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| sismun2019 | hong kong crisis  |

**Brief Description of the Committee:**

This is a crisis committee organized in order to respond to the civil unrest in Hong Kong. This crisis committee will operate under the pretense that the civil disturbances could get worse, and it is the duty of this committee to produce an agreement between all blocs to solve this issue. This committee will also operate under crisis updates, which will be provided accordingly.

**This is a crisis committee! There are crisis mechanics built into the flow of debate. The chairs and secretariat recommend that you check out the SISMUN crisis guide. It will be emailed to your sponsors and will also be on the SISMUN website.**

**Statement of the Problem:** 

In March, a new bill was introduced to Hong Kong’s Legislative Council (the legislating body of Hong Kong, unicameral). This bill was proposed by a member of Carrie Lam’s cabinet and intended to establish extradition guidelines between the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and many other countries. Taiwan has refused to comply with the bill so long as China is included in it. Such extradition agreements were not in place beforehand, leaving fugitives in the hands of the Hong Kong, or Hong Kong going through

each case and sorting out the criminals. Proponents of the bill claim the bill is a portal to the mainland and would allow for Beijing to scoop up Hong Kongers and ship them off to the mainland which is a clear violation of Basic Law. The introduction of the bill caused complicated debate within the Legislative Council. Under the law, criminals that commit any of the 37 crimes listed within the bill would be eligible for extradition to mainland China. Political crimes such as bribery and corruption would be excluded, but protesters fear that the bill would justify the taking of Hong Kongers from Hong Kong into the mainland. Furthermore, proponents of the bill believe it would land Hong Kongers in the hands of the odd and unfair justice system under the influence of Beijing. [[1]](#footnote-1)

The first large demonstration occurred on June 9th, in which roughly one million protestors peacefully gathered in opposition to the bill. No violence took place. In spite of the large-scale opposition, Carrie Lam refused to withdraw the bill. 3 days later, protestors gathered again and clashed with the police, sparking violence between the two parties. Protestors became disgruntled by the use of police force and overran several buildings in Hong Kong, including the Legislative Council building.

The police force has utilized several techniques in responding to the protests. Critics have arisen to such techniques. There have been instances of the deployment of bean bag rounds, rubber rounds and batons against the protesters. They have been widely questioned by the activists and pro-democracy camp.

On September 4th 2019, Carrie Lam withdrew the extradition bill, declaring it “dead.” [[2]](#footnote-2) Although the bill has no chance of coming into force, protesters are demanding an investigation into alleged police brutality, full perpetual democracy in Hong Kong and the resignation of Mrs. Lam, so this crisis is far from over. [[3]](#footnote-3)

**Historical Context:**

**“His Majesty the Emperor of China cedes to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain… the island of Hong-Kong, to be possessed in perpetuity by her Britannic Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and to be governed by such laws and regulations as Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, shall see fit to direct…”**

**“...This lease shall last 99 years…”**

Hong Kong is the product of a British-Chinese deal in 1898 for a total of 99 years. During WWII, Hong Kong was occupied by Japanese forces. At the closing of the second World War, British reasserted government across the island. In the late 20th century, the Hong Kong Basic Law was devised as a constitution for the island that would take effect after the expiration of the 99-year lease, in which the territory would be relinquished of British authority and China would take over. This constitution safeguards Hong Kong rights such as freedom of speech, right to ownership, etc. as well as the establishment of a government structure that would embody democratic values. Such system was coined as the “one country, two systems” principle by Deng Xiaopeng. [[4]](#footnote-4)Today the Basic Law still reigns supreme in Hong Kong.

Despite the establishment of a relatively democratic and non-authoritative government in the Special Administrative Region, the citizens of Hong Kong have risen against the government multiple times. In 2014, a new electoral rule was placed on the process of electing a Chief Executive in Hong Kong. Candidates for this post were to be screened by the Chinese Communist Party. Hong Kong took this as a violation of the One Country, Two Systems principle and immediately took to the streets for roughly 4 months, sparking the Umbrella Movement.[[5]](#footnote-5) With previous background with civil unrest, Hong Kongers are unsettled by the supposed encroachment of the mainland government onto the Hong Kong government.

**Your Goal as a Committee:**

As a crisis, you’ve been put together in short notice to promptly address the issue as heads of state and vital observers to the situation. The situation in Hong Kong worsens by the day, and the topics of alleged police brutality, the extradition bill, civil disorder and the upholding of Hong Kong’s democracy must be addressed and potentially solved by this committee. The people of Hong Kong are calling!

**Questions, Blocs and Links to Consider:**

PRO-BEIJING BLOC, PRO-DEMOCRACY BLOC, INTERVENTION BLOC, PEACE BLOC

Is Beijing, under Xi’s tenure, attempting to undermine the sovereignty of Hong Kong?

Are the demonstrators overreacting to the extradition bill?

Has Carrie Lam acted accordingly while dealing with the unpopular bill?

What should be done to address the void in extradition guidelines?

Should mainland China assert authority in order to quell the protests?

Should the demands of the protesters be complied with? (resignation of Lam, investigation into police brutality, etc.)

[**https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-47810723**](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-47810723)

[**https://time.com/5628021/roy-kwong-hong-kong-protests/**](https://time.com/5628021/roy-kwong-hong-kong-protests/)

[**https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-latest-airport-china-military-response-a9055591.html**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-latest-airport-china-military-response-a9055591.html)

[**https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/asia/hong-kong-protests-evolution-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html**](https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/asia/hong-kong-protests-evolution-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html)

[**https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/15/world/asia/hong-kong-protest.html**](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/15/world/asia/hong-kong-protest.html)

**Roles:**

* Carrie Lam (Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR)
* Xi Ji Ping (People’s Republic of China)
* Tsai Ing Win (Republic of China)
* Donald Trump (United States)
* Vladimir Putin (Russian Federation)
* Kim Jong Un (DPRK)
* Moon Jae in (ROK)
* Shinzo Abe (Japan)
* Justin Trudeau (Canada)
* Angela Merkel (Germany)
* Boris Johnson (United Kingdom)
* Emmanuel Macron (France)
* Rodrigo Duterte (Philippines)
* Narendra Modi (India)
* Halimah Yacob (Singapore)
* Jair Bolsanaro (Brazil)
* Imram Khan (Pakistan)

**Observers (Non-vote)**

* Fernando Chui (Chief Executive, Macau SAR)
* Andrew Leung (President of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong)
* Roy Kwong (Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, Pro-Democracy)
* Joshua Wong (Hong Kong activist, Secretary General of Demosisto)
* Stephen Lo (Commissioner of  Hong Kong Police)
* Weng Fenghe (Minister of Defence of the People’s Republic of China)

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1. “Hong Kong Extradition Bill” NY Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/10/world/asia/hong-kong-extradition-bill.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Hong Kong Leader Formally Withdraws The Extradition Bill That Sparked Weeks Of Unrest” Times <https://time.com/5668232/hong-kong-extradition-bill-carrie-lam-withdraw/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Hong Kong protests: Petrol bombs and water cannons used in clashes” British Broadcasting Corporation <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49705988> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Hong Kong profile – Timeline” British Broadcasting Corporation <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16526765> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement – Guardian briefing” The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/30/-sp-hong-kong-umbrella-revolution-pro-democracy-protests> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)