

To: Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Central, Hong Kong.

By Fax & Email

From: Rose Wu (Director)  
Hong Kong Christian Institute  
11 Mongkok Road, 10/F,  
Kowloon.  
Tel : 2398 1699 Fax : 27874765 Email: [hkci@netvigator.com](mailto:hkci@netvigator.com)

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2000

**Re: Submission to Amend the Public Order Ordinance**

I represent the members of the Hong Kong Christian Institute who want to express our deep concern and position on the Public Order Ordinance (POO).

We strongly believe that the existing POO violates the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights. Therefore, it is necessary for the Hong Kong government to amend it as soon as possible.

Secondly, because of the present POO's requirements to obtain a certificate of no objection from the police, the Ordinance thus transforms the people's freedom of speech and association from a right into a privilege granted by the police and the government.

Lastly, we also believe that the present criminal penalties are excessively high under the Ordinance.

Based on the above reasons, we strongly demand that the Legislative Council (Legco) and the government amend the present POO in the following ways:

1. The period of notification should be reduced from seven days to 24 hours.
2. The requirement of a notice of no objection from the police should be abolished.
3. If the police object to the demonstration, then they must receive the approval of the court in order to stop the demonstration.
4. The criminal penalties should be reduced to a minimal fine.
5. The right of individuals and organizations to publicize their event should not be curtailed by the police or the government.

Rw/bt