

August 8, 2023

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration and Citizenship Canada
365 Laurier Ave W,
Ottawa, ON, K1P 6A6

The Honorable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Global Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1A 0G2

Re: Issuing of visa waivers for three hundred Hong Kong police officers accused of complicity in human rights violations

Dear Ministers,

We, the undersigned parliamentarians, are writing to raise our concern regarding reports that the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada issued visa waivers for over three hundred Hong Kong Police officers to attend the World Fire and Police Games in Winnipeg, including the Commissioner of the Hong Kong Police Force, Raymond Chak-Yee Siu.

Allowing the attendance of three hundred Hong Kong Police officers at these games a mere two weeks after the Hong Police targeted pro-democracy activists overseas with arrest warrants and bounties, including the former pro-democracy lawmaker Dennis Kwok who is a former citizen of Canada, undermines Canada's commitment to support human rights, the rule of law, and the people of Hong Kong.

More so, we have been appalled to see videos circulating on social media of some of these police officers threatening and intimidating the local Hong Kong community in Winnipeg who came out to protest their attendance.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee found last year that the Hong Kong Police have repeatedly violated Hong Kong's commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through the excessive use of force and unrestricted investigative powers without judicial oversight.

In the specific case of the Commissioner for the Hong Kong Police Force, Mr Raymond Chak-Yee Siu, he has personally engaged in undermining human rights in Hong Kong, dismantling the rule of law, and ordering the recent detention and questioning of the families of Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers overseas.

Given the substantial evidence that has been provided to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the House of Commons Immigration, Citizenship, and Refugees Committee, the Canada–PRC Relations Committee, and the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, and by our closest partners, on the authoritarian and unaccountable behavior of the Hong Kong Police since the anti-extradition protests in 2019, it is concerning to find that Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada issued visa waivers for those police officers complicit in human rights violations without a second thought.

We urge you to investigate why these police officers were given visa waivers, what steps will be taken to prevent such waivers in the future particularly to those who have been accused of complicity in human rights violations, and to ensure that in the future that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada will not green light visas for human rights violators.

Yours sincerely,

James Bezan MP

Garnett Genuis MP

Senator Leo Housakos

Cathay Wagantall MP

John McKay MP

Sameer Zuberi MP

Jenny Kwan MP

Heather McPherson MP

Michael Cooper MP

Tom Kmiec MP

Greg McLean MP