



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

Secretary of State

1 April 2020

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The Lord Alton of Liverpool
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Alton,

Thank you for your email of 28 February about the arrests of pro-democracy activists Jimmy Lai, Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeung Sum.

We are concerned about the arrests of these three individuals, and we are following their cases very closely. Media reports that the three individuals were arrested in relation to their participation in a rally on 31 August 2019.

The three men were released on bail and Superintendent Wong Tung-Kwong said all three men would be called to the Eastern Magistrate Court on 5 May. It is essential that they are afforded due process and that justice is applied in a fair and transparent way. We are following their cases very closely to make sure this happens.

We will continue to fully support the right to peaceful protest, which has been exercised by the majority of Hong Kong protesters over many months. It is essential that protests are conducted peacefully, and that the authorities avoid actions that inflame tensions. The authorities should focus on rebuilding trust through a process of meaningful political dialogue.

I regularly raise Hong Kong with Chinese and Hong Kong officials at the highest levels. Senior officials are in frequent contact with their counterparts in Hong Kong, Beijing and London. The leadership in Hong Kong is in no doubt about the strength of UK concern over the current situation. We remain fully committed to upholding Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and rights and freedoms underpinned by the legally binding Joint Declaration, and the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework set out in the Hong Kong Basic Law.

At an international level, senior officials and I discuss Hong Kong with many of our counterparts including the US, Canada, Australia and colleagues in Europe.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP