



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Paul Manly

Member of Parliament
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

HILL

September 2, 2020

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers Mendicino and Champagne,

On June 5th the Green Party caucus sent you a letter requesting that the Government of Canada immediately accept asylum seekers from Hong Kong.

Since then, the situation between mainland China and Hong Kong has escalated. As you know, on June 30th China passed the new National Security Law for Hong Kong. The National Security Law undermines democracy, international human rights and international law. It violates the 'one country, two systems' model.

On August 27th the media reported that Chinese authorities arrested 10 people who were fleeing Hong Kong by boat. They were believed to be heading to Taiwan. It is still unclear what charges they are facing, though under the National Security Law they could face the maximum charge of life imprisonment. A pro-democracy activist, Andy Li, was reportedly among those arrested. Mr. Li had already been arrested under the new law in August.

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Democratic countries, including Canada, have a responsibility to act immediately in a collective and coordinated manner. While suspending extradition treaties was a step in the right direction, it was not a clear enough signal to China from the international community. Canada needs to provide immediate political asylum to pro-democracy activists from Hong Kong who face arrest and detention under the new security laws.

Canada should also expedite a "Safe Harbour Program," a process granting permanent residency status to the people of Hong Kong who are at risk of political persecution. International students and expatriate workers who have participated in protests in Canada should also be included in this program.

Finally, we must invoke the Magnitsky laws to impose sanctions on those officials in Hong Kong and China who are responsible for human rights abuses.

Canada should take these measures with the global community to ensure that the freedoms and rights of the Hong Kong people are protected. It is critical not only for Hong Kong, but also for Uighurs, who are reportedly having their human rights violated in brutal ways, and for Taiwan, which is at risk of similar intimidation tactics and human rights abuses from China.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Manly', written in a cursive style.

Paul Manly
Member of Parliament
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Paul Manly, M.P.
Nanaimo-Ladysmith



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Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
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