

# **U.S. Academia Joint Statement**

## **On the Escalation of Tensions in Hong Kong and at the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong**

November 18th, 2019 PST

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We urge politicians around the world, especially those in the United States, to exert pressure on Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), to call off violent crackdowns on pro-democracy protesters, and answer the remaining four demands put forth by the protesters.

Throughout the past few weeks, we have seen a substantial amount of arrests, followed by a shocking number of unexplained disappearances, "suicides", and police rape<sup>1 2</sup>. Additionally, the HKPF has widely used the word "cockroaches" to dehumanize the protesters<sup>3</sup>. Merely over the past few hours, the violence inflicted by the HKPF against the Hong Kong protesters (mainly students) has escalated to unprecedented levels<sup>4</sup>. The HKPF threatened the students with the use of live ammunition on the campus of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong (PolyU)<sup>4 5</sup>, and subsequently invaded PolyU with brute force at 5:32AM, November 18, Hong Kong Time<sup>6 7</sup>. Anyone on the Polytechnic University campus, including students, professors, emergency workers, journalists, passersby, and even first aid providers are now being targeted indiscriminately by the hands of lawless and vindictive police officers<sup>8 9</sup>. Those police officers are equipped with AR-15 rifles and authorized by HKPF senior officials to use lethal force<sup>10</sup>. The police also chanted "We want a replay of Tiananmen Square Massacre!" and declared that they were on their way to "slaughter the cockroaches" as they marched onto campus<sup>11</sup>.

The HKPF blockaded the campus, isolating hundreds at the University including first-aid providers and journalists in addition to the protesters<sup>12 13</sup>. HKPF made arbitrary arrests of medical staffs and first-aid volunteers<sup>8</sup>, and brutally infringed the rights to seek medical treatment. Additionally, HKPF ambushed ambulances and the university medical center to disrupt the treatment of the injured protesters. The police refused to negotiate with the coalition of pan-democrat legislators and the Auxiliary Catholic bishop of Hong Kong and the former university vice chancellor<sup>14</sup>. Despite all of this, the Principal of PolyU has taken no effort in negotiating the students' safety with the HKPF<sup>15</sup>.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam must reverse the blanket ordinance on lethal force and facilitate a de-escalation. The unsolicited deployment of People's Liberation Army in Hong Kong not only escalates tension in Hong Kong, but also patently challenges the "One Country Two Systems" principle and threatens Hong Kong's autonomy<sup>16</sup>. British politicians already contacted Carrie Lam with these concerns. 85,000 American citizens are currently residing in Hong Kong, the United States government must take action to restore the safety of its citizens and students<sup>17 18 19 20</sup>.

WE, students, alumni, and faculty from:

Appalachian State University  
Austin Community College (TX4HK)  
Bellevue College (Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance)  
California Institute of Technology

Carnegie Mellon University  
Cornell University (Society for the Promotion of East Asian Liberty)  
Columbia University  
Drew University (Drew4HK)

Duke University  
 Edmonds Community College (Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance)  
 Emerson College  
 Gallaudet University, Washington, DC  
 George Mason University  
 George Washington University  
 Georgetown University  
 Green River Community College (Hong Kong Student Aid Committee, Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance)  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Hong Kong Student Society)  
 New York University (Hong Kong Student Advocacy Group - HKSAG)  
 Northern Virginia Community College  
 Pacific Lutheran University (Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance)  
 Pratt Institute  
 Princeton University  
 Seattle Central College (Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance)  
 St. Edward's University (TX4HK)  
 Temple University  
 The New School  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Berkeley (Hong Kong Affairs Association of Berkeley)  
 University of California, Davis (Davis4HK)  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA Stands with Hong Kong)

University of California, Merced  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, San Diego (Hong Kong Cultural Society)  
 University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSBHKInfoGroup)  
 University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC Hong Kong Affairs Concern Group)  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Maryland Baltimore County  
 University of Michigan (Hong Kong Human Rights Concern Group)  
 University of Minnesota (Liberty for Hong Kong - MN)  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 University of North Florida  
 University of Pennsylvania (Penn4HK)  
 University of Rochester (Students and College Republicans)  
 University of San Francisco  
 University of Southern California  
 University of Texas at Austin (TX4HK)  
 University of Washington (Seattle Hong Kong Student Alliance, Hong Kong Democracy & Human Rights Association)  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 Wellesley College  
 Wesleyan University  
 West Virginia University

are calling upon the United States government to take all necessary economic and diplomatic steps to avert potential bloodshed. We urge:

- The United States Federal Government to offer necessary measures of protection to all American students in Hong Kong and Hong Kong students in the United States.
- The Senate immediately votes for the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act (S. 1838), and for the House of Representatives and Senate to accelerate the subsequent conference committee process in order to reconcile the differences between competing versions of the bill.

- The Trump administration to issue a statement of potential revocation of Hong Kong's special trade status as guaranteed under the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act in the event of a large-scale violent suppression in Hong Kong.
  - The United States government to impose Magnitsky-style sanctions on Hong Kong and Chinese policymakers, senior police officials, and Chinese government officials responsible for the escalation of violence.
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