



Hong Kong: Pro-democracy Arrests Undermine Democracy and Humanity

For Immediate Release

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The Asia Democracy Network denounces the recent arrests of Hong Kong's pro-democracy advocates on Saturday 18, April 2020. The crackdown of activists amid the global fight against COVID-19 is an underhanded attempt by authorities to undermine human rights and democracy. At a time of vulnerability, the government continues to target and censor all voices of dissent.

In the biggest crackdown since the protests in 2019, 15 well-known democracy advocates of Hong Kong were arrested on allegations of joining and organizing demonstrations last year. The arrests of these veteran activists come as a shock, as the protests they were accused of organizing were widely initiated by the youth and have no known formal leadership structure. By targeting prominent democracy actors and silencing longtime critics, it is evident that Lam's regime continues to curtail democratic values, which has long served as a hindrance to their agenda of fully surrendering Hong Kong to Beijing's interests.

Freedoms to peacefully assemble, express, and associate are fundamental rights afforded to the people of Hong Kong which they can exercise as a response to any threats to their liberty. "It is regrettable that the arrests were executed during the COVID19 pandemic, placing the public's wellbeing and health at dire risk. By cracking down on democracy and human rights while a pandemic affects Hong Kong and the rest of the world, it is clear that the incumbent government works not in the best interest of its people. Instead of abusing their own citizens and silencing critics, they should instead work towards building trust through constructive political dialogue and work on protecting people's health," said Mr. Ichal Supriadi, Secretary General of Asia Democracy Network.

The Asia Democracy Network calls on the global community to stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong in this pushback to democracy regress. We call on the government of Hong Kong to immediately release all those arrested unconditionally.

-Asia Democracy Network

For more information: www.adnasia.org / ADN@adnasia.org