



Hong Kong activists take their fight to D.C.

September 18, 2019



Hong Kong democracy activists spoke to members of the U.S. Congress on Tuesday, in a bid to win support for a bill that would force Washington to review its relationship with Hong Kong amid months-long protests.

(SOUNDBITE) (English) HONG KONG DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST, JOSHUA WONG, SAYING:
"As I speak, Hong Kong is standing at a critical juncture.

The stakes have **never been higher**."

1. Hong Kong democracy activists _____

2-1. They're hoping _____

2-2. which - if passed by Congress - would create a yearly review _____

2-3. and make officials who undermine the city's sovereignty _____

3-1. Joshua Wong - _____

3-2. called on the U.S. _____

HONG KONG PROTEST LEADER, JOSHUA WONG, SAYING:

"I hope, U.S. government could reveal its foreign policy to China to prioritize human rights issues, especially now we are not only suffering in a political but even a humanitarian crisis."

4. Celebrity activist Denise Ho _____

5. And said she's **risking** arrest _____

HONG KONG PROTEST LEADER AND SINGER/ACTRESS, DENISE HO, SAYING:

"As a singer and activist from Hong Kong, I have experienced the suppression firsthand. Ever since the Umbrella Movement in 2014, I have **been** blacklisted by the Communist government. My songs and my name are **censored** on Chinese internet. Right now, I am facing threats from pro-Beijing supporters and could face arrest and prosecution at any time."

6. It's coming _____

7. The two leaders are trying to find a way _____

8-1. Now, with activists calling the situation in Hong Kong a - quote - " _____

8-2. it's added _____

9. Trump **has** suggested China should "humanely" settle the months-long problem, _____

10-1. Separately, China **has** denied allegations _____

10-2. and accused foreign powers - especially Britain and the U.S. - _____

[Vocabulary]

□ **juncture**: a stage in a process or activity; a crisis situation or point in time when a critical decision must be made

• *He must be made to realize that the company stands at a critical juncture.*

□ **stakes**: The stakes involved in a contest or a risky action are the things that can be gained or lost.

• *The game was usually played for high stakes between two large groups.*

• *For the president the political stakes could hardly have been higher.*

□ **bill**: a written document containing a proposal for a new law

• *A bill was passed increasing the minimum wage.*

□ **undermine**: to make something or someone become gradually less effective, confident, or successful, important

• *This could undermine years of hard work.*

• *Britain was accused of undermining international efforts to reduce pollution.*

□ **sovereignty**: the right to rule a country

• *a dispute over the sovereignty of the islands*

• *Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.*

□ **vulnerable**: someone who is vulnerable is weak or easy to hurt physically or mentally; susceptible to criticism

• *The government must help the most vulnerable groups in our society.*

• *Their constant arguments left her feeling increasingly vulnerable and insecure.*

□ **Joshua Wong**: (born 13 October 1996) is a Hong Kong student activist and politician who serves as secretary-general of pro-democracy party Demosistō. Wong was previously convenor and founder of the Hong Kong student activist group Scholarism. Wong first rose to international prominence during the 2014 Hong Kong protests, and his pivotal role in the Umbrella Movement resulted in his inclusion in TIME magazine's Most Influential Teens of 2014 and nomination for its 2014 Person of the Year; he was further called one of the "world's greatest leaders" by *Fortune* magazine in 2015, and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

□ **icon**: someone who is very famous and who people think represents a particular idea

□ **call on**: to have recourse to or make an appeal or request for help or information to

• *We received an overwhelming response when we called on our members to donate to this very important cause.*

□ **stand up to**: to not allow yourself to be treated badly, especially by someone in authority

• *Nobody thought he would be brave enough to stand up to her.*

□ **prioritize**: to decide in what order you should do things, based on how important or urgent they are; to treat a particular job or issue as being more important than any others

• *The committee has to prioritize the school's needs.*

• *A decision was taken to prioritize investment in alternative energy supplies.*

□ **humanitarian**: caring about someone who is in a very bad situation or receiving unfair treatment

• *His humanitarian acts saved lives of many refugees.*

□ **humanitarian crisis**: a singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety or well being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area. Local, national and international responses are necessary in such events.

□ **Denise Ho**: ((born 10 May 1977), is a Hong Kong-based Cantopop singer and actress, as well as a pro-democracy and LGBT rights activist. Ho has been blacklisted by the China government for her active participation in the 2014 Umbrella Movement. She has since turned into an activist and independent artist from a pop diva.

□ **involvement**: the act of taking part in an activity, event, or situation

□ **suppression**: forceful prevention; putting down by power or authority

• *'the heavy-handed suppression of political dissent'*

□ **firsthand**: at first hand or directly

• *"I heard this story firsthand."*

□ **Umbrella Movement**: The **Umbrella Movement** was a political movement that emerged during the Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014. Its name arose from the use of umbrellas as a tool for passive resistance to the Hong Kong Police's use of pepper spray to disperse the crowd during a 79-day occupation of the city demanding more transparent elections, which was sparked by the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) of 31 August 2014 that prescribed a selective pre-screening of candidates for the 2017 election of Hong Kong's chief executive.

The movement consisted of individuals numbering in the tens of thousands who participated in the protests that began on 26 September 2014, although Scholarism, the Hong Kong Federation of Students, Occupy Central with Love and Peace (OCLP) are groups principally driving the demands for the rescission of the NPCSC decision. Since the start of the 2014 protests, movement activists have complained of harassment from political opponents "alarmingly similar to the way mainland Chinese activists and their families have long been targeted" and have been prosecuted and jailed for their participation in acts of protest.

□ **censor**: to remove parts of a book, movie, letter, etc. for moral, religious, or political reasons; to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered politically unacceptable, or a threat to security.

• *The news has been censored.*

□ **pro-**: supporting something or approving of it: used with some nouns and adjectives

• *pro-European*

• *pro-Beijing*:

□ **prosecution**: the process or act of accusing someone of a crime and asking a court of law to judge them

- *He could face prosecution over the incident.*
- *She narrowly escaped prosecution.*

□ **awkward**: difficult to deal with and embarrassing

- *Luckily nobody asked any awkward questions about what he was doing there.*
- *It's a little awkward, because he's my friend but I'm still his boss.*

□ **dimension**: a part of a situation, especially when it influences the way you think about the situation

- *Doing volunteer work has added a whole new dimension to my life.*

□ **reach**: to achieve something after discussing it or thinking about it for a long time

- *An agreement was finally reached last night.*

□ **allegation**: a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal even though this has not been proved

- *There were allegations that the movie encouraged violence.*

□ **meddle**: to become involved in a situation that you have no right to be involved in, in a way that is annoying

- *I never meddle in other people's private affairs.*

□ **power**: a country that is able to influence other countries because of its economic or military strength

- *China has emerged as a major economic power in Asia.*

□ **foreign powers**:

□ **fuel**: to make something increase or become worse, especially something unpleasant; to increase a feeling or a type of behaviour or make it stronger

- *The rapid promotion of the director's son has itself fueled resentment within the company.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, Wikipedia]