



郭榮鏗立法會議員辦事處

Legislative Council Office of the Hon. Dennis Kwok

Hon Cheung Kwok-kwan, Chairman of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Hon Chan Hak-kan, Chairman of the Panel on Security
Legislative Council

19 March 2020

Dear chairmen,

**Urgent Meetings/Joint-panel meeting for Ministry of Foreign Affairs’
statement in relation to press freedom**

I am writing to request urgent meetings or a joint panel urgent meeting to discuss the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ statement “China Takes Countermeasures Against Restrictive Measures on Chinese Media Agencies in the US” on 17 March 2020 (“the Statement”). The Statement states that it would retaliate against China-based journalists and news organisations from the US. In particular, it states that certain journalists will not be allowed to continue working as journalists even in Hong Kong SAR. It breaches the high degree of autonomy of the Hong Kong SAR, and human rights as protected under the Basic Law and applicable international human rights treaties.

It is noted that the Hong Kong Government issued a response to media enquiries on the statement on 18 March. However, the response has failed to explain clearly or reassure Hong Kong people how the government would ensure human rights, the Basic Law and the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, in particular the autonomy in our immigration control as guaranteed in Basic Law Article 154, will be respected and complied with, bearing in mind the case of Victor Mallet, Asia news editor of the Financial Times and vice-president of the Foreign Correspondents’ Club, whose working visa was rejected after chairing a talk by the convenor of the Hong Kong National Party in August 2018. The Hong Kong Government declined to explain the decision made regarding Mr. Mallet, begging the suspicion that

the decision was not made by the Hong Kong Government. Now in view of the explicit direction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement, it is with deep concerns that the Hong Kong Government would once again allow the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and our autonomous control in immigration control to be trampled upon, further violating human rights as cherished and protected in Hong Kong.

Therefore, I would like to request an urgent meeting to be jointly held by the Panel on Security and the Panel on Constitutional Affairs, pursuant to Rule 77(10) of the Rules of Procedure, and invite relevant government officials to explain the Government's response towards the Statement and measures taken or to be taken to safeguard against violations from the Central People's Government of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and human rights, and to answer questions from Members. Alternatively, the panels can hold separate urgent meetings. No less than 4 hours should be reserved for each meeting to allow sufficient time for discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Kwok". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis Kwok
Member of the Legislative Council