



Concern over the continued persecution of Chow Hang Tung amid escalating repression of lawyers in Hong Kong

Lawyers for Lawyers and The 29 Principles express grave concern regarding the continued arbitrary detention and judicial persecution of human rights barrister Chow Hang Tung in Hong Kong, who went on a hunger strike in commemoration of the victims of Tiananmen Square Massacre.

On 1 June 2025, Chow Hang Tung—imprisoned since September 2021 under the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL)—announced a 36-hour hunger strike from prison to commemorate the victims of the June 4 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, marking the 36th anniversary of the crackdown. Over the years many who have tried to commemorate the massacre in China and Hong Kong have been suppressed, including lawyers.

A barrister and prominent human rights defender, Chow formerly served as vice chairperson of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China—the group that organised the city's annual candlelight vigils for Tiananmen victims until authorities banned them in 2020. The Alliance was disbanded in 2021 under increasing pressure and accusations under the National Security Law.

In 2023, Chow and two other Alliance members, Tang Ngok-kwan and Tsui Hon-kwong, were convicted and sentenced to four-and-a-half months in prison for failing to comply with a police order to provide information under suspicion of being a 'foreign agent'. In March 2025, Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal unanimously overturned these convictions, stating that the lower courts had erred in law.

Despite the court's ruling in her favour, Chow remains in detention, now facing the grave charge of "inciting subversion of state power", which under the NSL carries a potential life sentence. Her hunger strike reflects both a personal act of protest and a broader indictment of the shrinking space for civil liberties, legal dissent, and peaceful assembly in Hong Kong.

Chow has publicly criticised the injustice of the case, highlighting how vague and politically motivated accusations, unsupported by evidence, led to wrongful imprisonment and public stigmatisation. She underscored that being falsely labelled a 'foreign agent' undermines a person's integrity and invites ostracisation, all while the authorities avoid accountability.

This persecution occurs within a deeply troubling context. Since the introduction of the National Security Law, there has been a marked increase in the arrest, prosecution, and intimidation of lawyers and pro-democracy advocates—including for merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

According to Article 23 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, lawyers are entitled to freedom of expression and association especially in the context of promoting and protecting human rights. The continued targeting of legal professionals like Chow Hang Tung is a clear violation of these international norms.

In light of the above, the undersigned organisations urgently call on the Hong Kong authorities to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Chow Hang Tung and drop all charges against her that stem solely from her peaceful and lawful human rights work;
2. Ensure Chow is not subjected to ill-treatment in custody, and that she receives appropriate medical attention and support during her hunger strike;
3. Cease all acts of judicial harassment and arbitrary detention of lawyers and activists involved in peaceful commemorations and pro-democracy advocacy;
4. Uphold international human rights standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Hong Kong is bound;

The undersigned organisations stand in solidarity with Chow Hang Tung and all others in Hong Kong facing repression for their legitimate human rights work. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and call on the international community to raise its voice in defence of human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

【Chinese 中文版】

香港律師打壓日益加劇之際，持續表達對人權律師鄒幸彤案的高度關切

《律師援助律師組織》(Lawyers for Lawyers)與《29原則》(The 29 Principles)共同表達對香港人權律師鄒幸彤持續被任意拘押與司法迫害的深切關注。幸彤律師日前並為悼念六四天安門事件的受難者，在獄中展開絕食行動。

鄒幸彤律師在香港國安法(NSL)下自2021年9月起遭羈押，2025年6月1日，她宣布展開36小時的絕食行動，以悼念1989年6月4日天安門大屠殺的受難者，並標誌此事件36週年。多年來，無論在中國或香港，許多試圖紀念六四的人士皆遭到壓迫，其中也包含律師。

作為香港知名的人權捍衛者與大律師，鄒曾擔任「香港市民支援愛國民主運動聯合會」(簡稱支聯會)副主席。該會過去為香港每年大型六四燭光晚會的主辦單位，直至2020年被當局禁止。2021年，支聯會也因受到愈大的壓力及國安法指控而被迫解散。

2023年，鄒幸彤與支聯會其他兩名成員——鄧岳君與徐漢光——因拒絕提供警方要求的資料，被控涉嫌「充當外國代理人」(又稱「拒交資料案」)，三人均被判處四個半月監禁。直到2025年3月，香港終審法院才一致裁定原審法院判決有誤，而撤銷三人的定罪。

然而，儘管法院已撤銷定罪，鄒幸彤仍被羈押，持續面臨國安法之下最高可處以終身監禁的「煽動顛覆國家政權」指控。而此次她的36小時絕食行動，不僅是為個人抗議，更是對香港日益緊縮的言論自由、法律異議與和平集會空間的強烈控訴。

鄒律師公開批評此案件的不公，指出其指控模糊且具有政治動機，缺乏事實依據，導致她遭不當監禁與社會污名化。她強調，被無端貼上「外國代理人」的標籤，不僅破壞個人名譽，也使其被社會排擠，但當局則完全逃避問責。

本案發生於極令人堪慮的背景下。自國安法實施以來，針對律師與民主運動人士的逮捕、起訴與威嚇明顯增加，許多人僅因行使言論、結社與和平集會的基本權利而遭打壓。

根據《聯合國關於律師作用的基本原則》第23條，律師有權享有言論與結社自由，特別是在促進與保護人權的背景下。如今持續對鄒幸彤等法律專業人士的打壓，明顯違反了國際法原則。

基於上述事實，我們緊急呼籲香港當局：

1. 立即無條件釋放鄒幸彤律師，並撤銷對其一切和平且合法的人權工作而提出的指控；
2. 確保鄒律師在羈押期間不受虐待，並在絕食期間獲得適當的醫療照護及支持；
3. 停止一切對律師與和平參與紀念活動的民主倡議者，進行司法騷擾與任意拘押；
4. 恪守國際人權標準，包括香港所受約束的《公民與政治權利國際公約》(ICCPR)；

《律師援助律師組織》(Lawyers for Lawyers)與《29原則》(The 29 Principles)與鄒幸彤，及所有因從事合法人權工作而遭受打壓的香港人士堅定站在一起。我們將持續密切關注事件發展，並呼籲國際社會共同挺身而出，捍衛香港的人權與法治。