



For Immediate Release

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Death Sentence to Hong Kong's Political System

NPCSC passes resolution granting power to bypass the court and unseat lawmakers

WASHINGTON, DC (November 11, 2020) China's National People's Congress Standing Committee (China's top legislative body) passed a resolution giving Hong Kong authorities the power to unseat lawmakers without having to go through the city's courts. The resolution states in part (unofficial translation):

- 1. Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region who, by advocating or supporting the independence of Hong Kong, refusing to recognize that the State owns and exercises sovereignty over Hong Kong, seeking intervention in the affairs of the Region by foreign powers or forces outside the Region, or engaging in other acts that endanger national security, do not meet the legal requirements of upholding the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and of owing allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Once recognized in accordance with the law, they would immediately lose the qualifications of the legislative council member.*
- 2. This decision applies to members of the sixth legislative council who were ruled invalid by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in accordance with the law during the nomination period for the seventh legislative council election of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region originally scheduled to be held on September 6, 2020.*

Following the vote this morning, the Hong Kong government swiftly announced the disqualification and ouster of four pro-democracy lawmakers (Alvin Yeung, Kwok Ka-ki, Dennis Kwok and Kenneth Leung). The 19 members of the pan democrats camp are expected to resign en masse in protest as they have previously threatened to do. In response, HKDC releases the following statement:

"Today, the NPCSC and Hong Kong Chief Executive handed down a death sentence to what remains of Hong Kong's political system.

The Legislative Council, despite its flaws, is Hong Kong's last defense embodying any elements of democracy and of the promise of 'Hong Kongers governing Hong Kong.' With today's vote and the immediate disqualification of four opposition lawmakers, the CCP is telling the world that, not only do they fully control the chief executive and her administration, but they are now extending that absolute control over the legislature. There will be zero tolerance for opposition voices in this version of Hong Kong - in other words, no more opposition party in Hong Kong's legislative body from now on.

By banning legal and legitimate legislative maneuvers and tactics such as filibustering and quorum calls, the CCP strips away the very last shred of legitimacy of Hong Kong's political system - leaving no doubt that LegCo will only exist as a 'rubber stamp' moving forward. .

We applaud the unity demonstrated by the pan democrats. Instead of letting the CCP take them out one by one slowly without the world noticing, they elected to use whatever power is left for them to call attention to Hong Kong's 'failed' system of government.

The CCP might see an opportunity - especially while the US is occupied with its recent elections - to test the world's resolve on defending Hong Kong. We urge the US to take strong actions, building on the additional sanctions of Chinese and Hong Kong officials announced this week and not to let CCP off the hook.

In just a short time, NPCSC bypassed the elections, the courts and the Basic Law to gut and remove the only duly elected leaders of Hong Kong, but they will only be met by the undeniable will of the people of Hong Kong and the immovable resolve of the world to defend Hong Kong."

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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