Ahead of Joshua Wong's sentencing, cross-party MPs urge Government to summon Chinese Ambassador

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Joshua Wong, who launched Scholarism as a schoolboy and later became the face of Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement, is due for sentencing overnight (9.30am Hong Kong time, 1.30am GMT).

He has been in custody continuously since November 2020 and was rearrested in June 2025. The charge rests on Joshua's lobbying of foreign governments and his work with foreign media: peaceful advocacy of the kind democracies protect. It was brought under a law imposed on Hong Kong in June 2020, which the UK Government itself says China imposed in breach of the Joint Declaration, a treaty Britain signed and registered at the United Nations.

The campaign calls on the Hong Kong authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Joshua and for the UK Government to do everything in its power to secure his freedom.

Andrew Duncan, Co-Founder RT Weatherman Foundation, producer of *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower* and friend of Joshua Wong comments:

"This sentence is meant to ensure Joshua never comes home. I have watched a tireless advocate for democracy spend his twenties in jail. Enough is enough. Britain made a promise to Hong Kong and now they should stand up for the City like Joshua did. Summon the Ambassador, today."

Nathan Law, friend of Joshua and named as co-conspirator in the charges, comments:

"It's incredibly sad to see my friend Joshua Wong suffer another sentencing over his peaceful advocacy work for Hong Kong's democracy.

"It shows that the PRC does not honour its promises to the Hong Kong people of freedom, autonomy, and a gradual path to democracy. The sentencing is a farce – the judges appointed by the Chief Executive, under the NSL court, decide how long Joshua stays behind bars purely on political grounds, rather than legal substance. The signal the sentencing sent to the world is that the PRC is determined to quash any hopes for freedom and democracy on its soil."

The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, Conservative MP for Chingford and Woodford Green and co-chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, comments:

"Joshua stood up for an international treaty signed by the UK and Chinese Communist Party, which the CCP have subsequently trashed. Yet, despite this, the UK Government has done

little to nothing about it. The more we give in when China breaks the rules, the worse it gets in the future."

James Naish MP, Labour MP for Rushcliffe, adds:

"Hongkongers in my constituency chose Britain for the freedoms Joshua is jailed for defending - values we should all support. The Government must show China that Britain will not tolerate it."

The campaign calls on the UK Government to summon the Chinese Ambassador over Joshua's case, as the Foreign Office did on the day Jimmy Lai was convicted. The campaign also asks the Government to review its decision on China's new embassy in London, and to sanction the Hong Kong officials responsible for National Security Law prosecutions, matching measures already taken by the United States.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

- Issued by the campaign to free Joshua Wong, supported by the RT Weatherman Foundation.
- Joshua Wong is serving four years and eight months for conspiracy to commit subversion over an unofficial 2020 primary election, sentenced on 19 November 2024.
- He was re-arrested on 6 June 2025 while in prison and charged with conspiracy to collude with foreign forces. Prosecutors allege he conducted international lobbying and media work in 2020.
- Joshua has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize four times (2018, 2022, 2023, 2026). In 2014 he was named one of Time Magazine's most influential teens.
- The UK Government's Six-Monthly Report on Hong Kong states that China is in a state of ongoing non-compliance with the Joint Declaration.
- On 1 September the Foreign Secretary answered a question from the Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP about Joshua Wong, saying: *"I absolutely will take up that case."* https://www.youtube.com/live/9PAmqfd9UPY?si=Dj01FjEMx1F0P62g&t=4134
- Jimmy Lai, a British citizen, was sentenced to 20 years. The UK summoned the Chinese Ambassador on the day of his conviction.
- *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower* premiered at Sundance in January 2017 and was acquired by Netflix. A short sequel was screened in Parliament on 13 October 2026 and is available to watch here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwQ1bK0KSJE
- Spokespeople available for interview:
    - Overnight:
        - Andrew Duncan: Anna Wallace +447854 111 497
    - From 8am:
        - Nathan Law: Anna Wallace +447854 111 497
        - Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP: Tabitha Wade, +447590 695901
        - James Naish MP, contact: Connie Gillies, +447557 858 597
        - Chung Ching Kwong, friend of Joshua, is also available for interview.