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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHINA

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to recommend in the strongest terms that, in light of the recent sentencing of Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai, your department determine whether certain Hong Kong police and judicial officials meet the criteria for sanctions pursuant to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, and Executive Order 13936.

On February 9, 2026, after being jailed for over five years, Mr. Lai received a 20-year prison sentence over dubious charges under Hong Kong's draconian national security law, which itself is a violation of the China's voluntary international obligations. For Mr. Lai, who turned 78 this past December, this is effectively a death sentence. Mr. Lai's lifetime work advocating for democracy, press freedom, and religious freedom stands in stark contrast to the totalitarianism promoted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its lackies in Hong Kong, who clearly wish that he never sees freedom again.

The United States must not let the injustice against Mr. Lai go unanswered. In October 2025, President Trump raised Mr. Lai's case directly with General Secretary Xi Jinping, and you yourself, Mr. Secretary, noted the "extraordinary lengths" the CCP will go "to silence those who advocate fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong."<sup>1</sup> Likewise, here in Congress there is strong bipartisan and bicameral support calling for Mr. Lai's humanitarian release, and for action to be taken against those responsible for his sham trial.

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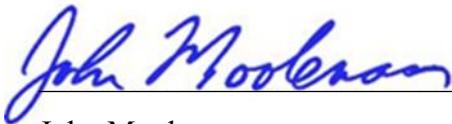
<sup>1</sup> Agence France-Presse, Trump urges Xi Jinping to free HK pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai, *The Guardian*, December 15, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/dec/16/trump-urges-xi-jinping-to-free-hk-pro-democracy-media-tycoon-jimmy-lai>; Office of the Spokesperson, Sentencing in Jimmy Lai Case, *U.S. Department of State*, February 9, 2026, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/02/sentencing-in-jimmy-lai-case>

For these reasons, I ask that your department determine whether the following Hong Kong police and judicial officials meet the criteria necessary for sanctions pursuant to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, and Executive Order 13936:

- Hong Kong Police Commissioner Joe CHOW Yat-ming (周一鳴)
- National Security Law Judge Esther TOH Lye-ping (杜麗冰)
- National Security Law Judge Alex LEE Wan-tang (李運騰)
- National Security Law Judge Susana Maria D'ALMADA REMEDIOS (李素蘭)

Thank you for your continued commitment to human rights and answering CCP oppression with principled resolve. The House Select Committee on China closely monitors the CCP's efforts to destroy individual liberty both in Hong Kong and around the world, and I look forward to your timely action on these important issues.

Sincerely,



John Moolenaar  
Chairman  
Select Committee on China