



For Immediate Release

April 20, 2022

Contact: Anna Kwok

anna.kwok@hkdc.us

(202) 813-9930

The Sentencing of Tam Tak-Chi on “Sedition” and Other Charges

Washington, D.C. — In response to the sentencing of Tam Tak-Chi, an activist and prominent former radio host, on Wednesday to 40 months in prison on 11 charges, HKDC issues the following statements.

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

“Eight of Mr. Tam’s 11 charges — including seven counts of ‘uttering seditious words’ and one count of ‘inciting the utterance of seditious words’ – stem from an outdated legal code that hasn’t been used in decades. When he was arrested back in September 2020, he was the first person to be punished for ‘sedition’ since the 1997 handover. He was then detained and denied bail even for nonviolent offenses. And while ‘sedition’ is separate from the sweeping National Security Law (NSL), his case has been presided over by an NSL-designated judge. His sentencing marks yet another instance in which Beijing’s puppet regime in Hong Kong recycles and manipulates a British colonial-era decree to suppress dissent.”

“Specifically, the prosecution argues that Mr. Tam ‘incited hatred’ against the Chinese and Hong Kong governments for shouting typical protest slogans like ‘Liberate Hong Kong, Revolution of Our Times.’ By virtue of accepting this ludicrous argument, the court implies that millions of Hong Kongers who once echoed these same words have the potential to be charged with ‘sedition’ as well. We thus have reason to expect that Mr. Tam’s case marks only the beginning of more retroactive persecution of free speech, which is, needless to say, no longer guaranteed in Hong Kong.”

From HKDC’s Strategy and Campaign Director, **Anna Kwok**:

“Imperialists are fearful of those who challenge their rule. The British colonial government devised Hong Kong’s first ‘sedition’ crimes in 1914 to preempt popular opposition after it witnessed the republican revolution in China. More than a century later, today’s sentencing of Mr. Tam re-establishes that legal framework’s exact intended purpose: as a political weapon to quell criticisms of those in power.”

“Arbitrary detention, not unlike the appointment of NSL-designated judges, has become a standard feature of the Hong Kong judicial system in all cases relating to political organizing and protesting. These are clear breaches of the basic human right to a fair trial and the right to a presumption of innocence. In total, 40 individuals have already been arrested for ‘sedition’; including Mr. Tam, 32 of them have, along with four companies, been prosecuted. HKDC urges the international community to denounce ‘sedition’ in Hong Kong as an ongoing tool of repression.”

List of persons and entities arrested and tried for sedition in Hong Kong

Name, age	Date of arrest	Details
Tong Cheuk-Him, 19 (唐綽謙)	April 14, 2022 <i>Charged in court Apr 14.</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For conspiracy to utter seditious words. Related to November 19, 2020 graduation protest at CUHK.
Shum Ka-Hon, 17 (沈嘉瀚)	April 14, 2022 <i>Charged in court Apr 14</i> <i>Released on bail</i>	For conspiracy to utter seditious words. Related to November 19, 2020 graduation protest at CUHK.
Au Ka-Lun, 54 (區家麟) Former Stand News political commentator	April 11, 2022 <i>Released without charge</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication, the 8 from Stand news to be arrested on this charge; other 7 on Dec 29.
Leo Tang (鄧建華) Former vice-chair of Confederation of Trade Unions	April 6, 2020	For causing a nuisance in court between December 2021 and January 2022
Gary Pang, 59 (彭滿圓)	April 6, 2020 <i>Charged in court Apr 8.</i> <i>Remanded in custody.</i>	For causing a nuisance in court at Chow Hang-tung’s Jan 4, 2022 sentencing & running a YouTube

		channel where he posts about trials.
Man	April 6, 2020	For causing a nuisance in court between December 2021 and January 2022
Man	April 6, 2020	For causing a nuisance in court between December 2021 and January 2022
Chiu Mei-Ying, 67 (趙美英)	April 6, 2020 <i>Charged in court Apr 8.</i> <i>Released on bail.</i>	For causing a nuisance in court at Chow Hang-tung's Jan 4, 2022 sentencing.
Woman	April 6, 2020	For causing a nuisance in court between December 2021 and January 2022
Wong, 59 Martial arts coach (黃)	March 20, 2022 <i>charged in court March 22,</i> <i>remanded in custody</i>	Also charged with possession of offensive weapons, unlicensed possession of firearms
Lam, 21 (林)	Feb 24, 2022 <i>Charged in court Feb 25</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For "inciting hatred" of government by online criticism of anti-pandemic measures since 2020
Hau, 24 (侯)	Feb 24, 2022 <i>Remanded in custody</i> <i>Charged in court March 3</i>	For "inciting hatred" of government by online criticism of anti-pandemic measures since 2020
Tommy Yuen, 41 (阮民安) Pro-democracy Cantopop singer	Feb 15, 2022 <i>Charged in court February 17</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For criticizing government anti-pandemic measures, encouraging vaccine boycott; also charged with money laundering for crowdfunding aid to riot defendants
Koo Sze-Yiu, 75 (古思堯) Veteran civil disobedient	February 4, 2022 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For planning to protest Beijing Winter Olympic at Liaison Office on day of opening ceremony
Chan Pui-Man, 51 (陳沛敏) Apple Daily associate publisher	December 29, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication

Chow Tat-Chi (周達智) former director, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Released without charge</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Chung Pui-Kuen, 52 (鍾沛權) former editor-in-chief, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Patrick Lam, 34 (林紹桐) acting editor-in-chief, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Best Pencil (Hong Kong) Limited Parent company of Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Margaret Ng (吳靄儀) former director, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Released without charge</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Denise Ho (何韻詩) former director, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Released without charge</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Christine Fang (方敏生) former director, Stand News	December 29, 2021 <i>Released without charge</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Fung Wai-Kong, 57 (馮偉光) Apple Daily English executive editor	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Already remanded in custody in another trial</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Lam Man-Chung, 51 (林文宗) Apple Daily executive editor-in-chief	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Already remanded in custody in another trial</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
蘋果日報有限公司 APPLE DAILY LIMITED	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
蘋果日報印刷有限公司 APPLE DAILY PRINTING LIMITED	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication

蘋果日報互聯網有限公司 AD INTERNET LIMITED	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Jimmy Lai, 73 (黎智英) Apple Daily owner	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Already serving prison sentence on other charges</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Cheung Kim-Hung, 59 (張劍虹) Apple Daily CEO	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Already remanded in custody in another trial</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Law Wai-Kwong, 47 (羅偉光) Apple Daily	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Already remanded in custody in another trial</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Yeung Ching-Kei, 57 (楊清奇) Apple Daily editorial writer	December 28, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>already remanded in custody in another trial</i>	For conspiracy to publish seditious publication
Chan Tai-um, 22 (陳泰森)	December 16, 2020 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	Charged with 6 counts of committing acts with seditious intent, 1 count of inciting unlawful assembly for online comments; on Apr 12, 3 counts dropped
Kim Chiang, 41 (蔣頌生)	July 29, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For putting up posters criticizing the judge in the Tong Ying-kit NSL trial
Chan Yuen-Sam, 25 (陳源森) General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists treasurer	July 22, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For publishing three children's books about sheep
Yeung Yat-Yi, 27 (楊逸意) General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists vice-chair	July 22, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For publishing three children's books about sheep
Fong Tsz-Ho, 26 (方梓皓)	July 22, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For publishing three children's books about sheep

General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists committee member		
Ng Hau-Yi, 28 (伍巧怡) General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists secretary	July 22, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For publishing three children's books about sheep
Lai Man-Ling, 25 (黎雯齡) General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists chair	July 22, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For publishing three children's books about sheep
Chloe Cho, 45 (曹雪芯)	June 6, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For printing and disseminating pro-independence leaflets. Plead guilty; sentenced to 13 and a half months in prison.
Wong Chun-Wai, 17 (黃俊偉)	June 6, 2021 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For printing and disseminating pro-independence leaflets. Plead guilty; sentenced to juvenile rehabilitation center
Edward Wan ("Giggs") Radio show host	November 21, 2020 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	Also charged with money laundering for crowdfunding for support of HK protesters in Taiwan
Tam Tak-Chi Leader of People Power	September 6, 2020 <i>Charged in court</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	For shouting slogans at protests. Charged with 14 counts in all. Convicted of 8 counts of sedition and 3 other counts. Sentenced on Apr 20, 2022 to ??.
Tony Chung, 19 (鍾翰林) Former Studentlocalism leader	July 29, 2020; <i>Released on bail;</i> <i>re-arrested October 29</i> <i>Remanded in custody</i>	Also charged with secession and money laundering. Plead guilty to those counts; sedition charge dropped; sentenced to 3 years and 7 months in prison.
Total: 40 persons arrested; 32 charged 4 entities charged	Arrested between July 29, 2020 and April 14, 2022 31 persons arrested since December 28, 2021	3 persons convicted for sedition; all other trials still on-going

30 remanded in custody		
-------------------------------	--	--

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.

###