律政司司長鄭若驊 律政司 律政中心中座地下 香港中環下亞厘畢道 18 號

鄭司長 您好:

我來信深切表達我對鄒幸彤的憂慮。她是一名律師,日前遭以「宣傳未授權集會」為由逮捕起訴。她只因私下在社群媒體上撰寫貼文請人們紀念天安門事件便遭到針對,實在令人深感不安。這項行為只是和平表達意見,是國際人權法與國際標準所准許,不應將其入罪化。

得知當局正逐步擴大以《公安條例》針對行使表達自由與和平集會自由的倡議人士與人權 捍衛者,讓我感到十分惶恐。當局在過去兩年以參與未授權集會為由,已經逮捕並起訴了 至少9位香港支聯會成員。

相信您非常瞭解,參與及組織和平集會在國際人權法與國際標準之下,是不需事先經過政府同意的。人民未事先知會當局要進行集會,不應被視為參與非法集會,也不應作為逮捕參與者或籌劃者的理由,更不該對此施加不當制裁,例如刑事起訴等等。

我在此呼籲您:

- 撤銷對鄒幸彤的所有指控並立即無條件將其釋放,因為鄒幸彤僅是在和平行使權利;
- 立即停止以刑事指控針對和平行使表達自由與其他人權的人民;
- 重新審視並修訂所有法條,終止人權侵害的措施,尤其與表達自由、和平集會與結 社自由相關之內容。

敬此

Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng Yeuk-wah Department of Justice G/F, Main Wing, Justice Place 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

Dear Secretary Cheng:

I am writing to express my grave concern for Chow Hang-tung (鄒幸彤), a barrister who has been arrested and charged for "advertising or publicising unauthorised assembly". It is alarming to learn that she was targeted simply for writing social media posts asking people to commemorate the Tiananmen crackdown in a private manner. This act is a mere peaceful expression of opinion, which is permissible under international human rights law and standards, and must not be criminalized.

I find it distressing that the authorities increasingly use the Public Order Ordinance to target activists and human rights defenders who exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Over the past two years the authorities have arrested, charged and sentenced at least nine members of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China for taking part in unauthorized assemblies.

As you will be aware, under international human rights law and standards, participating in and organizing peaceful assemblies does not require prior permission by the state. Failure to notify the authorities of an assembly should not render participation in the assembly unlawful and should not in itself be used as a basis for either arresting the participants or organizers or imposing undue sanctions, such as charging them with criminal offences.

I therefore call on you to:

- Drop all charges against and release Chow Hang-tung immediately and unconditionally, as she was charged solely for peacefully exercising her rights;
- End the practice of bringing criminal charges against those who have simply exercised their right to freedom of expression or other human rights;
- Review and amend all laws and regulations, and end all related measures, that violate the exercise of human rights, in particular to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

Yours sincerely,