

ICC-HK Calls for Independent Enquiry
and Condemns Yuen Long Violence

International Chamber of Commerce – Hong Kong (ICC-HK) has previously expressed concern about the Hong Kong Government’s proposed amendment of the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 and remains deeply concerned about the controversy, confrontation and civil unrest that have ensued. ICC-HK has noted Government’s decision to suspend the Bill.

Whilst ICC-HK has been impressed by the massive, largely peaceful and orderly demonstration marches of Hong Kong citizens from different sectors of the community in response to the Bill, it is deeply troubled by the repeated clashes between the police and groups of protestors, and the rash behaviour of some, towards media reporters on site covering the protests. The issue is now a very serious matter for Hong Kong: dividing the community, perpetuating anxiety and discontent, and undermining business confidence. On a different front, ICC condemns the wanton attacks to citizens including media reporters by a group of perpetrators on Sunday night at Yuen Long railway station, making a mockery of the rule of law. This state of affairs cannot continue to the detriment of Hong Kong.

We call on the government and the community to get Hong Kong “back to business”. As a first step, we call on the Chief Executive, HKSAR to set up an independent commission of enquiry, headed by a judge from the Judiciary, to review the circumstances which have brought about the polarization of the community, including the manner in which the proposed amendments to the Bill was introduced, the processes of public consultation, enactment, enforcement of law and the subsequent responses from the community, the government and the police. The commission’s findings will help clarify issues and processes and will be instrumental to addressing the challenges Hong Kong now faces, as well as the restoration of peace across all segments of the community. They may identify steps to be taken to enable both the government and the people in Hong Kong to come together to safeguard the role Hong Kong plays in international trade, investment and financial services, and for furthering Hong Kong’s wellbeing.

The International Chamber of Commerce – Hong Kong (ICC-HK) is the representative body of the International Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. It seeks to further the international interest of Hong Kong business and encourages Hong Kong companies to participate in the activities of ICC. It is the only association in Hong Kong with this unique connection.

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