



ADAM SMITH
INSTITUTE



AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION
FOUNDATION

AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM



America's Future Foundation

ALEC | American
Legislative
Exchange
Council



Taxpayer.com
Stand Up. Be Heard!

Dear World Leaders,

We the undersigned 46 organisations, representing hundreds of millions of people from 27 countries, strongly condemn recent authoritarian actions by the Administration of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in exerting control over Hong Kong and threatening both the freedoms of its citizens and its economic stability.

While the SAR government has apparently taken some steps back by signaling the withdrawal of its extradition bill and a probe into misconduct and human rights abuses by their police force against protestors, we note that these are largely superficial steps that do not end the PRC's ongoing encroachment on Hong Kong's autonomy, and are at least partially motivated by the threat of further U.S. economic sanctions against the PRC. We note, for example, that the extradition bill will not be formally withdrawn unless the decision is approved by the pro-PRC Legislative Council in late October, and that the inquiry into police brutality will be conducted by a body with limited investigative abilities that is not empowered to call a single witness and is staffed by former policemen and pro-PRC Legislative Council members.

We therefore call upon our governments to issue an unequivocal condemnation of actions undertaken by the SAR regime which has enacted a state of effective martial law designed to intimidate and force protestors into silence despite the irrevocable alteration of their way of life, and express their support for the people of Hong Kong. We further call for world governments to support the passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which is intended to safeguard Hong Kong's autonomy.

The actions by authorities in the SAR ignore the wishes of the people of Hong Kong to retain their autonomy and liberal freedoms, whilst blatantly breaking the terms of the bilateral international agreement under which Hong Kong was given to the PRC in 1997. Hong Kong has been a bastion of liberal freedoms and values in the region and has been consistently ranked as one of the world's most economically free cities. It has had a strong foundation of an independent judiciary and the rule of law, as well as private property rights, both physical and intellectual, allowing for an influx of investment and for its economy to flourish and prosper.



It is therefore understandable that the people of Hong Kong strongly oppose illiberal laws that undermine human rights, including the PRC’s attempt to pass an extradition bill that would have denied individuals in Hong Kong the basic right to due process in justice and allowed for political dissidents to be extradited and imprisoned. Hong Kong’s independent judiciary is critical for countries doing business, and therefore for its position in global trade. If these freedoms are eroded, and companies become subject to arbitrary actions by the government, or have their intellectual property stolen as occurs on the mainland, companies will no longer be willing to invest. This will damage not just the economy of Hong Kong, but the economies of all countries that do business with the region. This is why over 2 million Hong Kong residents have taken to the streets to protest - almost half the city’s entire population.

In the face of the Hong Kong people’s reasonable demands, the Administration has resorted to illegal tactics such as using tear gas indoors, shooting protesters in their faces with rubber bullets (permanently blinding a nurse in one eye) and simply beating people with no just cause. Police have been recorded pepper spraying protesters and viciously assaulting them to the point of causing serious fractures and broken bones, even after the protesters have surrendered. On 11 August, over 23 protesters were also detained and denied access to their lawyers. Linda Wong, the executive director of the Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women, has also said that Hong Kong police officers have been recorded sexually assaulting both female and male pro-democracy protesters over the past three months to humiliate and silence them. Other dubious tactics include undercover police officers infiltrating protests.

Amnesty International has also condemned the use of blue dye in water cannons to identify protesters for later arrest as it’s indiscriminate and could mark medical staff, journalists, and other bystanders for arrest and detention. Unless the international community sends a clear message, this abuse will only escalate.

The people of Hong Kong need international solidarity in their time of need as they hold the fort against PRC expansionism and imperialism - a phenomenon that threatens every free, liberal country in the world. A failure to act now, by taking a decisive stand in support of the Hong Kong people against these actions, will only embolden the PRC government to take further action against external parties that it deems enemies of its state- as well as against its own people who already live under an oppressive regime with a track record of wantonly disregarding the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities.



ESTUDIO
HELGUERA.



Abuses committed by the PRC are not limited to Hong Kong. These human rights violations also include the imprisonment of over a million people from Uighur minorities in indoctrination camps to quell any political opposition, the harvesting of organs from political prisoners, collusion with criminal triad gangs to intimidate and harass dissidents, the killing of protesters and dissidents and torture and killing of persecuted sects.

All governments should stand with the people of Hong Kong who are literally risking life and limb on the frontlines of a fight for democracy and freedom. The implications of what occurs in the coming days, weeks, and months has significant ramifications, not just for the persons living in Hong Kong and its local economy, but the international economy as a whole. Beyond the short term economic consequences, this is a fight which could spread elsewhere, if the actions of the increasingly fascistic authoritarian and expansionist regime that is cracking down on citizens' rights is not checked.

As the eyes of the world are on what happens in Hong Kong, now more than ever it is critical that our governments do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Brian Marlow
Executive Director
Austrian Taxpayers Alliance
(Australia)

Matt Kilcoyne
Head of Communications
Adam Smith Institute
(United Kingdom)

Michi Iljazi
Director of Government Affairs
American Conservative Union
(United States)

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform
(United States)

Cindy Cerquitella
Executive Director
America's Future Foundation
(United States)

Karla Jones
Director of International Relations
and Federalism
ALEC
(United States)

John Humphreys
President
Australian Libertarian Society
(Australia)

Graham Young
Executive Director
Australia Institute for Progress
(Australia)



Scott Hennig
President and CEO
Canadian Taxpayers Federation
(Canada)

Stoyan Panchev
President
Bulgarian Libertarian Society
(Bulgaria)



Edo Omercevic
Director
Center for Advancement of Free
Enterprise
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Rocio Guijarro
Cedice Libertad
(Venezuela)



Tomasz Kolodziejczuk
President
Centrum Kapitalizmu
(Poland)

Rahul Kumar
Centre for Public Policy Research
(India)



INSTITUTO DE LIBRE EMPRESAS

Andrés Barrientos
Executive Director
Ciudadano Austral Foundation
(Chile)

Chip Ford
Executive Director
Citizens for Limited Taxation
(United States)



INSTITUTO

FERNANDO DE LA MORA

Eudes Baufreton
Director
Contribuables Associes
French Taxpayers Association
(France)

Marek Tatala
Vice President
Civil Development Forum
(Poland)



Less Government

Gary Kavanagh
Director
Edmund Burke Institute
(Ireland)

Rafail Kaliviotis
Diesty
(Greece)



www.minimalgovernment.net

Simon Richards
Freedom Association
(United Kingdom)

Eduardo Helguera
Director
Estudio Helguera
(Argentina)



www.nes-g.org

Federico Fernández
President
Fundación Internacional Bases
(Argentina)

Jason Pye
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks
(United States)

FREE
SPEECH
COALITION



Roxana Nicula
Presidenta / Chair
Fundación para el Avance de la
Libertad
(Spain)

Garret Edwards
Director of Legal Research
Fundación Libertad
(Argentina)

Roxani Kargakou
Greek Liberties Monitor
(Greece)



Jon Coupal
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
(United States)

John Gray
Executive Director
H.R. Nicholles
(Australia)



Svetla Kostadinova
Executive Director
Institute for Market Economics (IME)
(Bulgaria)

Ali Salman
Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Democracy and Economic
Affairs (IDEAS)
(Malaysia)



Andrew Langer
President
Institute for Liberty
(United States)

Jose L. Tapia-Rocha
Director General
Instituto de Libre Empresa
(Peru)



Mag. Federico Rabino
Director Ejecutivo
Instituto Fernando de la Mora
(Paraguay)

Seton Motley
President
Less Government
(United States)



STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY
A FREER FUTURE

Bienvenido S. Oplas Jr
President
Minimal Government Thinkers
(Philippines)

Gia Jandieri
Founder, Vice-President
New Economic School-Georgia
(Georgia)



Svensk Tidskrift

EST. 1911. ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR
POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND CULTURE

svensktidskrift.se

Jordan Williams
Founder
New Zealand Free Speech Coalition
(New Zealand)

Jose A. Cambareri
Presidente
Nosotros Los Contribuyentes
(Argentina)

Inés Marrache Echais
Institutional Chief
Peruvian Taxpayers Association
(Peru)

Kamala Neupane
Samriddhi Foundation
(Nepal)



Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO
Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Council
(United States)

Kyle Walker
Senior Programs Director
Students for Liberty
(International)



Amanda Wollstad
Editor-in-Chief
Svensk Tidskrift
(Sweden)

Nisa Bahçeli
President
Tax Research Association
Arařtırmaları Topluluđu
(Turkey)



Tim Andrews
Executive Director
Taxpayers Protection Alliance
(United States)

Marcin Nowacki
Board Member
Warsaw Enterprise Institute
(Poland)

