



## **Continuing Collapse of Democracy in Hong Kong: Press Freedom Dies with Closure of Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy Media Platform, Apple Daily**

25 June 2021

Seoul, Korea – The Chinese government continues to execute its plan to eradicate democracy and human rights in Hong Kong. One year after the National Security Law was put into place another elimination of a democratic right, press freedom. On 23 June 2021, it was officially announced that Apple Daily, Hong Kong's popular pro-democracy newspaper will be closing on 23 June 2021 and release its final edition of the print paper on 26 June 2021.

Through the NSL, the Chinese government insists on eradicating fundamental freedoms and strip democracy from Hong Kong. Right under our nose, have we witnessed the continued arrest, threat, and punishment of any dissent against the mainland. With the closing of Apple Daily, we are seeing an extinction of independent media in the city and denying the important role they play in a vibrant democracy. Press freedom is vital to a democracy, journalists and independent media actors play a vital role in keeping those in power accountable and providing free flow of objective information to the masses.

It is a sad day for democracy. The Asia region must react and act. The devastating deteriorating of press freedom in Hong Kong is not an isolated problem and bears great threats and implications to the state of democracy of the region.

The Asia Democracy Network calls on the authorities to stop its assault on the autonomy and democratic institutions of Hong Kong and to abide by its international obligations to basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. We demand to free all those detained in Hong Kong and for the restoration of democracy and human rights.

-END-