



For immediate release

June 12, 2020

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HKDC Condemns Charges Against HKDC Advisors and June 4 Tiananmen Vigil Organizers and Zoom’s Cutting-off Accounts of Pro-Democracy Leaders

WASHINGTON, DC (June 12, 2020) – Last week, for the first time in 31 years, Hong Kongers were banned from gathering for the annual June 4th vigil in Victoria Park in Hong Kong to honor victims of the Tiananmen Square protest and massacre in 1989. Thousands of Hong Kongers still showed up to defy the ban – ensuring that Hong Kong remains the last and only place on Chinese soil where Tiananmen is publicly memorialized. Yesterday, Hong Kong Police and government [announced that HKDC advisor and chairman of Hong Kong Alliance, Mr. Lee Cheuk Yan, along with Albert Ho and Richard Tsoi, will be prosecuted for “inciting others to knowingly take part in an unauthorized assembly”](#) at Victoria Park. Furthermore, [Zoom](#) admitted on Thursday that it suspended the accounts of human rights and pro-democracy activists at the behest of the Chinese government – including the account of Mr. Lee Cheuk Yan, after he took part in online events relating to the Tiananmen anniversary and the protest movement in Hong Kong.

In response, HKDC releases the following statements:

“We stand with Lee Cheuk Yan, Albert Ho, and Richard Tsoi – and any other Hong Kongers who are being prosecuted for exercising their constitutionally protected rights to assembly and protest. Just because the Hong Kong government has completely and utterly ceded its authority, autonomy and credibility to the Beijing regime does not mean that everyday Hong Kongers are ready to concede our fundamental human rights.

This marks the third arrests and charges against HKDC advisor Lee Cheuk Yan, as part of an escalating campaign to chill dissent and signal and foreshadow the even widespread and draconian crackdowns under the proposed National Security Law.

After his Zoom account was restored late Thursday, Lee stated, ‘My account might have been liberated, but Zoom continues to kowtow the Chinese Communist Party. This is political censorship – Zoom might have restored my account, but I am canceling my account and asking for my money back.’

The complicity of international and US companies like Zoom to bow to CCP’s ‘request’ of censorship is both deplorable and alarming. Make no mistake; the intent and impact of Beijing’s suppression of freedoms and dissent do not and will not stop with Hong Kong. If we stand by and do nothing – we will wake up to CCP’s censorship, disinformation, and control in our board rooms and living rooms in the US in no time.”

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