

# HK activist leaves jail, vows to join protests

- Organisers said two million people marched on Sunday calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam
- Many Hong Kongers believe China's leaders are stamping down on the financial hub's unique freedoms and culture.
- China's foreign ministry said the protests are "not in line with the mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong"
- Hundreds were still blocking a road outside Lam's office



Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong (C) leaves Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute in Hong Kong

- One of the main leaders of the 2014 pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement," which paralysed key intersections of the city for more than 2 months
- Co-founder of Demosisto movement, which calls for self-determination of Hong Kong through non-violent means

Jailed for six months in August 2017 for his role in the protests but released after prison term was overturned

Sent to jail for contempt of court May 16, 2019, a separate protest-related charge

Released from jail June 17

## Xi Jinping dealt a blow

Analysts say China's powerful president Xi Jinping has been dealt a rare setback with the suspension of the extradition law -- although they warned Beijing would bite back by tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city.

"It's a massive repudiation of the idea that Hong Kong will be effectively, over time, fully absorbed into mainland China," said Bill Bishop, publisher of the Sinocism China Newsletter.

"You will see a redoubling of efforts by the party to squeeze Hong Kong in ways that are not necessarily going to be totally obvious," he said.

The violent crowd control measures on Wednesday, used by police as protesters tried to storm the city's parliament to stop the bill being debated, have proved enormously costly for Lam's government.

"I think she has lost any remaining credibility or legitimacy to rule in Hong Kong because of her own mishandling of this whole affair," lawmaker Charles Mok told RTHK Radio.

Protesters have called on her to resign, shelve the bill permanently and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets on Wednesday. They have also demanded all charges be dropped against anyone arrested.

"We will have to stay here till Carrie Lam changes her mind," said Candy, 32.

But others weren't sure if Lam's resignation would make a difference given Beijing's hold on the city.

### Hong Kong, China

Leading Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong walked free from prison yesterday and vowed to join historic anti-government protests rocking the finance hub, as activists kept up pressure on the city's embattled pro-Beijing leader.

Organisers said some two million people -- more than a quarter of the population -- marched in tropical heat on Sunday calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam and protesting against a bill that would have allowed extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

Hundreds were still blocking a road outside Lam's office on Monday, demanding dialogue with the authorities.

The city has witnessed unprecedented scenes with two record-breaking rallies a week apart punctuated by violent clashes between protesters and police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Wong, the poster child of the huge pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement" protests of 2014, became the latest voice to call for Lam's resignation as he was released from a sentence imposed over his leadership of those demonstrations.

"She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader," said Wong, who was sent to prison in May but released early for good behaviour. "I will also fight with all Hong Kongers to oppose the evil China extradition law."

Opposition to the extradition bill united an unusually wide cross-section of Hong Kong in recent weeks, from influential legal and business bodies to religious leaders.

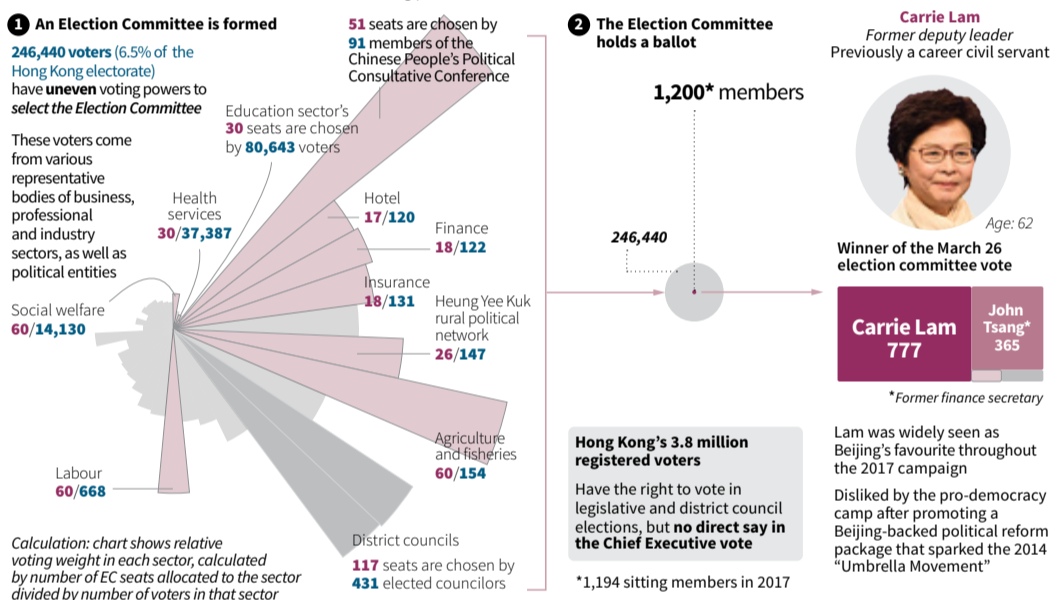
And while the spark for the last week of protests has been the threat of extradition to China, the movement has since morphed into the latest expression of public rage against both the city's leaders and Beijing.

Many Hong Kongers believe China's leaders are stamping down on the financial hub's unique freedoms and culture.

### Chosen by the few: Hong Kong's Chief Executive

The system that picked Carrie Lam as leader of the autonomous Chinese territory with 777 votes

The Election Committee (EC) chose the Chief Executive via a simple majority vote, but the process of selecting that committee was based on an uneven distribution of voting power



She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader. I will also fight with all Hong Kongers to oppose the evil China extradition law

JOSHUA WONG



### Hong Kong protest June 16

Huge crowds turned out the day after Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam said she would 'suspend' the bill that would have allowed extraditions to China



- ▶ Organisers estimate a near 2 million turnout
- ▶ Police counted 338,000 at its 'peak'
- ▶ Lam's office late Sunday put out a statement admitting the shortcomings in her administration had "led to a lot of conflict and disputes"

They point to the failure of the "Umbrella Movement" to win any concessions, the imprisonment of protest leaders, the disqualification of popular lawmakers and the disappearance of Beijing-critical booksellers, among recent examples.

Critics feared the Beijing-backed extradition law would entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub, sparking unprecedented protest turnouts.

In an interview with HK01 on Monday, Lam's top advisor Bernard Chan said no chief executive would dare reintroduce the bill now.

The estimate for Sunday's massive rally has not been independently verified but if confirmed it would be the largest demonstration in Hong Kong's history.

Police, who historically give far lower estimates for political protests, said 338,000 people turned out at the demonstration's "peak" -- still their largest crowd estimate on record.

## Trump to raise HK protests with Xi at G20: Pompeo

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will discuss the mass protests in Hong Kong with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the upcoming G20 summit, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday.

"I think we'll get the opportunity to see President Xi in just a couple weeks now at the G20 summit. I'm sure this will be among the issues that they discuss," Pompeo said in an interview with "Fox News Sunday." "We see what's happening, what's unfolding in Hong Kong. We are watching the people of Hong Kong speak about the things they value," Pompeo added. Trump said he hoped the protesters would "work it out" with China, while stopping short of condemning the legislation.

# Beijing says will 'firmly support' Hong Kong leader Lam

### Beijing

Beijing reiterated its backing of Hong Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam yesterday.

Although Lam offered a rare concession on Saturday, she

stopped short of committing to permanently scrapping the unpopular law.

Her gesture was swiftly rejected by protest leaders who called on her to resign, shelve the bill

entirely and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets earlier in the week.

But Lam -- the first woman to get the international financial hub's top job -- continues to

enjoy support from the Chinese leadership.

"The central government will continue to firmly support the chief executive and efforts by the government of the Special

Administrative Region to govern according to law," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing.

"Many facts have shown that foreign governments and even

some politicians have been making inflammatory remarks since the decision of the Hong Kong government to start amending the extradition ordinance in February," Lu said.