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February 28, 2023

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

On February 6, 2023, a 90-day mass show trial of the 47 democracy advocates began in Hong Kong.¹ Today marks the second anniversary of the 47 Hong Kong democracy advocates being charged with “Conspiracy to commit subversion” under the *Hong Kong National Security Law*. At least 150 Hong Kong opposition politicians and activists have been taken into custody on charges related to the *Hong Kong National Security Law* since the law was enacted in Beijing in June 2020 and more than 1,200 political prisoners are currently detained in Hong Kong.²

At this critical juncture, I urge you to call on the Hong Kong Government to end political prosecution on Beijing’s behalf and immediately release all political prisoners. I also request that you take appropriate actions to hold the Hong Kong Government accountable in support of Hong Kong citizens’ fight for freedom.

The *Hong Kong National Security Law* gives the Hong Kong Government the power to arrest, jail and prosecute Hong Kong citizens who stand up to defend their civil and political rights. This law has deprived Hong Kong of judicial independence and is the Chinese Communist Party’s direct assault on the “One Country, Two Systems” principle it pledged to uphold according to the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984.

Pursuant to the *Hong Kong Autonomy Act* and Executive Order 13936, the *Hong Kong National Security Law* has destroyed what remained of Hong Kong’s autonomy. As a direct consequence, Hong Kong’s representation in the United States is now duplicative of the People’s Republic of

¹ “Hong Kong: landmark national security trial of 47 democracy advocates begins” in The Guardian February 6, 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/06/hong-kong-landmark-national-security-trial-of-47-democracy-advocates-begins>

² The White House. “Memorandum on Extending and Expanding Eligibility for Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Hong Kong Residents” January 26, 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/01/26/memorandum-on-extending-and-expanding-eligibility-for-deferred-enforced-departure-for-certain-hong-kong-residents/>

China's (PRC's). For this reason, I urge you to revoke the privilege, exemptions and immunities of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (HKETOs) in the United States. These offices should be shut down and consolidated with the existing diplomatic missions of the PRC in the United States.

In light of the continuously deteriorating human rights situation in Hong Kong, I request the favor of your reply by March 28, 2023. I thank for your attention and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MG', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Gallagher
Chairman