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RAIOResearch@USCIS.DHS.GOV

Hong Kong Country Conditions



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Three Key Events:

- 2014 Umbrella Movement protests
- 2019 protests against proposed extradition bill
- 2020 passage of the national security law



Status of Hong Kong

- Hong Kong people are citizens of the People's Republic of China (PRC)
- Hong Kong Special Autonomous Region (SAR)
- The Basic Law
- Recommended reading: Jeffrey Wasserstrom, *Vigil: Hong Kong on the Brink*, 2020.



Hong Kong's “high degree of autonomy”?

- Threats to Hong Kong's autonomy have led to increasing protests in recent years.
- Many Hong Kong people consider themselves distinct from citizens for the PRC more generally.



Hong Kong: Language

- Cantonese – Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangdong province including the cities of Guangzhou (Canton) and Shenzhen
- Mandarin – Most of the rest of Mainland China
 - Recommended reading: [Hong Kong Identity and the Rise of Mandarin](#), The Diplomat, Feb. 14, 2019
- Writing: Traditional (Hong Kong) vs. Simplified (Mainland) characters



Hong Kong Documentation



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Hong Kong Passport



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Hong Kong Passport (cont.)



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Hong Kong Identity Cards

Permanent Identity Card



Identity Card



Human Rights Abuses

- Mass Arrests of Protesters
- Charges and Sentences against Protest Leaders and Participants
- Charges against Pro-Democracy Legislators
- Lack of Independent Investigation into Allegations of Police Abuses, including Torture
- Attacks on Protesters by “Thugs”



Non-State (?) Persecutors

- 2014 Night Market Attacks
- July 2019 Yuen Long Transit Station Attacks
 - “Triad” involvement?
 - Government support for attacks?
- Recommended readings:
 - In Hong Kong, are ‘thugs for hire’ behind the attacks on protesters?, Washington Post, July 24, 2019
 - ‘Where were the police?’ Hong Kong outcry after masked thugs launch attack, The Guardian, July 22, 2019
 - Hong Kong protests: Were triads involved in the attacks?, BBC News, July 22, 2019



National Security Law (June 2020)

- Created new governmental organs reporting to the Chinese central government:
 - Office of Safeguarding National Security
 - National Security Committee
 - National Security Branch of the Hong Kong Police
- Created four new categories of offenses and corresponding penalties:
 - Secession
 - Subversion
 - Terrorist Activities
 - Collusion with a Foreign Country or External Elements to Endanger National Security



Hongkongers in Mainland PRC and Macau

- Mainland PRC

- “Home Return Permit”
- PRC government encouragement of Hongkongers’ employment and settlement in the Greater Bay Area
- Revocation of Home Return Permits of some Hong Kong protest leaders

- Macau

- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card, or
- Hong Kong Re-entry Permit

Recommended reading: ‘I need asylum’: Chinese political dissidents left in limbo in Taiwan, Hong Kong Free Press, Dec. 6, 2020



British National (Overseas) – BN(O)



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Hong Kong TRIG/Persecutor Bar Issues

(b)(7)(E)



Hong Kong: Domestic Violence

- Violations are prosecuted under the applicable criminal law:



(b)(7)(E)

- Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres



Hong Kong: Minorities

- Joint Submissions of NGOs for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)(July 2018)



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Conclusions

- If you have questions about this presentation or other topics related to country conditions information, please contact us:
 - Email: RAIOResearch@uscis.dhs.gov
 - Teams: [RAIO Research Unit](#)



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