



For Immediate Release

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HKDC Responds to White House Taking Steps to Revoke Hong Kong's Special Status

The President denounced China's suppression in Hong Kong and instructed the Administration to begin steps to eliminate "full range" of privileges granted under Hong Kong Policy Act 1992

WASHINGTON, DC (May 29, 2020) – For days, HKDC, pro-democracy leaders in Hong Kong, and Congressional leaders have urged the Administration to consider and make use of all tools available to prevent the total erosion of the city's promised autonomy. And today, President Trump responded by denouncing China's past, current, and pending encroachment and suppression of Hong Kong's freedoms, autonomy, and the rule of law. In response to today's declaration, HKDC's Managing Director Samuel Chu releases the following statements:

"HKDC believes that this week's certification by the State Department that Hong Kong is no longer meaningfully and sufficiently autonomous from China did not and should not surprise anyone – as it has been the lived reality of Hong Kongers since the 1997 'handover'. And with the decision by Beijing's National People's Congress to enact a national security law on Thursday – a law expected to criminalize most forms of political protest under blanket bans on "sedition", "subversion," "terrorism" and "foreign interference" – China's ruling Communist Party is effectively flipping the calendar in Hong Kong to 2047.

HKDC has urged Congress and the President to escalate US responses - and we welcome the actions announced today.

Since September 2019, HKDC has conducted daily and weekly meetings with Congressional members and staff to update them on the worsening situation in Hong Kong. HKDC has submitted detailed reports and evidence of Beijing's interference and encroachment into all aspects of Hong Kong's constitutional, legislative, and judicial systems. HKDC has also researched and documented extensive violations of human rights and basic freedoms by Hong Kong officials and police acting under Beijing's order. Police brutality is a particularly critical issue as it has gravely deprived even the freedom from fear for Hong Kong residents. We share the view of the President that all individuals - police, officials in Hong Kong government, PRC officials and security forces - should and must face sanctions for their actions and involvement in suppressing freedoms and autonomy in Hong Kong.

The President's action today is a stern and final warning to President Xi -- and we hope that it also inspires and solidifies a global alliance of defense for Hong Kong. If Beijing persists in strangling Hong Kong, the path we are on now leads to 'lose-lose-lose' for China, Hong Kong, the US and the world. It is a path that Xi Jinping and the CCP have set Hong Kong and the world on. There is still time for Xi to reconsider, but time is running out."

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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