



For Immediate Release

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Arrests of Former 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund Trustees

Washington, D.C. (May 11, 2022) — In response to the arrest on Tuesday and Wednesday of five pro-democracy leaders — Joseph Zen, Denise Ho, Margaret Ng, Cyd Ho, and Hui Po-Keung — under the National Security Law (NSL) for allegedly “colluding with foreign forces,” HKDC issues the following statements.

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

“We’re witnessing the first round of NSL arrests since John Lee was selected as Hong Kong’s next chief executive over the weekend. A veteran police officer and security chief, he’s not even waiting until his inauguration on July 1 to make this major political statement. It reaffirms his adherence to Chairman Xi Jinping’s political mission to remove any conceivable opposition or threat to the Communist Party regime.”

“The five individuals constituted the board of trustees of the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, which was established in July 2019 to offer financial assistance to protesters. Its core objective — to ensure that everyone could receive legal aid and representation — was important yet unmistakably moderate to begin with; it disbanded in August 2021 under the NSL’s threat. To go after them now, nine months after it ceased operation, illustrates what Mr. Lee and his masters in Beijing desire: disproportionate repression against anyone who ever dared to protect what used to make Hong Kong free.”

From HKDC's Advisor, **Sunny Cheung**:

"I'm most outraged at the apprehension of these highly-respectable figures who've already voluntarily stepped out of the limelight, including Dr. Hui, an esteemed cultural-studies scholar. The same goes for Mr. Zen. As the retired Bishop of Hong Kong, he spent decades opposing the normalization of Sino-Vatican ties due to China's record of human-rights violations and religious intolerance. At age 90, he shouldn't be spending a minute behind bars. A strong, swift response from local and international leaders of the Catholic Church is necessary."

"The three women mustn't be overlooked, either. Denise Ho and Ms. Ng were arrested — and subsequently released on bail — late last year as board members of Stand News, the independent news outlet that had been forced to close. Meanwhile, Cyd Ho, a former Labour Party legislator who championed many progressive causes, has been serving a separate prison sentence in connection with the 2019 movement. The new NSL charges will be the most severe yet on the long list of 'crimes' they face. HKDC urges the international community not to lose sight of Hong Kong. The crackdown will continue, even if the massive demonstrations may not."

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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