



***For Immediate Release***

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***United We Stand; Divided We Fall***

*Washington, DC, November 7, 2020* - In response to the election of President-elect Joseph R. Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala D. Harris, **HKDC** releases the following statement by Managing Director, **Samuel Chu**:

“This is what democracy looks like. The United States has elected a new president and HKDC congratulates President-elect Joseph R. Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala D. Harris.

We also congratulate newly elected officials across the country, and we urge them to use their positions to speak up for human rights and democracy in the US and abroad and to stand with Hong Kong.

Americans have been closely divided throughout the campaigns and elections. Hong Kongers – here and abroad – have also been sharply divided in their beliefs and preferences as to which candidate or party represents a better counter to encroachment and threats to Hong Kong by the CCP.

Now is the time for all of us – Americans and Hong Kongers – to move forward and recommit to the bipartisan work of supporting Hong Kongers’ struggle for democracy and basic freedoms.

The unified and bipartisan support for Hong Kong in Washington DC remains the most powerful weapon we have against the Chinese Communist Party.

A Hong Kong movement standing united will continue as one of the strongest countering forces to the authoritarian regime in Beijing.

HKDC will not waver in our commitment to defending Hong Kong’s freedom and democracy. We are going to work closely with the incoming Biden/Harris administration and hold them accountable to the promises they have made to fully enforce the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, including sanctions on officials, financial institutions, companies, and individuals, and to rebuild global alliances and partnerships to push China to stop atrocities against Hong Kongers and Uyghurs.

But we must remember that this is ultimately up to us. The remarkable support from Congress and the White House for Hong Kong has not been the result of a single politician or party – but rather the unrelenting organizing and advocacy by Hong Kongers.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once met with civil rights activists, including A. Philip Randolph, who sought his support for bold civil rights legislation against discrimination.

The President listened to their arguments for some time and then said, ‘I agree with you. Now go out and make me do it.’

Historical accounts differ on exactly how supportive or resistant FDR was to the civil rights leaders’ demands and agenda. Some believe that ‘make me do it’ reflected FDR’s understanding that the more effectively people created a sense of urgency and crisis, the easier it would be to push for strong legislation and executive actions.

Other biographers also noted that Randolph and leaders ultimately got what they wanted because they threatened to bring 100,000 black people to a march on Washington in 1941 if FDR did not act on their demands.

President Roosevelt relented, issuing Executive Order 8802 barring discrimination in the defense industries; Randolph and his colleagues canceled the march.

Now we come together regardless of who we supported or voted for; now we come together for our own ‘make me do it’ moment with the new president and the new congress.”

***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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