



# 2020, A YEAR OF PUSH BACK

## AGAINST DEMOCRATIC REGRESSION

Democratic regression, attacks on human rights, and a growing manifestation of authoritarianism and marginalization. These are the very challenges confronted by democracy advocates in 2019, not only in Asia but across the globe. Despite the awareness of this herculean task, we have only seen democracy advocates unite, organize and resist democratic collapse and authoritarian abuse. The year saw massive citizen mobilizations in 17 countries across the globe, which took the lives of around 963 martyrs of democracy and sacrificed the freedoms of thousands of imprisoned and exiled activists.

In Asia, this wave of resistance is best exemplified by the ongoing Hong Kong Protests, a movement for democratic self-governance, which started as an act of defiance against an extradition legislation which compromises not only Hong Kong's autonomy but also the human rights of its citizens. The region also saw the seeds of democracy blossom, as the youth take the lead in the resistance against democratic regression. In Indonesia, youth marched to the streets to protest the disempowerment of the national anti-corruption watchdog; as well as in India where students and civil society have united to go against a legislation discriminating against minorities. Similar youth-led protests have taken place in Thailand and the Philippines.

The clamor and solidarity of the citizens' resistance against undemocratic values must be amplified and sustained as we open this new decade. This year, 2020, is the year of the push back against democratic regression and human rights abuses. We must heed the call to unite against draconian laws, abuse of governmental powers, and the clampdown on democratic dissent. We must overcome fears, stand alongside this noble pursuit to awaken societies against undemocratic threats and revive the peoples' power!

In Solidarity,  
Asia Democracy Network

## Global Protestor Deaths 2019 (January 1<sup>st</sup> to Present)

Country of Protest	Cause of Protest	Deaths
Hong Kong	Extradition Bill, Classification of Protestors as rioters & Release of political prisoners	2
Iran	Economic Strain & Fuel Price Increase	208
Iraq	Anti-Corruption, Unemployment, Economic Strain	330
Egypt	Anti-Corruption	
Lebanon	Economic Strain	7
Venezuela	Economic Strain	50
Bolivia	Claims of electoral fraud	31
Colombia	Economic Strain, Proposed Austerity measures	4
Chile	Economic Strain, Increased Cost of living, Unemployment	26
Ecuador	Economic Strain, Proposed Austerity measures	8
Ethiopia	Sparked by alleged attempt to detain Activist and Mass Leader Jawar Mohammed	86
India	Security Lockdown in Kashmir	5
	Citizen Amendment Act protests	23
Guinea	Proposed Constitutional Amendment – Third round Alpha Conde’s Presidency	9
Haiti	Economic Strain, Poverty, Corruption	42
Sudan	Against killing of civilians by Rapid Support Forces Nomination of Governors and Chief Justice	118
	Cyanide and Mercury poisoning near gold mines	
Algeria	Against Constitutional Amendment to allow President Bouteflika to run for a third term	3
	Corruption	
Indonesia	Post 2019 Elections Protest	6
	Anti-Corruption Protests	5
<b>Total death-toll</b>		<b>963</b>



**ADN**  
ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK



To Defend and Promote Democracy Together  
#2020YearofPushback  
#2020PushBack

