddess of Democracy in your millions of hearts! Long live the people! Long live freedom! Long live democracy."

The Hong Kong version of the Goddess of Democracy is now being displayed in Victoria Park, a less prominent location than Times Square.

The release of the statue on June 1, and its exhibition in Victoria Park, appear to be concessions by the police. In 2009, the Goddess of Democracy was displayed in Times Square for three days without requiring a special licence.

Mr. Lee has vowed to seek legal action.

"We will study judicial review regarding the unreasonable arrests by the police and their use of unreasonable law, and pursue [justice] to the end, to clear the name of activists," he said.

A similar case took place in Hong Kong in 2003. Falun Gong practitioners filed a suit after they were accused of obstructing a public area. The case was ultimately dismissed by the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong, which ruled that the police allegations were unfounded and illegal.

Reporting by Cheryl Ng

Japan PM resigns, U.S. military base stays

By KRISTINA SKORBACH
Epoch Times Staff

Succumbing to pressure from his own Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama resigned on Wednesday, unable to keep his election promise to remove a U.S. base from Okinawa.

'The public has gradually refused to hear me. It's a shame and I'm solely to blame for it'

— Yukio Hatoyama

"The public has gradually refused to hear me. It's a shame and I'm solely to blame for it," Hatoyama said at a general assembly of DPJ lawmakers, according to Kyodo News.

The lawmakers say that since Hatoyama's election eight



Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama leaves his official residence after speaking to the media on Tuesday in Tokyo. Hatoyama announced he will step down as Japan's prime minister, just nine months after his election win. KIYOSHI OTA/GETTY IMAGES

months ago, the party has suffered poor leadership and feel that they will not be able to compete confidently with other parties in upper house elections.

The party will pick Hatoyama's successor this Friday. The Cabinet will re-form on Monday and then make a decision concerning the U.S. military base.

During his election campaign nine months ago, Hatoyama had

pledged to remove the unpopular U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station from the Okinawa prefecture. This would have cancelled a 2006 agreement with the United States to move the base to a less populated island in the prefecture, while still preserving a U.S. military presence on Japanese territory.

The stance did not play well with the U.S. and Hatoyama

mayors.

Over the years, locals have complained of noise, pollution, and conflicts with U.S. soldiers, including the alleged rape of a schoolgirl and a young woman.

Hatoyama was Japan's fourth prime minister in as many years. The Japanese yen and Japanese stocks fell in response to the political crisis, reported Bloomberg.

tried in vain to find a viable alternative location for the base. Last week he admitted failure and announced that he would not be able to keep his election promise.

Futenma is the largest U.S. base in the Asia-Pacific, housing more than half of the 47,000 American troops stationed in Japan.

Okinawa is strongly opposed hosting any American military installation. On April 25, over 90,000 residents staged a rally to send that message to Hatoyama. Okinawa governor Hirokazu Nakaima joined the rally, as did over 30 local

Exclusive interview with Pakistan PM: 'We have mobilized the entire nation to fight terrorism'

TERRORISM CONTINUED FROM P1

ET: What strategies does your government's leadership have, and how far are these successful?

Gilani: The Afghan situation rose from flawed U.S. politics during the 1990s. Afghanistan was left to its own devices without considering the consequences after the Russian occupiers left. Our strategy also shows success. We have mobilized all of Pakistan to fight terrorism. Certain political forces were sympathetic to the Taliban and fundamentalists, but now 95 percent of the population stands behind our army and us.

Our media was immensely helpful in advising our population that terrorism is the greatest danger to our nation. We want stability in neighbouring Afghanistan and want the refugees to return. Large numbers of our soldiers gave their lives, and the army fought great battles in Malakand and Swat. The 2.5 million citizens that were evacuated during these operations returned home within three months.

But even successful military operations are not permanent solutions. People in the affected areas need better living conditions that only political, social, and economic reforms can accomplish, coupled with creation of a modern infrastructure. That is why Pakistan hopes for assistance from the rest of the world and for the West to make good on its promises.

Only through reconstruction can one win the hearts of the people. War becomes unnecessary when people affected can hope for a better life through education, a viable health care system, and autonomy. People have to expect economic progress. We do our best against terrorism, but the world must understand our limited abilities and provide more support.

We have begun reforms concerning technical education, health insurance, and to fight poverty. Furthermore, we are providing aid for energy consumption and give financial support to needy citizens under the "Benazir Bhutto Income Support Program." We could work miracles if the rest of the world would provide additional support. We made a commitment to root out terrorism and will do so should the rest of the world realize their responsibility in this matter.

ET: How safe are Pakistan's atomic weapons?

Gilani: You can rest absolutely assured—our weaponry is supervised by a command and control organization under my command. President Obama confirmed the absolute safety of Pakistan's atomic weaponry during the recent Washington, D.C., Atomic Energy Summit Meeting. We are aware of our responsibility as befits a nation holding nuclear weapons and wish to contribute to the security of our own and the rest of the world's territories, and want to contribute to stability in these areas, particularly in Afghanistan.

ET: Where are you in your efforts to clear up the Benazir Bhutto murder? Any leads in your investigation

pertaining to the criminals?

Gilani: We invited a U.N. commission to look into the murder of our former Party Chairwoman Benazir Bhutto, which was approved without a dissenting voice by our Parliament. We did this as part of her legacy. She had demanded a U.N. investigation

following the first assassination attempt in Karachi on her return from exile. The government continued the investigation and wants to bring the criminals to justice. The loss of Benazir Bhutto is not merely a loss for Pakistan. She was a politician of international standing, and her death

is a global loss.

Shams Ul Haq is a freelance journalist who writes for Asian and German-language newspapers. He was born in Pakistan and is an expert on international terrorism and international migration. He makes his home in Asia and Europe.

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