



For Immediate Release

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Ten Hong Kong Activists Captured at Sea Sentenced and Jail by Mainland Court

WASHINGTON, DC (December 30, 2020) - In response to the ten Hong Kong activists - who were among the twelve captured at sea while trying to flee to Taiwan in August - being sentenced to between seven months and three years' jail by a court in Shenzhen, HKDC releases the following statement from managing director, Samuel Chu:

“What unfolded inside the Shenzhen courtroom today confirmed what many Hong Kongers feared most - that they no longer enjoy the same rights and protections under the rule of law and an independent judiciary system once guaranteed to all Hong Kongers.

I grieve for the #Save12 Hong Kong protesters and their families - for what they have already endured and are facing. For their ordeal at sea, more than 128 days of arbitrary detention, no contact with their families and lawyers of their own choice, forced letters of confession, coerced guilty pleas - now, prison, in Mainland. All because they longed to be free.

Despite China's repeated claim of having a 'sunshine judiciary' system, the 12 Hong Kongers were denied their chosen legal representation; and no family, rights observers, or representatives from foreign embassies were allowed in the 'open' courtroom. As the judiciary system in Hong Kong becomes more and more corrupted and pressured by the powers in Beijing to deliver political decisions, today's verdict and sentencing foretell what is to come for all Hong Kongers.

I fear for the more than 10,000 also facing protest-related charges, the more than 40 arrested under the National Security Law, and the more than 2 million Hong Kongers who marched in protests last year - their fate will soon be in the hands of a court system growing more and more like the one in the mainland, shrouded in secrecy and darkness.”

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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