



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF POLITICAL CONSULTANTS

The Honourable Carrie Lam
The Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Peoples Republic of China
Office of the Chief Executive
1 Tim Wa Ave.
Admiralty, HONG KONG
Email: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

Dear Ms Lam,

On behalf of the global membership of the International Association of Political Consultants (IAPC.org) I write to protest the arrest by the Hong Kong Police under your administration of democracy activist, Joshua Wong, along with up to 900 other Hong Kong citizens protesting the pending extradition law, police brutality, and the lack of universal suffrage for free and fair elections in Hong Kong.

A primary commitment of IAPC is the fostering of democracy and the democratic process throughout the world. Since 1982, IAPC has presented its Democracy Medal award – now the longest standing international democracy award in the world – to an individual or organisation who has worked courageously to foster, promote and sustain the democratic process anywhere in the world. Meeting in Sydney, Australia in November 2018 at its 51st annual world conference, the IAPC announced its membership voted the 2018 Democracy Medal award to Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow.

The 2018 Democracy Medal award honoured the courage and persistence of these student spokesmen to promote and sustain democratic freedoms for Hong Kong as provided for by the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, a legal treaty.

As IAPC sees it, your actions as Chief Executive in proposing an extradition law, then suspending it, but refusing to withdraw it, are the principal provocations leading to the current mass protests by Hong Kong citizens. The world sees your protesters as fighting for the very essence of democratic values. These include, firstly, freedom from being arbitrarily extradited to face trial in a non-independent judiciary system, as in mainland China. Secondly, freedom from fear of exercising one's fundamental rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of assembly under threat of police violence. Finally, the right to democratic governance in the form of universal suffrage and free and fair elections.

IAPC will never condone violence, whether by Hong Kong police or by a minority of Hong Kong democracy protesters. But IAPC does in the strongest terms condemn the descent into repression of Hong Kong's free society and legal system under your administration.

A majority of IAPC's global membership are political professionals providing counsel to democratic candidates and political parties, many assisting the election of heads of state and members of parliaments and congresses of the world's democracies. They will continue to advise democracy leaders they must not shirk from calling out the Peoples Republic of China when it acts contrary to human rights, including in relation to Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely

IAPC • The International Association of Political Consultants

Mehmet Ural, President

IAPC • Democracy Medal Committee

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Jon Gaul
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