

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN HONG KONG:

HONG KONG WATCH BRIEFING ON EVENTS: OCTOBER 2022

KEY FIGURES

230 individuals are currently detained/imprisoned under the National Security Law.^{1 2 3}

Hong Kong's ranking in the latest Rule of Law Index was downgraded by three positions to **22nd** out of 140 countries.⁴

20,359 net-outflow of Hong Kong residents via the Hong Kong airport in September.⁵

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POLITICAL PRISONERS: ARRESTS, CHARGES, & TRIALS

- Almost 3,000 people, including 517 minors, are prosecuted in relation to the 2019 protests.
- At least 18 individuals sentenced this month over the Anti-ELAB protests. More trials underway.
- Five speech therapists are released after completing their sentences.
- Nine student activists, including 5 teenagers, sentenced to prisons or training centres under the NSL.
- The 612 Humanitarian Fund case continues. The nature of the fund is debated in court.
- DJ Giggs was sentenced for sedition. The court ordered his 4.87 HKD million assets to be confiscated.
- Mild activism, such as supporting political prisoners, was put on trial.
- Stand News journalists plead not guilty as Hong Kong's first sedition case against the media began.
- Trials continue against Hongkongers jailed in mainland after their attempted escape to Taiwan. One faces fresh explosives charges.

¹ This includes the arrests handled by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police and/or charged with offences under the National Security Law.

² The number summarised information from HKW's own political prisoner database, and from [Tracking the Impact of Hong Kong's National Security Law](#) & [港區國安法案件列表 - Wikiwand](#)

³ 9 individuals tried under NSL have completed their prison sentence and are excluded from this number.

⁴ <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2022/Hong%20Kong%20SAR%2C%20China>

⁵ [Passenger traffic: Hong Kong Residents, Airport \(webb-site.com\)](#)

- Chow Hang-tung appeals conviction over inciting an illegal assembly on the 32nd anniversary of Tiananmen massacre.
- Jimmy Lai was convicted for fraud over the use of the headquarter building of the dissolved Apple Daily.
- Nine were arrested either by the National Security Department or for the 2019 protests.

STATE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND POLICING

- The Hong Kong government amended its Covid-19 law after losing a legal challenge over the government's power to annul vaccination exemption certificates.
- CCP's propagandist book read and discussed by Hong Kong's justice and national security officials.
- Legislation of Basic Law Article 23 removed from 2022 legislature schedule.
- The Hong Kong government announced the terms of two non-permanent Court of Final Appeal judges extended. One of them is a UK Supreme Court judge.
- Hong Kong is downgraded in the latest Rule of Law Index.

A FREE PRESS IN THE CROSS HAIRS

- Hong Kong Police complained to Ming Pao over a 'misleading' cartoon.
- HK01 article on Beijing lone-wolf protest was censored six hours after its publication.
- The International Federation of Journalists published a new report on the CCP's destruction of Hong Kong's freedom of expression.

A GREAT PURGE UNDERWAY

- The University of Hong Kong has introduced a new registration system restricting access to politically sensitive books.
- New secondary school subject will focus on national security and the sense of belonging.
- After the Leisure and Cultural Services Department disqualified literature competition winners, national security conditions were found in public library's school writing competitions.
- Students suspended for three days over allegedly disrespecting flag raising.
- Patriots tightened their grip on the governing bodies of the arts sector.
- PayPal HK terminated service to Hong Kong pro-democracy group.
- The website of an overseas pro-democratic NGO's website is partially blocked in Hong Kong.
- US Congress releases new report on the purge of Hong Kong civil society.

STATE SECURITY AND ECONOMY

- Hong Kong Covid-19 measure shows a tendency to be normalised.
- Hong Kong economic statistics worsened. Big retail and hospitality chains filed for bankruptcy.
- Central government issued more government bonds in Hong Kong.
- Departments sought extra budget as the government remains in deficit.
- Virgin Atlantic pulled out from the city, casting shadow over Hong Kong's attempt to reboot international events as October records.
- October records 22 machete incidents in the city as the police advertise new posts.

- Hong Kong is becoming a sanctioned entities' financial haven.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT

- The US State Department warned Hong Kong on sanctions.
- The UN expressed alarming concerns over the latest sentencing of minors under the NSL.
- US Senate members and the State Department issued statements condemning the conviction of Jimmy Lai's fraud case. Beijing and the HKSAR government hit back.
- A bipartisan bill is tabled in the US Senate to condemn the arrest and trial of Cardinal Emeritus Zen.
- The US First Amendment Museum launched an online exhibition on Apple Daily.
- The UK announced the amendment to the BN(O) Visa route covering second-generation BN(O) holders.
- The BBC will stop producing Cantonese Newsweek after airing the last episode on 5 November.
- UK lawmakers tabled urgent questions after Hong Kong protesters were beaten up by Chinese wolf-warrior diplomats.
- Veteran pro-democracy Hong Kong writer Li Yi passed away in Taiwan.
- Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in London and Berlin remain in action.

POLITICAL PRISONERS: ARRESTS, CHARGES & TRIALS

Almost 3,000 people, including 517 minors, prosecuted for 2019 Anti-ELAB protests

In a TV interview, the Security Secretary Chris Tang revealed that almost 3,000 people were prosecuted over 2019 Anti-Extradition Amendment Bill protests so far. Among them around 2,000 cases had been concluded with 80% of cases found guilty.⁶ Chris Tang said that the authority is designing a specific 'rehabilitation' route targeting these protesters, including arranging them to work in the Greater Bay Area.

According to statistics from the Hong Kong Police and the Security Bureau, 10,279 people had been apprehended in connection with the 2019 protest movement as of August 2022. Among these arrestees, 1,754 were aged under 18 and 517 of them were prosecuted.⁷

⁶ 鄧炳強：六至七成在囚「黑暴」深感懊悔 有僱主欲安排回大灣區工作 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 (inmediak.net)

⁷ [Almost 3,000 people, including 517 minors, prosecuted so far over 2019 Hong Kong protests - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(\[hongkongfp.com\]\(http://hongkongfp.com\)\)](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2022/08/22/almost-3000-people-including-517-minors-prosecuted-so-far-over-2019-hong-kong-protests/)

At least 18 individuals sentenced over Anti-ELAB protests this month, with more trials underway

At least 18 individuals were sentenced to jails for a variety of charges for their involvement in the 2019 Anti-ELAB protests. Eight were charged for rioting in Jordan near the besieged Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) on 18 November.⁸ Eight were sentenced over illegal assemblies in different locations during the protests between August and November.⁹ Two were sentenced over inciting or committing vandalism on the streets during the protests.¹⁰

Eleven more individuals, including one minor, pled guilty or convicted in three cases related to the 2019 protests. These cases have entered the mitigation stage, and the sentences are expected to be handed down in November.¹¹

More trials are underway. They include the case against Tsang Chi-kin, the young protestors shot in the chest by a police live round on 1 October 2019¹² and another case against protestors confronted the Police on the street during the PolyU siege.¹³

Five speech therapists released after completing sentences

On 10 October, the five board members of the now disbanded Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists were released from prison after completing their sentences over the publication of seditious materials. They were sentenced for 19 months in prison over the publication of a series of children's books portraying a herd of sheep defending their village against some wolves.¹⁴

⁸ [8 jailed for 44 to 56 months for rioting during 2019 Hong Kong PolyU campus siege - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁹ [9.29 旺角警署 | 認非法集結、拗警手指 案發時 17 歲少年判入勞教中心 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#); [Hong Kong court jails 2 women for 11 months over 2019 unlawful assembly in Tsuen Wan - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#); [2女認旺角非法集結 判囚6及3個月 官指案件延誤逾2年影響更生 酌情減刑 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmediakh.net\)](#); [10.27 旺角 | 2 人認管武等罪判 240 小時社服令、囚 6 月 官就檢控延誤減刑 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#); [【非法集結】涉中環擲磚於馬路上 男生非法集結罪成判勞教中心 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221013 \(hket.com\)](#)

¹⁰ [涉酒店藏汽油彈 單親母罪成囚34個月 辯方求情指對4歲女兒造成大影響 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmediakh.net\)](#); [認煽惑破壞店舖「360」 36 歲男判囚 2 月 2 周 官：被告妻腫瘤或與案件壓力有關 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

¹¹ [10.1 沙田 | 20 及 21 歲情侶暴動罪成 還押 11 月底判刑 法官：兩人證供矛盾、難以置信 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#); [涉 2019 行人隧道貼「光時」海報 28 歲女子認罪還押 10.26 判刑 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#); [9.29 金鐘 | 8 人暴動罪成 2 人獲退休裁判官曾繁凱撰求情信 還押至 11 月判刑 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

¹² [中環三罷案6人受審 控方：警睇片1500小時憑裝束認人 - 20221012 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\)](#); [11.11 西灣河 | 與青年搶槍罪成原今求情 「熊仔餅」肚痛入院無出庭 押 11.30 求情 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

¹³ [11.18 理大衝突 | 少年改認暴動保釋候判 14 人不認罪開審 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

¹⁴ [羊村案 5 人刑滿出獄 1997 年後首宗煽動刑物經審訊罪成案 終院採納國安罪保釋門檻 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

Nine student activists, including five teenagers, sentenced to prisons or training centre under NSL

Two major National Security Law cases against student activists have concluded. They are the cases related to two student political groups, Returning Valiant and Student Politicism. The nine members of the two now-disbanded political groups sentenced to correctional facilities for inciting subversion under the National Security Law. The verdicts of both cases are handed down by Designated National Security Law Judge Kwok Wai-kin.

Returning Valiant's seven members were tried for setting up street booths and distributing leaflets urging for an "armed revolution". The five members sentenced this month are the group's teenage members, including 1 minor at the time of the alleged offence.¹⁵ Student Politicism's four members were tried also for setting street booth and distributing leaflets, while their messages were mainly criticism of the government's Covid-19 regulation. Although their defence lawyer reasoned that their activism was unrelated to national security during the mitigation, Judge Kwok dismissed the reasoning, saying "making people not to believe the government, that is subverting the government"^{16, 17}.

The 612 Humanitarian Fund case continues; nature of the fund debated in court

The 612 Humanitarian Fund case, which involves 90-year-old Cardinal Emeritus Zen, continues. The five trustees of the fund—retired academic Po-Keung Hui, ex-LegCo member Cyd Ho, singer Dennis Ho, barrister Margaret Ng, and Cardinal Zen—were tried for their alleged failure to register the relief fund which provided legal support to protesters arrested during the 2019 movement.

In the latest hearing, the prosecution argued that the fund needed to be registered because of its 'massive size' while the defence lawyer insisted trustees managing a fund does not fit the definition of 'society' under the Societies Ordinance.¹⁸

DJ Giggs sentenced over sedition with his 4.87 million assets confiscated

DJ 'Giggs' Edmund Wan was sentenced to jail for two years and eight months over alleged sedition and money-laundering. Wan was the host of four shows on an independent online radio station in Hong Kong D100 and frequently criticised the authorities on his show. The court ordered Wan to hand over HK\$4.87 million of his assets. Wan will stand as one of the 47 defendants in the pan-democratic primaries case scheduled for January 2023. The verdict was handed down by District Court Judge Adriana Noelle Tse.¹⁹

¹⁵ [警方國安處拘7人 其中一人涉「參與實施恐怖活動」罪 據悉曾資助「光城者」 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmedihk.net\)](#)

¹⁶ In original Cantonese: 令人唔信政府，咪令人顛覆政府。

¹⁷ [賢學案求情稱街站談疫無關國安 官：令人唔信政府，咪令人顛覆政府 - 20221016 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\); Hong Kong national security law: 4 members of pro-independence group Student Politicism get up to 3 years' jail, detention for urging 'struggle' against government | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

¹⁸ [612基金案 辯方：宣揚政治理念非成立目的 共同管理基金不符「社團」定義 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmedihk.net\); 612 基金案 | 辯方結案：信託人沒相互權利及義務、基金非社團 法庭有責考慮法例原意 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\); Hong Kong protests: relief fund needed to be registered because of its 'massive' size, trial involving Cardinal Joseph and five other activists told | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

¹⁹ [Hong Kong: Prominent DJ 'Giggs' given jail sentence for criticism of authorities | Amnesty International UK](#)

with a debate over whether ten out of the 17 allegedly seditious articles submitted by the prosecution have expired.²⁷ Judge Kwok was also the judge who handed down the verdict of the first published seditious publications case against the five speech therapists.

Jimmy Lai convicted for fraud

On 25 October, Jimmy Lai and Wong Wai-keung, Next Digital's administrative director, were found guilty of fraud over using Next Digital's headquarter for purposes not permitted by its lease. The offence was established as one of the suspects turned prosecution witness for this case and also Jimmy Lai's National Security Law (NSL) case scheduled in March next year. The guilty verdict means Jimmy Lai will enter his NSL case as a convicted criminal.²⁸

Nine arrested by National Security Department over 2019 protests

Nine more individuals were arrested by the National Security Department. One arrestee is charged for participation in terrorist acts and is reported to have funded Returning Valiant, the student political group sentenced earlier this month.²⁹ Two arrestees, including one minor, were arrested at the airport as they returned to Hong Kong from overseas. They are charged for their involvement in 2019 protests.³⁰

THE STATE OF THE RULE OF LAW

Hong Kong government amended its Covid-19 law after losing the legal challenge over the government's power to annul vaccination exemption certificates

In September, the Police arrested 7 doctors for allegedly issuing Covid-19 vaccination exemption certificates without proper diagnosis.³¹ On 28 September, the government declared that the around 19,000 certificates issued by the were seven doctors invalid.³² On 13 October, Kwok Cheuk-kin, nicknamed "king of judicial reviews", filed a judicial review challenging the government decision to invalidate all 19,000 certificates. The government lost the case on

['making a mockery of the law' in Hong Kong's first sedition case involving media | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

²⁷ [Hong Kong journalists plead not guilty to sedition as trial against defunct outlet Stand News begins - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\); 立場新聞涉煽動 辯方指涉案17文10篇逾時不應提控 官明裁決 \(hk01.com\)](#)

²⁸ [黎智英涉欺詐案 與壹傳媒行政總監黃偉強同被裁定罪成 官指刻意隱瞞「力高」存在 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\); 黎智英欺詐案 | 控方首透露周達權須在黎智英國安案作供 官押明年 3.13 再訊 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

²⁹ [警方國安處拘7人 其中一人涉「參與實施恐怖活動」罪 據悉曾資助「光城者」 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmediahk.net\)](#)

³⁰ [11.11 深水埗 | 17 歲學生事隔逾兩年機場再被捕 認藏鐵筆、噴漆 還押 10.20 判刑 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\); 6.30 APM | 23 歲男事隔近兩年返港被捕 認非法集結判囚 8 周 刑滿後將赴英續修讀學位 - 法庭線 The Witness \(thewitnesshk.com\)](#)

³¹ [Hong Kong doctor arrested on suspicion of issuing more than 3,000 false Covid-19 jab exemption certificates - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\); Second Hong Kong doctor charged over alleged false Covid-19 vaccination exemptions - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

³² [Hong Kong to annul 'fraudulent' Covid-19 jab exemptions on Nov 9; Lo Chung-mau says amending law 'not about winning' - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

21 October as High Court Justice Russell Coleman ruled that the government decision to void the certificates lacked a legal basis.³³ On the following Tuesday (25 October), John Lee's Executive Council approved an amendment to the Covid-19 legislation to empower the Health Secretary to cancel medical certificates on reasonable grounds.³⁴

CCP's propagandist book read and discussed by Hong Kong's justice and national security officials.

On 8 October, a book-release seminar was held to discuss the traditional Chinese version of *The Learning Outline of the Holistic View of National Security* authored by the Propaganda Department and Office of National Security Commission of CCP. The “holistic view of national security” is an idea coined by Xi Jinping in 2014 which covers security in 16 areas, including “cultural security” and “political security”.³⁵ The book-release seminar's attendees included Justice Secretary Paul Lam, Deputy Head of the National Security Department Li Jiangzhou.³⁶ The seminar is yet another example of how the mainland communist system annexes Hong Kong supposedly autonomous system.

Basic Law Article 23 Legislation removed from 2022 legislature schedule

John Lee's government withdrew the legislation of Basic Law Article 23 from the legislature schedule. Article 23 is the controversial article in the constitutional document, which requires the government to enact its own national security law. John Lee says more study is needed to ensure Hong Kong's own security law to be “effective” and “without loopholes” as the territory faces a deteriorating geo-political situation. John Lee also misquoted the national security law amendment in the UK and said he will draw on practices from other jurisdictions, including long term house arrest. The Hong Kong government later denied that long term house arrest was under the government's consideration.³⁷

Terms of two non-permanent Court of Final Appeal judges extended, including that of a UK judge

On 7 October, the government announced the extension of the office of two non-permanent Court of Final Appeal (CFA) judges for three years. They are Hong Kong CFA judge Justice Patrick Chan and overseas CFA judge Lord Jonathan Sumption.³⁸ In March this year, after UK Supreme Court judges Justice Robert Reed and Lord Patrick Hodge resigned from their CFA offices, Lord Sumption and four other overseas judges issued a statement vowing to defend Hong Kong rule of law during these critical times.³⁹

³³ [Hong Kong court to hear challenge against annulling Covid-19 jab exemptions from arrested doctors - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2022/10/21/hong-kong-court-to-hear-challenge-against-annulling-covid-19-jab-exemptions-from-arrested-doctors/)

³⁴ [Prevention and Control of Disease \(Vaccine Pass\) \(Amendment\) Regulation 2022 gazetted \(info.gov.hk\)](https://www.info.gov.hk/gov/hk/eng/legis/2022/09/22220901.htm)

³⁵ [National Security Education Day - Holistic View of National Security \(nsed.gov.hk\)](https://www.nsed.gov.hk/en/education/nse-edu-2022-10-08)

³⁶ [《总体国家安全观学习纲要》繁体版出版研讨会在港举办--港澳--人民网 \(people.com.cn\)](http://www.people.com.cn/GB/108001/108002/108003/108004/108005/108006/108007/108008/108009/108010/108011/108012/108013/108014/108015/108016/108017/108018/108019/108020/108021/108022/108023/108024/108025/108026/108027/108028/108029/108030/108031/108032/108033/108034/108035/108036/108037/108038/108039/108040/108041/108042/108043/108044/108045/108046/108047/108048/108049/108050/108051/108052/108053/108054/108055/108056/108057/108058/108059/108060/108061/108062/108063/108064/108065/108066/108067/108068/108069/108070/108071/108072/108073/108074/108075/108076/108077/108078/108079/108080/108081/108082/108083/108084/108085/108086/108087/108088/108089/108090/108091/108092/108093/108094/108095/108096/108097/108098/108099/108100/108101/108102/108103/108104/108105/108106/108107/108108/108109/108110/108111/108112/108113/108114/108115/108116/108117/108118/108119/108120/108121/108122/108123/108124/108125/108126/108127/108128/108129/108130/108131/108132/108133/108134/108135/108136/108137/108138/108139/108140/108141/108142/108143/108144/108145/108146/108147/108148/108149/108150/108151/108152/108153/108154/108155/108156/108157/108158/108159/108160/108161/108162/108163/108164/108165/108166/108167/108168/108169/108170/108171/108172/108173/108174/108175/108176/108177/108178/108179/108180/108181/108182/108183/108184/108185/108186/108187/108188/108189/108190/108191/108192/108193/108194/108195/108196/108197/108198/108199/108200/108201/108202/108203/108204/108205/108206/108207/108208/108209/108210/108211/108212/108213/108214/108215/108216/108217/108218/108219/108220/108221/108222/108223/108224/108225/108226/108227/108228/108229/108230/108231/108232/108233/108234/108235/108236/108237/108238/108239/108240/108241/108242/108243/108244/108245/108246/108247/108248/108249/108250/108251/108252/108253/108254/108255/108256/108257/108258/108259/108260/108261/108262/108263/108264/108265/108266/108267/108268/108269/108270/108271/108272/108273/108274/108275/108276/108277/108278/108279/108280/108281/108282/108283/108284/108285/108286/108287/108288/108289/108290/108291/108292/108293/108294/108295/108296/108297/108298/108299/108300/108301/108302/108303/108304/108305/108306/108307/108308/108309/108310/108311/108312/108313/108314/108315/108316/108317/108318/108319/108320/108321/108322/108323/108324/108325/108326/108327/108328/108329/108330/108331/108332/108333/108334/108335/108336/108337/108338/108339/108340/108341/108342/108343/108344/108345/108346/108347/108348/108349/108350/108351/108352/108353/108354/108355/108356/108357/108358/108359/108360/108361/108362/108363/108364/108365/108366/108367/108368/108369/108370/108371/108372/108373/108374/108375/108376/108377/108378/108379/108380/108381/108382/108383/108384/108385/108386/108387/108388/108389/108390/108391/108392/108393/108394/108395/108396/108397/108398/108399/108400/108401/108402/108403/108404/108405/108406/108407/108408/108409/108410/108411/108412/108413/108414/108415/108416/108417/108418/108419/108420/108421/108422/108423/108424/108425/108426/108427/108428/108429/108430/108431/108432/108433/108434/108435/108436/108437/108438/108439/108440/108441/108442/108443/108444/108445/108446/108447/108448/108449/108450/108451/108452/108453/108454/108455/108456/108457/108458/108459/108460/108461/108462/108463/108464/108465/108466/108467/108468/108469/108470/108471/108472/108473/108474/108475/108476/108477/108478/108479/108480/108481/108482/108483/108484/108485/108486/108487/108488/108489/108490/108491/108492/108493/108494/108495/108496/108497/108498/108499/108500/108501/108502/108503/108504/108505/108506/108507/108508/108509/108510/108511/108512/108513/108514/108515/108516/108517/108518/108519/108520/108521/108522/108523/108524/108525/108526/108527/108528/108529/108530/108531/108532/108533/108534/108535/108536/108537/108538/108539/108540/108541/108542/108543/108544/108545/108546/108547/108548/108549/108550/108551/108552/108553/108554/108555/108556/108557/108558/108559/108560/108561/108562/108563/108564/108565/108566/108567/108568/108569/108570/108571/108572/108573/108574/108575/108576/108577/108578/108579/108580/108581/108582/108583/108584/108585/108586/108587/108588/108589/108590/108591/108592/108593/108594/108595/108596/108597/108598/108599/108600/108601/108602/108603/108604/108605/108606/108607/108608/108609/108610/108611/108612/108613/108614/108615/108616/108617/108618/108619/108620/108621/108622/108623/108624/108625/108626/108627/108628/108629/108630/108631/108632/108633/108634/108635/108636/108637/108638/108639/108640/108641/108642/108643/108644/108645/108646/108647/108648/108649/108650/108651/108652/108653/108654/108655/108656/108657/108658/108659/108660/108661/108662/108663/108664/108665/108666/108667/108668/108669/108670/108671/108672/108673/108674/108675/108676/108677/108678/108679/108680/108681/108682/108683/108684/108685/108686/108687/108688/108689/108690/108691/108692/108693/108694/108695/108696/108697/108698/108699/108700/108701/108702/108703/108704/108705/108706/108707/1087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³⁷ [Hong Kong's own security law will be 'effective,' John Lee says, after bill removed from 2022 legislature schedule - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2022/10/12/hong-kongs-own-security-law-will-be-effective-john-lee-says-after-bill-removed-from-2022-legislature-schedule/); [³⁸ \[³⁹ \\[Five British judges vow to stay on Hong Kong top court | The Standard\\]\\(https://www.standard.co.uk/news/hong-kong/five-british-judges-vow-to-stay-on-hong-kong-top-court-10898831.html\\)\]\(https://www.hk01.com/news/2022/10/12/終審法院兩名非常任法官任期獲延續3年 - RTHK; 終院海外法官岑耀信續任三年 半年前選擇留任稱符合港人利益 \(hk01.com\)</p>
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Hong Kong downgraded in latest Rule of Law Index

Hong Kong dropped three positions to 22 in the latest Rule of Law Index published by World Justice Project. The Hong Kong government criticised the ranking while lauding its position above some western jurisdictions. The government spokesman also boasted about the 6th rank of Hong Kong in the Order and Security sub-category.⁴⁰

A FREE PRESS IN THE CROSS HAIRS

Hong Kong Police complain to newspaper over ‘misleading’ cartoon

Following the incident of a secondary school suspending three students over ‘disrespecting’ the flag-raising ceremony (see next section), Ming Pao Cartoonist Zunzi published a cartoon portraying a police riot squad called to a school to deal with unruly pupils. The Hong Kong police wrote a complaint letter to the newspaper expressing ‘strong concern’ over the cartoon accusing it of damaging the force’s image. Ming Pao denied the accusation, quoting Zunzi that the cartoon was designed to emphasise the need for schools to show patience on discipline. The newspaper also expressed support to the cartoonist.⁴¹

HK01 article on Beijing lone-wolf protest censored six hours after publication

On 13 October, a sole protester staged a rare protest in Beijing against Xi Jinping before the commencement of the 20th National Congress of CCP. The protest was widely reported in international media such as BBC, Bloomberg, and Reuter, but Hong Kong mainstream media was muted on the matter due to self-censorship. Netizens spotted the online news outlet Hong Kong 01 withdrew an article about the incident six hours after its publication.⁴²

International Federation of Journalists published new report on CCP’s destruction of Hong Kong’s freedom of expression

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) published its Hong Kong Freedom of Expression Report 2022 titled “The Story That Won’t Be Silenced”. The report details how the fourth power of Hong Kong has been dismantled step by step by the CCP. The report summarised, what happened in Hong Kong was “an almost complete destruction of political and civil liberties and a clear and flagrant violation of the CCP’s commitments to Hong Kong and its people.” The report urged the international community and western governments to offer

⁴⁰ [Hong Kong criticises decision to downgrade city in rule of law index, but lauds position above some western states - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁴¹ [Hong Kong police complain to newspaper over cartoon showing riot squad called to school to deal with unruly pupils | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\); Hong Kong police express 'strong concerns' over 'misleading' Ming Pao cartoon - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁴² [China censors online chatter after anti-Xi Jinping protest; Hong Kong media muted - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\); 香港 01 自我審查？二十大前夕「反習」報導刊登 6 小時內主動下架消音 | 香港新聞 | 同文 Commons \(commonshk.com\)](#)

more support to Hong Kong professional journalists who are under oppression or even prosecution.⁴³

THE GREAT PURGE UNDERWAY

The University of Hong Kong introduces new registration system restricting access to politically sensitive books

The University of Hong Kong library has introduced a new registration system which requires users to register, on top of their regular library membership, before accessing politically sensitive books. Commentators say the new system can create a chilling effect and further jeopardise Hong Kong's academic freedom.⁴⁴

New secondary school subject to focus on national security and sense of belonging

The integrative humanities subject Life and Society for junior secondary school is to be replaced by a new subject called Citizenship, Economics and Society. The change will be fully implemented in September 2024. It is reported that the new curriculum will extensively cover topics related to China including topics aiming to nurture students' sense of belonging to China and their national identity. The learning objective about social justice and democracy in the current subject is removed from the new curriculum.⁴⁵

After the literature competition winner was disqualified, national security conditions were found in public library's school writing competitions

The new-poetry group of the long running bi-annual Chinese literature competition does not have a winner this year. This was due to the winners being disqualified after the Leisure and Cultural Services Department put their poetry works under national security review. The books related to the disqualified pieces were taken off public library shelves last December.

The Culture, Sports and Tourism Secretary Kevin Yeung said poetry needs to meet society's 'moral standard.' Journalists later found public libraries' primary and secondary school writing competitions have new national security conditions added to their application forms.⁴⁶

⁴³ [Overview: Hong Kong Freedom of Expression Report 2022 — Journalists and the China Story \(ifj.org\)](#); [國際記者聯會出爐香港言論自由報告 "The Story That Won't Be Silenced" 倡世界援助香港新聞工作者 | 香港新聞 | 同文 Commons \(commonshk.com\)](#)

⁴⁴ [Exclusive: University of Hong Kong makes library users register to access some politically sensitive books - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁴⁵ [公民經濟與社會課程將加入國情國安及憲法與基本法等 - RTHK](#); [【課程改革】初中生社科改名「公民、經濟與社會」 加強國情國安教育2024年中一全面推行 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221012 \(hket.com\)](#); [初中「生社科」改革 大增國情未提民主 教聯稱與時並進 民主黨：公平自由漸不受重視 - 20221013 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\)](#); [What you need to know about Hong Kong's new school subject focused on national security, sense of belonging | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

⁴⁶ [Hong Kong library writing contests forbid entries deemed contrary to national security - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#); [楊潤雄：新詩獎作品須符社會道德標準 不一定每年都有獎 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 | inmediahk.net](#); [圖書館中小學生寫作賽增國安條款 列明違法須負法律責任 教師：提交前謹慎把關護學生 - 20221028 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\)](#)

Pupils suspended for three days over allegedly disrespecting flag raising

On 5 October, a dozen students of a Catholic secondary school were suspended from school for three days after they ‘disrespected’ the flag raising ceremony. The suspension was given by the vice principal of St Francis Xavier's School Tsuen Wan when she found the students tidying up after breakfast whilst the national anthem was played. Allegedly, the vice principal warned the students that their action might violate the National Security Law.

Pro-government lawmakers and mouthpieces says the Education Bureau should issue guidelines about the discipline of unruly students disrespecting the national anthem and flag raising ceremony in school.⁴⁷

Patriots tighten grip of governing bodies of the arts sector

The pro-government force won a landslide victory in Arts Development Council re-election after the government changed its electoral system in June. The pro-Beijing creative director of RTHK Steven Ma entered the Council without competition.⁴⁸

PayPal HK terminated service to Hong Kong pro-democracy group

The League of Social Democracy (LSD) announced on their Facebook page that their PayPal account has been terminated by PayPal HK on the ground of unspecified ‘excessive risk.’ LSD had been accepting donations via the PayPal account but in their statement, LSD said they stopped accepting any donation as soon as PayPal HK issued the notice of termination on 18 September.⁴⁹

Website of overseas prodemocratic NGO’s website partially blocked in Hong Kong

The website of the US-based NGO Hong Kong Democracy Council was found partially blocked in Hong Kong. Some commentators express concerns over the further erosion of the open internet and the risk of the government extending China’s Internet Great Wall to Hong Kong.⁵⁰

US Congress releases new report on the purge of Hong Kong civil society

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) released a new report detailing the demise of the Hong Kong civil society after the enactment of National Security

⁴⁷ [荃灣聖芳濟學生親述因升旗禮被罰停課經過 對被指違國安法感詫異 \(hk01.com\)](#); [播國歌仍食早餐 荃灣聖方濟14學生被指違反國安法 遭校方停課三日及即時離校 \(yahoo.com\)](#); [回應有學生不尊重升旗儀式 鄧飛：教育局應有罰則指引 \(yahoo.com\)](#);

⁴⁸ [藝發局改選10委員 原泛民9席僅1人爭連任 馬浚偉無競爭下入局 \(hk01.com\)](#)
['We all want creative freedom': Arts election lays bare Hong Kong censorship fears - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁴⁹ [被指涉「過高風險」 社民連PayPal帳戶遭終止 | 政事 \(bastillepost.com\)](#); [PayPal HK halts payments to Hong Kong pro-democracy group, citing unspecified 'excessive risks' - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

⁵⁰ [Website of NGO Hong Kong Democracy Council partially blocked in city amid fears over erosion of open internet - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

Law in the territory. They also recommended a review of HKETOs' statuses.⁵¹ The Hong Kong government has hit out strongly at the reporting, saying it is misleading and biased.⁵²

STATE SECURITY AND ECONOMY

Hong Kong COVID-19 measure shows a tendency to be normalised

Whilst Hong Kong axed the hotel quarantine requirement for visitors, the Covid-19 measure for its citizens shows a tendency to be normalised. The government carries on doing mass voluntary and compulsory Covid-19 testing on a regional scale and they have strengthened the enforcement of compulsory testing.⁵³ The government and lawmakers also proposed new changes to the Leave Home Safe app, adding new functionalities and expanding its application scope, such as tying the app's account with other public services.⁵⁴

Hong Kong economic statistics worsen, big retail and hospitality chains bankrupted

Hong Kong GDP in Q3 saw a drop of 4.5%, the worst quarterly result since 2020 Q2. As the economy shrinks, Hong Kong faces a new wave of personal bankruptcies and negative equity. Businesses also struggled as the pandemic measures continued.⁵⁵ The cases of employers defaulting on mandatory pension contributions increased by more than 30% and major retail and hospitality chains such as Hong Thai Travel Services were in the process of liquidation.⁵⁶

⁵¹ [CECC Report Details the Dismantling of Civil Society in Hong Kong | Congressional-Executive Commission on China](#)

⁵² [【港區國安法】CECC報告指國安法破壞自由制度 港府發聲明批偏頗 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 政治 - D221005 \(hket.com\)](#)

⁵³ [【強制檢測】50處納強檢 將軍澳中心、元朗 Grand Yoho、觀塘凱匯、堅尼地城泓都等上榜【附名單】 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221031 \(hket.com\)](#); [當局向污水檢測呈陽性地區派發約12萬個測試包 - RTHK](#); [屯門及將軍澳有污水檢測呈陽性 獲派發11萬個測試包 - RTHK](#); [深水埗荃灣等3區多處屋苑污水帶疫 政府派12萬快測包 \(yahoo.com\)](#); [【檢測公告】政府突擊檢查葵涌及沙田強檢大廈 發現20人未強檢其中12人罰1萬 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221012 \(hket.com\)](#)

⁵⁴ [【安心出行】孫東：會考慮改變安心出行用途 《施政報告》料談及智慧政府 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 政治 - D221010 \(hket.com\)](#); [【安心出行】李梓敬倡安心出行提升功能 整合其他政府APP可預約康體場地等 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 政治 - D221007 \(hket.com\)](#); [「安心出行」更新自動檢測同行人士「紅、黃碼」 | 獨媒報導 | 獨立媒體 \(inmediahk.net\)](#)

⁵⁵ [Hong Kong remains stuck in recession as economy shrinks by 4.5 per cent in third quarter | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#); [LCQ14: Employers defaulting on MPF contributions \(info.gov.hk\)](#); [離港潮未完 破產潮又起 18 - 40 歲佔破產者近四成 多人最少一年零收入 | 香港新聞 | 同文 Commons \(commonshk.com\)](#)

⁵⁶ [積金局指疫情下拖欠強積金供款上升三成 將推新招對付違規個案 \(hk01.com\)](#); [【呈請清盤】卓悅旗下公司再遭呈請清盤 高院排期12月底聆訊 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221019 \(hket.com\)](#); [楊潤雄稱正了解康泰事件 知道普遍旅行社仍困難中運作 - RTHK](#); [【財政問題】高銀集團餐飲結業遣散50員工疑遭欠薪 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221016 \(hket.com\)](#)

Central government issued more government bonds in Hong Kong

Whilst Hong Kong's economy worsens, the Chinese Central Government issued a new round of government bonds in Hong Kong. The scale of this round of issuance is 5 billion RMB, equivalent to approximately 696 million USD.⁵⁷

Departments sought extra budget as the government remains in deficit

Until September, the Hong Kong government had recorded an annual deficit of 253 billion HKD, equivalent to approximately 32 billion USD. A government spokesman said it was due to the payment cycle of income and profit taxes. Whilst the budget deficit continues, the government sought extra funding from LegCo for this financial year to cover its pandemic expenses and relief measures.⁵⁸ The Hong Kong fiscal reserve stood at 704 billion HKD on 30 September.

Shadow cast over Hong Kong's plan to reboot international events as Virgin Atlantic pull out

Hong Kong will host a series of international events, including the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit and Rugby Sevens after the government axed visitors' quarantine requirements. However, Virgin Atlantic announced that they will be closing the regional office in Hong Kong with no plans to reopen its airline in Hong Kong, casting a shadow over the government's ambition to pitch Hong Kong as 'back to normal'.⁵⁹

October records 22 machete incidents in the city as the police advertise new posts

Hong Kong police set up a new recruitment centre as the force ramps up its recruitment effort to fill around 5,000 vacancies. These vacancies are likely to be new posts as the force did not see a major turnover as the number of inspectors and junior police officers in 2021 remains approximately at the same level as that of 2020.⁶⁰ The new resources are not necessarily channelled to keep the streets of Hong Kong safe. In October alone the city saw 22 machete-related incidents, compared to 34 in total from January to September.⁶¹

Hong Kong becoming sanctioned entities' financial haven

Hong Kong shows signs of becoming a financial hub for sanctioned entities. In early October a superyacht owned by a sanctioned Russian oligarch appeared and docked in Hong Kong waters. John Lee's government dismissed the warning from the US and says it has no obligation to implement US sanctions.

⁵⁷ [2022年第三期55亿元人民币国债在港正式发行--港澳--人民网 \(people.com.cn\)](http://people.com.cn)

⁵⁸ [Financial results for the six months ended September 30, 2022 \(info.gov.hk\)](http://info.gov.hk); [【追加撥款】政府向立法會尋求追加351億元額外撥款 哪個部門超支最多? - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 政治 - D221026 \(hket.com\)](https://www.hket.com)

⁵⁹ [Virgin Atlantic Pulls Out of Hong Kong, Closes Offices - Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com); [【復常】「0+3」後港首個大型國際會議今舉辦 主辦方：冀向世界宣告香港已準備好迎接賓客 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221031 \(hket.com\)](https://www.hket.com); [Hong Kong banking summit a post-pandemic sales pitch, but is anyone buying? - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](https://hongkongfp.com)

⁶⁰ [香港警務處5,000個職缺 | 警員及督察全年招聘 | 附申請方法 \(businesstimes.com.hk\)](https://www.businesstimes.com.hk); [警察招募中心啟用將提供即場面試及預約筆試 - RTHK](https://www.rthk.com); [Police in Figures 2021](https://www.rthk.com)

⁶¹ [網上熱話 | 持刀襲擊案頻生 前議員陳沛然設「安全地圖」助市民參考 \(yahoo.com\)](https://www.yahoo.com)

Russia's top envoy in Hong Kong 'fully agreed' with the government's handling of the matter, and Russian businesses are reported to be considering changing their domicile to Hong Kong to avoid sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.⁶² Later in the month, a UN report named four Hong Kong companies for helping North Korea to evade international sanctions.⁶³

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

US State Department warned Hong Kong on sanctions

After the report of the Russian oligarch's superyacht appearing in Hong Kong waters, the US State Department warned Hong Kong over providing haven to sanctioned entities, saying the city's "reputation as a financial centre depends on adherence to international laws and standards."⁶⁴

UN alarmed by the latest sentencing of minors under National Security Law

After the sentencing of the Returning Valiant case, UN Human Rights Office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters that the office is "alarmed" by the sentencing of the five convicted, including four minors in the case. The spokeswoman added "we regret the continued application of the National Security Law, including against children, in spite of the clear recommendations of the Human Rights Committee."⁶⁵

US Senate members and State Department issued statements condemning the conviction of Jimmy Lai's fraud case, Beijing and HKSAR government hit back

Members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee issued a joint statement condemning the conviction of Jimmy Lai's fraud case, calling it a sham conviction. The State Department also released a press statement expressing their deep concern over the conviction and the general deterioration of the human rights situation in the territory. The Hong Kong government hit back with yet another strong statement.⁶⁶

⁶² [UN expert group links four Hong Kong firms to reports of illegal oil shipments to North Korea | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#); [Hong Kong will not act on 'unilateral sanctions' on superyacht linked to Russian billionaire - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#) ; [Hong Kong risks reputation over superyacht linked to ally of Russia's President Putin, US says - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#) ; [Russian Firms Turn to Hong Kong in Bid to Avoid Sanctions - Bloomberg](#) ; [Russian consulate in Hong Kong given advanced notice for arrival of superyacht linked to sanctioned billionaire | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

⁶³ [UN expert group links four Hong Kong firms to reports of illegal oil shipments to North Korea | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

⁶⁴ [Hong Kong to implement UN sanctions on Russian-owned superyacht, not US ones | Business Standard News \(business-standard.com\)](#); [US warns Hong Kong over oligarch's superyacht docked in its waters | Financial Times \(ft.com\)](#)

⁶⁵ [UN 'alarmed' by sentencing of minors under Hong Kong security law - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#); [Hong Kong government hits back over UN human rights criticism after four minors sent to a correctional centre for abetting 'armed revolution' | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#)

⁶⁶ [Beijing hits back at US politicians in war of words over fraud conviction for Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai | South China Morning Post \(scmp.com\)](#) ; [HKSAR Government strongly opposes US Government's false allegation regarding verdict of HKSAR court \(info.gov.hk\)](#)

US Senate to debate a bipartisan bill to condemn the arrest and trial of Cardinal Zen

US Senators Kevin Cramer announced that a bipartisan bill is to be tabled to condemn Hong Kong authorities for arresting and prosecuting Hong Kong's Bishop Emeritus, Cardinal Joseph Zen. The bill also reinstates US's support for Hong Kong's democracy, autonomy, religious freedom and human rights. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Angus King, Jim Risch and Alex Padilla.⁶⁷

UK announced the amendment to BN(O) Visa route to cover 2nd generation BN(O) holders

In the latest change of immigration rules published on 18 October, the Home Office amended the rules of the BN(O) Visa route. Under the new rules, young people born after 1997 who have at least one BNO parent will be eligible to apply for the visa on their own. The change will enable more young Hongkongers to settle and start a new life in the UK. The change is expected to come into effect on 30 November.⁶⁸

BBC's Cantonese Newswave goes off air after its last episode on 5 November

BBC will stop the production of Cantonese Newswave due to internal restructuring. The programme was first aired in 1993 and broadcast by RTHK. The Hong Kong public broadcaster stopped airing the programme last year following the enactment of NSL. Since then, the programme has been aired on the BBC Chinese YouTube channel. The ending of Cantonese Newswave is a loss for Cantonese-speaking audiences in Hong Kong, the UK and across the world.⁶⁹

UK lawmakers tabled urgent questions after Hong Kong protesters beaten up by Chinese wolf warriors

After a Hong Kong protester was dragged into, surrounded, and beaten up inside the Chinese Consulate General in Manchester ahead of CCP's 20th People Congress,⁷⁰ UK Parliamentarians tabled an urgent question urging the government to take decisive action and declare any diplomats involved in the assault *persona non grata* on 18 October. The UK Foreign Secretary summoned the Chinese chargé d'affaires in the afternoon of the same day and confirmed that consequences will follow if the investigation by Greater Manchester Police finds the diplomats responsible for the assault.⁷¹

⁶⁷ [美两党参议员推出决议 谴责香港当局逮捕和审判枢机主教陈日君 \(voachinese.com\)](http://voachinese.com)

⁶⁸ [Immigration Rules: statement of changes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

⁶⁹ [【Emily】BBC粵語節目《時事一周》停播 城大張楚勇有份創立「將專業廣播帶嚟香港」 - 20221028 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\); 時事一周 2022年11月5日 12:00 GMT \(最後廣播\) - BBC 時事一周 Newswave \(Cantonese\) - News 中文 - BBC News 中文](#)

⁷⁰ [Protester attacked on grounds of Chinese consulate in Manchester – video report | UK news | The Guardian](#)

⁷¹ [UK summons China diplomat over Hong Kong protester beating at consulate, as MP says consul-general involved - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\); UK lawmakers want investigation after Hong Kong protester beaten up at Manchester's Chinese consulate - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\); Calls for UK response after protester attacked at Chinese consulate | Manchester | The Guardian; UK summons China diplomat over Hong Kong protester beating at consulate, as MP says consul-general involved - Hong Kong Free Press HKFP \(hongkongfp.com\)](#)

Veteran pro-democracy Hong Kong writer Li Yi passed away in Taiwan

Li Yi, famous pro-democracy writer who strongly supported the 2019 protesters, died at the age of 86 in Taiwan. Li wrote and edited for Apple Daily's commentary section for 25 years. Li Yi moved to Taiwan after the National Security Law came into effect whilst he continued to author the series 'Loser's Memoir' in newspapers and social media.⁷²

⁷² [Famous writer Li Yi dies aged 86 ~ News Directory 3](#); [舊訪問談反修例：由衷敬佩年輕人勇氣力量 - 20221006 - 港聞 - 每日明報 - 明報新聞網 \(mingpao.com\)](#); [【李怡逝世】喪禮10.22台北舉行 家人：李怡一生捍衛自由人權 - 香港經濟日報 - TOPick - 新聞 - 社會 - D221013 \(hket.com\)](#)