

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)678/08-09(03)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the special meeting on 21 January 2009**

Crime situation in Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper summarizes past discussions by the Panel on Security (the Panel) on the crime situation in Hong Kong.

Deliberations of the Panel on Security

2. It is the practice of the Panel to discuss the crime situation in Hong Kong at the beginning of each year.
3. In the past three years, during the course of discussing Hong Kong's overall crime situation at the meetings of the Panel on 24 January 2006, 25 January 2007 and 31 January 2008, members expressed concern over a number of issues. Members were particularly concerned about the increasing number of cases relating to domestic violence, cyber crime, criminal intimidation in debt collection and drug abuse among the youth.

Domestic violence

4. Some members expressed concern about a substantial increase in domestic violence cases in 2007. They asked whether the Police had assessed the cause of the increase and what new measures would be taken to tackle the problem.
5. The Police advised that it was very concerned about the increase in domestic violence cases which had aroused wide public concern in recent years. The Police had invested resources in handling domestic violence cases including the deployment of a Police officer at Sergeant level or above to supervise initial police action at the scene and ensure that each case was handled appropriately according to the guidelines, and the designation of a Superintendent at the Police's headquarters to oversee

domestic violence issues. The Police's work in the area aimed at providing protection for victims, making referral to appropriate parties for follow-up, and conducting investigation and instituting prosecution against abusers. However, to curb the problem of domestic violence, it would require concerted effort of other government departments such as the Social Welfare Department and non-government organizations.

6. The Police added that the public's increased awareness of the need to report domestic violence cases to the Police as well as an increase in confidence in seeking help from the Police or other authorities concerned might have encouraged more victims to report their cases to the Police.

Cyber crime

7. Regarding the measures adopted by the Police to combat cyber crime, the Police advised that the Police's Technology Crime Division was responsible for combating cyber crime and conducting cyber patrol. A number of seminars relating to security on the web had been held with the information technology professionals of major organizations and enterprises.

Criminal intimidation

8. Some members asked about the reason for the increase in the number of criminal intimidation cases in 2007, and whether there was any new element attributing to the increase.

9. The Police responded that over 50% of 1 960 criminal intimidation cases in 2007 were due to disputes arising from private relationships and money matters, whereas 389 cases were related to debt collection, representing a decrease of 5 cases over 2006. The Police added that only 2.8% of the total crime cases was related to triad activities. There was no indication of any new element contributing to the increase in criminal intimidation cases. Owing to the nature of such crimes, only 5.4% of the total cases was detected in 2007.

Drug abuse

10. Some members asked about the new measures that would be taken to tackle the problem of young persons abusing drugs in schools, engaging in drug retail activities, and crossing the boundary to abuse drugs.

11. The Police responded that it was very concerned about drug abuse problem. It had worked closely with the Customs and Excise Department and the Mainland counterparts on exchange of information to tackle cross-boundary drug abuse and trafficking. Stringent measures undertaken by the Police to combat drug trafficking had resulted in a drop in the amount of Ketamine seized in 2007. The Police had acted proactively to provide intelligence to law enforcement agencies of nearby cities

to facilitate their enforcement in drug seizures. The use of drug detector dogs of the Customs and Excise Department at boundary control points had also strengthened deterrence against drug trafficking. The Narcotics Bureau had been established at the Police's headquarters and special duty squads were deployed in each Police district and Police regions to combat the problem.

12. As for young persons engaging in cross-boundary drug abuse, the Police pointed out that it had provided the Mainland counterparts with intelligence on the movement of drug retail outlets. A four-month large scale anti-narcotics campaign launched by the Mainland authorities in 2007 had effectively deterred young persons from engaging in cross-boundary drug abuse. The Police would continue to work closely with school liaison officers to combat the problem and step up publicity against youth drug abuse.

Relevant papers

13. Members may wish to refer to the following minutes of meetings for details of the discussions -

- (a) minutes of special meeting of the Panel on Security on 24 January 2006 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2059/05-06);
- (b) minutes of meeting of the Panel on Security on 25 January 2007 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1177/06-07); and
- (c) minutes of special meeting of the Panel on Security on 31 January 2008 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1777/07-08).

14. The above minutes are available on the website of the Legislative Council (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>).