

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19th, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

On December 14, 2023, Hong Kong authorities, under the influence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), issued five arrest warrants and HK\$1 million (US\$128,000) bounties on overseas activists accused of violating the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL). Two of said bounties are on a U.S. citizen and a U.S. resident.¹ The Hong Kong authorities' egregious attempt to intimidate and silence U.S. nationals engaged in peaceful political activism in the United States is outrageous and cannot be met with inaction. We urge the administration to take swift action and impose sanctions on the perpetrators of this reprehensible act of transnational repression. We also urge you to work with Congress to address transnational repression.

The People's Republic of China committed to maintaining Hong Kong's autonomy and democracy under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework when Hong Kong was handed over to the People's Republic of China in 1997. Despite this commitment, the CCP led by General Secretary Xi Jinping has implemented draconian judicial reforms eroding Hong Kong law enforcement's independence. The CCP has since unabashedly eroded civil liberties and political freedom in Hong Kong through their Hong Kong authorities as proxies.²

Lawful pro-democracy protests in the summer of 2019 were met by the CCP's unilaterally enactment of the draconian HKNSL in 2020 to silence dissent in Hong Kong. The HKNSL is deliberately vague, outlining crimes such as "secession," "subversion," and "collusion," punishable by upwards of life imprisonment.³ Notably, the HKNSL contains provisions on extraterritorial jurisdiction and paves a legal pathway for Hong Kong authorities to target

¹ Jessie Pang, "Hong Kong police expand dragnet on overseas pro-democracy activists," *Reuters*, December 14, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/hong-kong-police-issue-arrest-warrants-5-more-overseas-activists-2023-12-14/>

² Chris Buckley and Alan Wong, "Hong Kong Students Boycott Classes in Democracy Fight," *The New York Times*, September 22, 2014, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/23/world/asia/hong-kong-students-lead-democracy-fight-with-class-boycott.html>; and Keith Bradsher, "Hong Kong Retreats on 'National Education' Plan," *The New York Times*, September 8, 2012, <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/world/asia/amid-protest-hong-kong-backs-down-on-moral-education-plan.html>

³ Javier C. Hernández, "Harsh Penalties, Vaguely Defined Crimes: Hong Kong's Security Law Explained," *The New York Times*, October 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/30/world/asia/hong-kong-security-law-explain.html>

dissidents and critics anywhere in the world regardless of their nationality or country of residence.⁴

The United States considers the HKNSL to be a brazen breach of the People's Republic of China's commitment to upholding Hong Kong's autonomy and democracy and responded by passing the Hong Kong Autonomy Act and issuing Executive Order 13936, in addition to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, to hold persons eroding Hong Kong autonomy accountable. The United States must not turn a blind eye to the CCP and Hong Kong authorities' extending their long arm of repression onto U.S. soil and threatening the civil liberties practiced by persons living in the United States.

In this context, we request that you determine by January 19th, 2024, whether the following Hong Kong and CCP security officials meet the criteria for sanctions pursuant to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, and Executive Order 13936.

- **Paul Lam Ting-kwok**, Hong Kong Secretary for Justice
- **Raymond Siu Chak-ye**, Hong Kong Commissioner of Police
- **Margaret Chiu Wing-lan**, Assistant Commissioner of Police, National Security
- **Dick Wong Chung-chun**, Assistant Commissioner of Police, National Security
- **Bruce Hung Ngan**, Senior Superintendent of Police
- **Maggie Yang Mei-kei**, Hong Kong Director of Public Prosecutions
- **Dong Jingwei**, Director of the Office for Safeguarding National Security

We appreciate your attention on this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Representative Mike Gallagher
Chairman
House Select Committee on the CCP



Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP



Representative Chris Smith
Chair
Congressional-Executive Commission on China



Senator Jeff Merkley
Cochair
Congressional-Executive Commission on China

⁴ The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, "The jurisdiction of Hong Kong National Security Law accords with international norms and double-standard criticisms are for an ulterior motive," July 2023, <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202307/06/P2023070600680.htm#:~:text=Under%20the%20principle%20of%20%22protective,effect%20to%20exercise%20prescriptive%20criminal>

CC:

The President of the United States, The Honorable Joseph Biden
The Secretary of Treasury, The Honorable Janet Yellen