



Written submissions by Lawyers HK for the fourth review on the People's Republic of China under the Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council ("UNHRC")

A) Background of Lawyers HK

1. Lawyers HK is a volunteer group with over 400 solicitors, barristers, in-house counsels and other members of the legal industry in Hong Kong. Our objective is to uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong through education and other means. We are also a registered charitable organization with the objective of relieving poverty and helping the underprivileged.
2. This submission addresses the use of police force in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("**HKSAR**") and upcoming local legislation to give effect to Article 23 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR (the "**Basic Law**"). Our submission discusses the framework that governs the actions of the Hong Kong Police Force ("**HKPF**") and the system under which police complaints are handled. In context, we discuss the exceptional professionalism in their handling of the 2019-2020 riots (the "**2019 Riots**") in relation to the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 (the "**Extradition Bill**"), and the swift and effective action to curtail any abuses of police power following criticisms of police action during the 2019 Riots. In light of the grave threat to the personal freedoms and democratic rights of Hong Kong citizens brought upon by those involved in and behind the 2019 Riots, further legislation is necessary to protect citizens from more harm.

B) Framework governing the use of force by the HKPF

3. The HKPF is held accountable by the Independent Police Complaints Council ("**IPCC**"), an independent body established under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance. The IPCC's functions include observing and monitoring the handling and investigation of reportable complaints, identifying any fault or deficiency in any practice or procedure adopted by the HKPF that has led to, or might lead to, reportable complaints, and making recommendations to the Commissioner of Police or the Chief Executive. The IPCC is constituted by 19 members from a wide spectrum of society, including lawmakers and lawyers, and 114 observers. The IPCC was also advised by an international group of experts

during its thematic study of the 2019 Riots (the “**Thematic Study**”).¹ The IPCC exists as an addition to the internal complaints process of the HKPF and the ability of Hong Kong citizens to pursue private prosecutions against individual police officers, a right which has been exercised by the opposition.²

4. The “Use of Force Principles” in place in Hong Kong mirrors those of other signatories to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“**ICCPR**”). As set out in the Police General Orders and the Force Procedures Manual, officers may only use minimum force necessary to achieve a purpose that is consistent with a lawful objective, and must cease its use once that objective is achieved.³ The IPCC has also compared such principles with those adopted by Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and observed that the principles adopted by HKPF are in line with those in the aforementioned comparable jurisdictions.⁴
5. These principles were strictly adhered to by the HKPF, whose restraint is reflected in the statistics. Despite the violence which afflicted Hong Kong between June and November 2019 involving at least 300,000 people, only 2,615 injuries were reported by the Hospital Authority, of which 590 were police officers and a significant number being victims of attacks by rioters.⁵ In face of the constant use of bricks, sharp objects, acid, and petrol bombs by rioters against civilians and the police, the HKPF only fired 19 live rounds between 9 June 2019 and 29 February 2020, with only three rioters actually being shot, and none dying or becoming disabled due to their injuries.⁶ The Thematic Study also notes that, in every instance, the live rounds were only fired when officers became surrounded by aggressive rioters with potentially lethal weapons, or when rioters attempted to snatch their service pistols,⁷ with most of these being warning shots. Despite the unparalleled violence of the 2019 Riots, the HKPF’s exceptional restraint (especially compared with international examples of riot suppression) shows that the HKPF remains one of the most professional police forces in the world.
6. Before addressing complaints made against the HKPF, we urge the UNHRC to acknowledge the weaponisation of mass media for political aims (especially online), and the rise of fake news across the political spectrum. During the course of the 2019 Riots, allegations of serious misconduct were lodged against the HKPF, many of which were adopted by international commentators and observers as evidence of the HKPF’s abuse of power, but none of which have been subsequently substantiated as a matter of fact or law. These false

¹ Independent Police Complaints Council, *A Thematic Study by the IPCC on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response*. Accessible at: https://www.ipcc.gov.hk/doc/en/report/thematic_report/An%20Overview%20of%20the%20Public%20Order%20Events%20arising%20from%20the%20Fugitive%20Offenders%20Bill%20since%20June%202019.pdf

² As exercised during the 2019 Riots – see Christy Leung and Jasmine Siu, ‘Hong Kong protests: policeman facing private prosecution over shooting launches High Court bid to have case thrown out’ (*South China Morning Post*, 10 August 2020) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3096719/hong-kong-protests-policeman-facing-private>> accessed 15 July 2023

³ Independent Police Complaints Council, *A Thematic Study by the IPCC on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response*, Volume 2, p.27

⁴ *ibid.*, p.24

⁵ *ibid.*, p.34

⁶ *ibid.*, p.31. Data in the Thematic Study is as of 29 February 2020, but there were no subsequent firings of live rounds in connection with the 2019 Riots after this end date.

⁷ *ibid.*

allegations against the HKPF include, *inter alia*:

- a. causing a woman to lose an eye on 11 August 2019 (an incident which sparked further protests and made her a symbol of the movement) – medical reports later revealed that she only sustained injuries around her eye; doctors expressed doubt as to whether her injuries were caused by police ammunition;⁸
- b. staging the suicide of a young woman, which prompted rioters to destroy a school campus – no evidence of police involvement has been presented to date;⁹
- c. causing the fatal fall of a university student on 4 November 2019 – CCTV footage subsequently showed that no police officers were present at the time and location of his fall;¹⁰ and
- d. killing protestors when conducting arrests at Prince Edward Station on 31 August 2019 – protestors rumoured to have died were later found alive in the United Kingdom,¹¹ and no missing persons reports were ever filed in connection with the incident.¹²

The habitual dishonesty of those purporting to represent the opposition should be cause for significant doubt when analysing claims made by opposition stakeholders.

7. To be clear, we do not support the view that all complaints against the HKPF are illegitimate. Instead, we strongly believe that Hong Kong has robust systems of accountability in place which swiftly punish any abuse of power. As a testament to the strength of Hong Kong's free press, the willingness of the Department of Justice to prosecute offending police officers, and the independence of its courts, five police officers were convicted of assaulting a "pro-democracy" activist during the 2014 "Occupy Central" protests in 2017, with their convictions recently affirmed by the Court of Final Appeal in 2020.¹³ The prosecutions were made possible by footage broadcasted by TVB (a local television broadcaster), and the victim later became a member of the Chief Executive election committee.¹⁴ This outcome would not have been possible if Hong Kong were not a free society.

⁸ Michael Shum, 'Protest eye girl "left HK with no serious injury"' (*The Standard*, 25 May 2021) <<https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/11/230544/Protest-eye-girl-'left-HK-with-no-serious-injury'>> accessed 15 July 2023

⁹ The Standard, 'Design school trashed after meeting with students axed' (*The Standard*, 30 October 2019) <<https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/136274/Design-school-trashed-after-meeting-with-students-axed>> accessed 15 July 2023

¹⁰ N.16, p.150

¹¹ Michael Shum, 'Activist resurfaces to clear "mystery death"' (*The Standard*, 1 September 2020) <<https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/11/222464/Activist-resurfaces-to-clear-'mystery-death'>> accessed 14 July 2023

¹² Independent Police Complaints Council, *A Thematic Study by the IPCC on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response*, Volume 4, p.59

¹³ Brian Wong, 'Five Hong Kong policemen jailed for beating pro-democracy protester Ken Tsang during 2014 Occupy movement lose final appeal bid' (*South China Morning Post*, 7 April 2020) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3078720/five-hong-kong-policemen-jailed-beating-pro-democracy>> accessed 15 July 2023

¹⁴ Chris Lau, 'Jailed activist Ken Tsang to become first Hong Kong inmate to vote in leadership election after abandoning appeal' (*South China Morning Post*, 21 March 2017) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/2080749/jailed-activist-ken-tsang-become-first-hong-kong-inmate-cast>> accessed 15 July 2023

Recommendation

8. We urge the UNHRC to demand concrete evidence from all stakeholders before assessing claims of police abuse. The UNHRC should also liaise with the HKSAR Government to understand whether more decisive measures could have been implemented to stop the riots at an earlier stage.

C) Context: the unprecedented brutality of the 2019 Riots and the attack on Hong Kong's democracy

9. We take this opportunity to comment on the 2019 Riots, given its status as a pivotal moment in Hong Kong's history. It is essential for observers to recognise that, for the inhabitants of Hong Kong, the 2019 Riots presented a real threat to both the existence of the city's democratic institutions and the integrity of the legal system, which are cherished and enjoyed by Hong Kong citizens across the political spectrum.

Wanton violence

10. During the 2019 Riots, Hong Kong was ravaged by violence unparalleled in the city's history. Universities were turned into weapons factories, with over 8,000 petrol bombs uncovered by the HKPF in just one raid.¹⁵ Policemen were mutilated, afflicted with life-changing injuries as rioters flung bottles of acid at the police. Bombs were set off in the accident and emergency wards of hospitals,¹⁶ and lethal firearms and explosives imported from foreign countries were frequently stashed in schools and city centres.¹⁷ In one incident which shook the world, a 57-year-old father of two was doused with a flammable liquid and set alight merely for verbally telling rioters to stop destroying public transport facilities.¹⁸ In another incident, rioters launched bricks at a group of local unarmed residents who were clearing roadblocks, killing a 70-year-old street cleaner in the process.¹⁹ Other citizens were brutally beaten, hit with hard objects, stripped

¹⁵ Christy Leung, Karen Zhang, 'More than 8,000 petrol bombs primed for Hong Kong streets "found in weapons factory at Chinese University"' (*South China Morning Post*, 19 November 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3038399/thousands-petrol-bombs-primed-hong-kong-streets-found>> accessed 6 July 2023

¹⁶ Tony Cheung, Christy Leung, 'Police suspect hospital bomb linked to Hong Kong protests, as Telegram message warns of "more to come" and demands border closure amid Wuhan virus crisis' (*South China Morning Post*, 27 January 2020) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3047744/home-made-bomb-explodes-hong-kong-caritas-medical>> accessed 6 July 2023

¹⁷ The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 'LCQ1: Weapons seized by Police in recent months and law and order situation in Hong Kong' (*Info.gov.hk*, 8 January 2020) <<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/08/P2020010800638.htm>> accessed 13 July 2023

¹⁸ Clifford Lo, 'Hong Kong father of two "burned alive" after chasing protesters at MTR station in grisly act of violence police classify as attempted murder' (*South China Morning Post*, 11 November 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3037243/hong-kong-father-two-burned-alive-after-chasing>> accessed 6 July 2023

¹⁹ Brian Wong, 'Hong Kong protests: pair jailed 5½ years for rioting, cleared of manslaughter over street clash that led to death of elderly cleaner from hurled brick' (*South China Morning Post*, 12 August 2022) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3188618/hong-kong-protests-pair-jailed-5-1/2-years-rioting>> accessed 6 July 2023

²⁰ For the numerous examples of such attacks, see Independent Police Complaints Council, *A Thematic Study by the IPCC on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response, Volume 1*, pp.231-234

naked in public view, falsely imprisoned,²⁰ or stabbed²¹ merely for expressing dissent against the 2019 Riots, speaking Mandarin, or for looking like a police officer.²² Media reports have recorded at least 45 such instances of extrajudicial punishment during the 2019 Riots.²³ It cannot be reasonably argued that the 2019 Rioters were, at any time, respectful of human rights.

Assault on democracy

11. While often characterised by the Western media as a “pro-democracy” movement, we would instead note that the 2019 Rioters consistently expressed a profound disdain for democratic values and refused to respect the democratic processes which they participated in.
12. On 12 June 2019, the first day of the 2019 Riots, members of the opposition camp organised a siege of the Legislative Council (“**LegCo**”) complex to stop its members from conducting the second reading of the Extradition Bill. This incident was followed by another violent insurrection on 1 July 2019, which marked the 22nd anniversary of Hong Kong’s emancipation from British colonialism. During this attack on the city’s democratically elected legislature, rioters attacked the police,²⁴ and ransacked the LegCo chambers, destroying equipment and preventing LegCo from conducting any of its activities for two weeks.²⁵
13. Given that opposition lawmakers have recognised LegCo elections as free and fair, and have enthusiastically participated in local elections both before and after the 2019 Riots began, the opposition lawmakers’ support for the rioters’ calculated actions to delay the reading of the Extradition Bill, was a betrayal of the principles they claimed to uphold. The assault on democratic institutions cannot be reconciled with the advancement of human rights.

Undermining of the rule of law

14. These attacks on Hong Kong’s democratic institutions were complemented by vicious campaigns targeted towards the judiciary.
15. Following a ruling by the city’s High Court which rejected the application of a student union president to bar police from entering university campuses, rioters set fire to the entrance of the Sha Tin Magistrates’ Court, an act which was condemned by the Hong Kong Bar Association as one calculated to undermine

²⁰ For the numerous examples of such attacks, see Independent Police Complaints Council, *A Thematic Study by the IPCC on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response, Volume 1*, pp.231-234

²¹ Kanis Leung, Alvin Lum, Clifford Lo, ‘Knife attack on Hong Kong lawmaker Junius Ho sparks security concerns ahead of district council elections’ (*South China Morning Post*, 6 November 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3036492/hong-kong-lawmaker-junius-ho-injured-along-two-others-knife>> accessed 6 July 2023

²² N.21

²³ *ibid.*

²⁴ N.3, p.204

²⁵ Su Xinqi, Naomi Ng, Denise Tsang, ‘Trashed Hong Kong legislature out of action for two weeks because of damage caused by protesters, says council president Andrew Leung’ (*South China Morning Post*, 2 July 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3016861/hong-kong-clean-begins-police-take-control-legislative>> accessed 6 July 2023

the independent judicial authority of Hong Kong.²⁶ On 10 December 2019, which marked the 71st International Human Rights Day, rioters proceeded to conduct an arson attack on the High Court and the Court of Final Appeal, the latter being the apex court in Hong Kong.²⁷

16. In addition to attacking the physical symbols of judicial independence, opposition forces also conducted persistent harassment campaigns against judges which have ruled against the opposition, including doxxing attempts, death threats, and attacks on members of their family.²⁸
17. Far from being “pro-democracy”, the opposition has repeatedly demonstrated that they are not capable of respecting the rule of law. As lawyers, we are appalled by the behaviour of opposition forces in Hong Kong and urge the UNHRC to condemn such acts which seek to undermine the integrity of the legal system.

Targeting journalists, limiting free press

18. Due to the increasing number of crimes committed by the opposition being revealed to the public through Hong Kong’s robust system of free press, opposition forces began to target journalists who were deemed unfriendly to their cause. Journalists from TVB were frequently attacked for their coverage of the 2019 Riots, which saw them being falsely imprisoned, having their equipment destroyed,²⁹ and being strangled³⁰ by rioters. Rioters also sought to affect the objectivity of TVB’s reporting by attacking advertisers, sieging events held by TVB, and accosting actors who belonged to its entertainment arm³¹ as a means of financial sabotage, with the purpose of forcing the broadcaster to acquiesce to the rioters’ demands. In another infamous incident, a reporter from the Global Times was hit with umbrellas, tied up and falsely imprisoned during the occupation of Hong Kong International Airport³² by rioters, who then obstructed ambulance crews from tending to his injuries.³³ Multiple reports also show journalists being physically attacked for capturing images of the violence being wielded by the rioters.³⁴ The opposition has no regard for the principle of a free and fair press.

²⁶ Chris Lau, ‘Hong Kong barristers condemn arson attack on court building, calling it “corrosive” to rule of law’ (*South China Morning Post*, 14 November 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3037803/hong-kong-barristers-condemn-arson-attack-court>> accessed 6 July 2023

²⁷ Stella Wong, ‘Legal minds condemn arson and vandalism’ (*The Standard*, 10 December 2019) <<https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/11/214358/Legal-minds-condemn-arson-and-vandalism>> accessed 6 July 2023

²⁸ Brian Wong, ‘Ban on doxxing Hong Kong judicial officers, families extended, as High Court judge says ‘prompt and firm’ response needed’ (*South China Morning Post*, 13 November 2020) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3109725/ban-doxing-hong-kong-judicial-officers-families>> accessed 15 July 2023

²⁹ Karen Zhang, ‘Journalists union condemns attack on Hong Kong TV station vehicle by protesters during clashes at Wong Tai Sin’ (*South China Morning Post*, 7 August 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3021828/journalists-union-condemns-attack-hong-kong-tv-station>> accessed 6 July 2023

³⁰ Kimmy Chung, ‘Attack on cameraman by Hong Kong protesters condemned by city’s media groups’ (*South China Morning Post*, 9 November 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3037033/attack-cameraman-hong-kong-protesters-condemned-citys-media>>

³¹ Heidi Hsia, ‘Mark Lee slams attacks on TVB reporters and artistes’ (*Yahoo!*, 18 July 2019) <<https://sg.style.yahoo.com/mark-lee-slams-attacks-tvb-071600465.html>> accessed 6 July 2023

³² Elizabeth Cheung, ‘Global Times journalist beaten by Hong Kong protesters given hero’s welcome after being discharged from hospital’ (*South China Morning Post*, 14 August 2019) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3022782/global-times-journalist-beaten-hong-kong-protesters-given>> accessed 12 July 2023

³³ N.21, p.231

³⁴ N.21

Foreign involvement

19. There is mounting evidence of foreign involvement in the 2019 Riots. During the course of the 2019 Riots, leaders of the movement, such as financier Jimmy Lai Chee-ying and Joshua Wong Chi-fung, met with senior political leaders and security officials³⁵ of foreign countries with the admitted aim of seeking assistance over the political situation in Hong Kong.³⁶ The United States Agency for Global Media, a state entity, has also publicly admitted to providing funding and technological support for opposition forces in Hong Kong.³⁷ These acts by foreign state agencies are a blatant violation of the non-intervention principles espoused in the UN Charter (Article 2(7)) and should accordingly be condemned by the UNHRC.



Photo: Jimmy Lai Chee-ying with US Vice President Mike Pence on 8 July 2019 (from HKFP)

³⁵ Kris Cheng, 'Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai meets US no.2 Mike Pence and Sec. of State Pompeo to discuss extradition bill' (*Hong Kong Free Press*, 31 March 2020) <<https://hongkongfp.com/2019/07/10/hong-kong-media-tycoon-jimmy-lai-meets-us-no-2-mike-pence-sec-state-pompeo-discuss-extradition-bill/>> accessed 15 July 2023; Xinyan Wei and Weiping Zhong, 'Who is behind Hong Kong protests?' (*China Daily*, 7 August 2019) <<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/17/WS5d578b28a310cf3e355664f1.html>> accessed 15 July 2023

³⁶ *ibid.*

³⁷ Billy Perrig, 'Trump Administration Freezes Funds Intended to Benefit Hong Kong Protesters' (*TIME*, 27 June 2020) <<https://time.com/5860163/trump-hong-kong-funding-freeze/>> accessed 15 July 2023



Photo: Joshua Wong Chi-fung, Nathan Law Kwun-chung and others pictured with Julie Eadeh of the US Consulate General in Hong Kong (from China Daily)

Recommendation

20. We urge the UNHRC to reject the characterisation of the 2019 Riots as peaceful, pro-democracy protest and, where applicable, interrogate opposing stakeholders on the flagrant human rights violations perpetrated by them and their supporters.

D) The National Security Law 2020 (“NSL”) and Article 23 legislation

21. Given the fundamental threat to democracy and the rule of law posed by the 2019 Riots, the HKSAR Government has promulgated the NSL for Hong Kong following legislation by the National People’s Congress. The HKSAR Government intends to enact further regional security legislation pursuant to Article 23 of the Basic Law, fulfilling a 26-year-old constitutional obligation which has been left unattended since the handover.

22. If enacted, the enabling legislation would plug the gaps left unaddressed by the NSL, namely the prohibition of treason, theft of state secrets, the conduct of political activities by foreign organisations, and local organisations establishing ties with the same. As demonstrated in paragraph 19 above, these are concerns which have already materialised in the form of foreign intervention in Hong Kong’s affairs. While no draft legislation has been published, we envisage that any new enactment would likely resemble the framework presented to the public in 2002 (the “**2002 Framework**”), prior to it being shelved by the government.

23. The 2002 Framework was certified as compliant with international human rights standards and the ICCPR by Lord Pannick KC,³⁸ a leading British expert on human rights law. Pannick recognised, as the United Kingdom Privy Council did

³⁸ The Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *Proposals to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law* (LC Paper No. CB(2)375/02-03(01)). Available at <https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/ajls/papers/ajlssecb2-375-1e.pdf>

in *Procurator Fiscal v Brown*,³⁹ that fundamental rights are not absolute, and require a balance between the interests of the individual and those of society.⁴⁰ He accordingly noted that no aspect of the 2002 Framework was capable of offending principles of fundamental rights.⁴¹ With regards to the prohibition of foreign political organisations, Pannick saw “nothing inherently objectionable” in the law, as an unreasonable exercise of power by the Secretary for Security could be remedied through judicial review.⁴² Given that Article 23 enabling legislation would remain subordinate to the freedoms espoused in Article 27 and the ICCPR, we do not foresee any difficulty in reconciling future legislation with human rights principles.

24. Finally, we object to the allegation that judicial independence has been affected by the NSL. According to Article 44 of the NSL, judges trying national security cases are to be appointed by the Chief Executive after consultation with the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal. As stated by former Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, this is highly similar to the general appointment of judges under Article 88 of the Basic Law, which are by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission, also chaired by the Chief Justice.⁴³ The assignment of judges to individual cases is also handled solely by members of the judiciary, and no member of the executive is able to interfere with this process.⁴⁴ On the contrary, foreign adversaries have sought to undermine judicial independence by seeking to sanction and influence prosecutors and judges in Hong Kong.⁴⁵ We urge the UNHRC to condemn these threats to the integrity of Hong Kong’s legal system.

Recommendation

25. Insofar as Article 23 legislation remains compliant with the ICCPR, the UNHRC should affirm the HKSAR Government’s right to enact defensive legislation against foreign interference and condemn third country actors who seek to undermine the rule of law in Hong Kong and national security of China.

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Dated this 18th day of July 2023



³⁹ [2001] 2 WLR 817

⁴⁰ N.39 at [8]

⁴¹ *ibid.* at [11]

⁴² *ibid.* at [12]

⁴³ The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, ‘Judge designation explained’ (*News.gov.hk*, 2 July 2020) <https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/07/20200702/20200702_150346_667.html> accessed 15 July 2023

⁴⁴ *ibid.*

⁴⁵ Lilian Cheng and Wynna Wong, ‘Hong Kong’s John Lee “severely condemns” US pressure on local judges, warns external forces still threat to city’ (*South China Morning Post*, 18 May 2023) <<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3220966/hong-kongs-john-lee-severely-condemns-us-pressure-local-judges-warns-external-forces-still-threat?module=inline&pgtype=article>> accessed 15 July 2023