

The Options for Reforms of the Public Order Ordinance

The followings have been suggested for reforming the existing public order ordinance (some are my own ideas)

1. The Proper Authority for Dealing with Notifications of Processions and Meetings

- a judge of the Court of First Instance (implications: contempt of court for violating the decision)
- an independent tribunal (closed proceedings, but representation by the interested parties allowed)
- an independent tribunal (open proceedings, exceptions allowed)
- a tribunal (with the inclusion of the Commissioner of Police and the Secretary of Security)

2. The Notification Procedure

- a shortening of the period for notification
- substantial compliance with the notification procedure allowed
- notification by email allowed
- substantially a matter concerning the public interest vs. exclusively a matter concerning the public interest

3. The Need for Notification

- the quota of participants in meetings and processions allowed in case where there is no notification made
- persons vs. vehicles

4. The Offence of Unauthorised Assembly

- abolition
- fines only (implications: criminal record)
- exemption of liability for certain summary offences in case where notifications are made

**Anthony MW LAW,
Assistant Professor of Law,
City University of Hong Kong.**