



For Immediate Release

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Beijing's Latest Attempt to Control the Past: Hong Kong Police Arrested Victims of Yuen Long Attack

WASHINGTON, DC (August 26, 2020) In response to the arrest of at least 16 pro-democracy activists, including two opposition lawmakers, over the Yuen Long attack on peaceful protesters and bystanders on July 21, 2019 and a July 6 protest in the Tuen Mun district, HKDC releases the following statement:

“Like what Orwell said, ‘Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.’ The Hong Kong police’s attempt to rewrite history and fabricate a false narrative is the CCP’s latest attempt to control the past, just like their egregious attempt to claim that not even one single person died during the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. We did not buy into their lie then, and we would not buy into their lie now. The relentless crackdown on basic freedoms and the rule of law in Hong Kong continues with these arrests today. The facts surrounding the 7.21 attack in Yuen Long last year are well established, public, documented and indisputable.

We have condemned repeatedly in the past the lack of actions and accountability by the authorities on the perpetrators of the senseless attacks on peaceful protesters and innocent bystanders. However, it is a new low for the Hong Kong Police to now turn around and arrest the victims of the attack - including those who put their lives at risk to protect other victims or simply witnessed in the attack - and to label them as ‘rioters’ against all public evidence and facts. Their attempt is to deter people from acting human and living with a conscience and to courage people to just walk away at the sight of injustice.

Freedom is to be able to say $2 + 2 = 4$. Every police officer, government worker, prosecutor, judge and official involved in this distortion of truth and persecution of victims is subverting Hong Kong’s autonomy, basic freedoms and the rule of law. It is only fair that they also bear the consequences of their actions in the form of international sanctions.”

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.

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