

# **Analysis Report: 24 Years After Hong Kong's Handover**

Mainland Affairs Council

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- **The Hong Kong National Security Law reigns supreme; it brutally stifles the power of checks and balances in democracy and leads to the "Mainlandization" of Hong Kong's government system.**
- **Hong Kong's economic system remains distinct from that of mainland China, but the impact of the Hong Kong National Security Law and Beijing's integration strategy has increased business risks and tightened CCP control.**
- **Freedom and human rights continue to be suppressed by the draconian law, creating a pervasive chilling effect in the society. Over 60% of Hong Kong people have no confidence in the city's environment or personal freedom in the future.**
- **The Hong Kong National Security Law has undermined judicial independence. As political pressure and interference mount, the demise of judicial independence is only a matter of time.**
- **The international community is closely monitoring the situation in Hong Kong and has proposed countermeasures and aid programs to Hong Kong people.**
- **CCP offices in Hong Kong have grown increasingly high-profile in their comments and activities in Hong Kong. Beijing continues to push for integration, but has failed to significantly improve approval or recognition among the people of Hong Kong.**

- **Amid the CCP and the Hong Kong government's sabotage of Taiwan-Hong Kong relations, Taiwan staunchly defends its national dignity, firmly safeguards people's rights and interests, and voices support for democracy and freedom in Hong Kong.**

Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China in 1997. Premised on Hong Kong maintaining its free economic system and autonomous status, the government of the Republic of China (ROC) positions Hong Kong as a "special area," unique from the Mainland area, in order to maintain consistency and continuity in its Hong Kong policy and the various direct interactions between the people of Taiwan and Hong Kong. The government therefore annually reports on the overall developments in Hong Kong and the status of Taiwan-Hong Kong relations. This is the 24th in a series of such regular reports, covering an observation period from July 2020 to June 2021

## **I. Overall Review and Analysis**

Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China 24 years ago in 1997. Overall, the "high degree of autonomy" and "Hong Kong governed by Hong Kong people" once promised by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have been eroded. In particular, the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter the "Hong Kong National Security Law") enacted on June 30 last year (2020) has had a sweeping impact on Hong Kong's core values such as democracy, freedom, human rights, the rule of law, etc. and left "one country, two systems" in name only.

Over the past year, the CCP has launched an orchestrated and relentless political purge and taken advantage of the Hong Kong National Security Law. These moves have effected qualitative changes of the political dimension of Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" formula from "Hong Kong governed by Hong Kong people" and "high degree of autonomy" to "patriots ruling Hong Kong" and "overall governance by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)." Hong Kong has

been “Mainlandized” as a whole, and the power of checks and balances in democracy, freedom, and human rights are stifled. Hong Kong's judicial independence is faltering; its demise is only a matter of time. In addition, the Hong Kong society is in the grip of a chilling effect. More than 60% of the Hong Kong people have no confidence in Hong Kong's environment or personal freedom in the future.

On the economic sphere, Hong Kong still retains independent systems of tariffs and free trade to the casual eye and the Hong Kong dollar (HKD) to US dollar (USD) exchange rate also remains stable. However, the heavy-handed enforcement of the Hong Kong National Security Law has incurred soaring risks in Hong Kong's business environment. Some US think tanks already consider Hong Kong almost indistinguishable from other major cities in mainland China and its economic policies clearly controlled by Beijing; therefore, Hong Kong was removed from the Index of Economic Freedom. Mainland Chinese capital continues to extend its influence in Hong Kong's finance, insurance, brokerage, stock market, and other sectors. It is widely concerned that Hong Kong's integration with mainland China could compromise its independent monetary policy, fiscal framework, financial supervision, etc.

In light of Hong Kong's deteriorating situation resulted from the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, major countries have voiced condemnation, expressed concern, and conducted countermeasures in response. For example, the US signed the Hong Kong Autonomy Act and an executive order on “Hong Kong Normalization,” making it the first country to point out that Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy, hence the suspension of granting it special status and treatment that distinguish the city from mainland China. Furthermore, the US imposed sanctions on several CCP and Hong Kong government officials over their suppression of democracy and freedom. Moreover, the US has, for the first time, added Hong Kong to its refugee quota list. Similarly, the UK, Australia, and Canada have relaxed their immigration visa policies to support the Hong Kong people who embrace universal values.

The CCP officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs adopted the same hard line approach used in handling the anti-“extradition to China” Bill protests to make high-profile comments on Hong Kong affairs. The People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison also acted in concert with the CCP to intimidate the Hong Kong people by performing military exercises. The CCP's four major offices in Hong Kong held their first-ever CCP-themed public event, which critics have described as a manifestation of the CCP's Hong Kong work officially emerging from “underground” in the early period following the handover to “on the table” currently. These actions are meant to bring it to Hong Kong people’s attention that the CCP is the bona fide ruling power of Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the CCP has also been promoting integration of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, for which purpose it unveiled pro-Hong Kong measures and other supporting policies. Nonetheless, public opinion polls show that such efforts have not significantly improved Hong Kong people’s approval or recognition for the CCP.

Taiwan has always adhered to the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefit in pursuing positive development of Taiwan-Hong Kong relations and maintaining people-to-people exchanges on all levels between the two sides. In response to Hong Kong’s degenerating circumstances brought about by the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Hong Kong government’s demand that Taiwanese personnel posted at Taiwan's representative office in Hong Kong sign a “Letter of Commitment to One China” in exchange for work visas, Taiwan has stood firm in our position of safeguarding national sovereignty, democracy, and freedom. The government has formulated contingency measures and proposed related bills to provide the most practical support and assistance to Hong Kong people.

Relevant government agencies are now reviewing certain provisions of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao to effectively prevent the CCP from infiltrating Taiwan through capital or personnel exchanges coming from Hong Kong and Macao. Article 60 of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao, i.e. a *clausula rebus sic stantibus* (a legal doctrine which allows laws to become inapplicable as a result of a fundamental change of

circumstances), has the nature of an emergency order. It expressly stipulates that application of this provision would require situations “endangering the security of the Taiwan Area.” Future decisions on whether to apply this provision would demand extreme caution due to its effect on the rights and interests of the people of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao. The MAC presents to the Legislative Yuan the Quarterly Report on Review of Hong Kong's Special Status and Implementation Status of the Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project. It has also established indicators and early warning mechanisms for assessment of the situation in Hong Kong. In case of any future escalation of risks pertaining to undermining Taiwan’s national security or infringing on Taiwanese people’s rights and interests, the government will actively propose, discuss, or amend relevant laws and regulations and take necessary contingency measures to safeguard national sovereignty and people’s welfare.

Overall developments in Hong Kong on the 24th anniversary of the handover (July 2020 to June 2021) are presented with analysis below:

### **1. The Hong Kong National Security Law reigns supreme; it brutally stifles the power of checks and balances in democracy and leads to the "Mainlandization" of Hong Kong's government system.**

Over the past year, the CCP has launched an orchestrated and relentless political purge and taken advantage of the Hong Kong National Security Law. These moves have effected qualitative changes of the political dimension of Hong Kong’s "one country, two systems" formula from "Hong Kong governed by Hong Kong people" and "high degree of autonomy" to "patriots ruling Hong Kong" and "overall governance by the CCP. Hong Kong has been “Mainlandized” as a whole. Hong Kong fell to 87th place globally on the Democracy Index (down from 75th place the year before); meanwhile, poll results released by a Hong Kong think tank revealed that Hong Kong’s "one country, two systems" index has

hit an all-time low (5.48 points in March 2021, compared with 8.52 points in 1997, twenty years after the handover).

The collapse of Hong Kong's democracy has been looming for a long time. Last July, shortly after the passage of the Hong Kong National Security Law, the Hong Kong government disqualified 12 pro-democracy candidates from running in the Legislative Council elections, accusing them of objecting the National Security Law. This was aimed at setting out a red line for political participation. The government also used the pretext of the severity of the pandemic to announce that the Legislative Council elections would be postponed. The National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee adopted the Decision on Qualification of Members of the Legislative Council on November 11. This allowed the city's government to expel lawmakers deemed to be advocating or supporting "Hong Kong independence," soliciting intervention by foreign or external forces in the Hong Kong affairs, or failing to fulfil the legal requirements and conditions on upholding the Basic Law. As a result, the Hong Kong government immediately disqualified four pan-Democratic lawmakers, including Civic Party members Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok and Kwok Ka-ki, as well as Kenneth Leung of the Professionals Guild. The remaining 15 pro-democracy camp legislators resigned en masse in protest over the expulsion, leaving the non-establishment faction with only Cheng Chung-tai and Pierre Chan. This incident raised public concern over the whittling away of institutional checks and balances in the Legislative Council.

Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office Xia Baolong gave a public speech on February 22, where he reinterpreted and narrowed down his definition for "patriots ruling Hong Kong" as his office embarked on rectification of Hong Kong's legislative, administrative, and judicial systems. On February 23, the Hong Kong government announced the Public Service (Election and Appointment) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021, which stipulates that district councilors must swear oath of allegiance, and those who refuse to comply will lose their seats and be barred from standing for office for five years. In

March, the CCP passed the “Decision of the National People’s Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.” The decision entailed an amendment of Annex I and Annex 2 of the Hong Kong Basic Law, authorizing the additional establishment of a “candidate qualification review committee,” where national security agencies are granted the power to command political vetting of candidates. The election reform also involved an increase in the number of seats in the Election Committee and the Legislative Council, whereas cuts were made in the number of sectors of the Election Committee that are favorable to pan-democrats and the number of directly elected seats of geographical constituencies. These changes are expected to strengthen the institutional advantages of the pro-China camp considerably.

The CCP's latest amendments to Hong Kong's electoral system have not only infringed upon the protections of Hong Kong people's right to political participation under the Basic Law but violated the principle of gradually moving towards universal suffrage. This is obviously a setback for democracy. Although the poll results published by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute on April 9 revealed that around 68% of the respondents believe the modified election system runs counter to the spirit of democracy and the universal suffrage, Hong Kong's Legislative Council still cooperated with the CCP's reform plan by approving the 2021 Improvement of the Electoral System (Comprehensive Amendment) Bill on May 27. Additionally, more than 400 Hong Kong district councilors were scheduled to take an oath in accordance with the 2021 Public Service (Election and Appointment) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill that was passed on May 12 and came into effect on May 21. The Hong Kong media forecast that as many as 170 pan-democratic district councilors could be stripped of their seats, meaning democracy in Hong Kong are faced with increasing instability and unease.

The CCP and Hong Kong government have not only been suppressing democracy in Hong Kong in the institutional aspect but also used their sharp grip

of the Hong Kong National Security Law to wage sniper attacks on pan-democrats. According to Hong Kong Police statistics, the first year into the implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law has seen a total of 117 people arrested or detained, among whom 55 were candidates in a primary election for pan-democratic representatives standing for the Legislative Council election. Under the threat of this draconian law, Demosistō, Hong Kong National Front, Studentlocalism, Hong Kong Independence Union, Victoria Social Association, Hong Kong Higher Institutions International Affairs Delegation, Network DIPLO, Hong Kong Indigenous, Kickstart Wan Chai, Union for New Civil Servants, Power for Democracy, Hong Kong Civil Assembly Team, Médecins Inspirés, and other groups have voluntarily announced dissolution. Other groups, despite strenuous efforts to stay in place, still might not be able to escape the fate of crackdown or forced disbandment, such as Civil Human Rights Front, a pan-democratic joint platform that promoted numerous large-scale protests in the anti-“extradition (to China)” bill movement and Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, an organization that has closely watched the aftermath of the Tiananmen Incident over the years.

The CCP’s reform of Hong Kong’s political system, power structure, and administrative systems is also evident in changes of related discourse and legislation. Last September, Chief Executive Carrie Lam stated publicly that there was no separation of powers in Hong Kong’s political system. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the Hong Kong Liaison Office both made follow-up statements supporting Lam’s position and claimed that an executive-led system is the core concept of Hong Kong’s governance system. In a nutshell, the Hong Kong political system can be summarized by the following characteristics: under the division of three powers, executive-led, has judicial independence and the chief executive reports to the central government on behalf of Hong Kong. The denial of separation of powers called into question Hong Kong and Beijing authorities’ intention to undermine the judiciary and legislative power build on people’s mandate. Furthermore, the Hong Kong government has asked all civil servants to sign a written-oath of allegiance to the

government in January this year. As of April 11, a total of 129 people have refused to sign the written-oath, 16 of whom belong to the Hong Kong Disciplined Services. Moreover, the media has reported a wave of resignation, triggered by the requirement to pledge loyalty, at the Social Welfare Department, Department of Health, Housing Department, Fire Services Department, and other government agencies. On May 10, Chief Executive Lam further proposed plans on mutual transfers of civil servants between Hong Kong and mainland China. The public worried that this might allow the CCP to export its political system and monitor Hong Kong's administrative system in proximity.

On June 25 this year, the Hong Kong government announced the promotion of Secretary for Security John Lee to Chief Secretary for Administration and the succession of Commissioner of Police Chris Tang Ping-keung to the post of Secretary for Security. Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner of Police Raymond Siu Chak-yee was promoted to Commissioner while Chief Secretary for Administration Matthew Cheung was dismissed. Hong Kong scholars suspected that the fact that Patrick Nip Tak-kuen, Secretary for the Civil Service and one of Carrie Lam's favorite officials, had been a popular candidate for Chief Secretary for Administration but failed to secure a promotion this time might reflect the grim prospects for Lam's re-election. Lam's popularity has been at the low point for a long time; a survey this year further showed that more than 70% of respondents did not support her as Chief Executive. The CCP's involvement in manipulating Hong Kong's chief executive election next year is worthy of attention.

**2. Hong Kong's economic system remains distinct from that of mainland China, but the impact of the Hong Kong National Security Law and Beijing's integration strategy has increased business risks and tightened CCP control.**

On the economic sphere, Hong Kong still retains independent systems of tariffs and free trade to the casual eye and the Hong Kong dollar (HKD) to US dollar (USD) exchange rate also remains stable. However, the heavy-handed enforcement of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the CCP's intensive push for mainland China-Hong Kong integration have sowed numerous uncertainties over Hong Kong's economic freedom and autonomy.

Last December, in the 2020 Global Connectedness Index (an analysis of the current status of international trade and the movement of capital, information and people) jointly issued by U.S. logistics company DHL and New York University, Hong Kong was ranked 25<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries and regions worldwide for overall connectedness and 1<sup>st</sup> for indicators of financial freedom and capital account openness. However, the 2020 Report to Congress by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC), published in the same month, questioned threats to freedom of speech as well as the chilling effect on international financial institutions and multinational companies in Hong Kong posed by the National Security Law. Furthermore, it pointed out that the national security law enables the government to intervene in Hong Kong's banking system, such as freezing bank accounts and seizing personal assets, indicates the demise of protections of property rights due to the weakening of the rule of law. The report concluded that relevant uncertainties created by the National Security Law will affect investors' willingness needed to sustain foreign portfolio investment flowing into Hong Kong. It also expressed pessimism over Hong Kong's ability to maintain its status as global financial hub.

The British think tank Z/Yen group and China Development Institute in Shenzhen jointly issued the 29th Global Financial Centres Index report (GFCI 29) on March 17. The report suggested that while Hong Kong's ranking has risen from fifth place last September to fourth place this year, it failed to return to top three. Some media outlets analyzed that Hong Kong's improvement in ranking was mainly due to Tokyo's three-place fall on the index. In addition, Hong Kong's de facto rankings actually fell in specific areas such as Business Environment

(including assessments of political stability, laws, and regulations; institutions and regulatory environment; the macroeconomic environment; and other dimensions), Human Capital, etc.

According to an August survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, about 39% of the Hong Kong-based US firms interviewed said they had plans to move operations out of the city, an uptick from 35.5% of business surveyed in July. Moreover, 75% of US companies reported feeling pessimistic about Hong Kong's business prospects in general. In a similar vein, the Hong Kong government statistics showed that the number of foreign companies in the city fell by 2.7% last year compared to the year before, which represented the first drop in a decade. Meanwhile, the survey showed that there are still 4% of foreign companies contemplating on leaving Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority claimed that the total bank deposits grew 5.4% year over year (YOY) last year and that the exchange rate of Hong Kong dollar remained close to the strong-side Convertibility Undertaking (CU), among others, were proof that Hong Kong remains a net capital recipient at the moment; however, related facts and evidence suggested that the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law has severely tarnished Hong Kong's reputation as the best place for business and investment.

At the same time, the CCP's directives for the 14th Five-Year Plan and Hong Kong government's policy address have both focused on facilitating integration between mainland China and Hong Kong and making the city a part of the so-called "overall national development." Moreover, mainland Chinese capital has grown increasingly influential over Hong Kong's financial, insurance, brokerage, and stock market sectors. As far as the stock markets, according to statistics from the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. (HKEx), a total of 154 companies went public in Hong Kong and fundraised over HK\$390 billion last year, making it the second largest Initial Public Offering (IPO) market in the world. However, according to reports from various media outlets, mainland Chinese companies accounted for 112 of all companies filing for IPO in Hong Kong last year. These

companies collectively contributed to 99% of the total capital raised. Nowadays, 80% of listed companies in Hong Kong and their earnings come from mainland China, so do the vast majority of corporate financing demands. Financial and industry experts predict that the share of mainland Chinese capital in Hong Kong's capital market will continue to grow, giving mainland China stronger decision-making power like boats lifted by a rising tide.

The US-based Heritage Foundation issued the Index of Economic Freedom, an annual report assessing performances of countries or cities in the aspects of freedom of trade, property rights, judicial efficiency, government integrity, and so on. Hong Kong had topped the list for 25 consecutive years, and only fell slightly to second place last year. In the latest ranking released on March 4 this year, the foundation said that Hong Kong has lost its political freedom and autonomy in the last two years, essentially making it a city almost indistinguishable from other major cities in mainland China; furthermore, Hong Kong's economic policies are clearly controlled by Beijing. Therefore, the foundation removed Hong Kong (and Macao) from the index altogether. Related analysis indicated that this decision might lead to the outflow of more foreign capital or could accelerate Hong Kong's economic shift towards mainland China. Critics are also concerned that the integration between Hong Kong and mainland China could increase the risks of erosion on Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy in the areas of independent monetary policy, fiscal framework, and financial regulation.

**3. Freedom and human rights continue to be clamped down by the draconian law, creating a pervasive chilling effect in the society. Over 60% of Hong Kong people lack confidence in the city's environment or personal freedom in the future.**

Under the heavy-handed grip of the Hong Kong National Security Law, freedom and human rights have steadily withered in Hong Kong. According to the

Freedom in the World in 2021 report released by Freedom House in March, Hong Kong was rated "partly free" with a score of 52, the lowest score ever received by Hong Kong from the report. The main reason for this outcome is the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law. In the Academic Freedom Index issued the same month by German think tank Global Public Policy Institute, Hong Kong dropped from Grade C last year to Grade D. Moreover, the World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) this April ranked Hong Kong 80th, down from 18th in 2002. The fall in related rankings fully illustrates the encroachment and deterioration of freedom in Hong Kong.

Apart from the sharp plunge in assessments of Hong Kong's freedom by international organizations, there have been innumerable specific cases of suppression by the CCP and the Hong Kong government in various sectors of society. In the area of freedom of the press, publication, and speech, Hong Kong police announced the decision to redefine "media representative" in the Police General Orders to restrict the privilege of non-mainstream media and freelance journalists to cover stories. Meanwhile, the press has faced unprecedented violence from politics. Major events include harsh crackdown on the personnel and programming at Radio Television Hong Kong, including detention of director Choy Yuk-ling for allegation of illegally obtaining vehicle data when filming the July 21 Yuen Long Incident amidst the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill protests. Next Media also became a sacrificial victim of the Hong Kong National Security Law. Its founder, Jimmy Lai, was placed in long-term custody and his personal and company assets were frozen. The Hong Kong police conducted two searches of Hong Kong's Apple Daily and arrested its senior executives, editor-in-chief, and senior writers on charges of "conspiracy to collude with foreign or external forces to endanger national security." The newspaper eventually announced that it would cease publication on June 25 this year, sounding a death knell for freedom of the press in Hong Kong. Facing the threat of being criminalized for voicing one's opinions under the Hong Kong National Security Law, many commentators on current events chose to stop writing. Stand News,

Winandmac Media, Post 852, and other online media announced the removal of articles and movies or withdrawal from Hong Kong in a row.

In the area of education and academic disciplines, since last year, university teachers who often criticize Beijing or lead protests have been fired or not had their contracts renewed, while other school teachers have been deregistered for promoting the city's independence. In February this year, the Hong Kong government stepped up and announced the Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong, which prohibits students from organizing political activities on campus or teachers from expressing personal political views in their lectures; the framework also requires the inclusion of national security elements in all school subjects. The Hong Kong Education Bureau demanded that university presidents lay out plans on how to implement requirements under the National Security Law, such as removing the so-called Lennon Walls on campus and publicity materials related to the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill movement. Moreover, the bureau enrolled 8,000 primary and secondary school teachers for national security courses and training. In addition, it is said that some students reported on faculty and staff's breaches of the Hong Kong National Security Law through hotlines. Public opinions are concerned that this might exacerbate academic self-censorship. Some Hong Kong scholars even suggested to cut down on international academic exchanges or cooperation.

The tentacles of national security censorship have also reached the areas of the internet, art, and literature. HKChronicles, a website providing a large quantity of personal data of Hong Kong police and pro-establishment figures, was rumored to have been blocked by the National Security Office of the Hong Kong government with the assistance of several network providers. Furthermore, public libraries began ideological censorship and removed the writings of Joshua Wong and other pan-democrats. "Inside the Red Brick Wall," a documentary detailing protests against the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill, was banned from playing in cinemas shortly before its debut. Following this incident, the pro-establishment camp and pro-China media blasted the Hong Kong Arts

Development Council for funding anti-government organizations to produce works that incite violence. They also blamed the government funded M+ Museum for displaying artworks created by the artist Ai Weiwei in compliance with the National Security Law. This June, the Hong Kong government announced the guiding principle for Film Censorship (Amendment) Bill 2021 that allows bans on films which could potentially endanger national security. The public has criticized all these as a clear sign of the blurring of red line in Hong Kong politics, and expressed concern that the space for cultural and creative freedom in Hong Kong will gradually wither.

According to Hong Kong government statistics, a total of 10,260 people had been arrested between June 2019 and April this year for participating in the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill protests, among whom 715 were convicted. Meanwhile, over the past year, Hong Kong people's freedom of assembly and parade have remained frozen. For instance, the annual candlelight vigil commemorating the Tiananmen Square Incident that had been held for 31 years and the "July 1" march that had been held for 18 consecutive years were both opposed by Hong Kong police. Furthermore, in April this year, the government passed the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (effective from August 1), whose main changes include giving the Hong Kong government authority to demand airlines to provide passenger data in advance and refuse travel to specific passengers. This has risen doubts among the public about restrictions on Hong Kong people's freedom of movement and human rights.

Since the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, the number of detainees might have only been 1% of those in the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill movement, but the victims range from politicians and participants and funders of anti-"extradition (to China)" bill protests to scholars, journalists, and social workers. These people were criminalized for current and past comments, which has led to a pervasive chilling effect in the Hong Kong society. Moreover, the Hong Kong government followed the example of the CCP to launch a hotline for people to report suspected breaches of the city's sweeping National Security

Law. This hotline received a staggering 100,000 tips since last November; critics denounced the informers' hotline as a reminiscence of mainland China's Cultural Revolution. A poll in March conducted by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute found that, over 60% of the respondents have no confidence in Hong Kong's future as far as political environment and personal freedom are concerned. The poll results reflect the fact that the National Security Law did not bring stability to the society; rather, it has cost the vibrancy of the society's free and prosperous development.

**4. The Hong Kong National Security Law has undermined judicial independence. As political pressure and interference mount, the demise of judicial independence is only a matter of time.**

Due to the effect of the Hong Kong National Security Law, Hong Kong's judicial independence has started to falter. Professor Johannes Chan of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong stated that the Hong Kong Department of Justice and Hong Kong police have expanded the scope of the Hong Kong National Security Law infinitely and have been applying this law even when handling non-national security related cases. Moreover, Hong Kong law enforcement's forced adoption of mainland China's legislation has reduced this law to a tool that suppresses freedom and stokes controversies over "one country, two systems," destroying the judicial system of the Hong Kong society.

Several precedents are as follows: arresting suspects on a broad interpretation of the law, undermining protections of individual rights stipulated in the law, refusing to allow detainees to apply for bail, denying trial by jury, and not publicly disclosing the names of judges designated to hear national security cases. National security related agencies have also been opaque in their operations and fiscal implementation. Moreover, decisions by the Hong Kong government's Committee for Safeguarding National Security are not subject to judicial review, which is in clear contravention of the principle of checks and

balances through separation of powers between executive and judiciary branches. This could bring back the possibility of extraditing suspects to mainland China for trial and is equivalent to stripping jurisdiction and power of final adjudication granted by the Hong Kong Basic Law.

In addition to the Hong Kong National Security Law that undermined Hong Kong's judicial independence, its judicial system also faces ongoing and intense political pressure and disruption. For instance, under high-profile attacks by mainland Chinese media, the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal reversed a lower court's decision to grant bail to Jimmy Lai and ordered him back to prison. In addition, former Demosistō Secretary-General Joshua Wong, Chairperson Ivan Lam, and member Agnes Chow faced heavy sentence for their roles in the siege of the police headquarters the year before. Furthermore, the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal ruled that the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation was constitutional and demanded that the costs of the appeals be paid by those pan-democrats who applied for judicial reviews. The pro-China media made repeated criticism over light sentences in cases related to the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill protests.

Foreign judges have always been an important symbol of judicial independence in Hong Kong. However, in September last year, Australian James Jacob Spigelman, one of the foreign non-permanent judge of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, resigned before the end of his tenure allegedly due to dissatisfaction over the Hong Kong National Security Law. The court now has 13 remaining overseas non-permanent judges. Moreover, in the past, Hong Kong's judicial leadership had rarely participated in CCP activities to maintain an independent image; this June, however, judicial leaders attended a forum held by CCP offices in Hong Kong, and later broke the convention again by joining the celebration of the CCP's founding in Beijing. Subsequent developments are worth watching.

Overall, the CCP has drawn Hong Kong's judiciary system into the scope of "patriots ruling Hong Kong." Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office Deputy

Director Zhang Xiaoming stated on November 17 that it was time to revamp Hong Kong's judiciary, showing that the demise of the city's judicial independence is only a matter of time.

**5. The international community is closely monitoring the situation in Hong Kong and has proposed countermeasures and aid programs to Hong Kong people.**

In light of Hong Kong's deteriorating situation along with the CCP and Hong Kong government's intensified suppression of democracy and freedom resulted from the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, major countries have voiced condemnation, expressed concern, and conducted countermeasures in response.

On July 14 last year, the US signed the Hong Kong Autonomy Act and an executive order on Hong Kong Normalization, making it the first country to point out Hong Kong's loss of a high degree of autonomy and hence the suspension of granting it the special status and treatment different from those given to mainland China. In recent years, the US has discontinued training for Hong Kong's police force and exchanges on science and education. The US also terminated several collaboration projects and agreements, such as the Agreement concerning Double Taxation Exemption from the Income Derived from the International Operation of Ships. Moreover, the US demanded that Hong Kong goods for export to the US be labelled as "Made in China" and subject to export controls the same as those from mainland China. In addition, the US consecutively imposed sanctions on more than 30 Hong Kong and mainland Chinese officials, including director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council Xia Baolong, director of the Hong Kong Liaison Office Luo Huining, and Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam by freezing their assets and restricting their entry into the US. The 2021 Hong Kong Policy

Act report released on March 31 this year shows that US policy position on Hong Kong remains unchanged.

The British government submitted its Six-Monthly Report on Hong Kong to parliament on November 23. The report criticized that the National Security Law has been used as a tool for political prosecution that endangers the city's judicial independence. The British government said it would monitor the use of these provisions closely, including its implications for the role of British judges in Hong Kong's justice system. In addition, ten countries including the UK, Canada, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, and the US have either suspended or refused to ratify extradition agreements with Hong Kong. Countries include New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Canada, Britain, and the US updated travel alerts to warn citizens of potential risks from traveling to Hong Kong due to the Hong Kong National Security Law.

Major countries have proposed measures to assist the people of Hong Kong in a row. For example, the US included Hong Kong within its refugee quota for the first time, granting 5,000 places to refugees from Hong Kong, Cuba, and Venezuela. The UK started to implement the British National (Overseas) Passport (BNO) "5 plus 1" visa policy for immigration from January 31, charting the path for Hong Kong people to acquire British citizenship. Hong Kong citizens with a BNO visa, after five years in the UK and, provided they have stayed free of criminality, have supported themselves financially, and have not left the country for more than 180 days in any 12-month period, will be able to apply for settled status. After a further year they may apply to naturalize as a British citizen. In April this year, the British government further introduced a plan to integrate people from Hong Kong by announcing the appropriation of over £43 million (approximately NT\$1.7 billion); the UK has also set up 12 welcoming stations for Hong Kong residents to help Hong Kong BNO-holders and their families integrate into life in the UK in cooperation with civic groups.

Meanwhile, Australia and Canada introduced "safe harbor" and "lifeboat" policies respectively for Hong Kong people. Australia responded to the

implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law last year by announcing a visa extension for Hong Kong passport holders in Australia on graduate or skilled workers visas for another five years, after which time persons with appropriate skills could apply for permanent residence. Canada's Hong Kong Pathway program, officially launched on February 8 this year, provides a channel for qualified Hong Kong youth aged 18 years or above to apply for a Canadian work visa. On June 8 this year, Canada announced a further expansion of the program to provide a new pathway for Hong Kong passport holders currently working or recently graduating in Canada to obtain permanent residency.

For a long time, Hong Kong has been a global metropolis and attracted many international media outlets and NGOs to set up offices. However, the Hong Kong National Security Law has already prompted German think tank Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, the New York Times, and others to withdraw from Hong Kong.

**6. CCP offices in Hong Kong have grown increasingly high-profile in their comments and activities in Hong Kong. Beijing continues to push for integration, but has failed to significantly improve approval or recognition among the people of Hong Kong.**

On July 8 last year, the CCP established the Office for Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong in accordance with the Hong Kong National Security Law. The first director of this office is Zheng Yanxiong, former Secretary General of the CCP Guangdong Provincial Committee. Nonetheless, personnel of this office are not subject to Hong Kong's jurisdiction when carrying out their duty, and they "enjoy other rights and immunities provided by the laws of Hong Kong." This was criticized for violating Article 22 of the Basic Law, which requires officers' compliance with Hong Kong laws. The CCP also appointed Liaison Office Director Luo Huining as the "national security adviser" on the Hong Kong government's Committee for Safeguarding National Security, essentially making

him the head directing the Hong Kong government from behind the scenes. Public opinions believe that this arrangement undermines Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy. In addition, the CCP established Bauhinia Culture Holdings Limited (HK), a "cultural central state-owned enterprise," in Hong Kong, whose chairmanship was given to Mao Chaofeng, former Vice Governor of Hainan Province. This appointment puts him in charge of all Chinese-funded institutions in Hong Kong such as Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Limited and other companies. Critics suspect that this is an attempt by the CCP to take comprehensive control over Hong Kong in publishing, news, film and television, and art and culture.

Over the past year, The CCP officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs adopted the same hard line approach used in handling the anti-"extradition (to China)" bill protests to make high-profile comments on Hong Kong affairs. Examples include whether Hong Kong has adopted separation of powers, whether to postpone the Legislative Council elections, proceedings of the Legislative Council, the pan-democracy camp's internal primaries, and the content of general education materials. Their criticism also targeted Jimmy Lai, Hong Kong's Apple Daily, the chairman of the Council of the Hong Kong Bar Association, and Hong Kong University Students' Union, etc. The PLA Hong Kong Garrison no longer conducts troop rotations in the middle of the night, and it also released a video on drills against unrest in Hong Kong in a clear attempt to intimidate Hong Kong people. On June 12 this year, four CCP offices in Hong Kong (the Liaison Office, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PLA Hong Kong Garrison, and Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong) and the Hong Kong government jointly held a forum titled "Themed Symposium on the CCP and One Country, Two Systems." This event marked the first-ever CCP-themed public event, which critics have described as a manifestation of the CCP's Hong Kong work officially emerging from "underground" in the early period following the handover to "on the table" currently. These actions are meant to bring it to Hong Kong people's attention that the CCP is the bona fide ruling power of Hong Kong.

The CCP has never ceased the carrot-and-stick strategy with Hong Kong. It has been promoting integration of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, for which purpose it unveiled pro-Hong Kong measures and other supporting policies. These measures include introducing the Hong Kong and Macao Double Taxation Avoidance Arrangement, announcing the GBA Cross-Border Wealth Management Business Pilot Enforcement Rules, and passing the Decision to Carry out the Pilot Program of Allowing Hong Kong Legal Practitioners and Macao Practicing Lawyers to Obtain Mainland Practicing Qualifications and Practice Law in Nine Mainland Cities of the GBA. The Hong Kong government also rolled out the GBA Youth Employment Program in concert with the CCP's objective of promoting the integration between Hong Kong and mainland China. Meanwhile, the government established the GBA Police Association under which the Hong Kong police officers became default members, highlighting the integration of regional policing. The CCP allowed Hong Kong and Macao residents to take qualification exams for becoming civil servants in Shenzhen. It also issued a Report on the Status of Language Life in the GBA, which recommended clarifying the legal status of Mandarin and simplified Chinese and making Mandarin education a policy and an indicator of the evaluation system.

However, in polls conducted by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute in January and June this year, 41% of Hong Kong respondents said they disapproved the mainland Chinese government. In addition, the score reflecting Hong Kong people's identification as "Chinese" was 6.02 points. Clearly, the CCP's measures have not been widely accepted or affirmed by the people of Hong Kong.

**7. Amid the CCP and the Hong Kong government's sabotage of Taiwan-Hong Kong relations, Taiwan staunchly defends its national dignity, firmly safeguards people's rights and interests, and voices support for democracy and freedom in Hong Kong.**

In response to the degeneration of Hong Kong's situation, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) released the Position and Response Paper on the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on July 16 last year. It condemned the law for violating freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Hong Kong Basic Law and tearing up the promises of "Hong Kong governed by the Hong Kong people" and a "high degree of autonomy" for Hong Kong. The law also contradicts universal values and international obligations under relevant international regulations. The law is bound to have far-reaching and profound dire consequences on Hong Kong, the international community, relations between Taiwan and Hong Kong, as well as cross-Strait ties. Therefore, the government has pledged to firmly uphold its position on national sovereignty, democracy, and freedom in face of the high risk and hazards posed by the Hong Kong National Security Law. It will also continue to join the international community in supporting the Hong Kong people's fight for freedom and human rights to jointly defend universal values. It has also issued warnings to remind the Taiwanese public of the risks involved in travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao; carried out full function of the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services; and upgraded national security response measures. In December of the same year, the MAC enacted the Directions for Personnel of Executive Yuan and Its Subordinate Agencies Travelling to Hong Kong or Macao.

However, the Hong Kong government has been deeply dissatisfied with Taiwan's support for Hong Kong people through the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services established under the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (ECCC). This has led to increasingly passive economic and cultural exchanges between the ECCC and Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC). On May 18 this year, the Hong Kong government further announced the suspension of operations at its representative office in Taiwan. In addition, since July 2018, the

government of Hong Kong demanded that the Director General-designate of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Hong Kong sign a pledge to observe the “one China” principle as a precondition for issuing him a visa. Taiwan categorically rejected this demand. In the two years since then, the visa applications of 10 personnel of Taiwan's Hong Kong office were met with a similar demand that they provide a written commitment to the “one China” principle. This unreasonable demand was even extended to director-level staff members of private-sector groups (such as the Taiwan External Trade Development Council) and agencies that are not part of the TECO organization (such as the Tourism Bureau). Taiwan continued to communicate with the Hong Kong government but did not receive a positive response in return, making it untenable for TECO personnel to remain in Hong Kong or travel there to assume their duties. Given these developments, Taiwan has formulated a contingency plan to introduce operational adjustments at TECO starting from June 21, maintaining essential operations in an effort to provide services to the public.

In the area of economic, trade, cultural, and personnel exchanges, total trade between Taiwan and Hong Kong reached US\$50.2 billion in 2020, up 21.28% from the year before. Taiwan was Hong Kong's second largest trading partner and Hong Kong was Taiwan's fourth largest trading partner. Taiwan invested approximately US\$910 million in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong invested about US\$550 million in Taiwan. There were 10,960 Hong Kong and Macao students enrolled in Taiwan universities in 2020; Hong Kong students accounted for 7,807 of the total, representing the largest share of overseas Chinese, Hong Kong, and Macao students studying in Taiwan. Moreover, according to May 2021 statistics from the National Immigration Agency, a total of 10,813 Hong Kong people obtained Taiwan residence permits in 2020, up sharply from 5,858 in 2019 and hit a record high. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border control measures, about 105,100 Taiwanese people traveled to Hong Kong and approximately 162,000 Hong Kong residents traveled to Taiwan in 2020. When the pandemic abates and borders reopen, Taiwan-Hong Kong exchanges are likely to remain obstructed by the Hong Kong National Security Law.

Despite pressure from the CCP and Hong Kong government, Taiwan remains firmly committed to assisting the people of Hong Kong. The Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services, established in July last year, has handled more than 2,000 cases through phone calls and emails as of June this year. The government has also formed an inter-agency group to strengthen recruitment of international talents to Taiwan, including from Hong Kong. Specific policies include the amendments to the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals proposed by the National Development Council and passed on June 18 this year by the Legislative Yuan. In the future, Hong Kong passport holders who have graduated from the world's top universities and came to Taiwan for specialized or technical work will be exempted from the requirement of two years of work experience. The government will also extend tax incentives, relax health insurance participation restrictions, and simplify work permit application process for Hong Kong professionals coming to work in Taiwan. The Ministry of Education is also promoting draft amendments to the Regulations for Hong Kong and Macao Residents Studying in Taiwan to allow students from the two cities to apply for enrollment at high school in Taiwan at relaxed regulations comparable to those for overseas students. Regarding residency for people from Hong Kong and Macao, relevant government agencies are reviewing related regulations to provide the most practical support and aid to the people of Hong Kong while ensuring national security.

In addition, the public has continued to watch the case of Chan Tong-kai that triggered the anti-“extradition (to China)” bill protests in 2019. Since September last year, the victim's family has repeatedly demanded that Chan surrender in Taiwan and asked the Hong Kong government to hand over the suspect's confession and evidence to Taiwan. The Taiwan government has called on the Hong Kong government several times to respond pragmatically to Taiwan's requests for mutual judicial assistance in this case and help bring the suspect to justice as soon as possible to realize judicial justice. The case involves the exercise of jurisdiction and related public powers by Taiwan and Hong Kong, and therefore requires the Taiwan and Hong Kong government to

negotiate and agree on relevant matters before Chan can surrender in Taiwan. Unfortunately, the Hong Kong government has yet to respond positively to Taiwan.

The situation in Hong Kong has deteriorated rapidly in recent years. The CCP and Hong Kong government have been unilaterally undermining Taiwan-Hong Kong relations and must bear full responsibility for all consequences. The Taiwan government has continued to respond to developments in the Taiwan-Hong Kong, cross-Strait, and international situations by referring to measures adopted by other countries and strengthening various reviews and inspections under existing laws and regulations. For example, in August last year, the National Immigration Agency amended and promulgated Articles 22 and 30 of the Regulations Governing Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents Entering the Taiwan Area and Setting up Residence or Registered Permanent Residence in Taiwan to strengthen review of applications by Hong Kong and Macao residents associated with mainland China seeking to come to Taiwan for temporary or permanent residence.

Relevant government agencies are now reviewing certain provisions of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao to effectively prevent the CCP from infiltrating Taiwan through capital or personnel exchanges coming from Hong Kong and Macao. Article 60 of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao, i.e. a *clausula rebus sic stantibus* (a legal doctrine which allows laws to become inapplicable as a result of a fundamental change of circumstances), has the nature of an emergency order. It expressly stipulates that application of this provision would require situations “endangering the security of the Taiwan Area.” Future decisions on whether to apply this provision would demand extreme caution due to its effect on the rights and interests of the people of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao. The MAC presents to the Legislative Yuan the Quarterly Report on Review of Hong Kong's Special Status and Implementation Status of the Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project. It has also established indicators and early warning mechanisms for assessment of the

situation in Hong Kong. In case of any future escalation of risks pertaining to undermining Taiwan's national security or infringing on Taiwanese people's rights and interests, the government will actively propose, discuss, or amend relevant laws and regulations and take necessary contingency measures to safeguard national sovereignty and people's welfare.

## II. Appendix — Major Events in 24 Years since Hong Kong's Handover

July 2020 ~ June 2021

Date	Event
2020.7.1	The police prohibit for the first time the Civil Human Rights Front from holding the "July 1 Protest." A total of 370 people were arrested and 10 were charged for violation of Hong Kong National Security Law.
2020.7.6	The Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Hong Kong government convened its first meeting. That evening, the Hong Kong government announced that the Article 43 Implementation Rules under the Hong Kong National Security Law would be effective from July 7.
2020.7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The CCP Office for Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong is inaugurated.</li> <li>● The Civil Service Bureau proposes that, from July 1, all new civil servants must sign documents confirming that they will uphold the Basic Law and swear allegiance to the HKSAR.</li> </ul>
2020.7.13	The Liaison Office in Hong Kong accuses pan-democrats of violating the National Security Law and Hong Kong election laws by holding "primaries" and supports a strict investigation by the Hong Kong government.
2020.7.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● US President Donald Trump signs the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, terminating Hong Kong's special treatment status.</li> <li>● A spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council condemns the "primaries" as an illegal manipulation of SAR elections and a flagrant challenge to the Basic Law and National Security Law.</li> </ul>

2020.7.28	The Council of the University of Hong Kong approves the dismissal of Associate Professor of the Department of Law Benny Tai Yiu-ting.
2020.7.30	The nominations of 12 pro-democracy candidates are ruled invalid.
2020.7.31	The Hong Kong Government announces that the Legislative Council elections originally scheduled to be held on September 6 will be postponed to September 5, 2021, due to the severity of the pandemic.
2020.8.7	The US Treasury Department announces sanctions against 11 Mainland and Hong Kong officials, including Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office Xia Baolong, and Liaison Office Director Luo Huining.
2020.8.10	The Hong Kong police arrest 10 people, including Next Media founder Jimmy Lai, on suspicion of violating the Hong Kong National Security Law and conspiracy to defraud. The police later conducted a large-scale search of Next Media's headquarters and seized customer data.
2020.8.11	The Standing Committee of the CCP National People's Congress unanimously passes a resolution that the Sixth Legislative Council of Hong Kong would continue to perform its duties for not less than one year, until the start of the new term of the Legislative Council.
2020.8.26	The China Coast Guard issues a message stating that, on August 23, the Guangdong Coast Guard Bureau seized persons suspected of illegal border crossing in the sea area under Mainland jurisdiction.
2020.9.6	The Hong Kong people hold the "Kowloon Demonstration" to protest the Hong Kong National Security Law, health code issue, and delayed Legislative Council election. Nearly 300 people were arrested.
2020.11.11	The Standing Committee of the CCP National People's Congress approves the Decision on the Qualification of Members of the Legislative Council.
2020.11.25	Chief Executive Carrie Lam makes a policy address.

2020.1.6	The Hong Kong police arrest 55 pan-democrats who participated in the primary election of the Legislative Council last year.
2021.2.23	The Hong Kong Government introduces the 2021 Public Service (Election and Appointment) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill to the Legislative Council.
2021.3.1	Deputy Secretary for the Home Affairs Bureau Patrick Li Pak-chuen is appointed as director of the bureau.
2021.3.17	The US Department of State announces sanctions against 24 CCP and Hong Kong officials.
2021.3.30	The Standing Committee of the CCP National People's Congress amends Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the Hong Kong Basic Law.
2021.4.13	Chief Executive Carrie Lam states that the 2021 Improvement of the Electoral System (Comprehensive Amendment) Bill was approved by the Executive Council. She hopes the bill will become law before the end of May. She also announces that the Election Committee subsector elections will be held on September 19, the seventh Legislative Council election will be delayed to December 19, and the Sixth Chief Executive election will be held on March 27, 2022.
2021.4.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alvin Yeung, Jeremy Tam, Kwok Ka-ki, and Lee Yue-shun propose dissolution of the Civic Party. Civic Party Chairman Alan Leong and Vice-Chairman Bill Lay Yan-pau note that dissolution of the Civic Party party has been sincerely communicated and that after repeated and in-depth discussions it was determined to keep the Civic Party.</li> <li>● Liaison Office Director and national security adviser to the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the HKSAR Luo Huining emphasizes at an Education Day opening ceremony that any act endangering national security and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability will be dealt with swiftly and effectively. He also stated that Hong Kong must fulfill its constitutional obligation to safeguard national security, crack down on "hard confrontation," and regulate "soft confrontation" in accordance with the law.</li> <li>● Commissioner of Police Chris Tang Ping-keung criticizes the Apple Daily, without naming names, for reports aimed at dividing the people's hearts and provoking social enmity.</li> </ul>
2021.4.28	The Legislative Council approves new amendments to the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020. Effective from August 1, the amended bill empowers the Immigration Department to demand that airlines prevent individuals from traveling to Hong Kong.
2021.5.9	During an interview with official mouthpiece China Central

	Television, Carrie Lam discloses that the Hong Kong government would sign agreements with Guangdong and Shenzhen in mainland China to allow mutual "temporary assignments" by civil servants between the two sides.
2021.5.12	The Legislative Council passes the Public Service (Election and Appointment) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021 in the third reading. After taking effect on May 21, district councilors will be included within the scope of regulation.
2021.5.14	The Security Bureau freezes assets of Jimmy Lai, including his shares in Next Media and the local bank accounts of three companies he owns, under the Implementation Rules of Article 43 of the Hong Kong National Security Law.
2021.5.18	The Hong Kong government announces the suspension of the operations of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office, Hong Kong's office in Taiwan.
2021.5.19	Xinhua News Agency announces Beijing's appointment of Liu Guangyuan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to the Republic of Poland, as Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the HKSAR.
2021.5.21	The Hong Kong government issues a statement explaining that Taiwan has repeatedly interfered in Hong Kong affairs in recent years.
2021.5.27	The Legislative Council passes the Improvement of the Electoral System (Comprehensive Amendment) Bill 2021 in the third reading.
2021.6.11	The Hong Kong Government revises the Film Censorship Ordinance to state that a film could be found unsuitable for screening should it constitute a crime against national security.
2021.6.12	Liaison Office Director Luo Huining states at a forum on the "CCP and One Country, Two Systems" that "the real archenemy of prosperity and stability in Hong Kong" is "the clamor for the 'end one-party dictatorship'."
2021.6.17	The National Security Office of the Hong Kong police searches Hong Kong's Apple Daily and arrests five directors.
2021.6.20	The Civil Human Rights Front states that it would not apply for permission to hold the "July 1" protest this year.
2021.6.23	The National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force arrests editorial writer for Hong Kong's Apple Daily Yeung Ching-kee (pen name Li Ping) for suspected involvement in conspiracy to collude with foreign and external forces to endanger national security. Hong Kong's Apple Daily announces it will cease operations.
2021.6.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Online media Stand News announces that, to reduce risk, it will remove blogs, reprints, reader contributions, and other articles, as well as suspend membership funding. Six of the eight members of the board of directors accept suggestions</li> </ul>

	<p>to resign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Former editorial writer of Hong Kong's Apple Daily Fong Wai-kung (pen name Lo Fung) is prohibited from leaving the country and arrested at the airport. The police charge him with "conspiracy to collude with foreign and external forces to endanger national security."</li></ul>
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