



***For Immediate Release***

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**HKDC on the Forced Closure of Apple Daily in Hong Kong**

WASHINGTON, DC (June 23, 2021) - In response to the forced closure of the Apple Daily newspaper in Hong Kong today, HKDC releases the following statements:

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

“The forced closure of the Apple Daily unmistakably shows that there is no freedom of dissent, in the media as well as in the legislature, district councils, schools, streets, and everywhere else in the city. The only ‘freedom of expression’ remaining belongs to those who champion government policies and unquestioned loyalty to Beijing. The authorities have tried to create the optics that the Apple Daily is closing by itself. Beijing has long tried to deploy ‘softer’ and ‘hard’ physical forms of repression. The freezing of the paper’s funds represents the former, while the arrests of 6 top executives and journalists the latter. In pursuing ‘softer’ means, the authorities have simultaneously sent the chilling messages that private businesses must toe the party line and that banks must serve as tools of repression when asked. These acts by the government have downgraded Hong Kong from an international city once on par with London and New York City to just another Chinese city.”

**From Glacier Chung Ching Kwong, Research Fellow, HKDC:**

“Apple Daily has been an important voice in the pro-democratic movement in Hong Kong. It is a symbol of free speech and vibrant civil society. Even though not everyone would agree on everything Apple Daily represents, it should be up to the readers to choose if they want Apple Daily in the market, not that it should be forced into closure by the government. The freezing of its assets and being forced to cease all operations is once again proof of the national security law being a tool for the government to deploy at will to crack down on the civil society in Hong Kong. This CCP-style of using the law as a tool of oppression will not stop with the closure of Apple Daily, and there will be more to come. Other media, local and foreign ones that are still acting as the fourth power of Hong Kong, will be the next targets. Both Hong Kong and the free world have to be ready for it and take measures accordingly.”

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

“The Chinese and Hong Kong governments are desperate to put an end to Apple Daily because truth and truth-tellers have always been the Achilles heel of authoritarian regimes. I believe that others will step up to continue seeking and telling the truth regardless of the risk and consequences.”

*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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