

Paul Lam
Secretary of Justice
Department of Justice
G/F, Main Wing, Justice Place
18 Lower Albert Road
Central, Hong Kong
VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA

August 2024

Chow Hang-tung

Dear Secretary of Justice,

Chow Hang-tung, her mother, and eight other people were arrested from 28 May to 5 June 2024 under section 24 of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO), the new national security legislation enacted under Article 23 of the Basic Law. Chow Hang-tung was "arrested" in the detention center because she had already been imprisoned since September 2021 for allegedly "inciting subversion" under the 2020 National Security Law. Until now, Chow has spent more than 1,000 days in prison.

A government press release stated that the arrests are related to social media posts commemorating "a sensitive day".

I would like to ask you to drop all charges against Chow Hang-tung and release her immediately, as she was charged solely for peacefully exercising her rights;

Please end the practice of bringing criminal charges against those who have simply exercised their right to freedom of expression or other human rights;

All laws and regulations must be reviewed and amended, that violate the exercise of human rights, in particular to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. Please ensure that all laws and regulations conform to international human rights law and standards.

Yours sincerely,