



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

July 7, 2023

The Honorable  
Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your June 7 letter to Secretary Blinken. We share your concerns regarding the ongoing crackdown on protestors in Hong Kong and condemn the People's Republic of China's (PRC) continuing assault on Hong Kong's autonomy and democratic institutions. We remain deeply concerned by this deterioration of promised rights and freedoms and the undermining of Hong Kong's autonomy, including through the use of the Beijing-imposed National Security Law.

We have consistently highlighted these concerns in our reports to the Congress and in public statements from senior Department of State officials. In the 2023 Hong Kong Policy Act Report, the Department detailed how the PRC central government and Hong Kong government's actions under Chief Executive John Lee are having a negative impact on Hong Kong's judicial independence and the rule of law. Officials at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau regularly raise these concerns with government officials and in their public engagements. We continue to monitor the situation very closely and are further concerned by reports that the Hong Kong government intends to overhaul the district council elections process to greatly reduce direct voting for local representatives, as well as by the recent arrests of people peacefully commemorating the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

The United States looks forward to hosting APEC this year and to expanding and deepening economic ties within APEC for the benefit of the American people and our partners. As host of APEC 2023, we have committed to work towards participation of delegations from the 21 member economies in APEC events but have made clear this participation must be in accordance with U.S. law and regulations, including with respect to sanctions. The United States has not issued invitations and has not made any commitments regarding invitations to the APEC Economic Leaders' Week program in November. The Biden-Harris Administration will continue to work with Congress on the U.S. APEC host year.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Naz Durakoglu  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs