

STOP REPRESSION IN CHINA & HONG KONG

- For grassroots solidarity & internationalism
- No trust in big business politicians & governments

IN HONG KONG since mass anti-government protests broke out in 2019, 10,200 have been arrested. Over 600 have been convicted of political offences including “unlawful assembly” with many getting prison sentences of five years or more. The Chinese dictatorship (CCP) calls the protestors “terrorists” and “foreign agents” and imposed a new national security law to crush the movement, that allows for life imprisonment.

Hong Kong was once the only part of China with some limited democratic rights. Since the national security law was imposed the city has become a de facto police state. As well as projecting toughness in the context of the deepening conflict with the US and Western governments, China’s dictator Xi Jinping wants to stamp out the ‘virus’ of democracy, which he fears will spread from Hong Kong to China.

HONG KONG REPRESSION

- Over 100 activists already charged with serious offences under the national security law.
- Saying “End one-party rule” -- a key slogan of the democracy movement and million-strong marches -- is now punishable by life imprisonment.
- The June 4 anniversary of the 1989 Beijing massacre, when hundreds were slaughtered by the army, is a banned topic in China. June 4 was only commemorated in Hong Kong, with 180,000 people attending the 2019 vigil. This year the event is banned for the second year running.
- Hong Kong trade unions are targets of China’s repression. The 3,000-strong Union for New Civil Servants was disbanded in January. Two union leaders, Carol Ng Man-ye of the HKCTU and Winnie Yu Wai-ming of HAEA, have been charged with subversion.
- Veteran leftwing pro-democracy activist ‘Long Hair’ Leung Kwok-hung is among those charged under the national security law. He has already been sentenced to 18 months in jail for “unlawful assembly” under a British colonial-era law.

Leung Kwok-hung
aka Long Hair is
charged with
“subversion” in
Hong Kong.



REPRESSION IN CHINA is even worse. Trade unions are illegal, apart from a fake government-run union, the ACFTU, that has never supported a workers' strike.

Workers are often thrown in jail for striking or protesting. Feminists are also attacked as "un-patriotic". In 2018, in the Jasic struggle, dozens of leftwing youth who identify as Maoist were jailed and tortured for organising solidarity with striking factory workers.

In Xinjiang, home to 12 million Uighur Muslims, horrific repression is taking place in the name of fighting "terrorism". The Chinese dictatorship supported the West's post-2001 'War on Terror' and used this to facilitate its own anti-Muslim crackdown to tighten its control over resource-rich Xinjiang. Uighurs are ruled with discriminatory racist laws and mass internment camps.



Cities in Xinjiang have checkpoints everywhere – Muslims must queue to be searched but not Han Chinese.

Solidarity Against Repression in China and Hong Kong (SARCHK) is an international campaign launched by International Socialist Alternative (ISA) and our comrades in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. We have a track record of fighting for democratic rights and supporting workers' struggles.

Our campaign exposes the reality of the Chinese dictatorship – a regime that has more billionaires than the US and one of the world's worst records on workers' rights.

The US, EU and other Western governments are hypocritical – they and their big corporations worked hand-in-glove with China's dictatorship for many years. Together they stifled complaints of human rights abuses. Their sole concern was to make profits from China's non-union workforce and tap China's growing market. The new Cold War marks the end of this cosy relationship giving way to growing hostility between Western and Chinese capitalism.

The struggle for democracy – for democratic rights like free speech, freedom of assembly, to organise in trade unions and political groups, to strike, free elections – has only ever been won through mass struggle, especially workers' struggle.

Democratic rights have never been bestowed by a ruling regime, and never by a foreign government or "international community". This is because real democratic rights and the mass struggle needed to achieve them pose a serious threat to the capitalist system in which a tiny minority hold all the real power.

This is why SARCHK is building active grassroots solidarity with the anti-authoritarian struggle in China and Hong Kong, and firmly opposes siding with or supporting any capitalist government. The workers' movement, social movements of women, youth and the all the oppressed, these are the only forces that can defeat repressive regimes.




DEMOCRACY VS. DICTATORSHIP?

- The US gives military aid to 73% of the world's dictatorships
- Britain ruled Hong Kong for 156 years and never once held an election

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- No to the national security law in Hong Kong.
- Free political prisoners in Hong Kong and China. Rebuild and spread the mass democracy struggle.
- End mass detention, forced labour and discrimination against Uighurs and national minorities. For a united multi-ethnic movement against dictatorship.
- For independent trade unions and the right to strike. Organise trade union solidarity with workers in China and Hong Kong.
- International solidarity – no to nationalism, imperialism and the new Cold War.

To support our campaign, discuss action and get information about our activities in your country and locality contact: hk.repression@gmail.com

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