

## From 228 Incident to White Terror —A Case Study of Ma-dow Lee

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### ABSTRACT

Appointed as Governor of Taiwan in 1949, Cheng Chen began his high-handed governing policy with the aim to stabilize the country. Anyone under suspicion of spying and harboring subversive thoughts were arrested or taken into custody. As a result, cases of insurrection and rebellion abound in the 1950s and 1960s. In particular, those involved in the 228 Incident became the main targets for arrest. From the 228 Incident to the subsequent White Terror, the history of Taiwan entered a dark age marked with oppression, persecution and injustice.

Ma-dow Lee, a native from Tainan, had been very involved in farmers' unions and cultural associations ever since the Japanese colonial days. After World War II, he became an active member of the Communist Party and attempted to stage armed rebellion against the Nationalist government during the period of the 228 Incident. After the failure of his insurrection, he continued to organize people from all walks of life including intellectuals and civil servants to form dissident groups. He was ranked top on the most wanted list of the intelligence agency. He was arrested in February 1952 and executed in July the following year. His death marked the dissolution of underground organizations and a severe setback to the Communists in Taiwan.

**Keywords:** 228 Incident, white terror, Ma-dow Lee