Strike Three Anyone?

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Fortunately, these are not the days of 1979 when the Kuomintang (KMT) state-controlled media under James Soong was able to cover up things like the Kaohsiung Incident, the imprisonment of activists and the suppression of democracy.

Unfortunately, however, these are still the days when accusations and not facts fill the media.

Unfortunately these are still the days when KMT members and people from break off parties, the New Party (NP) and People’s First Party (PFP) feel they still have license to say what they will.

Unfortunately these are still the days when accusations and not due process of law are the sole judge of character.

Not long ago we had to listen to the repeated, wild accusations of former New Party (NP) lawmaker and judge, Shieh Chi-da, that the wife of Lee Tung-hui had run off to the United States with suitcases full of millions of dollars of the Taiwan people’s money. It was highway robbery. Lee must be brought to justice and condemned. Of course, no substantiating evidence could be found, and Shieh Chi-da spent three months in the slammer for slander--case closed, Strike One.

Again, not long ago we had to listen to more wild accusations from PFP lawmaker Diane Lee that DOH chief Twu Shiing-jer was guilty of sexual misconduct. For days Lee called the media to the KTV and numerous press conferences. Twu must tender his resignation. He should step down in disgrace. Lee insisted that she had all the facts, but finally when the truth came out she had accused the wrong man. Lee had to publicly eat crow and admit she was wrong. She got off easy, but that was Strike Two.

Now once again, we are being asked to put our lives on hold. We are asked to ignore the law, to ignore the courts, to ignore the hospital reports and to second-guess the police investigations. We are asked to simply trust the accusations. With no proof, Lien Chang and James Soong, the leaders of the KMT and PFP, are telling us that the attempted assassination of President Chen Shui-bian was staged. It was all done to alter the election making it invalid. Chen should step down. A recount would be in order and if that fails a re-vote. Better yet we should simply declare Lien and Soong the winners.

Isn’t it time someone said Strike Three!