

FREE HONG KONG

NEWS DIGEST

By [WONG Yik-Mo](#), [Befria Hong Kong](#) (Sweden), [Netherlands for Hong Kong](#),
[Hong Kong Committee in Norway](#) and [Støt Hong Kong](#) (Denmark)

Hong Kong protests 2 years later

Second anniversary of the Hong Kong protests: police deployed in force to prevent gatherings. Students and teenagers arrested. 52 solidarity protests held across 23 countries.

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Apple Daily raid and arrests

500 police officers raided Apple Daily offices, arrested executives and editors. The newspaper announced its closure, all 1 million copies printed on its last day sold out.

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National Security Law anniversary

Over 110 arrested in the past year, the youngest aged 15. Ten percent were related to Apple Daily. Article 23 to be rolled out again despite NSL.

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Patriots ruling Hong Kong

Appointment of new chiefs

Hong Kong security minister John Lee was promoted to chief secretary, police head Chris Tang became security minister. John Lee had been working in the police force until 2010, before he entered the Security Bureau in 2012. Both Lee and Tang have received questions about their lack of policy experience. At a press conference, Lee said he will ensure patriots rule Hong Kong and support the chief executive in the fight against the pandemic and push for economic development, whereas Tang said he

will work on immigration, import-export control, prisoner rehabilitation, anti-terrorism and national security. [[HKFP](#); [RTHK](#)]

Democratic district councillors resign

July saw the resignation of over 170 democratic district councillors ahead of the passing of a new law requiring them to take a loyalty oath. [[HKFP](#), [Standard](#)] At least 20 councillors quit or had been ousted automatically by the new loyalty oath law prior to the mass resignations, including 11 from the Civic Party who quit on 20 June, 2021), 8 who remained until Neo Democrats disbanded on 26 June 2021). [[HK01](#) (in Chinese), [HKFP](#), [RTHK](#)]

PRESS FREEDOM

Charge dropped against pro-Beijing media reporter for accessing public records

Hong Kong's Department of Justice dropped a charge of improperly accessing public records against a reporter for a Beijing-owned newspaper, while two months earlier another journalist investigating alleged police misconduct was convicted and fined on an identical charge. Freelance documentary producer Bao Choy Yuk-ling was found guilty after accessing public records during an investigation into allegations of police collusion with triad groups during the Yuen Long mob attacks. [[HKFP](#)]

Police raid Apple Daily, Arrest executives and chief editor, \$2M assets frozen

Five hundred police officers raided the major pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily on 17 June, seizing journalistic materials and reporters' computers over allegations that several reports had breached the controversial national security law. Five executives, the chief editor and a senior editorial writer of the paper were arrested. At least two of them have now been charged with collusion with foreign powers. Police have also frozen HK\$18 million (\$2.32

million) of assets owned by three companies linked to Apple Daily. Apple Daily later announced it would cease operation on 24 June. [[Reuters](#) (1) (2), [BBC](#)]

Former writer arrested at airport

Two days after Apple Daily ceased its operation, a former senior journalist in the English channel of Apple Daily was arrested at the airport. He was later released on a cash bail of HK\$200,000 with his passport surrendered, and ordered to report to the police in late July. [[Reuters](#)]

CLOSURE OF APPLE DAILY

Elementary school teacher suspended for distributing Apple Daily at school

An elementary school teacher had his classes suspended over allegations of "bad motives" after giving away 10 copies of Apple Daily to the teaching staff on 18 June. The principal reportedly told the teacher not to bring politics into the school, and demanded he take back all the copies. The Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union said such punishment was in violation of the "Code for the Education Profession of Hong Kong" that no teachers should be discriminated against based on their political views. [[Stand News](#) (in Chinese)]

Libraries censor Apple Daily and books by Jimmy Lai

A Hong Kong librarian has been suspended for displaying books by Jimmy Lai [[SCMP](#)]. The Central Public Library appeared to have suspended the search for Apple Daily archives [[Twitter](#)]. However, some libraries in the UK are willing to accept and preserve Apple Daily [[Facebook](#)].

1M copies of Apple Daily sold out despite alleged breach of national security law

The last edition of Hong Kong's Apple Daily sold out all one million copies within hours of hitting newsstands on Thursday, 24 June. The paper printed one million copies for its last edition, up from the usual 80,000. People began queuing up early Thursday morning to buy the newspaper. On the front page was an image of an employee in the office waving at supporters surrounding the building, with the headline "Hong Kongers bid a painful farewell in the rain, 'We support Apple Daily.'" [[Newsweek](#)]

Stand News removes opinion pieces, 6 directors resign

Stand News, a reader-funded pro-democracy digital media-outlet in Hong Kong, announced three days after Apple Daily's closure, that it would stop accepting donations and temporarily remove all opinion pieces published before May this year to review authors' intentions before republishing. Six of the eight directors (including pro-democracy singer Denise Ho, former lawmaker Margaret Ng) have resigned. Stand News claims this will reduce risks under the national security law. [[HKFP](#)]

International reactions

The following organisations released statements regarding arrests and closure of Apple Daily:

- The International Federation of Journalists and Hong Kong Journalists Association [[ISFJ](#)]
- Reporters Without Borders [[RSF](#)]
- Amnesty International [Amnesty [1,2](#)]
- Committee to Protect Journalists [[CPJ](#)]
- Joint open letter by four leading Nordic newspapers [[Politiken](#)]
- EU: the spokesperson released a statement on 23 June and the Parliament adopted a resolution on 8 July, addressing press freedom in Hong Kong. [[EU](#), [SCMP](#)]

Immigration

Over 50 people banned from leaving

After the airport arrest of a former editorial writer of Apple Daily, *SCMP's* sources confirmed that there is a watch list of over 50 residents who will be intercepted if trying to leave the city. These people include those who have been released on bail with travel documents surrendered after being arrested under the security law. [[SCMP](#)]

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

► 4 June: Re-arrest of Tonyee Chow Hang Tung

On June 30, police re-arrested Tonyee Chow Hang Tung for allegedly encouraging others to join a banned rally for 1 July, the anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China. No charges were brought against her in connection with the banned July 1 event. Her bail revoked, Tonyee is currently detained and could face up to five years in prison.

Tonyee was previously arrested on 4 June on charges of "advertising or publicising unauthorised assembly", due to her involvement in the organisation of the annual candlelight vigil for the Tiananmen Massacre, which was banned by the police on grounds of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders has called for an urgent intervention in the arbitrary detention of Tonyee. [[Reuters](#), [fidh](#)]

► 12 June: Students and teenagers arrested, Overseas groups protest in solidarity

On the eve of the protest anniversary, police arrested two activists from the student group Student Politicism, for allegedly inciting others to participate in an unlawful assembly. When asked for evidence, the police showed screenshots of the group's social media posts, one of which read: "Two year protest anniversary, are you still here?" The group's spokesman said it planned to set up a street booth to mark the anniversary, but that had been cancelled. He criticised the arrests, saying they had never mentioned anything about an assembly. [[HKFP](#)]

On 12 June, police arrested three people and issued at least ten summons, as officers were deployed in force to prevent gatherings from taking place. Officers conducted stop-and-search in shopping districts and roadblock-checked vehicles crossing the harbour. Police also rushed into a mall after slogans that were "allegedly in breach of the national security law" had been heard inside. By 11pm, three men aged between 15 and 19 were arrested for disorderly conduct and failing to produce proof of identity. [[RTHK](#)]

On the same day, groups from 52 cities across 23 countries protested in solidarity with Hong Kong. Prominent activists attended the protests. In Sydney, former lawmaker Ted Hui called on the audience to put their freedoms to good use and voice out when they can. An organizer expressed heartache at the government's extreme efforts to silence the public, and said he felt that only a regime that feels insecure would worry about their citizens' expression of ideas. [[Stand News](#)]

► 1 July: Annual protest cancelled after 18 years

The democratic coalition Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF) announced that they would not organize this year's July 1 protest, citing difficulties with administration and the political environment. "I'm the only one in the secretariat," said temporary convenor Chung Chung-fai. CHRF's convenor, Figo Chan has been sentenced to 18 months in jail over a banned protest on 1 October 2019.

Chung also said he believed that CHRF has "completed its historical mission," as the police will most likely reject any future application made by the organization to hold protests. CHRF was previously declared by the police to be illegal.

2020's protest was banned by the police, on the grounds of the pandemic. [[Stand News](#) (Chinese), [HKFP](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW 1 YEAR

Over 110 arrested; youngest aged 15; 10% related to Apple Daily. See Table 2 for the collected figures.

Article 23 to be rolled out again

Security Chief John Lee said Article 23 of the Basic Law must be implemented as soon as possible to plug “loopholes” in the existing national security law or even strengthen it. The controversial bill, introduced in 2003, was withdrawn due to mass protests.

The Hong Kong Bar Association questioned the bill due to its redundancy with Article 18, through which the National Security Law was imposed.

"If you are seeking to enact laws under Article 18 relating to subversion and secession etc, and Article 23 covers exactly the same territory, what's the purpose of Article 23? [...] It will be a complete overlap and that can't have been the intention of the drafters," said the association's chairman Philip Dykes.

Article 23 requires the Hong Kong government to “enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People’s Government, or theft of state secrets,” to prohibit political activities conducted by foreign organisations in the city, and to ban local political groups from forming ties with those overseas. The enactment process may change the city's Crimes Ordinance, Official Secrets Act, and Societies Ordinance, according to Lee. [[HKFP](#), [RTHK](#), [CNN](#)]

Film censorship order

A government-hosted film festival banned a fictional film about two protesters, amid a film censorship order for national security. [[HKFP](#)]

YUEN LONG MOB ATTACK 2 YEARS

Seven sentenced to jail for Yuen Long mob attack

The District Court found seven men guilty of wounding and rioting, for taking part in the indiscriminate attack on civilians in Yuen Long on 21 July 2019.

Two years ago, a mob wielding batons, knives, and wooden sticks assaulted random civilians at night in Yuen Long, Hong Kong.

One of the attackers was sentenced to 7 years in prison, the highest sentence the court could impose. [[BBC](#)]

Trial of riot case for former lawmaker adjourned to 2023

Former pro-democracy lawmaker Lam Cheuk-ting told the court on 8 June that he would not plead guilty to participating in a riot in Yuen Long on 21 July 2019. Lam was arrested in August 2019 with several others who were present at the Yuen Long attack.

After being arrested for another charge, namely of breaching the national security law, Lam was remanded.

Lam did not apply for bail for the Yuen Long case. His trial was adjourned to 27 March 2023. [[Lam's Twitter](#); [Standard](#)]

SURVEILLANCE

► Hong Kong activists' websites taken down

Hong Kong Police requested the Israeli hosting company Wix to take down a website made by overseas activists, hkcharter2021.com, citing the national security law. Wix complied. Following an inquiry by Nathan Law, one of the activists behind the website, Wix initially claimed the removal was due to a terms of use violation, but then restored the site after a few days, saying that it was a mistake. The site is now blocked in Hong Kong locally. The website of Hong Kong Liberation Coalition, a Washington-based NGO, has also been taken down by Wordpress. [[Nathan Law](#), [Glacier Kwong](#), [Baggio Leung](#)]

EDUCATION

► Two university faculty members reported via national security hotline

Five university heads in Hong Kong signed a letter in 2020 endorsing the national security law, showing that the marching orders to suppress freedoms are being carried out not by police or the authorities, but by fellow colleagues at school and even students. One postgraduate student at HKU has reported at least two faculty members to the government tip line, according to multiple people familiar with the matter. [[The Atlantic](#)]

► China: Hong Kong should legally recognise simplified Chinese and Mandarin

Reporting the language situation in the Greater Bay Area, Beijing's Ministry of Education urged Hong Kong to clarify the status of simplified Chinese and Mandarin in law, and to incorporate the language into the local exam system. A political commentator raised questions on whether Beijing's recent comment is a 'test' and the status of traditional characters would be changed. [[RTHK](#)]

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

Statements

Josep Borrell: EU will "intensify its response" to Hong Kong

After the Hong Kong conclusions were repeatedly blocked by Hungary in April and May, the EU released a statement by HR/VP Josep Borrell on 9 June addressing Hong Kong's electoral overhaul recently imposed by Beijing. He stated that the electoral changes are "another breach" of the One Country, Two Systems principle and the Hong Kong Basic Law. The

statement also promised to facilitate the mobility of Hongkongers, to ensure observation of activists' trials, and to respond appropriately to the extraterritorial application of the National Security Law. [[EU](#)]

G7 calls on China to respect human rights, demands COVID-19 origins investigation

On 13 June, the G7 leaders called on Hong Kong to keep a high degree of autonomy under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and urged China

to respect human rights in relation to Xinjiang. They also emphasized "the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait", and called for a transparent, expert-led study into the origins of COVID-19 in China. "We haven't had access to the laboratories," Biden told reporters. [[Reuters](#)]

Budapest mayor renames streets around proposed Fudan University campus

Gergely Karácsony, the mayor of Budapest, has asked Prime Minister Orban to abandon the \$1.8B Fudan University extension campus project and recently announced the renaming of streets around the proposed site to "Free Hong Kong Road," "Dalai Lama Road" and "Uyghur Martyrs' Road" to highlight Chinese human rights abuses. An estimated 10,000 Hungarians took to the streets of Budapest on 5 June to protest against the controversial project. [[Deutsche Welle](#), [Telex](#)]

Lifeboat

Canada launches two new lifeboat paths for Hongkongers

The Canadian Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship minister Marco Mendicino announced a path to permanent residence for Hongkongers who obtained a post-secondary education in Canada, and another path for those who have worked for at least one year in Canada. Mendicino stated, "With young Hongkongers casting their eyes abroad, we want them to choose Canada." [[HKFP](#)]

Genocide of Uyghurs

60 parliamentarians from 18 countries call for investigation on genocide of Uyghurs

Canada led an international alliance at the United Nations to demand that China allow "meaningful and unfettered access" to investigate the human rights abuses on its Uyghur Muslim minority. The effort was supported by 60 parliamentarians from 18 countries in the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China. [[CBC](#)]

Report presents new testimonies of human right abuses in China

In a 160-page report, Amnesty International released dozens of new testimonies from former detainees in Xinjiang detailing the extreme measures taken by Chinese authorities since 2017, including mass imprisonment, torture and persecutions. "Crimes against humanity," the organization calls it. [[Amnesty International](#)]

Blacklisting

More Chinese companies blacklisted by Biden

Another 28 Chinese companies in the fields of defense and surveillance technology can no longer be invested in by Americans. The list originally consisted of 31 companies under former President Donald Trump's administration. By continuing part of the list, the US would "ensure that American people do not finance the People's Republic of China's military-industrial complex." It is expected that more companies will be added in the coming weeks. [[Jyllands-Posten](#)]

CHINA IN THE WEST

Lisbon shared dissident info with China for years

Over the past decade, Lisbon's city hall has regularly shared the personal information of human rights activists with several repressive regimes — including Angola, Venezuela, Russia and China — exposing them and their families to untold danger. The municipal authorities admitted it was the city hall's standard operating procedure. Since 2011, they have disclosed the names, identification numbers, home addresses and telephone numbers of activists to countries that protesters were targeting. [[Politico](#)]

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs fails to explain police intervention in Tibet case

Two documents from 2002 in the Tibet case have revealed that "a constructive cooperation has been initiated

between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police and the Chinese Embassy in order to ensure that legal demonstrations would take place where they do not bother the Chinese delegation." However, no former officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could explain the wordings when questioned by the Tibet Commission. [[Politiken](#)]

850 Chinese surveillance cameras scattered around Danish city

According to a new statement from the Aarhus municipality in Denmark, out of the 2,000 surveillance cameras placed in the area, 850 of them are produced in China. Professor of cyber security Jens Myrup Pedersen from Aalborg University states that there can be a hidden back door, while security expert Peter Kruse believes that Aarhus Municipality is far from the

only one that uses China-produced security cameras, and assesses that the picture is the same throughout the country. Some of the cameras feature technology that enables face recognition, which can be used to track people of interest. One of the manufacturers of the Chinese cameras in Aarhus, Hikvision, is blacklisted in the United States. [[DR](#)]

Norway accuses China of major cyberattack

The Norwegian Police Intelligence service revealed that China was behind an extensive hacker attack on the state administration in Norway 2.5 years ago. The finger was pointed at APT31, a Chinese spy service that is suspected of being behind hacker attacks in Norway, Finland, the USA, and other countries. [[DR](#)]

Table 1: Hong Kong 2019 Protest Movement Database

Item	Number of people	Last update	Sources						
Total arrested	10 260	30 Apr 2021	2						
Total charged	> 2600	30 Apr 2021	2						
Total charges over rioting (up to 10 years imprisonment)	750 (13-61 years old)	30 Apr 2021	1, 2						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Found not guilty</td> <td>Pleaded guilty</td> <td>Found guilty</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>21</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </table>			Found not guilty	Pleaded guilty	Found guilty	27	21	15
	Found not guilty			Pleaded guilty	Found guilty				
	27			21	15				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>No. of trials scheduled</td> <td>Scheduled until</td> </tr> <tr> <td>622</td> <td>Dec 2023</td> </tr> </table>	No. of trials scheduled	Scheduled until	622	Dec 2023					
No. of trials scheduled	Scheduled until								
622	Dec 2023								
Longest jail charges	12 years (Possession of explosives) 5 years and 6 months (Rioting)	30 Apr 2021	1						

[Sources: (1) [Stand News](#) (Chinese) (2) [HKCNEWS](#)]

Table 2: Hong Kong National Security Law Database

Item	Number of people	Last update	Sources					
Total arrested	117	29 Jun 2021	1					
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Secession & subversion</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terrorist Activities</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>* Some arrestees have unknown charges.</i></p>	Secession & subversion	82	Terrorist Activities	1	Collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security	11	3 May 2021
Secession & subversion	82							
Terrorist Activities	1							
Collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security	11							
Total charged	> 60	29 Jun 2021	1					

[Sources: (1) [Reuters](#) (2) [ChinaFile](#)]

IMPORTANT DATES

July - September 2021

- 27 July: Sentencing for 1st NSL case: Trial of **Tong Ying-Kit** for inciting secession. **Jimmy Lai** to committal proceedings for (1) colluding with foreign forces, (2) conspiracy to collude with foreign forces, and (3) conspiracy to pervert the course of justice
- 1 Aug: Amended immigration law comes into effect
- 5 Aug: **Lam Cheuk-Ting** 7.21 Yuen Long mob attack
- 31 Aug 2 years since Prince Edward Station attack
- 9-19 Sept: Plea hearing and sentencing for unauthorized assembly, June 4th Candlelight Vigil, against former lawmakers **Cyd Ho** and **Yeung Sum**. Pleaded guilty.
- 19 Sept: Election Committee election (1500 members for Chief Executive election)
- 23 Sept: **NSL47** committal proceedings

End of News Digest