



For Immediate Release

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Joint Statement from HKDC and a coalition of local groups on latest assaults on Hong Kong's basic freedoms

WASHINGTON, DC (August 10, 2020) In response to the outrageous high-profile arrests of pro-democracy activists (including Apple Daily founder and owner Jimmy Lai and former Demosisto leader Agnes Chow), HKDC releases the following statement, along with the following nine local organizations from across the country:

1. Global Solidarity with Hong Kong - Chicago
2. Hong Kong Forum, Los Angeles
3. New Yorkers Supporting Hong Kong (NY4HK)
4. Lion Rock Cafe (New York and New Jersey)
5. SEArrious For HKG
6. Hong Kong Social Action Movement in Boston
7. Northern California Hong Kong Club
8. Texans Supporting Hong Kong
9. Hong Kong Dossier (Houston, TX)

We condemn in the strongest possible term the arrests and raids by Hong Kong police on Monday, August 10, 2020. These actions are part of a calculated, multipronged attack on existing and protected rights and freedoms of all Hong Kongers, including freedom of speech and expression, of press and publication, and of association and assembly.

We call on the Hong Kong government to immediately release all who have been arrested and charged using the National Security Law.

We urge the US and the rest of the free world to:

- Condemn all arrests made under the National Security Law and attempt to stifle press freedom in Hong Kong;
- Demand the immediate release and dismissal of all charges against arrestees under the National Security Law;
- Impose sanctions on any and all Chinese and Hong Kong officials, as well as businesses and financial institutions complicit in the suppression of Hong Kong's freedoms;
- Pass and establish "safe harbor" policies for Hong Kongers fleeing political persecution.

From Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, HKDC advisory board member:

“The arrest of Jimmy Lai and Apple Daily executives and the subsequent raid of its newsroom is an outrageous assault on press freedom and another nail in the coffin of what remains of pluralism and openness in Hong Kong. This is an act of fear, not strength, by the CCP. Jimmy Lai is a very brave man and an inspiration to democrats worldwide. Xi Jinping is a coward.”

From Victoria Hui, HKDC Board member:

“The expected mass arrests under the draconian national (read: regime) security law have started. It is the hallmark of the CCP to arrest not just Jimmy Lai himself, who has long been targeted by state-own media, but also his two sons and Apple Daily senior staff. Within hours, the big sweep has been extended to former Demosisto leader Agnes Chow. Beijing is pushing Hong Kong down to junta-era Myanmar or apartheid-era South Africa.”

From Samuel Chu, HKDC’s Managing Director:

“A new iron curtain has fallen in Hong Kong. The CCP and Carrie Lam have now resorted to arresting and detaining their own citizens as a way of retaliating and gaining leverage against international actions and sanctions. A tactic that is deplorable and cruel.

To further target family members of dissidents and to invade a newsroom that has long been the governments’ loudest critic shows the true nature and intent to strip away any remaining autonomy and freedoms in the City and to criminalize any and all dissents.

Whether Monday’s arrests and raid are retaliation against US sanctions, an attempt to distract a top US official’s visit to Taiwan, or merely the next step of systemic political purge under the National Security Law, the CCP and Hong Kong governments are inviting even greater and swifter responses from the US and the rest of the world.”

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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