



19 December 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 to ensure that the UK Mission to the United Nations (UN) raises the human rights situation in Hong Kong at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on China, including Hong Kong, at the UN in Geneva on 23 January 2024.

As you are aware, the UPR is a UN review process which every member state is required to go through every four to five years, and is a mechanism to ensure scrutiny of every country's human rights record and recommendations for improvement.

Given Britain's international commitments under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, it is essential that the UK Mission to the UN presses the UN to highlight Hong Kong and issue the following recommendations to China:

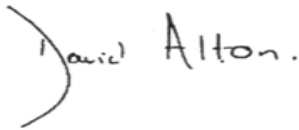
- Repeal and refrain from applying the National Security Law (NSL) as well as the sedition law in Hong Kong.
- End the arbitrary detention of Hong Kong lawyer Chow Hang-tung, release Jimmy Lai, and all other political prisoners.
- Stop eroding the judicial independence and the rule of law in Hong Kong.
- Withdraw the arrest warrants with HK\$1 million (£102,173) bounties against 13 peaceful, exiled Hong Kong activists, six of whom now live in the UK, and cease the harassment of their relatives and friends in Hong Kong and others in the Hong Kong diaspora.
- Ensure that trade unions can carry out their legitimate functions and exercise their rights.

- Take urgent steps to ensure people in Hong Kong are able to exercise their right of peaceful assembly without fear.
- Address the excessive force used by the Hong Kong Police Force in the 2019 protests and ensure that the use of force by law enforcement agencies is fully compliant with UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement and Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

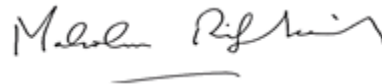
In July 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Council urged Hong Kong to “take concrete steps to repeal the current NSL and, in the meantime, refrain from applying the Law.” This week, after meeting with Sebastien Lai, you affirmed that Britain opposes the NSL and stands in solidarity with Jimmy Lai and the people of Hong Kong.

As a nation that upholds democracy and has provided a lifeline to over 191,000 Hong Kongers through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme, we urge the UK Mission to the UN to present these recommendations on Hong Kong at the upcoming UPR on China to defend the freedom of Hong Kongers in the city and around the world.

Yours sincerely,



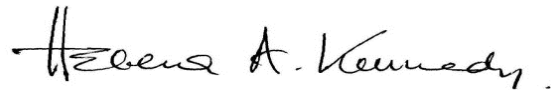
Lord Alton of Liverpool  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch



The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind, 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



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



Sir Geoffrey Nice, KC  
Patron of Hong Kong Watch