

Joint Submission
from Hong Kong Watch and Hong Kong
Link Up to the Universal Periodic Review
of the People's Republic of China

Fourth Cycle
July 2023



For enquiries, please contact Benedict Rogers (ben@hongkongwatch.org) or Anouk Wear (anouk@hongkongwatch.org) from Hong Kong Watch, and Jim Wong (info@hklinkup.uk) from Hong Kong Link Up.

Hong Kong Watch, Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7JN, United Kingdom

Hong Kong Link Up, Dales Evans, 88/90 Baker Street, London, W1U 6TQ, United Kingdom

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Hong Kong Watch (HKW) and Hong Kong Link Up (HKLU) make this submission to the United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the Fourth Cycle. This submission is informally endorsed by 35 civil society organisations, listed in the Annexe.
- 1.2. This submission can be published on the OHCHR website for UPR for public information purposes.
- 1.3. HKW is a UK-based registered charity which researches and monitors threats to Hong Kong's basic freedoms, the rule of law and autonomy as promised under the 'one country, two systems' principle which is enshrined in the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration.
- 1.4. HKLU is a non-profit organisation which aims to link up British residents with Hong Kongers arriving in the UK.
- 1.5. HKW and HKLU welcome this opportunity to submit information, highlight concerns, and provide recommendations related to recent developments that impact adversely on rights since the Third Cycle review in 2018.
- 1.6. During this period, the biggest change in the PRC has been the drastic human rights violations, breaches of international law, and reduction of autonomy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC.
- 1.7. The focus of this submission is on the HKSAR and will primarily address the topics of the 2019 protests, the National Security Law (NSL), civil society, political prisoners, women's rights, and freedom of the media.

2. 2019 Protests

- 2.1. In 2019, mass protests took place across the HKSAR. They started with a sit-in at the government headquarters on 15 March 2019, as a response to the HKSAR's introduction of a bill to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, which would allow for extradition to Mainland China. Regular protests took place from then, until early 2020.
- 2.2. Since June 2019, protests in the HKSAR saw unprecedented use of force by the police. In most protests, hundreds were hospitalised as a result of police use of batons, firearms, pepper spray and tear gas.
- 2.3. Rubber bullets and bean bag bullets were routinely used against protestors. This led to a number of people being badly injured in incidents which could have been fatal. Between 9 June and 4 August 2019, 1,000 rounds of tear gas were used. Then on 5 August following protests during a General Strike, 800 cannisters of tear gas were used.
- 2.4. Police fired tear gas in heavily built-up residential areas, without giving residents proper notice, and the fumes entered people's homes.
- 2.5. In addition to the unnecessary and disproportionate force, and police brutality, there has also been evidence of the HKPF colluding with triads (gangs) in the HKSAR to attack protestors. Protestors have received extremely disproportionate charges and sentences, and the HKSAR has rewritten the narrative by calling protestors "rioters."¹
- 2.6. During the mass protests against the anti-extradition law from June until December 2019, women faced sexual harassment and assault from the HKPF and state-backed media, and more detail will be provided in section 6.
- 2.7. The HKSAR consistently violated the rights of protestors to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. They did not conduct independent investigations into the allegations of police brutality committed by the HKPF and there has not yet been any accountability.

3. National Security Law

- 3.1. On 30 June 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) passed the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the National Security Law, NSL) in the HKSAR. The HKSAR government welcomed this law, which took immediate effect.²
- 3.2. The NSL broadly defines and criminalises secession, subversion, terrorist activities, and collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security. The maximum penalty under the NSL is life imprisonment.³
- 3.3. The HKSAR spokesperson said that the NSL “only targets an extremely small minority of offenders while the life and property as well as various legitimate basic rights and freedoms enjoyed by the overwhelming majority of citizens will be protected. There is nothing for Hong Kong citizens to worry about in exercising these legitimate rights.”⁴
- 3.4. In addition, Article 4 of the NSL states that “rights and freedoms, including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration [shall be protected in accordance with] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong.” Article 5 further states that the “principle of the rule of law shall be adhered to.”⁵
- 3.5. In practice, the HKSAR has not adhered to its legal obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
- 3.6. In July 2022, the UN Human Rights Committee reviewed the HKSAR’s implementation of the ICCPR and concluded that the NSL violates the ICCPR, therefore violating the HKSAR’s international legal obligations. They were “deeply concerned about the overly broad interpretation” of the NSL and recommended that the HKSAR repeal it and refrain from applying it in the meantime.⁶
- 3.7. In February 2023, the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights reviewed the PRC (including the HKSAR)’s implementation of the ICESCR and concluded that the NSL violates the ICESCR, therefore violating the PRC (including the HKSAR)’s international legal obligations.
- 3.8. Specifically, they highlighted that the NSL “has de facto abolished the independence of the judiciary of Hong Kong SAR” and raised concerns about independence of the

judiciary, and the right to fair trial, in addition to academic freedom and artistic freedom.⁷

3.9. In May 2023, the Committee on Women’s Rights reviewed the PRC (including the HKSAR)’s implementation of the CEDAW and raised concerns about “over-prioritizing public order and security concerns when considering restrictions on democratic manifestations” which would violate women’s rights.⁸

3.10. The use of the NSL’s extraterritoriality clause, set out in Article 38 of the law, to threaten a foreign activist and organisation marks a new low and poses a direct threat to free societies and potentially to freedom well beyond Hong Kong’s borders.

4. Extraterritoriality of National Security Law

- 4.1. On 10 March 2022, HKW, a UK-based organisation, received a letter from the HKPF and an email from the National Security Bureau, alleging that its website posed a threat to the PRC's national security in violation of the NSL and demanding that the organisation take down the website within 72 hours.
- 4.2. Failure to comply could result in HKW co-founder and Chief Executive Benedict Rogers facing a fine of HK\$100,000 (US\$13,000) and a prison term of up to three years or potentially life imprisonment.
- 4.3. Other letters and arrest warrants have previously been published by the HKSAR, also for violations of the NSL.⁹
- 4.4. On 3 July 2023, the HKSAR National Security Police issued arrest warrants and bounties for eight HKSAR pro-democracy activists living overseas.
- 4.5. The arrest warrants have been issued for pro-democracy activists in exile Nathan Law, Dennis Kwok, Ted Hui, Kevin Yam, Anna Kwok, Finn Lau, Elmer Yuen, and Christopher Mung, alongside a bounty of HK\$1 million per individual for information that could lead to their arrest under the National Security Law. This was the first time that bounties have been issued in relation to overseas activity related to the National Security Law.
- 4.6. Those notable individuals targeted include former pro-democracy lawmakers, prominent HKSAR lawyers and trade unionists, and activists who have campaigned against the National Security Law overseas.¹⁰
- 4.7. More than 50 Hong Kong civil society organisations from across the world signed a joint statement urging government action in response to the HKSAR National Security arrest warrants and bounties. They call on governments to introduce measures to protect the rights of and freedoms of HKSAR activists in exile, particularly those who have asylum and face past threats from Beijing.
- 4.8. They also called on governments, specifically of the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and European countries, to reiterate that the HKSAR National Security Law does not apply in their jurisdictions, and condemn the latest arrest warrants and bounties and reaffirm that they are not valid in their jurisdictions.¹¹

- 4.9. Many governments issued statements condemning this, but the PRC took one step further by accusing the United Kingdom of “habouring fugitives” on the day after the arrest warrants and bounties were announced. They urged activists to give themselves up, adding that otherwise they would spend their days in fear, and stated that "British politicians have openly offered protection for fugitives."¹²
- 4.10. On 11 July 2023, the HKPF searched the family home of exiled activist Nathan Law, taking his parents and brother in for questioning. Although they were later released, this is a threat to Law and the community, especially since Law publicly announced that he had cut contact with his family in 2020.¹³
- 4.11. The Secretary for Justice Paul Lam also filed complaints with the Hong Kong Bar Association and The Law Society of Hong Kong, seeking to revoke the memberships of Dennis Kwok and Kevin Yam since their arrest warrants and bounties were announced.¹⁴ This is politically motivated and an abuse of these professional institutions.

5. Civil Society

- 5.1. Since the imposition of the NSL, over 60 civil society organisations – including political parties, trade unions, and media groups – have disbanded.¹⁵
- 5.2. One prominent example is the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund which was established on 15 June 2019, to provide assistance to thousands of protestors in their legal services, medical treatment, psychological counselling, and emergency financial relief. The fund has five trustees: 90-year-old Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium, Dr. Margaret Ng Ngoi-ye, Dr. Po-Keung Hui, Cyd Ho Sau-Lan, and Denise Ho. The secretary of the fund is Sze Ching-wee. All six were found guilty of failing to register the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, under the Societies Ordinance, within one month of its establishment. The fund had already planned its dissolution in August 2021 after it was announced that the company holding the fund, the Alliance for True Democracy Limited, would become defunct.¹⁶
- 5.3. Many civil society organisations have also moved abroad due to the increasingly difficult conditions. In November 2022, journalists who relocated to the UK collaborated with the National Union of Journalists of UK and Ireland to launch the Association of Overseas Hong Kong Media Professionals. They pledged to focus on freedom of the press in the HKSAR and to provide mutual assistance for professionals who have relocated overseas.¹⁷
- 5.4. This reflects that the HKSAR is no longer a safe environment for journalists, and that a large number of Hong Kong journalists have relocated abroad due to the risks they face back home. This is a violation of trade union rights as there are limitations to the free functioning of trade unions in Hong Kong, due to the NSL and other factors. This is a restriction on media freedom and a violation of cultural rights.
- 5.5. In addition, HKSAR civil society have also repeatedly raised concerns and called for help regarding the gender-based violence against women. In August 2019, a coalition of HKSAR civil society urged the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women to visit the HKSAR to examine the seriousness of gender-based violence committed by the HKPF against the protestors, and recommended that the HKSAR Government establish an Independent Commission of Inquiry to conduct impartial investigations.¹⁸
- 5.6. The NSL has had a devastating impact on civil society in the HKSAR, where many organisations have voluntarily disbanded or been forced to closed and their work is increasingly limited, to ensure that it does not lead to their criticism or arrests related to

the NSL.

6. Political Prisoners

6.1. Since the protest movement started, more than 10,000 people have been arrested in protest-related cases, and over 2,300 charged. Many of them have been detained and are facing prosecution under the National Security Law and illegal-assembly rules.¹⁹

6.2. HKW has documented 112 cases of political prisoners, which meet the criteria that (1) the nature of the case must be non-violent, all violent cases will not be counted and (2) the case has to be reported by some English media which mentioned the defendant's name to support the story. For this reason, our number is much lower than other estimates, and there is no official count. Most of the political prisoner charges are for unauthorised assembly, sedition, and violations of the Societies Ordinance.

6.3. Chow Hang Tung

6.3.1. Chow Hang Tung is an activist, barrister and politician, and is the former vice-chairperson of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China. This is the group that organised the annual vigils in remembrance of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and massacre.

6.3.2. Chow was convicted and sentenced 22 months in total, including being charged with inciting others to take part in an unauthorised assembly and knowingly participating in an unlawful assembly on June 4 vigil in 2020,²⁰ inciting others to take part in an unauthorised assembly on June 4 vigil in 2021,²¹ and failing to comply with a request for information from the HKPF.²²

6.3.3. Although she is already in prison for related charges, she still faces a charge of subverting state power through the Alliance. She is among four persons charged with inciting others to organise, plan, carry out or participate in the implementation of acts aimed at subverting state power by illegal means from 1st July 2020 to 8th September 2021. All four are in detention and under the NSL, they could spend up to ten years in prison.

6.3.4. In June 2023, the UN Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention published its Opinion No. 30/2023 concerning Ms. Hang Tung Chow (Hong Kong, China). The Working Group concluded, inter alia, that: they were "very concerned about articles 44, 46 and 47 of the National Security Law. Articles 44 and 47 provide the Chief Executive with excessive power, including the power to appoint judges from a list that is not made public and, in consultation with the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, to hear

national security cases, as well as the power to issue a binding certificate to the courts as to whether an act involves national security or whether the relevant evidence involves State secrets when such questions arise in the adjudication of a case” which also was of particular concern also to the Human Rights Committee in 2022. (§88)

6.3.5. The deprivation of liberty of Ms. Chow is in contravention of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is arbitrary. (§95)

6.3.6. Ms. Chow should be released immediately and receive “compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law.” (§97)

6.3.7. The HKSAR should revise the provisions of the National Security Law to ensure that they comply with its obligations under international law. (§98)

6.3.8. “A full and independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of Ms. Hang Tung Chow and to take appropriate measures against those responsible for the violation of her rights” (§99).²³

6.4. Stand News

6.4.1. In December 2021, seven people were arrested by the National Security Police over suspected conspiracy to publish seditious materials, on Stand News, which was a seven-year-old media outlet in Hong Kong. Stand News ceased operations, deleted its website, and was raided by over 200 National Security Police officers.

6.4.2. At the time, this was criticised by many states who raised concerns about the human rights situation, and the OHCHR said in a statement that it was concerned by the “extremely rapid closing of the civic space and outlets for Hong Kong’s civil society to speak and express themselves freely.”²⁴

6.4.3. Today, Chung Pui-kuen, former chief editor of Stand News, and Patrick Lam, former acting editor of the outlet, stand accused of conspiring to publish seditious publications along with the outlet’s parent company, Best Pencil Limited. 17 articles published by the outlet are allegedly seditious.

6.4.4. The trial has raised concerns related to the rule of law and right to fair trial in Hong Kong, due to the political direction of the reasoning. For example, the prosecution argued that news materials should be deemed “seditious” if they stirred up public dissatisfaction against the government. The verdict is expected to be released in October 2023, almost a year after the trial began.

6.4.5. Chung and Lam face a maximum penalty of two years behind bars, including the time already served during custody. However, they were both detained for almost a year before they were granted bail at the beginning of the trial, so their time in prison after the judgment may be shorter.²⁵

6.5. Jimmy Lai

6.5.1. Under the NSL, the founder of the Apple Daily media outlet Jimmy Lai has been accused of two counts of conspiracy to collude with external forces and one count of collusion with external forces. He has already been sentenced to jail for five years and nine months over fraud charges and one count of publishing allegedly seditious content. He has also served two other sentences since 2020, one for 13 months for participating in a vigil to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, and one for 14 months for joining a peaceful pro-democracy protest. His trial has been adjourned multiple times and the government has sought, multiple times, to block his UK lawyer from representing him, citing national security concerns.

6.5.2. The HKSAR also used this case to seek Beijing's further interpretation of the NSL, resulting in a ruling that empowers the HKSAR Chief Executive to determine which lawyers can represent defendants in NSL cases as well as selecting the judges to preside over such trials.²⁶ His lawyer of choice was barred from representing him because he is a foreign national, and Lai has recently lost a bid to challenge the HKSAR's search warrant of his phones, which allegedly contained protected journalistic materials.²⁷

6.6. 47 Democrats

6.6.1. Another prominent case is the trial of the 47 democrats, which concerns the 47 democrats who organised or participated in "unofficial" primaries in July 2020. As a result of these primaries, 55 people were arrested in January 2021, in the largest crackdown since the NSL was passed.

6.6.2. Of these, 47 have been accused of "conspiracy to commit subversion" and are now facing trial. The majority of defendants have been in detention for 2 years, as only 13 have been granted bail. 31 of the defendants have pleaded guilty. This is one of the most significant trials since the NSL was passed.²⁸

6.6.3. The trial has lasted beyond the government's predictions and raised concerns about the right to fair trial and rule of law, as well as criticisms about the NSL's denial of bail to suspects unless the judge is convinced they will not commit national security offenses. Many of the defendants were denied bail for alleged

collusion with foreign forces, which included peaceful communication with consular staff and foreign journalists,²⁹ which is disproportionate and unfair.

6.7. Other

6.7.1. In addition to these cases, there are a number of other concerning political prisoners to highlight:

6.7.2. Cyd Ho Sau-lan: currently in jail and is the founding member and vice-chairperson of the Labour Party. She was a member of Hong Kong's Legislative Council from 1998-2004 and 2008-2016 and the Trustee of 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund. She has been charged with organizing and participating in an unauthorized assembly (8 months imprisonment),³⁰ organising an unauthorized assembly (14 months imprisonment),³¹ knowingly participating in an unauthorized assembly (6 months imprisonment),³² and organising and inciting others to take part in an unauthorized assembly for 14 months imprisonment.³³

6.7.3. Margaret Ng Ngoi-Yee: was a barrister and Trustee of 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund. She served as a Hong Kong Legislative Council member from 1995-2012. Her charges are organising and participating in an unauthorized assembly and failing to apply for registration or exemption from registration within the specified time. She was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment and suspended for 24 months.³⁴

6.7.4. Chan Pui Man: former associate publisher of Apple Daily. She was arrested on June 16 2021 along with Next Digital executives and editors and was accused of conspiring with them to collude with foreign forces. Chan was released on bail on June 18 2021 after 48 hours of detention. On July 21 2021, the HKPF revoked her bail, and she has been held in pre-trial detention at the Tai Lam Centre for Women since then. She faces a charge of conspiracy to publish seditious publications alongside other Next Digital and Apple Daily executives. On December 29 2021, while she was detained, Chan was arrested on a separate case for being involved in publishing seditious publications for Stand News along with her husband Chung Pui-kuen, who was the editor-in-chief at Stand News.³⁵

6.7.5. Underage political prisoners including Yuen Ka-him (17), Wan Chung-wai (16), Leung Yung-wan (17), and Tseung Chau Ching-yu (17) who were members of the "RETURNING VALIANT" political organisation. These 4 defendants were charged following events that occurred between January 10, 2021, and May 6, 2021. They allegedly promoted a violent uprising against the PRC through online social media

platforms, street speeches, leaflet distribution, press conferences, and live broadcasts. Incitement is alleged to have occurred through two different Instagram accounts and one Facebook account.³⁶

7. Women's Rights

- 7.1. In March 2023, to mark International Women's Day, the Hong Kong Women Workers' Association planned a peaceful march that received government approval. They called for labour rights, women's rights and gender equality. However, at the last minute, the group announced that they needed to cancel the march and gave no explanation.
- 7.2. The HKPF added that anyone who went to the site anyway would be arrested for unauthorised assembly and face up to five years in prison. The HKPF later claimed that violent groups planned to join the women's protest, and that this would pose a national security threat, although they did not disclose evidence of this allegation.³⁷
- 7.3. Despite being entirely peaceful in its planning and previous renditions, the women's march was deemed a national security threat, without any evidence from the HKPF, and cancelled. There was no public space for people to express demands for women's rights and gender equality, and no alternative platform offered.
- 7.4. There have also been extensive allegations of gender-based and sexual violence perpetrated by the HKPF in the 2019 protest, primarily against women. HKW reported on this in detail during the CEDAW review.
- 7.5. In August 2019, a woman arrested during a protest accused female HKPF officers of conducting sexual assault during a strip search. During the strip search, she was ordered to remove all of her clothes including her underwear, and when she asked why, the officers said that "you violated the law, you have to be strip-searched." Then, when she tried to cover her private parts with her hands, an officer used a pen to hit her hand and prompted her to open her legs by tapping her inner thighs using the pen. She described this incident as a "me too" sexual assault case. The HKPF did not investigate this specific case, simply stating that "body search is necessary and the HKPF have our own considerations" and that they follow strict guidelines, although these were not clarified.³⁸
- 7.6. In one case where a woman reported an alleged rape by a number of HKPF officers in October 2019, the HKPF responded unprofessionally. The defendant's lawyers accused the HKPF of "gross invasion of privacy" and "outrageous abuse of police power" because they used a search warrant to look at the defendant's medical records, including those pre-dating the alleged incident, and also sought CCTV footage from the clinic where she was receiving medical support and terminated a pregnancy related to the incident.³⁹

- 7.7. In November 2019, the Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women published the results of a survey on gender-based violence during the protests. The majority of the perpetrators (89%) were “Pro-government or pro-establishment supporter” or “Police or other law enforcement officer.” Furthermore, when asked how to respond to an incident, only 3% said they would report to the HKPF.⁴⁰
- 7.8. There have been repeated allegations of sexual harassment and assault, including rape, by the HKPF, which have not been investigated. Not only is the HKSAR failing to investigate and provide safe channels for accountability, the authorities themselves are perpetuating these violations of women’s rights.
- 7.9. During the CEDAW review, the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Shirley Lam Shuet-lai, attacked NGO submissions for being based on “false information” and containing “distorted narratives.” She said that she strongly opposed the groundless claims of gender based and sexual violence against the police and that no-one, including the police, is above the law.” The HKSAR government also published a press release criticising HKW and other NGOs “not based in Hong Kong” who gave additional information to the UN, stating that they “made submissions to the Committee that are highly politically charged [...] based on false information and distorted narratives regardless of the truth”.⁴¹ It is an attack on freedom of expression and a deliberate attempt to silence civil society who are critical of the HKSAR, even when they are abroad.

8. Freedom of the Media

- 8.1. According to HKW's research, almost all independent and pro-democracy media outlets have been forced to close, 18 journalists have been arrested and at least 12 journalists and media executives are currently in jail awaiting trial since the imposition of the NSL on 1 July 2020.⁴²
- 8.2. The HKSAR ranked 140 out of 180 in the Reporters Without Borders 2023 Index.⁴³
- 8.3. In November 2021, the Foreign Correspondents' Club published a survey of its correspondent and journalist members in the HKSAR. According to the FCC's statement, "the results revealed widespread uncertainty among members over what the media is and is not allowed to report on since the imposition of the NSL in June 2020, and concern over the further erosion of press freedom"⁴⁴
- 8.4. The same survey in 2023 found that "many are finding the working conditions in the HKSAR to be increasingly difficult." Specifically, 83% said the environment for journalists had changed for the worse in the last 18 months, 88% said they found sources in the HKSAR had become less willing to be quoted or to discuss sensitive subjects in the last 18 months - "a telling indication of fear levels in the community" - and 43% said that they had practiced self-censorship in the last 18 months, either in the content of their reporting or by avoiding certain subjects, 27% of which said they had self-censored "considerably".⁴⁵
- 8.5. This is in addition to the legal challenges that many journalists and news outlets face, as described above. The HKSAR may add a fake news law and a false information law in the future.⁴⁶
- 8.6. The right to freedom of expression, and other rights related to freedom of the media, cannot be fully enjoyed in the HKSAR, in particular since the passing of the NSL.

9. Recommendations

HKW urges Member States to recommend the following measures in relation to the HKSAR, at the Fourth Cycle UPR of the PRC:

- Repeal the National Security Law and refrain from applying it in the meantime;
- Comply with international legal obligations including but not limited to the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and the Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women;
- Implement the recommendations by the Human Rights Committee in 2022, and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on Women's Rights in 2023;
- Independently investigate allegations of police misconduct and brutality, and provide accountability;
- Independently investigation allegations of gender-based and sexual violence, and provide accountability;
- Release all political prisoners;
- Establish an independent national human rights institute;
- Introduce clearer safeguards and accountability and transparency measures to ensure the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Word count: 5,579

This UPR Submission is Endorsed by:

Hong Kong organisations:

Action Free Hong Kong Montreal
AHKF AfricaHongKongFrance
Association of Hongkongers in Western Australia
Australia Capital Hong Kong Association
Australia Hong Kong Link
Birmingham Hongkongers
Bonham Tree Aid CIC
Britons in Hongkong
Canadian Friends of Hong Kong (CFHK)
Comité pour la liberté à Hongkong
Democracy For Hong Kong (D4HK)
Freiheit für Hongkong e.V.
Halifax-Hong Kong Link
HKersUnited
Hong Kong Committee in Norway
Hong Kong Community Focus CIC
Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)
Fight for Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong.
Hong Kong Liberty
Hongkonger in Deutschland e.V.
Hongkongers in Britain (HKB)
Hongkongers in Leeds
Japan Hong Kong Democracy Alliance
Netherlands for Hong Kong (NL4HK)
NGO DEI
Power to Hongkongers
Scottish Hongkongers
Self-Exile Former District Councillors Hong Kong
Sutton Hong Kong Culture & Arts Society (Sutton 藝文社)
The 29 Principles
The Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation
Victoria Hongkongers Association

Additional supporting organisations:

Human Rights in China
Humanitarian China
Stop Uyghur Genocide
Uyghur Human Rights Project

¹ Hong Kong Watch, Briefing: Police Brutality and Political Prosecution in Hong Kong Extradition Bill Protests, 2019

² The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region gazetted and takes immediate effect (with photos), 30 June 2022, <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202006/30/P2020063001015.htm>

³ The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 2020, [https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/fwddoc/hk/a406/eng_translation_\(a406\)_en.pdf](https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/fwddoc/hk/a406/eng_translation_(a406)_en.pdf)

⁴ The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region gazetted and takes immediate effect (with photos)

⁵ The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

⁶ UN Human Rights Committee issues findings on Hong Kong, Macao, Georgia, Ireland, Luxembourg and Uruguay, 27 July 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/un-human-rights-committee-issues-findings-hong-kong-macao-georgia-ireland>

⁷ Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, 22 March 2023, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2FC.12%2FCHN%2FCO%2F3&Lang=en

⁸ Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of China, 30 May 2023, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2648&Lang=en

⁹ Reuters, Arrest warrants issued for six Hong Kong democracy activists: CCTV, 31 July 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-security-exiles-idUSKCN24W2FB>

¹⁰ Hong Kong Watch, HKW condemns the HK National Security Police's targeting of pro-democracy activists overseas, 3 July 2023 <https://www.hongkongwatch.org/all-posts/2023/7/3/hkw-condemns-the-hk-national-security-polices-targeting-of-pro-democracy-activists-overseas>

¹¹ Hong Kong Watch, Over 50 Hong Kong civil organisations urge government action following the Hong Kong National Security arrest warrants and bounties, 4 July 2023, <https://www.hongkongwatch.org/all-posts/2023/7/4/over-50-hong-kong-civil-organisations-urge-government-action-following-the-hong-kong-national-security-arrest-warrants-and-bounties>

¹² BBC, China accuses UK of harbouring Hong Kong fugitives, 4 July 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-66098796>

¹³ CNN, Family of Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Nathan Law taken in for questioning by police, 11 July 2023, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/07/11/china/hong-kong-nsl-nathan-law-family-questioned-intl-hnk/index.html>

¹⁴ Hong Kong Free Press, Hong Kong justice minister files complaints to legal bodies against 2 wanted democrats, 11 July 2023, <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/07/11/hong-kong-justice-minister-files-complaints-to-legal-bodies-against-2-wanted-democrats/>

¹⁵ Hong Kong Free Press, Timeline: 58 Hong Kong civil society groups disband following the onset of the security law, 30 June 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/06/30/explainer-over-50-groups-gone-in-11-months-how-hong-kongs-pro-democracy-forces-crumbled/>

¹⁶ Hong Kong Watch, Hong Kong Watch Condemns the Trial and Conviction of the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund Trustees and Secretary, 25 November 2022

¹⁷ International Federation of Journalists, UK: Launch of Association of overseas Hong Kong media professionals, 2022, <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/category/press-freedom/article/uk-launch-of-association-of-overseas-hong-kong-media-professionals.html>

¹⁸ Global Signature Campaign: UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women urged to examine Gender-based Violence Committed by the Hong Kong Police Force in the Anti-Extradition Legislative Amendment Bill Movement, Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women, <https://rainlily.org.hk/glosign>

¹⁹ Hong Kong Watch, About the Political Prisoners Campaign, <https://www.hongkongwatch.org/pol-prisoners>

²⁰ Reuters, Hong Kong activists get up to 14 months in prison for banned Tiananmen vigil, 13 December 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/hong-kong-activists-get-up-14-months-prison-banned-tiananmen-vigil-2021-12-13/>

²¹ Hong Kong Free Press, Ex-organiser of Hong Kong Tiananmen Massacre vigil jailed for 15 months over banned 2021 commemoration, 4 January 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/01/04/breaking-hong-kong-tiananmen-massacre-vigil-group-ex-leader-convicted-over-2021-banned-rally/>

²² Hong Kong Free Press, 3 Hong Kong Tiananmen vigil group activists convicted of refusing national security data demand, 4 March 2023, <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/03/04/breaking-3-hong-kong-tiananmen-vigil-group-activists-convicted-of-refusing-national-security-data-demand/>

²³ Opinion No. 30/2023 concerning Ms. Hang Tung Chow (Hong Kong, China)

²⁴ Hong Kong Free Press, Stand News raid: Hong Kong justice chief says foreign critics of journalist arrests are in violation of int'l law, 31 December 2021, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/12/31/stand-news-raid-hong-kong-justice-chief-says-foreign-critics-of-journalist-arrests-are-in-violation-of-intl-law/>

²⁵ Hong Kong Free Press, Verdict in sedition trial against Hong Kong outlet Stand News set for October, almost a year after trial began, 29 June 2023, <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/06/29/verdict-in-sedition-trial-against-hong-kong-outlet-stand-news-set-for-october-almost-a-year-after-trial-began/>

-
- ²⁶ Hong Kong Free Press, National security trial against media tycoon Jimmy Lai adjourned until September 2023, 13 December 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/12/13/breaking-national-security-trial-against-media-tycoon-jimmy-lai-adjourned-until-september-2023/>
- ²⁷ Hong Kong Free Press, Hong Kong court blocks bid by media tycoon Jimmy Lai to appeal against phones' national security search warrant, 19 June 2023, <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/06/19/breaking-hong-kong-court-blocks-jimmy-lais-latest-bid-to-appeal-against-national-security-search-warrant-on-phones/>
- ²⁸ Hong Kong Watch, Political prisoner trial developments in Hong Kong last week (5 - 9 June and 12 - 16 June), 19 June 2023, <https://www.hongkongwatch.org/all-posts/2023/6/19/political-prisoner-trial-developments-in-hong-kong-last-week-5-9-june-and-12-16-june>
- ²⁹ Human Rights Watch, Hong Kong: 47 Lawmakers, Activists Face Unfair Trial, 22 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/22/hong-kong-47-lawmakers-activists-face-unfair-trial>
- ³⁰ Hong Kong Free Press, Hong Kong 'Father of Democracy' Martin Lee handed suspended jail sentence over peaceful 2019 demo, 23 November 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/04/16/breaking-hong-kong-father-of-democracy-martin-lee-handed-2-year-suspended-jail-sentence-over-peaceful-2019-demo/>
- ³¹ Hong Kong Free Press, Jail terms for Hong Kong democrats over banned 2019 China National Day demo, 28 May 2021, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/05/28/breaking-years-long-jail-terms-for-hong-kong-democrats-over-banned-2019-china-national-day-demo/>
- ³² Hong Kong Free Press, Top Hong Kong democrats sentenced over banned 2020 Tiananmen Massacre vigil, 15 September 2021, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/09/15/breaking-top-hong-kong-democrats-sentenced-over-banned-2020-tiananmen-massacre-vigil/>
- ³³ Hong Kong Free Press, 7 Hong Kong democrats jailed over unauthorised assembly in Oct 2019, 1 September 2021, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/09/01/breaking-7-hong-kong-democrats-sentenced-to-jail-over-unauthorised-assembly-in-oct-2019/>
- ³⁴ Hong Kong Free Press, In full: Hong Kong barrister Margaret Ng's mitigation plea given before she was sentenced over a peaceful 2019 demo, 16 April 2021, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/04/16/in-full-hong-kong-barrister-margaret-ngs-mitigation-plea-given-before-she-was-sentenced-over-a-peaceful-2019-demo/>
- ³⁵ Hong Kong Free Press, 6 former senior staff of Hong Kong's Apple Daily plead guilty to collusion charge in national security case, 22 November 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/11/22/breaking-6-former-senior-staff-of-hong-kongs-apple-daily-plead-guilty-to-collusion-charge-in-national-security-case/>
- ³⁶ Hong Kong Free Press, 6 Hong Kong activists, including minors, plead guilty to national security charge, 22 August 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/08/22/6-hong-kong-activists-including-minors-plead-guilty-to-national-security-charge/>
- ³⁷ Hong Kong women's rights protest cancelled after police cite risk of violence, 4 March 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-womens-rights-protest-cancelled-after-police-cite-risk-violence-2023-03-04/>

³⁸ Hong Kong police accused of indecent assault after protester strip searched days after arrest, Hong Kong Free Press, 23 August 2019, <https://hongkongfp.com/2019/08/23/hong-kong-police-accused-metoo-assault-protester-strip-searched-days-arrest/>

³⁹ ‘Grossly unprofessional’: Lawyers slam Hong Kong police for ‘privacy breach’ after woman accuses officers of gang rape, Hong Kong Free Press, 12 November 2019, <https://hongkongfp.com/2019/11/12/grossly-unprofessional-lawyers-slam-hong-kong-police-privacy-breach-woman-accuses-officers-gang-rape/>

⁴⁰ Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women, An Executive Summary of 'Anti-ELAB' Sexual Violence Experience Online Survey An Executive Summary of 'Anti-ELAB' Sexual Violence Experience Online Survey, 6 November 2019, <https://rainlily.org.hk/eng/news/2019/11/release>

⁴¹ Hong Kong Watch, Hong Kong Watch attends UN Women’s Rights Review, 12 May 2023, <https://www.hongkongwatch.org/all-posts/2023/5/12/hong-kong-watch-attends-un-womens-rights-review>

⁴² Hong Kong Watch, In the Frontline: the Crackdown on Media Freedom in Hong Kong, 2022, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58ecfa82e3df284d3a13dd41/t/6267a85f333d890e0d1df0da/1650960491043/final5_HKWReport_The+Crackdown+on+Media+Freedom+in+Hong+Kong.pdf, p5

⁴³ <https://rsf.org/en/index>

⁴⁴ Foreign Correspondents’ Club Hong Kong, Membership Survey on Press Freedom, 2021, <https://www.fcchk.org/membership-survey-on-press-freedom/>

⁴⁵ Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents’ Club, Statement on Results of FCC’s Press Freedom Survey, 5 July 2023, <https://www.fcchk.org/statement-on-results-of-fccs-press-freedom-survey/>

⁴⁶ Hong Kong Free Press, Hong Kong may drop plans for ‘fake news’ law, says leader John Lee, 29 June 2023, <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/06/29/hong-kong-may-drop-plans-for-fake-news-law-says-leader-john-lee/>