

The Hong Kong Violent Chronicle.

A brief summary of Hong Kong police brutality and abuse of power throughout the protests during the summer of 2019

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Since last June we started following with apprehension and disbelief the sequence of events taking place in Hong Kong when, following the introduction of the Extradition Bill that would allow mainland China to extradite on its territory anyone accused of crimes punishable by a penalty of more than seven years of detention, the millions of protesters among Hong Kong citizens marched in the streets, and the long-lasting illusion of Hong Kong "special status" was heavily shaken.

In August, the news became increasingly worrying, with clear evidence of widespread police brutality against protesters. Although the images that have come down to us have turned out to be only a small share compared to the enormity of the violence suffered and documented by Hong Kong citizens and protesters.

Then, suddenly, at the beginning of September we were reassured by mainstream media: everything was fixed, the Extradition Bill was withdrawn, everyone could happily go back home, safe and content.

Many European politicians and public figures who were supportive of Hongkongers' demands for an open and free society welcomed the good news with huge relief. Guy Verhofstadt, among them, shared the news by Bloomberg and commented: "The people of #HongKong made a stand for their freedom and prevailed. This is a hugely positive development. Now for democratic safeguards, the release of political prisoners and an independent investigation into police brutality".

Unfortunately, none of that is true. The Extradition Bill was never withdrawn. The violence against demonstrators and random people has never ceased. Hong Kong is not safe. Meanwhile, the fake news had successfully driven away the world's attention, the gaze of many was diverted from Hong Kong and the pressure on China was relieved. Not so the pressure of the Chinese regime on Hong Kong media, individuals, institutions.

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A petition was launched on the White House Website (<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/call-official-recognition-chinese-communist-party-terrorist-organization>) quickly gaining a hundred thousand signatures to list, in light of the recent violent actions against the demonstrators in Hong Kong ("by the People's Liberation Army disguised as Hong Kong police"), the Chinese communist party among terrorist organizations.

We want to show you the truth about protests in Hong Kong, from June to these days, at this very moment, in the chronicle of a very concerned Hong Kong citizen who has witnessed the barbaric level of police violence in the last three months.

Many independent observers have talked of institutional violence – which was already tangible back in 2014, when the pro-democratic Umbrella Movement started – a system in which the threat of physical violence upon individuals by public authorities has risen to dangerous levels in an escalation that will not stop by itself.

The high penetration outside Chinese territories of fake news reassuring the liberal world about the situation in Hong Kong is as dangerous as the Chinese regime's intimidatory attempt to block Germany from welcoming Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong. That's why Hongkongers dare to risk and fight the Chinese censorship to tell us what is going on in Hong Kong.

**From a concerned Hongkonger
who has first-hand experience of police brutality**

WARNING – STRONG IMAGES

12 June

This video

- <https://www.facebook.com/rthk.HKConnection/videos/410243512908610/>

shows the driving force behind the protests since June – young people (some as young as primary school age, but mostly high school/university students) who are considerate, orderly and resourceful, all with the single aim of protecting Hong Kong's future and its citizens' freedom. It also shows adults who stepped up to protect them during the protests. All this was met with disproportionate police violence and outright refusal by Carrie Lam to withdraw the Extradition Bill or meet any of the protesters' other demands.

21 July

This is the night of the “white shirt attack”, where Hong Kong triad (i.e. mafia) dressed in white carried out indiscriminate violent attacks on citizens inside and around the Yuen Long underground station. Yuen Long is long known as a triad stronghold, whereas it is common knowledge that the Hong Kong police works closely with the triad.

However, it is not until now that it has been on display with such clarity and audacity – police officers were seen turning around and walking away from the scene of attack, police officers not answering any of the thousands of calls from citizens seeking help, callers being told by officers that “if you're scared then stay home” and then being hung up on, police hugging and shaking the hands of thugs who were involved in the attacks.

The list goes on:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACVQmWwM8ck&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1J13ddvnmBMGBcT7VoUHAEIfd2fkgFPoAtHGUMeOgETPLNI48J6s_SmA8
you will see from this video that the thugs stormed the closed station and attacked people with metal pipes and wooden rods, as well as two police officers turning away from the scene.

See 2:12 for a pregnant woman injured; from 2:15 for the extent of the injuries sustained by many; and 3:30 where a pro-Beijing Legislator congratulated and shook the hands of the attacking thugs.



When questioned by a reporter as to why the police did not turn up at the scene until at least 40 minutes after the thugs had dispersed, the officer said at 3:35 that he had no idea if they were late because he “did not have time to check his watch”.

11 August

A young female volunteer medic (i.e. she was not protesting) was hit in the right eye by a bean bag round fired by the police, causing her eye to rupture. However, the police to this day are still refusing to admit that they have caused the injury, and instead speculating that it might have been caused by “metal pellets fired by protesters” – despite the fact that a bean bag round can be seen firmly lodged in the woman’s eye mask:





Also on **11 August**:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvBLJzKGkIo> (from 0:50)

Key points to note about this attack:

1. The protesters were clearly in retreat down the escalator into the underground station.
2. The police decided to charge and chase after the protesters despite the clear risk of stampede.
3. The police were also firing at the protesters at point blank range, as can be seen in this picture:



4. International standards on firearms usage state that:

- (i) tear gas should not be deployed indoors (let alone into an underground station with limited air circulation and no windows to allow the tear gas to disperse);
- (ii) even “non-lethal” weapons such as tear gas, bean bag rounds etc must not be deployed at close range, or above knee-level.

This article explains this better: <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/09/01/hong-kong-police-breached-internal-manufacturer-guidelines-improperly-firing-projectiles/>.

On the same evening, the police also fired tear gas into other underground stations, such as Kwai Fong station (in the northern part of Hong Kong):



While the effects were felt by innocent passengers:



Reporters have found evidence of the police using expired tea gas, which, according to academics, would degenerate into toxic gases such as phosgene and cyanide upon combustion.

The police also brutally assaulted other retreating protesters outside Tsim Sha Tsui station (on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong):



The police has increasingly applied violence on innocent citizens who were not involved in the protests at all. On 26 August, an unarmed man pleading on his knees for the police to stop charging was kicked by an officer. Police later claimed that it was just the officer's "natural reaction":



And a policeman pointing a revolver at his head:



Police planting evidence (this particular incident took place on 11 August). You can see from the first picture that the protester (in a white top) had nothing sticking out from his black backpack.



And then an undercover officer (to the right, dressed as a protester) clearly putting a long stick into the backpack:



Terrorising teenagers just to show “who’s boss” (this girl is 16 years old whose only “crime” was to ask for the police officer’s ID, which is now customarily hidden from view – the senior officers’ explanation being “there is not enough space on the officers’ uniform to display their ID”):

- <https://www.facebook.com/hkbigtimes/videos/2460928680813426/UzpfSTUxNzQ3MzIxMDoxMDE1NzIyOTY1NzkwMzIxMQ/>

Regular attacks by the pro-Beijing crowd, where it is guaranteed that no one would ever get prosecuted. Tendons in this protester's arm and leg severed, execution-style:



31 August

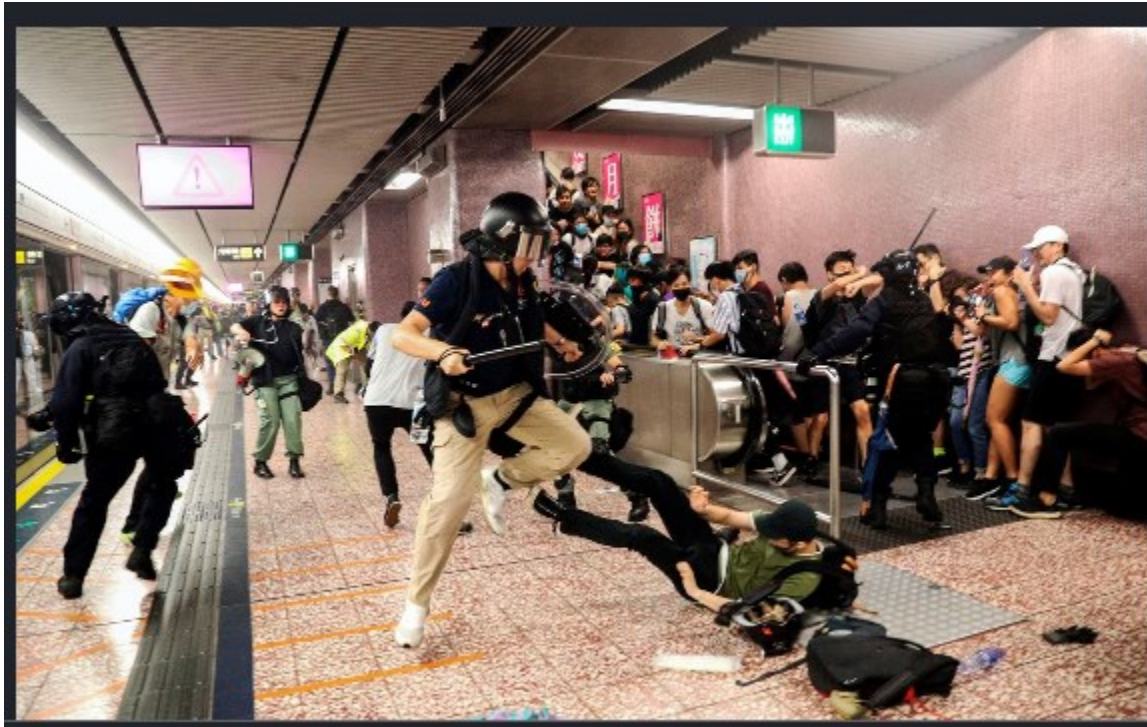
On 31 August, the police bypassed the triad and initiated violent attacks all on their own on innocent passengers at Prince Edward station among others:

- <https://youtu.be/xG8zzs3KWbw>

The Prince Edward attack is widely considered to be the worst to date because:

- (i) the police expelled all reporters from the station soon after the attack took place, something which they had not done before, so it is speculated that they had something to hide;
- (ii) there were at least 10 citizens confirmed to be suffering serious trauma before the medics were also expelled from the station (again an unusual move). However only seven were transported to a few stations away from Prince Edward (the police refused to allow the injured to be carried to the ambulances waiting outside Prince Edward station) before they were taken to the hospital, thus deliberately delaying critical medical care;
- (iii) there is still no official explanation as to the whereabouts of the “missing” three injured people.

Beating up frightened citizens who were all trying to flee:



Applying pepper spray at eye-level at pleading citizens:





29 August

A #Metoo style rally took place after multiple allegations of sexual assault by police against arrested/subdued individuals (some were protesters but not all, mostly female but also some male) surfaced, including allegations of rape:



This female protester had his skirt and underwear ripped off, in addition to being manhandled by male instead of female officers as is required by the police code of conduct. The police deliberately exposed the protester's private parts as part of their usual tactics to humiliate and terrorise, and when questioned by reporters as to why that had happened, they explained that the protester had simply "struggled too much so her clothes fell off":



Finally, we come to September.

The Guardian, Bloomberg, the BBC and other major media announce the surrender of the Chinese regime and the withdrawal of the Extradition Bill. The days pass.

7 September

Police brutality against citizens has now become a daily occurrence. This video shows attacks at a station that is the local station students of the Chinese University:

- <https://www.facebook.com/cuhkcampusradio/videos/676712196161054/>.

Finally, here are two videos with English subtitles that summarise many of the events described above:

- <https://www.facebook.com/27743445015/videos/2431001376935039/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/rthk.HKConnection/videos/410243512908610/>.

There are many other reports of police arresting injured individuals when they were still undergoing treatment at hospitals (leading to suspicion about collusion between the police force and the hospital authority, as well as the injured being deterred from seeking treatment), arrested individuals (not necessarily protesters) being tortured to the point of multiple bone fractures and brain injuries, and undercover police instigating violence in the hope that genuine protesters would follow suit. The police brutality in Hong Kong has gone way beyond the physical level – they have also resorted to psychological oppression and harassment, for example when the Junior Police Officers' Association promoted the use of the term "cockroaches" to describe the protesters, which was used to describe people seen as inferior during World War II and the Rwandan genocide.

"Sadly, we have not prevailed. It is a common misconception that the Bill has been withdrawn - it hasn't. All Governor Carrie Lam has done was to suggest that a motion might be pushed through the Legislative Council when it resumes in October - and even if/when that happens, it still needs to be passed by the largely pro-Beijing Body of Councillors. If anyone asks me, I would say she's actually made things worse - and in a calculated, wicked way. Hongkongers are in a worse situation than before, partly because now the world thinks they can shift their attention away from Hong Kong."

Reference materials:

- Amnesty International's monitoring and analysis of events as at June 21st:
<https://www.amnesty.org.hk/en/verified-hong-kong-police-violence-against-peaceful-protesters/>

- Accurate Wiki page about “allegations of police misconduct”:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Hong_Kong_protests#cite_note-AutoL4-148-231.