

# UN-ALIGNED

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Free of Charge

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EXCLUSIVE

TAIWAN AND ITS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE



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OUT INTENTIONALLY



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## LAST MONTH IN UN- ALIGNED

By Ariana Yekrangi

While the global political scene is beginning to look more and more like a Theatre of the Absurd, UN-aligned has become an alternative platform for many to turn to. This is not surprising; long lasting peace and prosperity can only be achieved with the kind of values and principles that UN-aligned advocates.

Last month, UN-aligned continued to grow, develop and change according to the needs of its members: we now have an exciting design for the user's dashboard interface, a brand new logo and, finally, we are starting the creation of our own UN-aligned App.

### The new dashboard UI

We believe that our members are part of the initial dream that will be taking UN-aligned forward into the world arena, therefore it is incumbent upon us to create an attractive platform for you, our members, to interact with.

The new user interface (UI) features a set of new pages such as a Language Course, a Virtual Library, an Opportunity page and much more, all of which are, of course, completely free to use.

Get the most out of your UN-aligned membership. If you haven't seen the new dashboard yet, we strongly recommend you do so by visiting: [un-aligned.org/dashboard](http://un-aligned.org/dashboard)

### Our new logo

We have been incredibly impressed by Amaya's new design and we absolutely love it.

The logo has quite an ease to it; the motion and energy that it has implies trust and a strong will, which sums up what UN-aligned is really about. A big thank you to Amaya Liberto for putting her time and soul into her contribution.

## Adopting a cause...

We are looking for collaborators on a new book about the United Nations. The book will focus on the weaknesses that severely limit the potential of the United Nations. It will also offer a viable alternative. You can read the full analysis of the book on our website. The intention is for the book to be initially published as an e-book by Amazon, with further options to be considered at a later stage. Royalties will go towards the funding of UN-aligned activities, the accounting of which will be completely transparent.

The work on the book has already begun and we are delighted that two members have already volunteered to help with the project (proofreading and research). Of course, additional support would be most welcome! If you are interested, please contact us via our website or write to us at: [contact@un-aligned.org](mailto:contact@un-aligned.org)



### The new APP

Our developer team is working hard on the first sketches for a fresh looking App that will make interacting with UN-aligned easier than ever.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for the app, please don't hesitate to contact us at: [contact@un-aligned.org](mailto:contact@un-aligned.org)

### YOU COULD HELP IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, SUCH AS:

Writing one or more chapters

Supporting us with research

Proofreading

Cover design

Marketing

Translating

Assisting with publication

Visit:  
[www.un-aligned.org/press/](http://www.un-aligned.org/press/)  
for more information



# TAIWAN AND ITS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

By Adriano Liberto

In our first issue, we introduced the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation and began to highlight the plight of some of its members, starting with the Ogoni people. In this issue we will focus on Taiwan.

## Taiwan's geological ties to China

Taiwan was once part of mainland China... literally. It separated at the last ice age about 10,000 years ago, just as Great Britain had from continental Europe at about the same time. Blood is stronger than water, they say (rock in this case) and the ties just don't want to go away! Whilst the UK's reasons to distance itself from the mainland are nebulous, Taiwan's are not, and we only need to consider what is happening in Hong Kong to get the picture.

## Taiwan's historic ties to China

Until the fifteenth century, Taiwan contained populations of indigenous chiefdoms. The natives were occupied with simple pursuits, such as fishing and headhunting (well, maybe not that simple!). Portuguese explorers referred to it as Ilha Formosa (Beautiful Island) and the name Formosa persisted in the west right up to the 20th century. By the time the Dutch arrived in the seventeenth century, there were only a few Chinese outposts. The Dutch lasted less than 40 years as they

were ousted by Koxinga, in 1662. He was a Ming "loyalist" fleeing from the newly founded Qing Dynasty (sounds familiar?). In 1683 the Qing invaded the island and put it decisively under Chinese control.

After the loss of the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895, however, the Chinese formally surrendered Taiwan to Japan. The situation only changed after World War II. The surrender did not formally cede the island to China. Nevertheless, the fact that the USA went out of its way to ferry representatives from there for the formal surrender suggests that that was the consensus.

## The UN betrays the Republic of China

Complications started in 1949 with the civil war in China. The Republic of China (ROC), the legitimate government, was being swept away by the communist forces of Mao Zedong. The Chinese government under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek was being ousted from one stronghold to another. The situation was going from bad to worse, so the legitimate government of China (ROC) fled to Taiwan, taking many of China's treasures with them. This left Mao in control of most of mainland China and shortly after, the whole of the mainland, including Tibet. So, mainland China became the People's Republic of China (PRC), while Taiwan was all that remained of the Republic of China. Both claimed sovereignty over the other and of course the UN recognised the ROC, which was the legitimate government.

Then, almost out of the blue, the UN passes Resolution 2758:

### **2758 (XXVI). Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations**

*The General Assembly,  
Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Considering that the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China is essential both for the protection of the Charter of the United Nations and for the cause that the United Nations must serve under the Charter,*

*Recognizing that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council,*

*Decides to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it.*

*1976th plenary meeting,  
25 October 1971.*



### Ouch!

True, Chiang Kai-shek was no sweetie. He was a ruthless tyrant who was responsible for the White Terror that cost the lives of thousands of people. Mao's policies, however, resulted in many more deaths; millions, in fact. Resolution 2758 left Taiwan in Limbo.

It is a country that is not a country. It is unrepresented and excluded from international politics to this day.

## Things need not be so bad

Taiwan could be enriched by a union with China, but it would have to be one that could guarantee a certain level of autonomy. The problem is that Xi's China is not that sort of a place. The erosion of liberties that we are witnessing in Hong Kong and the "Autonomous Region" of Xinjiang are also occurring in other parts of China.

Despite having been seeped in authoritarianism, Deng Xiaoping, who was China's leader until 1989, had started the momentum for a freer and more open society. Since then China has flourished.

Sadly, Xi seems bent on dragging it back from some of its newfound liberties. It is not the system that is letting China down, it is its leader. Xi's stance on Taiwan is also intransigent; and aggressive.

He threatens to use force if Taiwan tries to officially distance itself from the PRC and punishes any mention of it as a separate country. Beijing has also been bullying or bribing the few nations that still recognise Taiwan to abandon it. Some have. Currently only 16 UN countries and the Holy See, recognise Taiwan.



LEE TENG-HUI BECAME THE FIRST TAIWAN-BORN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Taiwan has been stepping back from its claim to the sovereignty of mainland China. However, it is in a difficult position. The PRC never had jurisdiction over Taiwan, but if Taiwan formally renounces its claim to the whole of China, things may change quickly. Taiwan, as the continuation of the ROC, has a certain foundation in history.

Take that away and where does it stand? It would be as good as declaring full independence from China as a new nation, or admitting to being subject to the rule of the PRC.

Either scenario would give China a pretext to invade Taiwan. So, ironically, Taiwan's claim to sovereignty over the whole of China, (the PRC as well as the ROC) is less provocative to China (PRC) than it agreeing to forego that claim. This is a ridiculous situation that perpetuates the status quo.



## The way forward

The only way forward, then, is for two enlightened leaders to sit together and find a mutually beneficial solution. This, of course cannot happen until the PRC changes its imperialistic attitude and need to dominate. A fairer and more impartial UN could also help by acknowledging the absurdity of the situation and trying to do something about it. This too is unlikely while nations fear to incur the wrath of China. The more time passes, however, the more the “countries” will drift apart. The government in Beijing could have more to lose in such a scenario, but only if it cares about what the people of Taiwan want. So far, that does not appear to be the case.



## “TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP DECIDING WHAT TO HAVE FOR DINNER” IS NOT REAL DEMOCRACY.

TAIWAN GAVE THE WORLD A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY

last May when same-sex marriage was legalised in the country. This, despite a referendum held last November, in which 72% of the population had voted against allowing same-sex marriage.

Two years earlier, Taiwan's supreme court had ruled that limiting the definition of marriage to couples of the opposite sex was unconstitutional and the government was given two years to change the law.

The referendum was triggered by religious and traditionalist groups who hoped to undermine the ruling by showing that it was unpopular. Following the reform of the Referendum Act in December 2017, questions could be put to a public ballot, as long as long as this was petitioned by 1.5% of the electorate. This is a consultative process, not a legally binding one. The government of Tsai Ing-wen did not give in to the pressure and legislators backed the

Government Bill, putting justice before numbers. This is real democracy.

### **Might is not right and nor are numbers**

Numbers cannot change something that is wrong into something that is right.

Prejudice against the LGBTQ is rampant around the world. In fact, homosexuality is still illegal in 72 countries, that is over a third of the nations of the world. In some it is punishable by death. The prevalence of prejudice does not make it right. Quite the contrary, it makes it even more vicious.

The same applies to all breaches of human rights; and there are many. Those that hide behind religion or tradition are particularly pernicious.

Taiwan itself is a whole nation whose rights have been abused by large numbers: most of the international community, in fact.



# We need our trees...

*By Adrian Liberto*

## The value of trees

The importance of forests cannot be overstated. They provide essential habitats for land-based species: 80% of them, in fact. People also depend on forests for jobs. According to the WWF, over 54 million jobs are directly or indirectly dependent on the forests sector. For some people, the forest is intricately linked to their way of life. Even more importantly, trees are essential for a healthy biosphere. They are instrumental in purifying the air and fresh water, as well as preventing flooding, landslides and land degradation. And then, of course, there is climate change, to which deforestation contributes considerably.

## Deforestation

Despite this vital role forests play, about half of the world's forests have already been cleared and they are disappearing by the minute: the equivalent of 27 football fields a minute, in fact! Agriculture, much of it for cattle farming, is the chief cause, with subsistence and commercial farming accounting for up to 80% of the problem.

### Every little helps

When I lived in the north of France, a couple of decades ago, I had planted a small forest in the grounds of my house. I revisited the site via satellite images recently only to find that only a few trees were left. I guess a few trees are better than none.

The important thing is that we all contribute those few trees in any way we can. Here is one idea that can help, submitted by **Rebecca Ridolf**.





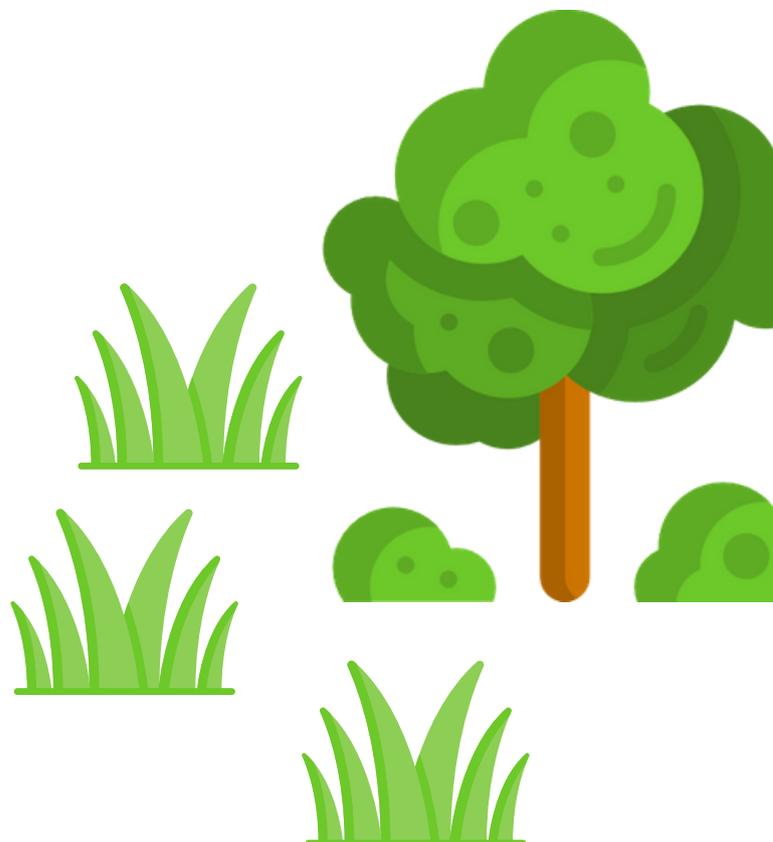
## **Ecosia – "Plant trees while you search the web. We use the profit we make from your searches"**

Rebecca Ridolf writes:

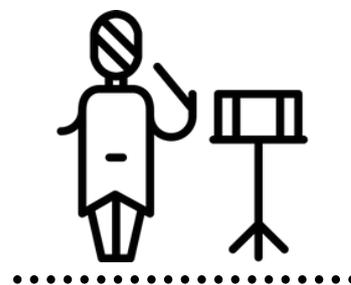
To plant trees where they are needed most. Get the free browser extension and plant trees with every search.

I use Ecosia and find that 99% of the time, what I'm looking for is on the first page of results. It's every bit as effective as Google but so much more benevolent. It takes 2 clicks to install (download, allow) and then 3 more clicks to set it as your default search engine (settings, search engines, set default). Easy, free, more & more trees.

**More info on: [www.ecosia.org](http://www.ecosia.org)**



# IL VELO E IL BASTONE - AN OPERA BY ARIANA YEKRANGI



*Article by Jonna Lappalainen*

A daughter on the verge of a forced relationship with the Hijab and her mother's resistance to the start of this misery – an opera? Hardly what one would expect as the theme for one. Yet, this familiar uneasiness amongst many women and girls in Iran provides just that.

*Il Velo e il bastone*, *The Veil and the Stick*, is a new opera by **Ariana Yekrangi**, with a libretto by Adriano Liberto. It echoes the voices of the Girls of Enghelab Street, a series of protests against the compulsory use of the hijab in Iran. These protests were inspired by Vida Movahed in December 2017. She had tied her white headscarf to a stick and started waving it around like a flag while standing on a crate in a crowded Revolution Street in Tehran.

The future of women's rights in Iran and the Middle East looks bright and promising and this opera is indeed the first of its kind to reflect upon such a movement with this art form. The opera, which is only just over fifteen minutes long, is written for a 14-member chamber orchestra.



ARIANA YEKRANGI WORKING ON HIS OPERA IN HIS HOUSE IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

As a European woman who rarely thinks about the rights that I have taken for granted, I am waiting with great anticipation for this project. More information and details about the premier of this opera will be published by UN-aligned in late 2019.

# FANCY A SHORT QUIZ?

A COPY TO THE ANSWERS OF THIS QUIZ  
ARE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE  
MAGAZINE.

*For suggestions and feedback please write to us  
at [contact@un-aligned.org](mailto:contact@un-aligned.org)*

**01 In April 2018 the Kingdom of Swaziland changed its name: what is it now called?**

**02 Which country does South Africa completely encircle?**

**03 Which of the following are not part of the European Union?**

- French Guiana
- Albania
- Norway
- Greenland
- Liechtenstein
- Croatia

**04 Name the work these opening lines come from:**

- The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.
- It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...
- Sing, Goddess, sing, the rage of Achilles, son of Peleus...

**05 Name the scientist famous for the following:**

- The Uncertainty Principle
- The Theory of Relativity
- The Periodic Table

**06 Where did the dodos live before they were hunted out of existence by sailors in the seventeenth century?**

**07 Name the country the following epics come from:**

- The Ramayana
- The Shahnameh
- Journey to the West

**08 True or false:**

- Cleopatra was in Rome when Julius Caesar was assassinated
- Saint Guinefort, who was venerated since the 13th century, was a dog
- Amy Winehouse was first married to British boxer, Frank Bruno

**09 Which of the following operas were not by Giacomo Puccini?**

- Anna Bolena
- Suor Angelica
- Turandot
- Cavalleria Rusticana
- Gianni Schicchi

**10 In Greek mythology, Helen of Troy had three famous siblings, who were they?**

# Join UN-aligned

The world is changing rapidly; and so will our perception and fabric of life. Idealism is often used as a term of contempt, but creative people understand the power of imagination. **We need to visualise and formulate a better world in order to make it a reality.** This is the essence of UN-aligned.

UN-aligned was created with the goal of uniting our globe by a federal world order, which is based on the core principles of a shared humanity and a shared planet. It was this aim that united Adriano Liberto and Ariana Yekrangi to create this beacon of change.

Join our global movement today and be the change you want to see. Our membership is completely free of charge.

As a member you can:

- Organise and manage a cell or parish
- Enjoy complete & free access to our premium benefits including: language courses, our virtual library and so much more
- Contribute to our newsletter
- Be part of a like-minded community

Visit [www.un-aligned.org/register](http://www.un-aligned.org/register) for more information



## Quiz Answer Sheet

1. In April 2018 the Kingdom of Swaziland changed its name: what is it now called? (Kingdom of Eswatini)
2. Which country does South Africa completely encircle? (Lesotho)
3. Which of the following are not part of the European Union?
  - French Guiana (Yes)
  - Albania (No)
  - Norway (No)
  - Greenland (No)
  - Liechtenstein (No)
  - Croatia (Yes)
4. Name the work these opening lines come from:
  - The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there. (The Go-Between, by L. P. Hartley)
  - It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... (A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens)
  - Sing, Goddess, sing, the rage of Achilles, son of Peleus... (The Iliad, by Homer)
  - Name the scientist famous for the following:
    - The Uncertainty Principle (Heisenberg)
    - The Theory of Relativity (Einstein)
    - The Periodic Table (Mendeleev)
5. Where did the dodos live before they were hunted out of existence by sailors in the seventeenth century? (Mauritius)
6. Name the country the following epics come from:
  - The Ramayana (India)
  - The Shahnameh (Iran)
  - Journey to the West (China)
7. True or false:
  - Cleopatra was in Rome when Julius Caesar was assassinated (T)
  - Saint Guinefort, who was venerated since the 13th century, was a dog (T)
  - Amy Winehouse was first married to British boxer, Frank Bruno (F)
8. Which of the following operas were not by Giacomo Puccini?
  - Anna Bolena (Donizetti)
  - Suor Angelica (Puccini)
  - Turandot (Puccini)
  - Cavalleria Rusticana (Mascagni)
  - Gianni Schicchi (Puccini)
9. In Greek mythology, Helen of Troy had three famous siblings, who were they? (Clytemnestra, Castor and Pollux)

## Credits

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# UN- ALIGNED NED

## **THE VIRTUAL & ALTERNATIVE UN**

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