

**Ayuba Wabba**

President  
Président  
Präsident  
Presidente

**The Honourable Carrie Lam**  
**Chief Executive of Hong Kong**  
**Office of the Chief Executive**  
**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**  
**People's Republic of China**

E-mail: [ceo@ceo.gov.hk](mailto:ceo@ceo.gov.hk)

**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire générale  
Generalsekretärin  
Secretaria General

**HTUR/MW**

**18 April 2020**

**Arrest of Lee Cheuk Yan, General Secretary of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU)**

Dear Chief Executive Carrie Lam,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) representing 200 million members globally and the ITUC-Asia Pacific strongly condemns yet another arrest earlier today of Lee Cheuk Yan, General Secretary of our affiliate, the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU) and 13 democratic leaders.

Reportedly, Lee Cheuk Yan is being charged with unlawful assembly for organising and participating in peaceful demonstrations on 18 August and 1 October 2019. On 28 February 2020, we already wrote to your Office to denounce the arrest of Lee Cheuk Yan and others for unlawful assembly for their participation in the public rally on 31 August 2019 to oppose the extradition bill amendment. We have noted his release and court hearing scheduled in May.

Lee Cheuk Yan is one among thousands of peaceful protesters who are being arrested for unlawful assemblies and rioting associated with the anti-extradition bill protests. We reiterate that the high number of arrests with the majority of cases remaining under investigation is a form of intimidation and judicial harassment of protesters in violations of their right to free association and assembly.

The UN Human Rights Committee has repeatedly urged the Hong Kong government to revoke the prior notification to public assemblies and excessive restrictions under the Hong Kong Public Order Ordinance for contravening Art. 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In its most recent report, the Committee of Experts of the International Labour Organisation has taken note of the trend of anti-union dismissals faced by employees when they took part in public protests<sup>1</sup>.

We regret that the government of Hong Kong continues to act in ways contrary to the fundamental human rights standards recognised internationally. We urge the Hong Kong government once more to respect the people's right to freedom of assembly and to:

---

<sup>1</sup> Application of International Labour Standards 2020, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, International Labour Organisations, p.102, [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed\\_norm/--relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_736204.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_norm/--relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_736204.pdf)

1. Drop all criminal charges against Lee Cheuk Yan and all the peaceful protesters associated with the anti-extradition bill protests;
2. Lift all restrictions on peaceful assemblies and ensure that peaceful assemblies can be conducted without police interference
3. Stop anti-union discrimination and unfair dismissals and ensuring re-instatement of the workers affected
4. Stop arresting and prosecuting people who participate in peaceful assemblies
5. Establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations, including excessive police violence and arbitrary detentions.

We look forward to your urgent intervention and wish to be kept informed of the measures taken to address these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary  
ITUC



Shoya Yoshida  
General Secretary  
ITUC Asia- Pacific

CC:

Teresa Cheng, GBS, SC, JP, Secretary for Justice  
Email: [dojinfo@doj.gov.hk](mailto:dojinfo@doj.gov.hk)

Chris Tang, Commissioner of Police  
Email: [jpc-office-1-pprb@police.gov.hk](mailto:jpc-office-1-pprb@police.gov.hk)

Eddie Cheung  
Special Representative for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs to the European Union  
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office  
Email: [general@hongkong-eu.org](mailto:general@hongkong-eu.org)