



4 January 2023

The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We are writing to urge the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to issue a public statement in response to the Hong Kong Government's targeting of human rights activists and British citizens Benedict Rogers, Luke de Pulford and Bill Browder by listing them as co-conspirators or alleged collaborators in the case of British citizen Jimmy Lai, who has been on trial for 17 days and in prison for 1,099 consecutive days in Hong Kong.

As you are aware, Jimmy Lai pleaded not guilty to conspiring to collude with foreign forces and publishing allegedly seditious materials in his trial under Hong Kong's National Security Law yesterday. During proceedings, the prosecution reportedly named several foreign politicians and human rights activists with whom Mr Lai had been in contact over recent years, and showed headshots of some of them. Among them are three British citizens: Hong Kong Watch's co-founder and Chief Executive Benedict Rogers, who was listed as an example of people with whom Mr Lai allegedly collaborated; and the Executive Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) Luke de Pulford, and Bill Browder, a human rights campaigner who pioneered the introduction of Magnitsky sanctions worldwide, who were both named as alleged co-conspirators in Mr Lai's case.

The targeting of these British citizens demonstrates that Mr Lai is accused of simply talking with foreign politicians and activists – which, as the publisher of a major newspaper in Hong Kong, ought to be regarded as entirely normal legitimate activity. Furthermore, much of the activity within the accusations pre-dates the National Security Law, which means the Law is being applied retroactively – something the Hong Kong government gave assurances would not happen before it was imposed on 1 July 2020.

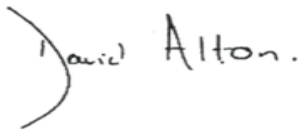
Given your previous condemnation of Hong Kong's National Security Law as a breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and China's commitments under international law as well as your support for Jimmy Lai, we urge the UK Government to follow through by implementing Magnitsky-style targeted sanctions on Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee, including asset freezes and a travel ban.

John Lee has been, and continues to be, involved in activities which amount to a serious violation of the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment. This includes yesterday's targeting of three British citizens as well as multiple accounts of transnational repression spearheaded by John Lee, notably the \$1 million arrest warrants and bounties issued against six Hong Kongers who now reside in Britain, in July and December 2023.

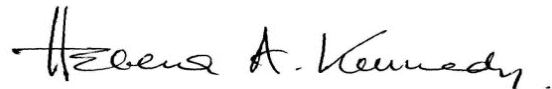
On 30 May 2023, Hong Kong Watch made a formal sanctions submission to the FCDO outlining the case for John Lee to be sanctioned under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime. The submission was accompanied by a cover letter from two of us, Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws, KC and Sir Geoffrey Nice, KC, which has never received an official FCDO response.

As a nation that continues to have a special responsibility to Hong Kong and has provided a lifeline to over 191,000 Hong Kongers through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme, we urge the UK Government to swiftly sanction John Lee to deliver concrete consequences against the draconian National Security Law and ongoing transnational repression against Hong Kongers and foreign nationals around the world.

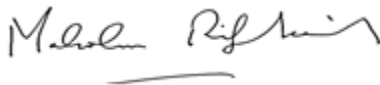
Yours sincerely,



Lord Alton of Liverpool  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch



Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws, KC  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch



The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind, KC  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch



Sir Geoffrey Nice, KC  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch



Alistair Carmichael MP  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch and Co-Chair  
of the All Party Parliamentary Group  
(APPG) on Hong Kong



Sarah Champion MP  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch