

By email
(odpp@doj.gov.hk)

Department of Justice
Mr Michael WONG
Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions
Prosecutions Division
12/F, West Wing, Justice Place
18 Lower Albert Road
Central, Hong Kong

Geneva, 1 September 2021

Grave concerns about the conviction of Lawyers Margaret NG, Martin LEE and Albert HO

Your Excellency,

We acknowledge receipt of your reply of 12 July to our letter dated 6 May 2021.

We thank you for having taken into account our concerns and the questions raised in relation to our colleagues Margaret NG, Martin LEE and Albert HO.

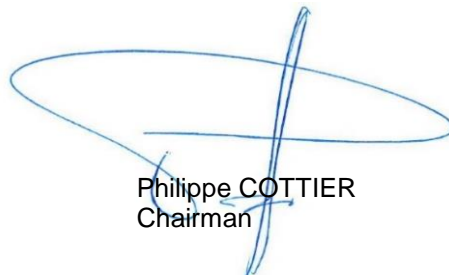
Please be assured that our intervention was in no way intended to call into question the impartiality of your judicial system or that of its officials.

As already noted, the State of Hong Kong has subscribed to a number of international commitments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, as a normative under customary international law. As an association representing, inter alia, the interests of lawyers worldwide, it is also our mission to draw the attention of the competent authorities of the States concerned to situations such as the one in the present case, in order to ensure that the rights of our colleagues to freely exercise their profession, including legitimate human rights actions, are respected in accordance with the laws in force.

We can only welcome the values of respect for the rule of law, transparency and independence of the judicial system as well as equality between all citizens that you reaffirm in your letter with strength and conviction.

We thank you for your attention and will respectfully continue to closely monitor the present case and any other situation involving human rights lawyers exercising their profession with conviction, courage and respect for the law.

Respectfully yours,



Philippe COTTIER
Chairman

- cc. Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Switzerland, His Excellency Ambassador Wang SHITING, Kalcheggweg 10, 3006 Berne (china-embassy@bluewin.ch)
- Embassy of Switzerland in China, His Excellency Ambassador Bernardino REGAZZONI, Sanlitun Dongwujie 3, Beijing 100600, People's Republic of China (beijing@eda.admin.ch)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Mr Diego GARCÍA-SAYÁN (srindependencejl.dgs@gmail.com; srindependencejl@ohchr.org)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mrs Mary LAWLOR (defenders@ohchr.org)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Mr Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE (freeassembly@ohchr.org)
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle BACHELET (civilsociety@ohchr.org)
- Security Bureau, 10th Floor, East Wing, Central Government Offices, Tim Mei Avenue 2, Tamar, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China (sbenq@sb.gov.hk)