



UK as China's Thumb Puppet

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British police do some good things. In 2023, officers were [credited](#) with reducing the number of phone snatchings by punks on mopeds. Great.

Let's have more of that, less of telling victims of totalitarian dictatorship to shut up for their own good.

The UK police wanted expatriate Hongkonger Carmen Lau, a pro-democracy activist and former Hong Kong politician who has been living in Britain since 2021, to stay out of trouble with China. So in March, London bobbies [asked](#) her to sign a "memorandum of understanding" obliging her to avoid public gatherings and "cease any activity likely to put you at risk."

What activity?

Not hang gliding.

The sickening effort to muzzle Lau came after neighbors got letters "offering a £100,000 bounty (US\$131,947) for information on her movements" leading to her arrest by Hong Kong's Chinese Communist Party authorities.

Hong Kong denies sending the letters. But in 2024, it placed bounties on the heads of six pro-democracy activists, [including Lau](#), who had fled overseas in the wake of China's repressive national security law of 2020, which targeted Hong Kong liberties.

Lau felt constrained to submit to the police request when they came to her door but has continued to speak out. "A truly democratic response should center on protecting the rights of those targeted, not advising them to retreat from public life," she says.

Responding to the revelations, Thames Valley police say that they'd never "confirm or deny safeguarding tactics that we may or may not use...."

Is this the free world? Not if under China's thumb.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.