



Shared Memories, Democratic Resilience: Taiwan's Whole-of-Government Approach to Transitional Justice

Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice

Executive Yuan, Taiwan

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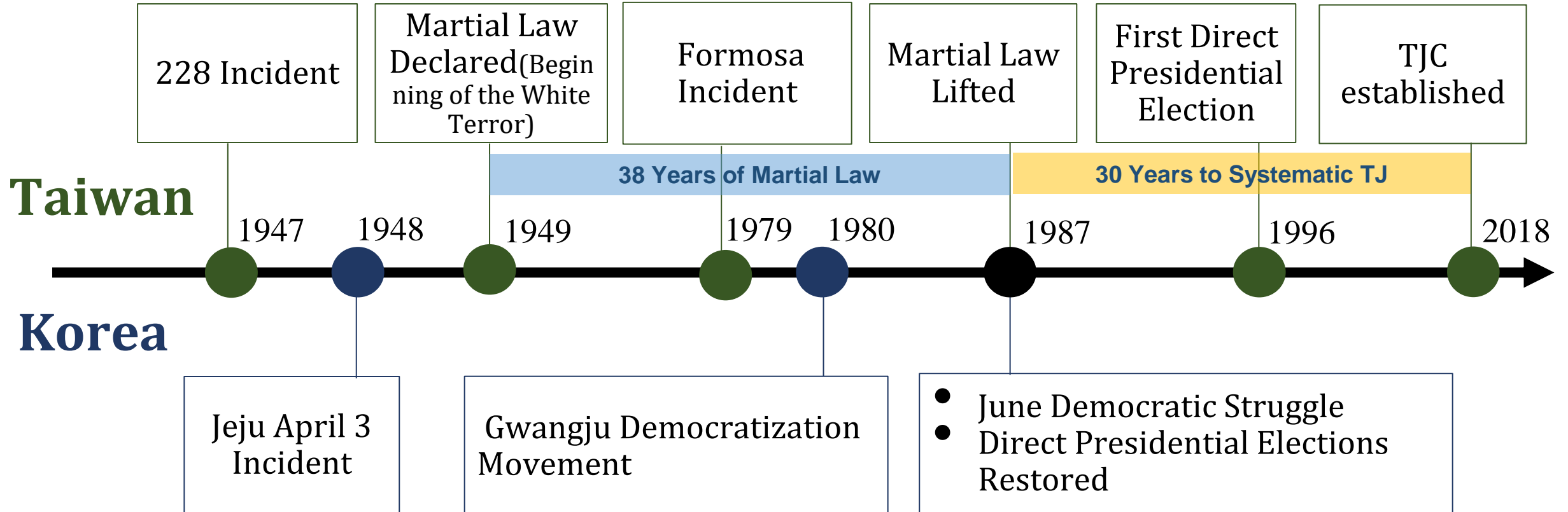
International Perspectives on Transitional Justice

“Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace”

-2023 UN Guidance Note of the Secretary-General



Timeline



First Pillar: From Temporary Commission to Permanent Governance

2018-2022

Transitional Justice Commission (TJC)

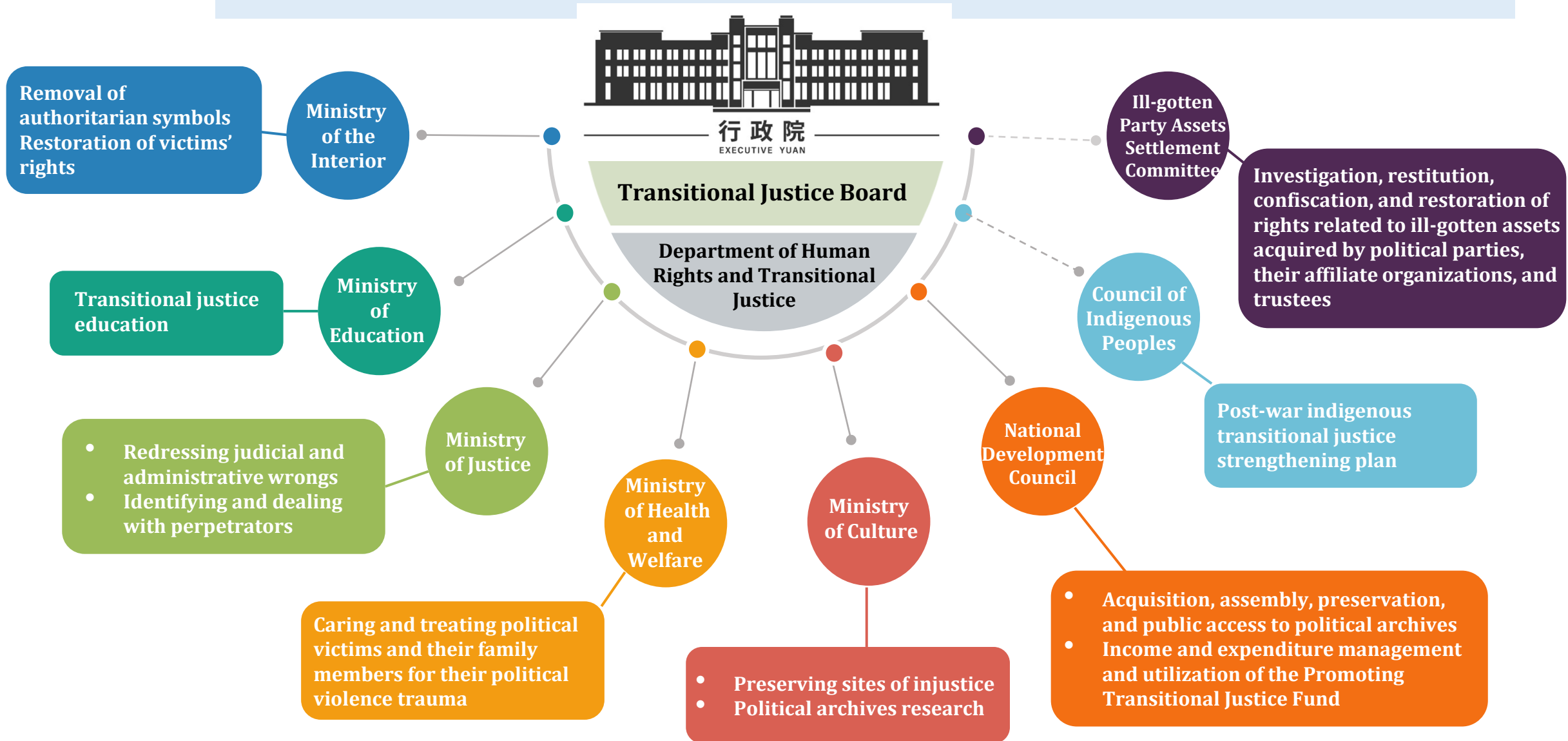
- Independent, transitional & ad-hoc body
- Single-agency mandate
- Dissolved upon completion of its mandate

2022

Whole-of-Government Transitional Justice Board, Executive Yuan

- Permanent, Premier-led administrative mechanism
- Whole-of-Government & cross-ministry collaboration
- Institutionalized and ongoing

Whole-of-Government Approach to Transitional Justice



Second Pillar: Public-Private Partnership



Participatory Governance

- Scholars, victims, experts, and civil society representatives directly participate in transitional justice governance.
- ex. The Transitional Justice Board includes over half of its members from civil society, ensuring diverse voices are represented.



Collaborative Service Delivery

- Partners with civil society organizations to provide care and healing for those affected by political violence.
- 7 Outreach Service Centers for Political Victims and Their Families



Civic action and Funding

- Transforms recovered ill-gotten assets into funding for civic transitional justice initiatives
- Invites civic-led proposals through public-private partnership platforms.

Restoring Dignity and Healing Trauma

- **Redressing state misconduct**

Annulment of wrongful convictions, restoration of rights, reputation, and honorary graduation certificates.

- **Trauma Healing and Social Trust Rebuilding**

Long-term care, psychological support, and community-based services to rebuild social connections and trust.



2025 Joint Ceremony for Redressing State Misconduct



Political victim was presented with honorary graduation certificates by the Ministry of Education and University



Staff members hiked six hours to a remote Indigenous village to deliver a certificate of rights restoration.



Support Service Centers for Political Victims and Their Families

Preserving Memory and Historical Truth

- **Political archives and historical research**
 - Expanding acquisition, declassification, and public access to political archives.
 - Supporting historical research and truth recovery.
- **Transitional justice education and public engagement**
 - National Action Program for Transitional Justice Education.
 - Outreach to schools, public servants, professionals, and the general public.
- **Preserving and Activating Sites of Memory**
 - Transforming former sites of repression into spaces for education, dialogue, and public engagement through heritage walks and other place-based initiatives.



Exhibitions and Public Engagement Activities

Site of injustice signage in Executive Yuan



↑ Mooh Piah Kuí: A traditional Taiwanese opera based on a true story from White Terror era.
 Source: official promotional poster of Tang Mei Yun Taiwanese Opera Company.

↓ Podcast: Understanding Justice: Why We Need Human Rights and Transitional Justice



→ A Foggy Tale: A popular film set in 1950s Taiwan, depicting experiences under the White Terror regime.
 Source: official promotional poster.



←Memo for Public Servants of the Democratic Generation: A Transitional Justice Education Handbook

→ Little Green Born in a Cage: A picture book that uses the metaphor of a cage to explore freedom, authoritarian rule, and transitional justice.



↓ Transitional Justice Board Game: An immersive game that fosters empathy for political prisoners and reflection on historical injustice.



Building Democratic Resilience Through Transitional Justice

Standing Together

Safeguarding Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights