

Taipei photo event backs Hong Kong's protesters

Written by Taipei Times

Monday, 12 August 2019 04:31 -



About 300 people form the words “Free Hong Kong” at an event organized by several non-governmental organizations in Taipei’s Central Art Park yesterday.

Photo: Peter Lo, Taipei Times

About 300 people took part in a demonstration in support of pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, spelling out the words “Free Hong Kong” with their bodies in Taipei’s Central Art Park.

The event was organized by Hong Kong Outlanders, the Taiwan Youth Association for Democracy, Taiwan Association for Human Rights, Taiwan Citizen Front, Covenants Watch, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and several human rights groups.

In addition to the words, an image of Taiwan and one of “Raincoat Man” — honoring Marco Leung (梁國輝), a Hong Konger who died on June 15 wearing a yellow rain poncho after falling from construction scaffolding in front of Pacific Place in the Admiralty district while hanging protest banners, were displayed.

The image shows that the public in Taiwan fully supports the people in Hong Kong in their pursuit of freedom, democracy and the rule of law, the organizers said.

As Hong Kong police continue to use excessive force to break up the continuing protests, and have even arrested pedestrians who were just shopping, Taiwan Association for Human Rights Secretary-General Chiu Ee-ling (邱毅) said the police have impeded press freedom, handled female protestors humiliatingly and arrested and pressed charges against minors.

The police have violated the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

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Against Women and Convention on the Rights of the Child, she added.

A Hong Kong Outlanders representative, who identified himself as “Kuma,” said the Hong Kong government claimed that a general strike staged on Monday last week was aimed at destroying the territory’s economy by dividing the people.

“However, a stable economy should be founded on a free and democratic society. If Hong Kong loses this foundation, the assets owned by the Hong Kong people could disappear overnight. As Hong Kongers living in Taiwan, we support every citizen of Hong Kong who went on strike and walked out of classes last week, as they spoke out by taking actions against a twisted social order. They might miss a day’s work and miss a meal, but the fall of Hong Kong would be irreversible,” he said.

Hong Kongers decided to take to the streets day and night because their democratic system has been greatly eroded, and problems generated by ineffective government and an out-of-control police force cannot be addressed through the political system, he said.

Eve Lui (劉慧卿), who represents Hong Kong Higher Institutions International Affairs Delegations, said Taiwan has witnessed how Hong Kong has fallen from a free and democratic state into an undemocratic one since 1997.

“Our elected legislators were being disqualified, our book publishers were kidnapped and our social activists were arrested and locked in prisons. A general election is still impossible for us, and Hong Kong is still ruled by a puppet from Beijing,” she said.

Participant Michelle Wu (吳靄儀) said that Beijing was ignoring “the Hong Kongers’ insistence that the territory maintain a free and democratic system.”

Source: [Taipei Times - 2019/08/12](#)