



For immediate release

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HKDC on the arrests of U.S. Citizens Tsela Zoksang and Joey Siu in Greece

Washington, DC (October 17, 2021) - In response to the [arrests of two U.S. citizens](#), Tsela Zoksang and Joey Siu, in Greece on Sunday for peacefully protesting against the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, HKDC issues the following statement from our Executive Director Brian Leung:

“We are appalled by the apprehension of Tsela and Joey at the hands of Greek authorities. We stand in solidarity with them as they remain detained overnight and are expected to appear in court on Monday. At the same time, we are inspired by the leadership of the two young women who have shown tremendous courage as they protested against the International Olympic Committee (IOC)’s complicity in China’s human-right atrocities.”

“The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing symbolizes a silent endorsement of China’s authoritarian expansion. The IOC has chosen to neglect the widespread international concerns. It was in response to this that a coalition of activists gathered to protest, during which Tsela Zoksang and Joey Siu waved their Tibetan Snow Lion and Liberate Hong Kong flags at the Acropolis of Athens, where the Olympic torch is set to be handed over to the Beijing Organising Committee. Ironically, their attempts to call for freedom and democracy turned into swift arrests and impending court trials.”

“This incident exposes the pervasive influence of China abroad. China has deepened its economic ties in Greece. The situation for the detained activists — and future protests on Greek soil — is particularly concerning given the extradition treaty between Greece and China. The Hong Kong 2019 anti-extradition law protests stemmed exactly from the utter lack of confidence in China’s judicial system. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Tsela and Joey, and urge the international society to boycott the Beijing Winter Olympics.”

Tsela Zoksang is a member of Students for a Free Tibet, which released the following [statement](#):

“The activists, 18-year-old Tibetan student Tsela Zoksang and 22-year-old Hong Kong exiled-activist, Joey Siu, are members of the ‘No Beijing 2022’ cross-movement campaign working with Tibetan, Uyghur, Hong Kong, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Mongolian human rights activists. The coalition is demanding the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reverse its mistake in awarding Beijing the honor of hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2022. Despite appeals from frontline communities and human rights groups, the IOC has repeatedly ignored the evidence of the egregious human rights abuses by China including a genocide of the Uyghur people, the brutal and illegal occupation of Tibet, and the severe and worsening crackdown against freedom and democracy in Hong Kong.”

Joey Siu works for Hong Kong Watch, which released the following [statement](#):

“Hong Kong Watch is deeply concerned at the news of the arrest of Joey Siu, Hong Kong Watch’s Policy Advisor, alongside a Tibetan activist at the Acropolis in Greece for the ‘crime’ of waving a Hong Kong protest flag and calling for the Boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. We call on the Greek authorities to resist any pressure from the Chinese Government to extradite these activists, to release Joey Siu and the Tibetan activist Tsela Zoksang as a matter of urgency, and to allow them to return to the United States of America.”

***Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)** is a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement and Hong Kongers in the United States.*

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