

Turkey. Since the 1990s, the Hizmet has expanded its transnational education movement, and evolved from a focus of the religious community in Turkey to a global, faith-inspired educational system with millions of participants and hundreds of foundations and associations around the world.<sup>40</sup>

It is believed that the first members of the Hizmet in Taiwan appeared in 1994. They learned the Chinese language and obtained university degrees. Afterwards they set up a language school, a junior high school, and several business and social associations step-by-step.<sup>41</sup> Hizmet was active in its interactions with local Muslim communities, and different religious groups and universities in Taiwan. It held many interfaith and intercultural activities and academic cooperation activities such as translations of books written by Gülen and his senior followers in Chinese<sup>42</sup>, by holding international conferences about Gülen's ideas,<sup>43</sup> and by organising trips to Turkey for Taiwanese people. The Hizmet's work of spreading Gülen's ideas in Taiwan seemingly inspired some Taiwanese intellectuals. One professor (李酉譚) admired the Hizmet's enthusiasm for engaging in social services. He said "the purpose of religions is not away from the worldly life. Local religious groups that do not engage in Taiwan's public spheres could learn from the Gülen movement."<sup>44</sup>

However, the Hizmet has not resonated with Taiwan's society. It only attracted a handful of Taiwan's middle class and most Taiwanese still do not know about the Hizmet. Furthermore, the failed coup in Turkey on 15th July 2016 devastated the Hizmet's global operation as the Turkish President Erdogan accused Gülen and his followers of masterminding the coup; he then ordered the arrest of thousands of Turkish affiliated with Hizmet and cut Hizmet's financial channels. This massive crackdown in Turkey also affected the operation of Hizmet in Taiwan. The Hizmet official activities were not held in Taiwan after the coup due to financial shortfalls.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Hakan Yavuz, 'The Gülen Movement: The Turkish Puritans,' in Hakan Yavuz and John Esposito (ed.), *Turkish Islam and the Secular State: The Gülen Movement* (New York: Syracuse University Press, 2003), pp.30-31; Osman Cubuk and Burhan Cakil, 'Hizmet Movement in Taiwan: its achievement in intercultural dialogues,' p.185.

<sup>41</sup> Osman Cubuk and Burhan Cakil, 'Hizmet Movement in Taiwan: its achievement in intercultural dialogues,' p.185.

<sup>42</sup> Such as Fetullah Gülen, *Prophet Muhammad: Aspects of His Life* (Taipei: Hope Publishing Ltd, 2004); Fetullah Gülen, *Key Concepts in the Practice of Sufism: Emerald Hills of the Heart* (Taipei: Hope Publishing Ltd, 2005); Fetullah Gülen, *Essentials of the Islamic Faith* (Taipei: Hope Publishing Ltd, 2006) and Ali Budak, *Fasting in Islam & The Month of Ramadan* (Taipei: Hope Publishing Ltd, 2006). It can be noted that these translation works were contributed by local Chinese Muslims.

<sup>43</sup> An International conference 'Hizmet Movement and the Thought and Teachings of Fethullah Gülen: Contributions to Multiculturalism and Global Peace' was held in 2012 in National Taiwan University, the most prestigious university in Taiwan.

<sup>44</sup> 'Gülen movement engaged in the public spheres. Professor Lee Yeau-Tarn in NCCU: Local religious groups could learn from Gülen movement,' *ETToday*,

<<https://www.ettoday.net/news/20121212/139037.htm?t=%E8%91%9B%E8%98%AD%E9%81%8B%E5%8B%95%E7%B5%90%E5%90%88%E5%85%AC%E9%A0%98%E5%9F%9F%E3%80%80%E6%94%BF%E5%A4%A7%E6%95%99%E6%8E%88%E6%9D%8E%E9%85%89%E6%BD%AD%EF%BC%9A%E5%8F%B0%E7%81%A3%E5%AE%97%E6%95%99%E5%8F%AF%E6%95%88%E6%B3%95> > (accessed on 30 November 2017)

<sup>45</sup> Interview with a senior member of Hizmet in Taipei, 25 August 2017.