



# RESEARCH SUMMARY 2022



## Our Research

As part of our effort to provide the public, the media, and policymakers with the critical information needed to understand the current political situation in Hong Kong, HKDC offers a wide range of educational and research products.

Our research team has published reports on political prisoners, data privacy, and business misconduct in Hong Kong. In addition to these reports, HKDC currently maintains two regularly updated, publicly available databases tracking political repression in Hong Kong. In October of 2022, HKDC's research team discovered that the number of political prisoners in Hong Kong has exceeded 1,000 arrestees. Our organization has also hosted a series of webinars, panels,





and other educational events in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin, featuring not only HKDC team members but also distinguished human rights advocates, exiled Hong Kong politicians, esteemed policy analysts, and other allies of Hong Kong's fight for freedom.

In the future, HKDC plans to expand its research presence to include monthly policy briefings, on-the-ground research reports, in-depth policy analyses, and close monitoring of the Hong Kong government's misconduct. Read on to find out more about our research output.

# Hong Kong Reaches a Grim Milestone: 1,000 Political Prisoners

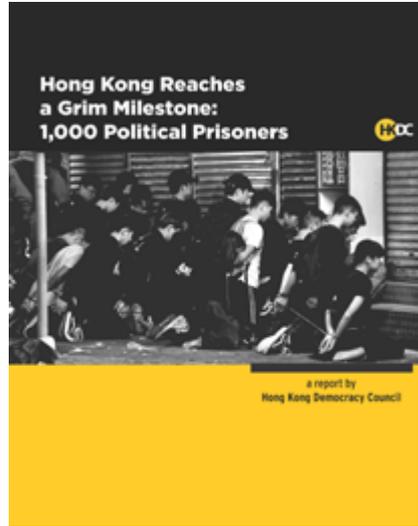
*First Released in May, 2022*

In this research report, HKDC examines a new, troubling phenomenon in Hong Kong: the exponential growth in the number of political prisoners since the start of the 2019 mass protests.

In the last three years, Hong Kong's government has detained political prisoners at an alarming rate rivaling only Belarus, Burma, and Cuba. In May of 2022, the number of political prisoners in Hong Kong passed the 1,000 mark. The aggregated length of sentences exceeds 772 years, while more than half of the political prisoners are under 25 year-old.

## Hong Kong Political Prisoners Database

The report is supplemented by the Hong Kong Political Prisoners Database, maintained and regularly updated by HKDC to facilitate human rights monitoring and advocacy.



Scan to read  
our full report



Scan to access  
our database

# **BUSINESS *NOT* AS USUAL: International Companies in the New Authoritarian Hong Kong**

*First Released in October, 2022*

This report seeks to document the unacceptable corporate behavior of international companies conducting business in Hong Kong as the globally renowned financial hub descends further into authoritarianism under China's tightened control. The documentation serves as a means to galvanize a broader discussion on concrete guidelines and policy tools for ensuring corporate responsibility in Hong Kong. The trajectory of the intensifying government-business complicity should be slowed down with effective measures.



## **International Corporate Bad Actors Database**

The report lists 42 instances of business misconduct in Hong Kong on the International Corporate Bad Actors Database and provides a typology of dubious government-business interactions in an attempt to monitor and facilitate discussion of international companies' behavior in the new authoritarian Hong Kong. The database is regularly maintained and updated by HKDC.



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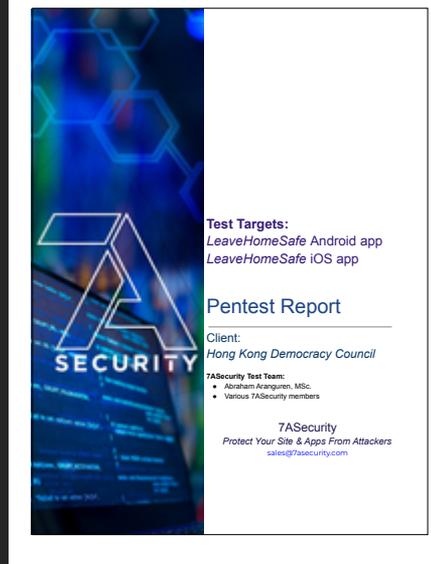
# A Blackbox Penetration Test and a Privacy Audit Conducted Against the *LeaveHomeSafe* solution

*First Released in July, 2022*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong government launched a digital contact tracing application, the LeaveHomeSafe applications. This report addresses the general concern about the potential security and privacy risks. The report outlines the results of a blackbox penetration test and a privacy audit.

This report found that the LeaveHomeSafe mobile applications are affected by a number of common misconfigurations, including (1) protection of network communications, (2) authentication implementation, (3) protection of data at rest, (4) mitigation of task hijacking attacks, (5) avoidance of screenshot leaks, and (6) general hardening.

The research project was done jointly with 7ASecurity and Open Technology Fund (OTF).



Scan to read our full report

# Future Research

In the future, HKDC will debut our first monthly policy briefing, which will provide a comprehensive rundown of policy issues related to Hong Kong. As part of our work to hold Hong Kong's government accountable for its authoritarian actions, HKDC will track, monitor, and analyze Hong Kong government policies, paying special attention to those that threaten the already-endangered freedom of Hong Kongers. HKDC's monthly policy briefing will also track Hong Kong government actions that have international significance, especially those that fit into the larger scope of U.S.-China relations and the global economic environment.

Additionally, HKDC is proud to announce that our monthly policy briefings will be supplemented by the Hong Kong Government Monitor, a long-term project focused on tracking the Hong Kong government's actions both in Hong Kong and overseas. Through these efforts, we hope to keep our partners in both Congress and civil society informed about the changing situation in Hong Kong, as well as identify any potential opportunities to curb the Hong Kong government's influence in the United States and elsewhere abroad.

Future HKDC research initiatives will also examine Hong Kong from a strategic perspective, focusing on the city's role as a strategic economic and technological hub. With an eye towards the importance of Hong Kong to the global economy, as well as the close relationship many Hong Kong companies and universities share with the Chinese government, HKDC will offer a new perspective on the way that Hong Kong fits into the global and Indo-Pacific geopolitical landscape.



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*HKDC* is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong's basic freedoms, the rule of law, and autonomy as promised under the "one country two systems" model and enshrined in the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

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