Dear World Leaders,

We the undersigned 46 organisations, representing hundreds of millions of people from 27 countries, strongly condemn recent authoritarian actions by the Administration of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in exerting control over Hong Kong and threatening both the freedoms of its citizens and its economic stability.

While the SAR government has apparently taken some steps back by signaling the withdrawal of its extradition bill and a probe into misconduct and human rights abuses by their police force against protestors, we note that these are largely superficial steps that do not end the PRC’s ongoing encroachment on Hong Kong’s autonomy, and are at least partially motivated by the threat of further U.S. economic sanctions against the PRC. We note, for example, that the extradition bill will not be formally withdrawn unless the decision is approved by the pro-PRC Legislative Council in late October, and that the inquiry into police brutality will be conducted by a body with limited investigative abilities that is not empowered to call a single witness and is staffed by former policemen and pro-PRC Legislative Council members.

We therefore call upon our governments to issue an unequivocal condemnation of actions undertaken by the SAR regime which has enacted a state of effective martial law designed to intimidate and force protesters into silence despite the irrevocable alteration of their way of life, and express their support for the people of Hong Kong. We further call for world governments to support the passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which is intended to safeguard Hong Kong’s autonomy.

The actions by authorities in the SAR ignore the wishes of the people of Hong Kong to retain their autonomy and liberal freedoms, whilst blatantly breaking the terms of the bilateral international agreement under which Hong Kong was given to the PRC in 1997. Hong Kong has been a bastion of liberal freedoms and values in the region and has been consistently ranked as one of the world’s most economically free cities. It has had a strong foundation of an independent judiciary and the rule of law, as well as private property rights, both physical and intellectual, allowing for an influx of investment and for its economy to flourish and prosper.
It is therefore understandable that the people of Hong Kong strongly oppose illiberal laws that undermine human rights, including the PRC’s attempt to pass an extradition bill that would have denied individuals in Hong Kong the basic right to due process in justice and allowed for political dissidents to be extradited and imprisoned. Hong Kong’s independent judiciary is critical for countries doing business, and therefore for its position in global trade. If these freedoms are eroded, and companies become subject to arbitrary actions by the government, or have their intellectual property stolen as occurs on the mainland, companies will no longer be willing to invest. This will damage not just the economy of Hong Kong, but the economies of all countries that do business with the region. This is why over 2 million Hong Kong residents have taken to the streets to protest - almost half the city’s entire population.

In the face of the Hong Kong people’s reasonable demands, the Administration has resorted to illegal tactics such as using tear gas indoors, shooting protesters in their faces with rubber bullets (permanently blinding a nurse in one eye) and simply beating people with no just cause. Police have been recorded pepper spraying protesters and viciously assaulting them to the point of causing serious fractures and broken bones, even after the protesters have surrendered. On 11 August, over 23 protesters were also detained and denied access to their lawyers. Linda Wong, the executive director of the Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women, has also said that Hong Kong police officers have been recorded sexually assaulting both female and male pro-democracy protesters over the past three months to humiliate and silence them. Other dubious tactics include undercover police officers infiltrating protests.

Amnesty International has also condemned the use of blue dye in water cannons to identify protesters for later arrest as it’s indiscriminate and could mark medical staff, journalists, and other bystanders for arrest and detention. Unless the international community sends a clear message, this abuse will only escalate.

The people of Hong Kong need international solidarity in their time of need as they hold the fort against PRC expansionism and imperialism - a phenomenon that threatens every free, liberal country in the world. A failure to act now, by taking a decisive stand in support of the Hong Kong people against these actions, will only embolden the PRC government to take further action against external parties that it deems enemies of its state - as well as against its own people who already live under an oppressive regime with a track record of wantonly disregarding the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities.
Abuses committed by the PRC are not limited to Hong Kong. These human rights violations also include the imprisonment of over a million people from Uighur minorities in indoctrination camps to quell any political opposition, the harvesting of organs from political prisoners, collusion with criminal triad gangs to intimidate and harass dissidents, the killing of protesters and dissidents and torture and killing of persecuted sects.

All governments should stand with the people of Hong Kong who are literally risking life and limb on the frontlines of a fight for democracy and freedom. The implications of what occurs in the coming days, weeks, and months has significant ramifications, not just for the persons living in Hong Kong and its local economy, but the international economy as a whole. Beyond the short term economic consequences, this is a fight which could spread elsewhere, if the actions of the increasingly fascistic authoritarian and expansionist regime that is cracking down on citizens’ rights is not checked.

As the eyes of the world are on what happens in Hong Kong, now more than ever it is critical that our governments do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Brian Marlow
Executive Director
Australian Taxpayers Alliance
(Australia)

Michi Iljazi
Director of Government Affairs
American Conservative Union
(United States)

Cindy Cerquitella
Executive Director
America’s Future Foundation
(United States)

John Humphreys
President
Australian Libertarian Society
(Australia)

Matt Kilcoyne
Head of Communications
Adam Smith Institute
(United Kingdom)

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform
(United States)

Karla Jones
Director of International Relations and Federalism
ALEC
(United States)

Graham Young
Executive Director
Australia Institute for Progress
(Australia)
Scott Hennig  
President and CEO  
Canadian Taxpayers Federation  
(Canada)

Stoyan Panchev  
President  
Bulgarian Libertarian Society  
(Bulgaria)

Edo Omercevic  
Director  
Center for Advancement of Free Enterprise  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Rocio Guijarro  
Cedice Libertad  
(Venezuela)

Tomasz Kolodziejczuk  
President  
Centrum Kapitalizmu  
(Poland)

Rahul Kumar  
Centre for Public Policy Research  
(India)

Andrés Barrientos  
Executive Director  
Ciudadano Austral Foundation  
(Chile)

Chip Ford  
Executive Director  
Citizens for Limited Taxation  
(United States)

Eudes Baufreton  
Director  
Contribuibles Associes  
French Taxpayers Association  
(France)

Marek Tatala  
Vice President  
Civil Development Forum  
(Poland)

Gary Kavanagh  
Director  
Edmund Burke Institute  
(Ireland)

Rafail Kaliviotis  
Diyesty  
(Greece)

Eduardo Helguera  
Director  
Estudio Helguera  
(Argentina)

Jason Pye  
Vice President of Legislative Affairs  
FreedomWorks  
(United States)

Federico Fernández  
President  
Fundación Internacional Bases  
(Argentina)

Garret Edwards  
Director of Legal Research  
Fundación Libertad  
(Argentina)

Roxana Nicula  
Presidenta / Chair  
Fundación para el Avance de la Libertad  
(Spain)

Roxani Kargakou  
Greek Liberties Monitor  
(Greece)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jon Coupal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(United States)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svetla Kostadinova</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Institute for Market Economics (IME)</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Bulgaria)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Langer</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Institute for Liberty</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(United States)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mag. Federico Rabino</td>
<td>Director Ejecutivo</td>
<td>Instituto Fernando de la Mora</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Paraguay)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bienvenido S. Oplas Jr</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Minimal Government Thinkers</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Philippines)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Williams</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>New Zealand Free Speech Coalition</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(New Zealand)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inés Marrache Echais</td>
<td>Institutional Chief</td>
<td>Peruvian Taxpayers Association</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Peru)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Kerrigan</td>
<td>President &amp; CEO</td>
<td>Small Business &amp; Entrepreneurship Council</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(United States)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Wollstad</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief</td>
<td>Svensk Tidskrift</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Sweden)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Andrews</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Taxpayers Protection Alliance</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(United States)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gray</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>H.R. Nicholles</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Salman</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Malaysia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seton Motley</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Less Government</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(United States)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gia Jandieri</td>
<td>Founder, Vice-President</td>
<td>New Economic School-Georgia</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Georgia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose A. Cambareri</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Nosotros Los Contribuyentes</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Argentina)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamala Neupane</td>
<td></td>
<td>Samriddhi Foundation</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Nepal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Walker</td>
<td>Senior Programs Director</td>
<td>Students for Liberty</td>
<td>International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(International)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisa Bahçeli</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tax Research Association</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Araştırmaları Topluluğu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Turkey)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcin Nowacki</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Warsaw Enterprise Institute</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Poland)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>