

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Hearing  
on  
The State of Civil and Political Rights in Hong Kong

October 14, 2021- 2:00 p.m.  
2172 RHOB and Virtual, via WebEx

Statement of Roy Hoi-Hing Chan  
Former Pastor  
Good Neighbour North District Church (Hong Kong).

My name is Roy (Hoi-hing) Chan, the former Pastor of Good Neighbour North District Church (Hong Kong).

On December 6, 2020, the Good Neighbour North District Church's charity account as well as the personal accounts of me and my wife at HSBC were frozen (reference: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/12/17/asia/hong-kong-exiles-and-inmates-dst-hnk-intl/index.html> and <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/29/hong-kong-churches-face-christmas-beijings-shadow/>). On the next day, the Hong Kong police prosecuted us for money laundering and fraud. They arrested the Church's accounting staff and resigned director and also issued a general order to me and my spouse. We are very disappointed that HSBC, the largest bank in Hong Kong that we once trusted, has blocked our main financial resources because of the police's allegation. The livelihoods of GNND and my family have been seriously affected since then. It has caused my family, including two children and a newborn, to live under great economic difficulties.

(For my response to the incidents and the police's charges, please refer to <https://www.patreon.com/posts/47028116>)

Good Neighbour North District Church (GNND) has always been practicing the mission of the gospel. During the social movement that began in June 2019, we were committed to helping young people in need, such as setting up a "Protect the Children" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-asia-china-50000995>) volunteer team to provide humanitarian support at the demonstration site; providing employment support, food, and psychological counseling to the needy. Based on the Bible teachings, to love and have mercy, we stood up to support and fight for human rights, justice, and freedom in Hong Kong.

It is a pity that the Hong Kong government has acted similarly to the Chinese Communist Party, using economic crimes to suppress dissidents.

Today, our bank accounts are still frozen by HSBC, which is still working with the regime. My wife and I are still wanted by the Hong Kong government under the crime of money laundering, and this suppresses our work in the religion. We have to stay in the UK and establish Good

Neighbour Church England. Not only do we want to help the young asylum seekers in need, but we want to speak up for the groups and places that are still suffering under the oppression of the Chinese Communist Party.

As of today, the religious freedom in Hong Kong is being suppressed severely. Quite a number of pastors who support human rights and freedoms are moving to the UK from Hong Kong due to National Security Law (NSL), intimidations that they faced and different political concerns.

The former Pastor, Remembrance of Grace Church Pastor Wing-sin Leung, has given speeches about the political situation in Hong Kong for a few years. After the implementation of NSL, he was notified after one gathering that he would be reported under the National Security Law. He has also been threatened a few times with people visiting his home. He had therefore decided to move to the UK in February this year to protect his family.

Another pastor Hing-choi Law, the ex-president of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, has been writing articles about anti-extradition law since the beginning of the movement. On the day before the official implementation of NSL, he has quitted his job of being the president of the Baptist Convention, and then moved to the UK.

Besides, the group Hong Kong Pastors Network that has led multiple times of prayers and assemblies during the movement, has published the Hong Kong 2020 Gospel Declaration. After NSL has come into effect, this Declaration has been accused by the state-owned media Ta Kung Pao that its text is against the NSL. The main writers, including Pastor Kin-Keung Yeung who has passed away, and also Pastor Siu-Yung Wong, have already arrived in the UK and Taiwan. Hong Kong Pastors Network has been disbanded in September this year. Not only was Good neighbour North District Church, which I established, disbanded, but another church, Ekklesia Hong Kong, which has been actively fighting for human rights and freedoms, was also disbanded in June this year. It is hence the second disbanded church under the effect of NSL.

On 4th June this year, the Catholic churches in various districts in Hong Kong were organizing prayer meetings for the June 4th incident, but banners accusing their actions of inciting subversion of state power appeared outside a few churches, indicating that they are cults using religious titles to interfere with politics.

Another church, The Methodist Church, which has been opening their churches for protesters throughout the past 20 years, was also pointed out by a few state-owned media about their crime under the NSL. These media also urged the government to revoke this church's charity status (<https://www.dotdotnews.com/a/202109/27/AP61513d52e4b08e6c88a09f8d.html>) and land ownership. All of the above examples have led to self-censorships by the Hong Kong churches on their journey of preaching.

When it comes to NSL, churches and individuals would inevitably have to face threats, severe criminal liabilities and difficulties in getting resources allocated.