



For Immediate Release

April 18, 2020

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HKDC Condemns Mass Arrest of Pro-Democracy Leaders in Hong Kong

WASHINGTON, DC (April 18, 2020) – **HKDC’s Managing Director, Samuel Chu** releases this statement on the arrests of at least 14 pro-democracy leaders in Hong Kong amid a global pandemic:

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms these arrests and charges for peaceful protests. The rights to assembly and protest are enshrined and protected by Hong Kong’s Basic Law for every Hong Konger.

Just this week, the Hong Kong and Macau Office publicly stated Beijing’s intention to put a stranglehold on Hong Kong’s autonomy.

The arrests of Martin Lee, Jimmy Lai, Albert Ho, Lee Cheuk-yan, Margaret Ng Oi-yee, ‘Long Hair’ Leung Kwok-hung, Au Nok-hin, Yeung Sum, Sin Chung Kai, Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Raphael Wong Ho-ming, Figo-Chan Ho-wun, and Avery Ng Man-yuen among others, show that Carrie Lam’s government is more than willing to drown and silence the opposition movement and leaders at the CCP’s behest.

We are especially disgusted by the decision to round-up veteran activists--including Martin Lee (age 81), Jimmy Lai (age 71), Margaret Ng (age 72) amid a global pandemic. Their ages and health conditions make them particularly susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. The timing and manner of their arrests not only threaten their fundamental rights and freedom, but they are also a de-facto threat to their lives and health.

We call for the unconditional release and dismissal of charges against all who were arrested immediately.”

Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC) is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong’s basic freedoms, the rule of law, and autonomy as promised under the "one country two systems" model and enshrined in the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

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