HONG KONG WATCH

4 July 2023

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

Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned, are writing to raise our concern regarding reports that the Hong Kong National Security Police have issued arrest warrants and bounties for eight Hong Kong pro-democracy activists living overseas.

The decision by the Hong Kong National Security Police to mark the 3rd anniversary of the draconian National Security Law by issuing arrest warrants and a bounty of HK$1 million per individual is further evidence that this draconian law is being used extraterritorially and retrospectively to silence pro-democracy voices overseas.

It is notable that those individuals targeted include three former pro-democracy lawmakers, a prominent lawyer, a prominent trade unionist, and two prominent pro-democracy activists. In particular, we highlight the former pro-democracy lawmaker Dennis Kwok who previously held Canadian citizenship and whose wife and children are Canadian citizens.

We urge Global Affairs Canada to issue a statement condemning the targeting of pro-democracy activists overseas and reiterating that the National Security Law has no jurisdiction here in Canada or on Canadian citizens and their families living outside of Hong Kong.

Ministers should consider a package of measures to support pro-democracy activists and the Hong Kong community in Canada and ensure their safety in the face of intimidation and threats from the People's Republic of China and their apparatchiks in Hong Kong.

Furthermore, we encourage you to work with the UK, US, and Australian Government to set up an INTERPOL early warning system to protect pro-democracy activists and ensure they are not unlawfully detained or subjected to transnational repression at the hands of the People's Republic of China.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Leo Housakos

Hon. Irwin Cotler

Hon. Jim Munson

James Bezan MP

Melissa Lantsman MP

John McKay MP

Jenny Kwan MP

Ken Hardie MP

Tom Kmiec MP