

Taiwan's Increased Diplomatic Isolation

Taiwan's international standing took a jolt this week as the Island Nation of Kiribati switched its alliances to China, cutting ties with Taiwan. This is the second diplomatic ally that Taiwan has lost in many weeks, with the Solomon islands similarly cutting ties with Taiwan last week. Taiwan, officially the Republic of China (RoC) has been an autonomous nation state since the Chinese civil war in 1949. However, China or the People's Republic of China (PRC) claims that the RoC is a province of China, cutting diplomatic ties with any other nation that recognises the RoC. This has left Taiwan having official



Flag maps of China (Right) and Taiwan (Left bottom corner)

diplomatic ties with only 14 countries and the Holy See. However, seasoned observers say that the loss of diplomatic allies is merely symbolic, and Taiwan still has support of its military allies. With China increasingly flexing its muscles in the Pacific Ocean, Taiwan's military allies are more crucial than ever.

Israel votes for the second time in 2019

Israel had its second national elections of 2019 in September, 5 months after the previous national elections in April. Elections were called again when Benjamin Netanyahu failed to build a coalition to form a government. A polarising campaign season in which Centre-right parties including Netanyahu's Likud demonised Arab voters, resulted in a deadlock with no party or coalition having a clear majority. Both Netanyahu and his main rival, the centrist Benny Gantz have vowed to form the



Benjamin Netanyahu

government. While Gantz emerged as an early favourite due to the endorsement of the Arab parties, Netanyahu upstaged him by getting more endorsements. Who will form the government is still unclear.



Benny Gantz

Oppression of Uighurs in China

This week, shocking footage of Uighur prisoners in China emerged. The video, which appears to have been shot by a drone, shows Uighurs shackled and blindfolded and later being led away by the police. While the treatment of Uighurs in China and the existence of Uighur re-education camps has been common knowledge for some time, this is the first time that photographic evidence of the treatment of Uighurs has been found. However, the Uighurs are not the only minority being oppressed by the Chinese. Hui, another Islamic minority are also being oppressed, in a less explicit and violent, but no less effective manner.



Screenshot from drone footage showing Blindfolded Uighur prisoners being led away by police