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Sharan Burrow

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Mr Eddie CHEUNG

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HTUR/JB

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Public protests in Hong Kong

Dear Mr Cheung,

In solidarity with our colleagues in the Hong Kong trade union movement striking on 2-3 September, and on behalf of the ITUC, representing 207 million workers in 163 countries and territories, including Hong Kong, I urge the administration of Hong Kong to allow the public to protest without facing harassment and violence from the police and others.

Hong Kong is a signatory party to the ICCPR and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials both of which are being infringed by the police.

Our sisters and brothers in the Hong Kong trade union movement have, in common with other protesters, made five demands: permanent withdrawal of the extradition law; release of the arrested protesters without charge; withdrawal by the authorities of their characterisation of the 12 June protests as "riots"; an independent investigation into police violence and abuse of power; and implementation of universal suffrage.

We support those demands, and believe that the Hong Kong administration should initiate a dialogue with the people by accepting them.

If the administration does not allow the people of Hong Kong to exercise their fundamental and inalienable human rights to freedom of association, assembly, speech and the right to strike, the potential economic and financial impact on Hong Kong and on China generally could be severe and long-lasting.

To amplify our message, the ITUC, along with its Belgian affiliates ACV-CSC, ABVV-FGTB, ACLVB-CGSLB, the European Trade Union Confederation, and the Brussels based Education International and International Federation of Journalists representing teachers and journalists worldwide, will be organising a peaceful demonstration in support of the protesters in Hong Kong in front of your offices in Brussels on Monday 2 September 2019 from 1PM to 2PM.

We would welcome the opportunity to convey our views directly to you in a personal meeting with the heads of our delegation on that occasion.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary