



Beijing issues a warning as Hong Kong's protests rage on

August 05, 2019

Thousands of protesters took to Hong Kong's streets on Sunday, a day after violent clashes between anti-government protesters and police, and as China's official news agency warned Beijing will not let the situation in the Asian financial hub continue.

For months, this has been a familiar sight - thousands of protesters on the streets of Hong Kong.

But now Beijing has said it will not let the situation persist.

China's official news agency Xinhua said on Sunday (August 4) said that the central government will not - quote - 'sit idly by.'

That coming after violent weekend clashes, with police firing tear gas to disperse the crowds.

Authorities say more than 20 people were arrested overnight.

Protesters targeted this police building on Sunday - where they threw rocks to smash its windows, and they have called for a mass strike to take place on Monday (August 5) - aimed at bringing the Chinese-controlled city to a halt.

Months of unrest were sparked by a now-suspended bill that would see people extradited to mainland China to stand trial.

But their anger has broadened into wider discontent, prompting demands for dramatic reform and greater democracy.

The protests mark the most serious **political crisis** in Hong Kong since its return to Chinese rule 22 years ago.