The International Office

To:
Mrs Carrie Lam, ceo@ceo.gov.hk
Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China
Chief Executive's Office, Central Government Offices, Tamar, Hong Kong

Cc:
Mr Wilfred Wong, hkadc@hkadc.org.hk
Chairman & HKADC Council Members, Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Hong Kong

Mr Lau Kong-wah, hab@hab.gov.hk
Secretary for Home Affairs, Home Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong

Mrs Cherry Tse, hab@hab.gov.hk
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Home Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong

Index on Censorship, Jodie@indexoncensorship.org
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John Batten, Chairman AICA Hong Kong, batten@netvigator.com
Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, info@hkaga.org
Hong Kong Artist Union, hongkongartistunion@gmail.com

Paris, 24 June 2019

Subject: Fugitive / Extradition legislation

Dear Mr./Mrs,

The international Association of Art Critics (AICA) is a global organisation, established in 1948 by UNESCO, comprising art critics who are actively engaged in improving International cooperation in the fields of artistic creativity, mediation and endeavour.

AICA believes that freedom of expression and thought is an important principle and as a basic civil right must be defended. A hallmark of any democracy is its willingness to allow, consider and withstand critical as well as benign points of view and to accommodate divergent artistic expressions.

We are concerned the Hong Kong government has proposed a fugitive/extradition legislation to the People's Republic of China. We therefore endorse the open letter by AICA Hong Kong of 13 June, which expresses the concern the proposed law enables extradition to a country where human rights, judicial independence and freedom of expression do not currently fulfil international standards, according to the UN's Human Rights Council in March 2019.

Although the proposed law was repealed, AICA International calls upon the Hong Kong government to refrain from introducing the law in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Lisbeth Rebollo
President AICA international

Robert-Jan Muller
Chairman AICA Committee on Censorship and Freedom of Expression