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His Honourable M. Tung Chee-hwa
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
People's Republic of China

Paris, April 26th, 2002

Dear Sir,

Reporters Sans Frontières, an independent organisation which works to defend press freedom worldwide, protests against police methods used against journalists covering the expulsion of asylum seekers in Hong Kong.

According to information obtained by RSF, at least four journalists were detained by police for a short time on 25 April 2002 in connection with the expulsion of asylum seekers from Hong Kong's Charter Garden. Two photographers, **Ricky Chung**, who works for the South China Morning Post and **Bobby Tsui**, of the daily Sing Tao, were thrown to the ground by police before being taken to the area reserved for the press. Ricky Chung has stated he was handled roughly by the policemen. **Chan Chi-wai**, a journalist for the daily Ming Pao, was seized by four or five policemen as he attempted to take photographs of the scene. He was dragged forcefully along the ground before being handcuffed. He remained handcuffed for fifteen minutes. A police officer apparently accused him of "obstruction". **Putt Kwong-lai**, cameraman for Cable TV, was also handcuffed, and was later treated in hospital for hand injuries. Shortly after the incident, Hong Kong's Central District Commander, Wong Pak-nin, stated, "When people become emotional, there can be pushing and shoving, which is very dangerous. We didn't want anybody to get hurt. We handcuffed them and when they calmed down, we freed

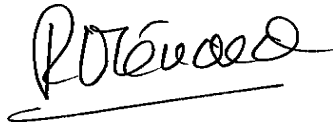
them". Police Commissioner Tsang Yam-pui deplored this "unfortunate" incident involving police and journalists.

On 15 April, Chinese dissident Harry Wu, who now lives in the United States, was turned back by immigration officials as soon as he arrived at Hong Kong airport. The New-Zealand journalist accompanying him was sent back to the US during the night.

After the deportation of Chinese dissident Harry Wu, Reporters Sans Frontières considers that methods such as these, which had disappeared since the early 1980s, lead to believe that press coverage of certain sensitive subjects in Hong Kong is being compromised. RSF respectfully asks you to order an investigation into the exact circumstances of this incident.

We thank you for your attention and would welcome your comments.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ménard', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Robert Ménard
General Secretary



HONG KONG 04.26.2002

Chan Chi-Way © Ming Pao

Police handcuff journalists

Reporters Without Borders (Reporters sans frontières – RSF) has written to Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, protesting about police methods used against journalists covering the expulsion of asylum seekers. "After the deportation of Chinese dissident Harry Wu, methods such as these, which had disappeared since the early 1980s, lead us to believe that press coverage of certain sensitive subjects in Hong Kong is being compromised", says Robert Ménard, the organisation's Secretary-General. RSF calls on the Chief Executive to order an investigation into the exact circumstances of this incident.

According to RSF's information, at least four journalists were detained by police for a short time on 25 April 2002 in connection with the expulsion of asylum seekers from Hong Kong's Charter Garden. Two photographers, Ricky Chung, who works for the South China Morning Post and Bobby Tsui, of the daily Sing Tao, were thrown to the ground by police before being taken to the area reserved for the press. Ricky Chung has stated he was handled roughly by the policemen. Chan Chi-wai, a journalist for the daily Ming Pao, was seized by four or five policemen as he attempted to take photographs of the scene. He was dragged forcefully along the ground. A police officer apparently accused him of "obstruction". Fung Siu Wing, journalist for Ming Pao, was handcuffed by the police, just as Putt Kwong-lai, cameraman for Cable TV, who was later treated in hospital for hand injuries. Shortly after the incident, Hong Kong's Central District Commander, Wong Pak-nin, stated, "When people become emotional, there can be pushing and shoving, which is very dangerous. We didn't want anybody to get hurt. We handcuffed them and when they calmed down, we freed them". Police Commissioner Tsang Yam-pui deplored this "unfortunate" incident involving police and journalists.

On 15 April, Chinese dissident Harry Wu, who now lives in the United States, was turned back by immigration officials as soon as he arrived at Hong Kong airport. The New-Zealand journalist accompanying him was sent back to the US during the night.

Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world, as well as the right to inform the public and to be informed, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Reporters Without Borders has nine national sections (in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), representatives in Abidjan, Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Montreal, Moscow, New York, Tokyo and Washington and more than a hundred correspondents worldwide.