

IAPC protests Arrest of Hong Kong Democracy Activist, Joshua Wong

The arrest of Hong Kong democracy campaigner Joshua Wong on 31 August is strongly protested by the International Association of Political Consultants (IAPC.org).

In November 2018, IAPC members awarded the global association's annual Democracy Medal – the world's longest standing international democracy award - to Joshua Wong and his colleagues Nathan Law and Alex Chow.

The IAPC Democracy Medal award honoured the courage and persistence of these student leaders to promote and sustain autonomy and democratic freedoms for Hong Kong in the face of increasing political control by the pro-Beijing authorities.

“The world's eyes must focus on China - not to celebrate 70 years of communist rule – but to demand China observes human rights, freedom of speech and the rule of law in Hong Kong,” stated IAPC President, Mehmet Ural.

“Joshua Wong's arrest is one of hundreds during the current 13-week pro-democracy wave of protests in Hong Kong sparked by a proposed extradition law. This extradition law would legalize kidnapping of dissenters by mainland China agents and allow Hong Kong's Chief Executive to transfer anyone at China's request.

“There is no rule of law in greater China, where the communist party dictates who is innocent and who is guilty.

“By its refusal to allow Hong Kong's government to finally abandon this extradition law, Beijing is violating the spirit of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration with its “one country, two systems” pledge that Hong Kong would not be forced to adopt communist laws and systems and could remain an international city safeguarded by the rule of law.”

Mr Ural said respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the paramount concern of the international community in responding to the Hong Kong democracy protests, over and above respect for state sovereignty. The values embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights must continue to be upheld and advocated.

Mr Ural said Hong Kong remained politically, culturally and linguistically distinct from mainland China, as well as providing a safe harbour for international citizens and companies operating in greater China – whether from the USA, EU, Japan, Australia, Canada and many other nations. A politically-inspired extradition law would place international residents or visitors at significant risk from Beijing for reasons of international politics, rather than law.

“Brave young democrats like Joshua Wong risk their liberty by speaking up without fear in favour of the rule of law and other democratic freedoms such as freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. It is time the world speaks up for them.”

IAPC • The International Association of Political Consultants

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