

TAIWAN CARE CENTER

1. Background

Due to special political situation, during the past forty years, there are countless people who have been arrested because of different political opinions, or unknown reasons, imprisoned with or without trial for 5,10,20, or 30 years. Some have died in prison.

Those persons and their families have been neglected, lonely, helpless, and hopeless under miserable conditions for long periods of time, and few people dare to give any support.

In 1979, the Kaohsiung incident occurred. 51 people sentenced to a total of more than 200 years in prison. This caused such a shock and enabled the Taiwanese people to think about matters of social justice and to be concerned about problems of human rights.

The next year the government permitted elections for additional seats in the National Assembly, legislative yuan, and control yuan. At this time, every candidate from family members or defense lawyers of Kaohsiung incidents prisoners was elected to office in these bodies with a strong show of support. It shows obviously that the expansion for social justice and commitment of people seeking for democracy and human rights.

In 1981, Yao, Chou Ching-yu, the wife of Yao Chia-wen who is the famous human right lawyer, but he got twelve years sentences because of the Kaohsiung incident. She set up the Taiwan Care Center immediately after being elected to the National Assembly.

Aided by many friends who are concerned about human rights, she started the project, surveyed many of the major human rights cases, and visited political prisoners, through social work method to bring warmth and dignity back to those suffering people. In addition to further spread the concept of human rights and expand the content of care work, gather resources and publish the first Journal for human rights "Care Magazine" by then the Taiwan Care Center has taken on a special mission to promote human rights.

2. General Purpose

To care for people within society who are distressed and are victims of injustice.

To protect human rights.

To increase welfare services.

To provide services.

3. Objectives

- (1) To gather resources to promote the protection of human rights and prevent those conditions which violate human rights.
- (2) To study social problems and seek solutions alleviate harmful social conditions.

4. The Recipients of Service

- (1) Those who have been deprived of human rights.
- (2) Victims of services incidents.
- (3) Others who need special care.

5. The programs

(1) Prisoners of Conscience

(a) Still in prison

- Visitation
- Write letters and cards
- Send gifts, books
- Monthly allowance
- Transfer gifts from other people
- Assist in medical care
- Family visits
- Aid for tuition of children
- Emergency support

(b) For those who have been released

(Former prisoner of conscience)

- Welcome home monetary gift
- Warm welcome party
- Physical examination
- Short term rehabilitation
- Emergency financial assistance

(c) Gathering, studying, filing the material
Concerning each case

(d) In case of emergency, disseminate information,
giving immediate assistance.

(2) Victims of serious incidents

- Call a symposium (discussion meeting)
- Report the incident, assist in appeal to the authorities, through mass media, call for widespread concern and help,
- Consult with the responsible unit of government and the employers to find a just solution to the problem.

An Invitation to Participate in Work of the Taiwan Care Center

1. Regular friend of Care

Those who contribute more than 500 NT per year for the expenses of Care Center

2. Special supporting friend

Those who contribute more than 1,000 NT each year for the expenses of Care Center

3. Honorary Membership

Those who contribute 10,000 NT each year for the expenses of Care Center

4. Special "Care" person

Those who regularly contribute 500 per month to support prisoners of conscience for their monthly allowance, or for family aid.

5. Volunteer

Those who approve of the objectives of Taiwan Care Center and are willing to participate in training courses.

Those who volunteer more than 3 hours per week for the work of Care Movement

The above will receive a membership card, Care Magazine, the Care insignia, the right to participate in all Care activities

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