



**Statement in relation to upholding the independence of the legal profession
and the criminal justice system by The Law Society of Hong Kong**

1. The Law Society expresses grave concern over interference in Hong Kong's legal profession and criminal justice system. Such interference threatens the independence of the legal profession and the criminal justice system and should cease.
2. The Law Society reiterates the guarantees for the functioning of lawyers provided in the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers ("UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers"), namely, governments shall ensure that lawyers:
 - (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference;
 - (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and
 - (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.
3. Further, the power to control criminal prosecutions free from any interference is constitutionally vested in the Department of Justice ("DoJ") under Article 63 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
4. The Law Society strongly condemns any attempt to assert pressure to inhibit the proper functioning of lawyers, contrary to the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, and to interfere with DoJ's power to control criminal prosecutions in Hong Kong, contrary to Article 63 of the Basic Law.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

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