



## China's Many Rushdies

July 5, 2023

Since when do police place bounties on the heads of former residents who have committed no crime?

Since just now.

But it depends on how you define "crime."

For me, to be guilty of a crime you must have committed an objectively definable, willful violation of the rights of others — fraud, robbery, kidnapping, torture, rape, murder. Speech criticizing the crimes of a crime-committing government cannot count as "crime." To pretend otherwise would be an abuse and usurpation of proper standards of thought.

But the dictatorial Chinese regime is unbound by such considerations.

On July 3, the Hong Kong police, mere lackeys of the mainland government, placed bounties of one million Hong Kong dollars (about \$128,000 USD) on the heads of eight pro-democracy dissidents no longer living in Hong Kong.

"We're absolutely not staging any show or spreading terror," says top HK police official Steve Li. "We're enforcing the law." Oh.

CNN [notes](#) that "many of the activists have continued to speak out against what they say is Beijing's crackdown on their home city's freedoms and autonomy."

"What they say" is Beijing's crackdown?

Just a smidgen of investigative journalism would enable CNN's reporters to report, as fact, that there has indeed been a crackdown, that it's not just "critics" who say that the 2020 National Security Law has been used to destroy the pro-democracy, pro-human rights movement in Hong Kong and "cripple its once vibrant society."

But I guess folks at CNN dare not risk bounties on their heads, also.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.