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HKDC Denounces Prison Sentences for Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam

Harsh sentences show Beijing willing to wipe out a whole generation in bid to maintain control

WASHINGTON, DC (December 2, 2020) - In response to Hong Kong's Court sentencing activists Joshua Wong (13.5 months), Agnes Chow (10 months), and Ivan Lam (7 months) to prison after the trio pled guilty to protest charges, HKDC releases the following statement from managing director, Samuel Chu:

"Beijing and Carrie Lam are using the court to make an example of Wong, 24, Chow, 23, Lam, 26 and to send a message: Obey or spend the best part of your youth behind bars. The CCP is ready and willing to maintain control and power at all costs, even if it means imprisoning and wiping out a whole generation of Hong Kongers.

I am heartbroken and indignant at the treatment and immediate future of the trio - and thousands of activists like them. But as Wong wrote this week from jail - 'cages cannot lock up souls' and the movement only grows stronger every time an activist is arrested, convicted, and jailed.

HKDC condemns the harsh sentences and urges the United States and the international community to do the same. Make no mistake, Wong, Chow, and Lam are political prisoners. We will continue to work to highlight their plight, build safe passage and refuge overseas for all facing persecution, and push for a global campaign of support and sanction until all Hong Kongers are free again."

Today's sentences also bring into serious question the integrity and independence of Hong Kong's judiciary system. What was once a model for the world, Hong Kong's courts are now clearly under Beijing's constant pressure and threats to pursue and deliver politically motivated rulings.

[HKDC is hosting a virtual briefing on Thursday, December 3, 1-2 pm ET](#) to discuss the details and implications of the jailing of Wong, Chow, and Lam. The session is open to members of the press and will feature HKDC's advisory board members Nathan Law, Professor Michael C. Davis, and Annie Boyajian.

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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