

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE BAD ACTORS IN HONG KONG, 2019 TO 2023

Table 01. International businesses that have violated the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Hong Kong, as of February 14, 2023.

Business / corporate headquarters	Action	Violation of principle
<p>Manulife Canada</p> <p>Fidelity International USA</p>	<p>As administrator of Mandatory Provident Fund, denied payouts to Hong Kongers who had permanently left Hong Kong on the unjustifiable grounds that their BN(0) visas did not constitute legitimate proof of permanent departure.</p>	<p>The denial constitutes breach of the human rights of freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association, and the right to own property.</p>
<p>BDO Belgium</p>	<p>Was appointed by the government as “special inspector” to lead the investigation of Next Digital, parent company of the pro-democracy newspaper, Apple Daily.</p>	<p>The investigation was manifestly part of the Hong Kong government’s politically-motivated persecution of Apple Daily, attack on the freedom of the press, and effort to ensure that the newspaper remain closed. Participation in this effort constitutes a human rights abuse.</p>

Business / corporate headquarters	Action	Violation of principle
Singapore Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Singapore	Participated in the Hello Hong Kong government propaganda campaign, featuring in a video alongside head of Hong Kong Tourism Board.	The propaganda campaign is part of the regime's attempt to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
Indian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong India		
Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Japan		
French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong France	Participated in the Hello Hong Kong government propaganda campaign, featuring in a video alongside head of Hong Kong Tourism Board.	The propaganda campaign is part of the regime's attempt to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Australia	Participated in the Hello Hong Kong government propaganda campaign, featuring in a video alongside head of Hong Kong Tourism Board.	The propaganda campaign is part of the regime's attempt to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong UK		

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German Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Germany	Member of Hong Kong government's Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong.	The task force is part of the regime's propaganda initiative to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Europe	Member of Hong Kong government's Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong.	The task force is part of the regime's propaganda initiative to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
DZ Bank AG Germany	Member of Hong Kong government's Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong.	The task force is part of the regime's propaganda initiative to whitewash its repression and legitimize itself. Businesses should refrain from collaboration with the CCP and HK government.
Motorola Solutions Asian Pacific Limited USA	Made six sales to the Hong Kong Police Force totaling HK\$151,683,822 (about US\$19.3 million) to supply a "digital transport network system," equipment related to a "Terrestrial Trunked Radio System," "Optical Network Equipment," an "Automatic Radio Location System," and maintenance services.	Due its infringement of the right to freedom of assembly and its key role in enforcing the rights-abusing national security law, HKPF is central to the regime's apparatus of repression and international companies should refrain from conducting all business with it.

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Airbus Secure Land Communications Limited Germany	Made one sale to the Hong Kong Police Force totaling HK\$18,486,056.00 to supply “Terrestrial Trunked Radio cell site equipment.”	Due its infringement of the right to freedom of assembly and its key role in enforcing the rights-abusing national security law, HKPF is central to the regime’s apparatus of repression and international companies should refrain from conducting all business with it.
Twitter USA	Suspended account of new Hong Kong diaspora media outlet The Points.	This constitutes denial of services to those the regime perceives as political opponents. It is a form of censorship.
Issuu USA	Removed content from 羊村 2.0 (Sheep Village 2.0)’s webpage for undisclosed legal reasons in October 2022. The content was allegorical children’s books originally published by General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapist in Hong Kong, for which five union leaders were sentenced to 19 months in prison each on sedition charges.	This constitutes denial of services to those the regime perceives as political opponents. It is a form of censorship.
Apple USA	Blocked website of GitLab on its Safari browser in Hong Kong in December 2022 using Tencent website blacklist that it uses to block websites in China. Removed HKmap.live map from its app store during 2019 protests.	This constitutes censorship of a website that is entirely legal in Hong Kong and denial of information to Hong Kong users at a time when censorship in Hong Kong has drastically increased. The removal of the HKmap.live app constituted denial of services for political reasons.

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Disney USA	Removed an episode of “The Simpsons” that contained a reference to forced labor camps in Xinjiang from its Disney+ streaming service in Hong Kong. Removed an episode of “The Simpsons” that contained a reference to the Tiananmen Massacre from its Disney+ streaming service in Hong Kong.	These appear to be instances of self-censorship in order to avoid antagonizing the regime and deprive Hong Kong people of the services and perspectives provided elsewhere in the non-censored world.
Brookfield Asset Management Canada	Vice-chair Mark Carney participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
JPMorgan Chase USA	President and COO Daniel Pinto participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
BlackRock USA	President Rob Kapito participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
Citigroup USA	CEO Jane Fraser was scheduled to participate in the Hong Kong government finance summit but pulled out and was replaced by a subordinate.	The summit is used by the Hong Kong government to legitimize its authoritarian regime and cover up its systematic human rights abuses. Participation constitutes support for the regime and collusion with it.
Amundi France	CEO Valérie Baudson participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
KKR USA	Co-CEO Joseph Bae participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	

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Goldman Sachs USA	Chair and CEO David Solomon participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
UBS Switzerland	Chair Colm Kelleher participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
Blackstone USA	President and COO Jonathan Gray participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
Morgan Stanley USA	Chair and CEO James Gorman participated in the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
Carlyle USA	Co-chair William Conway Jr participated in day 3 of the Hong Kong government finance summit.	The summit is used by the Hong Kong government to legitimize its authoritarian regime and cover up its systematic human rights abuses. Participation constitutes support for the regime and collusion with it.
Man Group UK	CEO Luke Ellis participated in day 3 of the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
Apollo Asset Management USA	Co-president Jim Zelter participated in day 3 of the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
BNY Mellon Investment Management USA	CEO Hanneke Smits participated in day 3 of the Hong Kong government finance summit.	
State Street Global Advisors USA	President and CEO Cyrus Taraporevala participated in day 3 of the Hong Kong government finance summit.	

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Stripe Ireland and US	Terminated services to three Hong Kong protesters crowdfunding to pay legal costs for a protest-related court case on grounds that they were “too high-risk” though they were acting lawfully and within their rights.	Stripe appears to have terminated services because it feared government opprobrium or may have even been warned by the government against providing services to dissidents; thus, its action appears politically motivated and has the effect of furthering the regime’s repression.
PayPal USA	Terminated the account of pro-democracy political party League of Social Democrats due to “excessive risks,” even though LSD is registered in Hong Kong as a legal entity in good standing.	LSD is the only pro-democracy political party still active in Hong Kong, and its members have been targeted by the government with repressive actions of various kinds such as arrests, imprisonments, and incessant harassment. Thus, PayPal’s action appears politically motivated and has the effect of furthering the regime’s repression.
Mercedes Benz* Germany	50 extra-large police vans with state-of-the-art crowd control equipment are reported to have been sold to the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF). The first two were displayed publicly on June 19, 2022. In November 2022, Mercedes-Benz said, “There were no deliveries of Mercedes-Benz vans or Sprinters.”	HKPF has been widely criticized by Hong Kong citizens and international human rights organizations for indiscriminate use of violence against protesters and its prominent role in enforcing the national security law. In 2019, the U.S. banned export licenses for certain crowd control equipment to HKPF, the UK suspended them, and the EU parliament called for such export controls in the EU.

*Mercedes-Benz has not publicly acknowledged the sale of police vans to HKPF, nor are there any notices of sales of police vans by Mercedes-Benz to HKPF in publicly available Hong Kong government procurement records. There are two reports from two different Hong Kong news organizations on the arrival and first public display of two police vans said to be made by Mercedes-Benz and prominently displaying the well-known Mercedes-Benz logo on the front of both. The same reports also mention that these two are part of a group of 50 which has been sold. In response to HKDC, Mercedes-Benz said, ‘there were no deliveries of Mercedes-Benz vans or Sprinters.’

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<p>Mayer Brown USA</p>	<p>Assisted its client, University of Hong Kong, in efforts to remove the Pillar of Shame statue from campus. Under pressure, eventually said it would cease doing so.</p>	<p>The Pillar of Shame was one of several monuments on Hong Kong university campuses commemorating the Tiananmen Massacre. Its removal was part of coordinated efforts by universities to remove all signs of this history in order, supposedly, to avoid the risk of violating the national security law.</p>
<p>HSBC UK</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEO of HSBC Asia Pacific Peter Wong expressed support for the national security law. 2. HSBC has frozen the accounts of protester aid group Spark Alliance, pro-democracy Good Neighbour North District Church, and former pro-democracy Legislative Council member Ted Hui and his family members. 3. CE Noel Quinn will participate in the Hong Kong government finance summit. 4. Advisor Samir Assaf and Asia-Pacific Co-Chief Executive David Liao are members of Hong Kong government's Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong. 5. As administrator of Mandatory Provident Fund, denied payouts to Hong Kongers who had permanently left Hong Kong on the unjustifiable grounds that their BN(0) visas did not constitute legitimate proof of permanent departure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The UN Human Rights Committee has advised repeal of the national security law because it severely curbs civil and political rights. 2. HSBC froze the accounts though the account holders in question were not convicted of any crime in relation to the accounts. 3. The summit is used by the Hong Kong government to legitimize its authoritarian regime and cover up its systematic human rights abuses. Participation constitutes support for the regime and collusion with it. 4. The denial of MPF funds The denial constitutes breach of the human rights of freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association, and the right to own property.

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Standard Chartered UK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issued statement in June 2020 in support of the national security law while it was being drafted and before anyone outside of the CCP, including the bank, had seen a draft. 2. CE Bill Winters will participate in the Hong Kong government finance summit. 3. Managing Director Peter Burnett is a member of Hong Kong government's Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The UN Human Rights Committee has advised repeal of the national security law because it severely curbs civil and political rights. 2. The summit is used by the Hong Kong government to legitimize its authoritarian regime and cover up its systematic human rights abuses. Participation constitutes support for the regime and collusion with it. 3. The denial constitutes breach of the human rights of freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association, and the right to own property.
Deloitte USA	<p>Published ads in CCP-owned newspapers Ta Kung Pao & Wen Wei Po congratulating John Lee on becoming Chief Executive.</p>	<p>John Lee is sanctioned by the U.S. for his role in stripping HK of autonomy and political freedoms. As Secretary for Security, he led the crackdown on protests, political opposition and civil society. He was appointed to CE by the CCP without competition at a time when elections are not free and fair.</p>

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<p>Ernst & Young USA</p>	<p>Published ads in CCP-owned newspapers Ta Kung Pao & Wen Wei Po congratulating John Lee on becoming Chief Executive.</p>	
<p>KPMG USA</p>	<p>Published ads in CCP-owned newspapers Ta Kung Pao & Wen Wei Po congratulating John Lee on becoming Chief Executive.</p>	
<p>PwC USA</p>	<p>Published ads in CCP-owned newspapers Ta Kung Pao & Wen Wei Po congratulating John Lee on becoming Chief Executive.</p>	<p>John Lee is sanctioned by the U.S. for his role in stripping HK of autonomy and political freedoms. As Secretary for Security, he led the crackdown on protests, political opposition and civil society. He was appointed to CE by the CCP without competition at a time when elections are not free and fair.</p>
<p>Davis Polk & Wardwell USA</p>	<p>Asia chairperson Martin Rogers, is an enthusiastic supporter of the national security law and has attended Hong Kong government-organized events promoting it. He decided not to attend one such event after criticism.</p>	<p>The UN Human Rights Committee has advised repeal of the national security law because it is intrinsically rights-abusing.</p>
<p>American Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong</p>	<p>Launched a series of events to promote Hong Kong, including a series of events called Onward Hong Kong, for which Meta is listed as a “presenting sponsor,” and AllianceBernstein, Citibank, Colgate, Google, Otis, Pfizer and Uber as “corporate champions.” Does not advertise participants or speakers at the events.</p>	<p>Launched a series of events to promote Hong Kong, including a series of events called Onward Hong Kong, for which Meta is listed as a “presenting sponsor,” and AllianceBernstein, Citibank, Colgate, Google, Otis, Pfizer and Uber as “corporate champions.” Does not advertise participants or speakers at the events.</p> <p>President Eden Woon Yi-teng is a member of Hong Kong government’s Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong. Chair Geoffrey Siebengartner participated in the Hello Hong Kong government propaganda campaign.</p>

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Wix Israel	<p>Took down the website of Hong Kong Charter 2021 after receiving a letter from HKPF demanding the site be removed as it is “likely to constitute offences endangering national security.” When the matter went public, Wix apologized for the “error” and the website went back up.</p>	<p>This was the first known example of Hong Kong police invoking the “national security law” to threaten a company and also the first example of the police attempting to apply the law extraterritorially.</p>
Piexon Switzerland	<p>Accused of selling new pepper spray gun JPX6 to HKPF. Denies the allegation. The gun is manufactured by Piexon but was possibly acquired through China without Piexon’s authorization.</p>	<p>HKPF has been widely criticized by Hong Kong citizens and international human rights organizations for indiscriminate use of violence against protesters and its prominent role in enforcing the national security law. In 2019, the U.S. banned export licenses for such equipment to HKPF, the UK suspended them, and the EU parliament called for such export controls in the EU.</p>
Cellebrite Israel	<p>Sold technology to HKPF which was used to hack arrested protesters’ mobile phones. Announced in Oct 2020 it stopped due to “changes in U.S. regulations.”</p>	<p>HKPF has been widely criticized by Hong Kong citizens and international human rights organizations for indiscriminate use of violence against protesters and its prominent role in enforcing the national security law. In 2019, the U.S. banned export licenses for such equipment to HKPF, the UK suspended them, and the EU parliament called for such export controls in the EU.</p>
NonLethal Technologies USA	<p>Sold tear gas to HKPF. Spent tear gas canisters with company info were found at protest sites. After passage of PROTECT Hong Kong Act in November 2019, it became no longer possible to get an export license for such sales, but that prohibition expired in late 2020.</p>	<p>HKPF has been widely criticized by Hong Kong citizens and international human rights organizations for indiscriminate use of violence against protesters and its prominent role in enforcing the national security law. In 2019, the U.S. banned export licenses for such equipment to HKPF, the UK suspended them, and the EU parliament called for such export controls in the EU.</p>

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<p>Micro Systemation AB (MSAB) Sweden</p>	<p>Sold phone-hacking technology to HKPF which was used to hack Joshua Wong’s phone and presumably the phones of other arrested protesters and pro-democracy leaders. In September 2020, it announced it would no longer make sales to HKPF or HK government.</p>	<p>HKPF has been widely criticized by Hong Kong citizens and international human rights organizations for indiscriminate use of violence against protesters and its prominent role in enforcing the national security law. In 2019, the U.S. banned export licenses for such equipment to HKPF, the UK suspended them, and the EU parliament called for such export controls in the EU.</p>

APPENDIX I: Sources for Entries in the Table 01

- For **Motorola**, see Hong Kong Government Logistics Department Procurement and Management System record, <https://pcms2.gld.gov.hk/iprod/#/scn00202?keyWords=Motorola&particulars=&contractorName=&tenderNumber=&gazetteNoticeNumber=&departmentCode=&publicationYear=&publicationMonth=&contractAwardYear=&contractAwardMonth=&tenderProcedure=&advancedSearch=>
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- For **British Chamber of Commerce, American Chamber of Commerce, Australian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Indian Chamber of Commerce, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, see “Why Hong Kong Is a Magnet for Global Businesses,” Brand Hong Kong, <https://youtu.be/1C-hcMvc8zk>
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- For **Issuu**, see 羊村 2.0 (Sheep Village 2.0) Facebook post, https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0mNnonkJ-djpwFo4w9EELxMCniMTq3hR5EdrqSPX-bZufWviuTnoCCqzGDeiGHFf-

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- For **Disney**, see “Disney cuts ‘Simpsons’ episode from streaming service in Hong Kong,” Chan Ho-him, *Financial Times*, <https://www.ft.com/content/05d7df58-fc9a-4278-a0d7-3af5e34bc0c2> and “Disney+ appears to censor episode of *The Simpsons* in Hong Kong referencing Tiananmen Massacre,” Tom Grundy, *Hong Kong Free Press*, <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/11/29/disney-appears-to-censor-episode-of-the-simpsons-in-hong-kong-referencing-tiananmen-massacre/>
 - For **HSBC, Manulife, Fidelity International**, see “Inquiry into British Banks operating in Hong Kong,” All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong, <https://www.hkinquiry.org/banking-report>
 - For **BDO**, see “Inquiry into British Banks operating in Hong Kong,” All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong, <https://www.hkinquiry.org/banking-report>
 - For **Brookfield Asset Management, JPMorgan Chase, BlackRock, Citigroup, Amundi, KKR, Goldman Sachs, UBS, Blackstone, Morgan Stanley, HSBC, and Standard Chartered**, see: Hong Kong Monetary Authority schedule of Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit, <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/insight/inSight-on-Investment-Summit-Summit-Programme.pdf>.
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 - For **PayPal**, see: “PayPal halts payments to Hong Kong pro-democracy group, citing unspecified ‘excessive risks,’” *Hong Kong Free Press*, October 12, 2022, <https://hongkongfp.com>.

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 - For **Piexon**, see: “Explainer: Piexon JPX6—the new hi-tech pepper spray tool for Hong Kong riot police,” *Hong Kong Free Press*, June 6, 2020, <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/06/06/explainer-piexon-jpx6-the-new-hi-tech-pepper-spray-tool-for-hong-kong-riot-police/>.
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 - For **NonLethal Technologies**, see: “U.S. company supplying tear gas to Hong Kong police faces mounting criticism,” *Reuters*, October 11, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests-usa-teargas/u-s-company-supplying-tear-gas-to-hong-kong-police-faces-mounting-criticism-idUSKBN1WQ2M1>.
 - For **MSAB**, see “Swedish Technology Company Cuts Business Ties with Hong Kong,” *Bloomberg*, Sept 23, 2020, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-23/swedish-technology-company-cuts-business-ties-with-hong-kong?leadSource=verify%20wall>; “Hong Kong’s mass arrests are giving police crucial intelligence: people’s phones,” *Quartz*, May 6, 2020, <https://qz.com/1844937/hong-kongs-mass-arrests-give-police-access-to-phones>; Joshua Wong’s tweet, April 2, 2020, <https://twitter.com/joshuawongcfstatus/1245670249522839552?s=20&t=cTvhiMlogpke6XcQuGjF7A>.

