



Hearing in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic,

under the auspices of

Minister of Science, Research and Innovation Mme. Helena Langšádlová

and

Foreign Affairs Committee member Mme. Eva Decroix MP

The Extradition Treaty with Hong Kong
In light of the State Security Law

Date: 5 September 2022, 18:00

Venue: Room 106, Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic

Language: English

Between 2013 – 2014, the Czech Republic concluded three agreements with Hong Kong, including: an agreement on the transfer of convicted persons; an agreement on the transfer of persons wanted for criminal proceedings; and an agreement on mutual assistance in criminal matters. As the names of the agreements imply, each is aimed at a different stage or acts of criminal proceedings. The agreement that has aroused the greatest controversy following the adoption of the Hong Kong State Security Law, and which the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic has already called on the government of Andrej Babiš to rescind, is the agreement on the transfer of persons wanted for criminal proceedings.

With the imposition of the State Security Law on Hong Kong in July 2020 and subsequent acts such as the new election law, a legal situation similar to that of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has arisen in Hong Kong. It is not just the (State Security) Law itself, but the introduction of the entire State Security bureaucracy into the Hong Kong judicial and political systems. Hong Kong's legal system has been fundamentally transformed and essentially merged with that of the PRC. The termination or suspension of the agreement is, among other things, an expression of protest against the arbitrary subversion by the PRC of Hong Kong's legal system, guaranteed by international conventions.

The Czech Republic, along with Portugal, is one of the last EU countries to maintain an extradition treaty with Hong Kong. Both the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, of which the Czech Republic currently holds the Presidency, have repeatedly called for the suspension of the relevant agreements.

Panelists:

Martin Hála, Director of Sinopsis

Laura Harth, Campaign Director, Safeguard Defenders

Simon Cheng, Hong Kong, UK

Samuel M. Chu, Hong Kong, USA

Finn Lau, Hong Kong, UK

Iverson Ng, Hong Kong, Estonia

Jan Vlček, Sinopsis

Moderation - Kateřina Procházková, Sinopsis

Program:

Opening remarks 18:00

Mme. Eva Decroix, member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Parliament

Pavel Fischer, Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Czech Republic Parliament

Ministers of the Government of the Czech Republic: Mme Helena Langšádlová, Mr. Jan Lipavský, Mr. Pavel Blažek

Panel discussion 18:15

Presentations by Martin Hála, Laura Harth, Simon Cheng, Samuel Chu, Finn Lau, Iverson Ng, Jan Vlček

(5 mins presentation each panelist)

19:00 - 19:30 Q and A session / Conclusion - Recommendations to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and to the Government of the Czech Republic

Statement for the media

Short CV's of the panelists:

Martin Hala (Ph.D.) is the founder and director of Sinopsis.cz, and a researcher at Charles University in Prague. Educated in Prague, Shanghai, Berkeley and Harvard, he taught in Prague, Bratislava and Lisbon, and led projects in various countries in Asia. Prior to founding Sinopsis, he was the Regional Manager for Asia Pacific at the Open Society Foundations.

***Laura Harth** is Campaign Director at **Safeguard Defenders**, a human rights NGO that undertakes and supports activities for the protection of human rights, promotion of the rule of law and enhancement of civil society capacity in some of Asia's most hostile environments. Focused on the PRC, it also leads efforts to counter growing transnational repression by the CCP around the world through both direct actions and extensive global advocacy efforts at all policy levels. Laura also coordinates the Global Magnitsky campaign of the **Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China** and acts as an adviser to **Hong Kong Watch**. Previously a contributor to **Hong Kong-based Apple Daily's English edition**, she regularly writes on Italian outlets and is co-authored a report with **Sinopsis** to expose and counter CCP malign influence operations in Italy.*

***Simon Cheng** is Hong Kong exiled pro-democracy activist, a founder of the UK-wide Hong Kong diasporic non-profit organisation - **Hongkongers in Britain**. Simon studied at **National Taiwan University** and **London School of Economics** for political science, international relations and European studies, and worked for trade and investment at **British Consulate General Hong Kong**. Due to his staunch pro-democracy stance. Simon is known by many, when he was detained by Chinese authorities, hunted by state security police, stigmatised by the state media, and now as a political refugee and **British National (Overseas)** citizen in the UK.*

***Samuel M. Chu** is a community organizer for human rights, equality, and democracy locally and globally. He is the founder and President of **The Campaign for Hong Kong**. Most recently, he was the founding and managing director of **Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)**, the Washington DC-based, nonpartisan voice for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement and **Hong Kongers in the US**. Launched in 2019, HKDC successfully passed landmark legislation such as the **Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act**, the **Hong Kong Autonomy Act**, and numerous other policies supporting Hong Kong.*

***Finn Lau** is an advocate-in-exile and one of the 2019 Hong Kong movement leaders officially wanted by the Hong Kong authority. Finn was detained under inhumane conditions in Hong Kong and was beaten to near death by Chinese Communist Party's agents in London in 2020. He underpinned key strategies for the Hong Kong movement and launched global initiatives throughout 2019-22 addressing Hong Kong and China democracy and human rights issues. As a chartered UK profession, Finn also specialises in infrastructure development with working experience across Hong Kong, Singapore and London in addition to his policy advocacy work across multiple parliaments like the Swedish, Danish, Swiss, UK, Canadian and European Parliament.*

***Iverson Ng** is founder of the **Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong. (SWHK)**, that is an independent, grassroots, crowdfunded global advocacy group consisting of Hongkongers who have come together to advocate for Hong Kong's freedom and democracy. SWHK members*

come from diverse backgrounds in age, occupation, year of migration and political ideology. Following the promulgation of the State Security Law in June 2020 by the Chinese Communist Party, SWHK is one of the few grassroots organisations representing the voice of Hongkongers operating in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

As a leaderless, collaborative and concensus-driven organisation mostly run by volunteers, SWHK regional teams have advocated for policy changes on Hong Kong affairs in the EU institutions, British parliament and the US Congress. The SWHK EU team has successfully advocated for the establishment of the Informal Hong Kong Watch Group at the European Parliament, Hong Kong Support Group at the Estonian parliament Riigikogu, and two Hong Kong resolutions at the Lithuanian parliament Seimas.

***Jan Vlček** is a lawyer and researcher at Sinopsis. He focuses on the PRC's legal affairs, including Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law. In his thesis Jan wrote about the regulation of personality rights in the PRC's 2021 Civil Code. He is the author of a legal analysis recommending the Czech Republic's withdrawal from the HK Extradition Treaty. Jan studied in Prague, London and Beijing.*