



***For Immediate Release***

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**HKDC Condemns the Raid of Apple Daily and Arrests of Top Executives by Hong Kong Police**

WASHINGTON, DC (June 16, 2021) - In response to [Hong Kong Police raiding the offices of Apple Daily and arresting five executives of the opposition news outlet on "suspicion of collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security,"](#) HKDC releases the following statement:

**From Victoria Tin-bor Hui, Board Member, HKDC:**

“Today’s arrests of five top executives under NSL charges show that the authorities do not even bother with the pretense of questionable financial activities or contractual disputes but put their target squarely on the freedom of the press. Pro-regime forces have never hidden their displeasure with the Apple Daily. How does the CCP remove one of its biggest thorns in Hong Kong? First, by locking up its publisher and starving it of financial sources. When putting Jimmy Lai behind bars and freezing his assets did not stop the news operations, they moved in to arrest the top executives. Even if the next level of executives step up to fill the roles of those arrested, the authorities will surely take whatever measures to cut off and silence the city’s only pro-democracy printed newspaper. Hong Kong has been left with little free speech under the NSL, which aims to silence all dissent. Today’s arrests mark yet another step toward remaking Hong Kong in Beijing’s liking. Nevertheless, courageous journalists must continue to investigate and report on stories. There are still pro-democracy online platforms that I hope are less susceptible to raids and arrests. Every other day, significant arrests or policy changes push Hong Kong deeper and deeper into a dark hole.”

**From Samuel Chu, Managing Director, HKDC:**

“Jimmy Lai, Bao Choy, Nabela Qoser, Veby Mega, the China team at Now TV, and now the five Apple Daily executives were targeted for exercising and defending the freedom of the press. Each of them was either fired, arrested, convicted, injured, or jailed for doing their job. Every day, citizens and activists circumvent the Great Firewall and risk their lives revealing truth in Mainland China. No regime can totally suppress the truth and truth-tellers. The harder it is suppressed, the more likely people will yearn for truth and seek it at all cost.”

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***Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC) is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan voice for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong and US Hong Kongers.***

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