

The Chief Executive,  
Chief Executive's Office  
Government House  
Hong Kong S.A.R.

1st Mar 2016

Dear Mr. C.Y. Leung,

It is on behalf of Amnesty International Hong Kong (AIHK) that we write to you, urging you to take action in regards to the disappearance of the five Hong Kong residents connected with the Causeway Bay bookstore. From the limited news publicly available, it would appear that they are being detained by Chinese government authorities. We urge you, as the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, to rigorously investigate their detention with the appropriate authorities in China and the detaining authority in Guangzhou. More specifically, we implore you to request access to the detained persons and provide them with legal assistance for their immediate release and return to Hong Kong.

As you should be familiar, the five individuals of the Causeway Bay bookstore disappeared on separate occasions from late 2015. In the case of Mr. Lee Bo who disappeared on 30 Dec 2015 from Hong Kong, his wife, Ms Choi Ka Ping has stated that her husband's home return permit was found at home and in addition, the police and immigration authorities have no record of departure of Lee Bo.

It is now over two months since the disappearance of Lee Bo. During this period, fragmented pieces of news on him and the other four individuals were intermittently reported. The Hong Kong Police announced that they have received response from Chinese police on 18 Jan which stated only that "The police are being informed, Lee Bo is currently in mainland (China)". Later on, News emerged from China that Lee Bo has apparently been helping in the investigation of an alleged crime committed by Gui Min Hai who is one of the other four missing individuals of the Causeway Bay bookstore case. It is our view that the actions taken so far by your office have been too meek and passive and we strongly urge you to act more proactively on behalf of these Hong Kong residents.

Hong Kong government bears full responsibility for protecting the liberty of its residents. It is stated in UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and also in Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance that "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

It appears that Lee Bo did not depart for China in accordance with legal procedures and we are highly concerned by the abnormal manner of his departure to the mainland. Gui Min Hai also disappeared in a similar manner from Thailand. In addition, we are uncertain whether due process as it is recognized in Hong Kong was followed in the detention of the other three missing persons, Lam Wing-kee, Cheung Chi-ping and Lui Por. We would like you to reaffirm that it is an infringement of Hong Kong citizens' liberty if the enforcement agencies of other jurisdictions who have no authority or constitutional competence within Hong Kong can operate with impunity and arrest residents of Hong Kong without due process in accordance with Hong Kong laws. In order to uphold rule of law and the enshrined one country, two systems principle, the Hong Kong government has the responsibility to actively investigate the facts and hold relevant authorities accountable for any infringements.

Amnesty International Hong Kong implores the Hong Kong government:

1. To investigate the Causeway Bay bookstore case as rigorously as possible so as to ensure HK citizens' freedom of expression remains undisturbed;
2. To actively engage with the detaining authorities in China and follow up with specific actions in accordance with the standards of International Convention and Bill of Rights Ordinance;
3. To demand the unconditional release of those detained illegally as quickly as possible;
4. To register complaints against any country or region where its enforcement agencies contravene the cross border enforcement procedures, and apply corresponding and specific preventive measures to protect HK citizens' liberty.

We the undersigned, support the above demands of the AIHK, and ask you, as the leader of the Hong Kong Government to act urgently to protect the rights of these Hong Kong citizens.



