Secretary of Justice Paul Lam 5th floor, Main Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA E-Mail: <u>sjo@doj.gov.hk</u>

## **Owen Chow Ka-shing**

Dear Secretary of Justice,

**Owen Chow Ka-shing** (also: Owen Chow) is committed to democratic values. He was involved in the Umbrella Movement in 2014 and in the protests against the extradition law in 2019. Owen Chow Ka-shing was among the defendants in the "Hong Kong 47" trial. The 47 democracy activists were accused of participating in unofficial primaries for the 2020 Hong Kong Legislative Council elections.

Owen Chow Ka-shing faces a total sentence of more than twelve years and ten months in prison simply for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and assembly. I hereby request that you drop all charges against Owen Chow Ka-shing and release him immediately, as he has merely exercised his rights peacefully. As long as Owen Chow Ka-shing is detained, his detention conditions must meet international standards. His right to contact with the outside world must also be guaranteed. Please ensure that any legal provisions invoked to protect national security and combat terrorism are clearly and narrowly defined and meet international human rights standards.

Yours sincerely