

CJA

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Commonwealth
Journalists
Association

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Executive Secretary: Edna Tweedie

30th April 2002

Dear Tung Chee-hwa,

I am writing to express our concern at the reports of the police action on the 25th April against news photographers and journalists, when asylum seekers were expelled from Hong Kong's Charter Garden. We understand the police explanation is that the journalists were in danger of being hurt in the melee and that they were handcuffed for their safety. It is an explanation which appear to be disingenuous at the least. The unfortunate fact is that it not only is a small repressive act in itself (in particular for the news photographers) but appears to the wider world to be symbolic of a much greater potential for restriction..

We would appreciate it if

- a) the actions of the police on April 25th could be fully investigated
- b) a re-assurance is given that the Hong Kong Government supports an environment in which its news photographers and journalists can operate freely and openly.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Burt
President
Commonwealth Journalists Association

Tung Chee-hwa,
Chief Executive,
Government of Hong Kong.

Copy to Tom Abraham