

I am writing to express my grave concern on nine leaders of the 2014 Hong Kong pro-democracy protests who are being charged with three vague and ambiguous offences, each facing a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment. The continued prosecution of prominent figures of the Umbrella Movement is having a chilling effect on freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.

I should call on your authorities to drop the charges against the nine leaders of Occupy Central and Umbrella Movement based on their peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. I am also requesting you to stop politically motivated prosecutions against peaceful protesters that are aimed at deterring participation in peaceful assembly and silencing critical voices. I need to ask you to bring the Public Order Ordinance into line with international human rights law and standards to respect and protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Your consideration on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,