



***For Immediate Release***

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### **First Anniversary of the Mass Prosecution of Hong Kong Pro-democracy Campaigners**

*Washington, D.C.* — To mark the first anniversary of the mass prosecution of prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy campaigners with “conspiracy to commit subversion” under the National Security Law (NSL), HKDC issues the following statements.

From HKDC’s Executive Director, **Brian Leung**:

“Forty-seven pro-democracy campaigners were charged under the sweeping NSL last year for simply organizing or standing in the opposition camp’s 2020 Legislative Council primary elections. **To this day, most of them have been remanded in custody for over a year even before a trial date is set.** The arbitrary detention in the name of ‘national security’ is an egregious violation of individual rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Basic Law. At the same time, the handful of those who are on bail live in constant fear and under heavy surveillance. We must keep speaking up for them.”

“Alongside these political prisoners, we also witnessed the making of a generation of Hong Kong political exiles, including three of our advisors: former Legislative Council members Nathan Law and Ted Hui, as well as former student activist Sunny Cheung. In a [video campaign](#) **HKDC launched today to raise awareness about the February 28 mass persecution**, they are joined by former District Council members Carmen Lau and Timothy Lee to recount the incident and share their thoughts about their colleagues behind bars.”

From HKDC’s Policy and Research Fellow, **Jeffrey Ngo**:

“Ahead of the February 28 anniversary, we are grateful to have worked with the House Foreign Affairs Committee on a [strong, bipartisan statement](#) spearheaded by Chairman **Gregory W. Meeks** and Ranking Member **Michael McCaul**, which urges Hong Kong authorities ‘to

immediately release all those arbitrarily detained and drop all charges against them.’ It is also signed by Congressmen **Ami Bera** and **Steve Chabot**, the top Democrat and Republican, respectively, on the subcommittee that oversees the Asia-Pacific.”

“The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine epitomizes the resurgence of authoritarian expansionism around the world. Indeed, there’s no way to understand the crackdown on Hong Kong without placing it in the context of democracy’s global decline. **The bipartisan leaders’ advocacy serves as a reminder for us that international support is indispensable to Hong Kongers facing political repression.** With this spirit, in turn, we stand in solidarity with courageous Ukrainians, who are fighting to defend their right of self-determination.”

**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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