



Walking With the Hong Kong Heroes Who Woke Up the World

September 29, 2026

Back in 2019, I spent a beautiful September Sunday afternoon in Hong Kong...marching against totalitarianism...and getting tear-gassed.

For months, I had [followed](#) the protests against legislation introduced in Hong Kong that would allow authorities in Beijing to extradite Hongkongers from their own then-respected legal system into Beijing’s always abysmal and wicked black hole. Protests began with a March 15 sit-in at government headquarters followed by a June 9 rally attended by “hundreds of thousands.”

And then the protest continued for weeks. For months. They [turned out](#) to be “the largest series of demonstrations in the history of Hong Kong.” As many as one in four residents are estimated to have participated.

By agreement with Great Britain, China had recognized a different system in Hong Kong for 50 years after the 1997 “handover,” under “one country/two systems”—one system based on free speech, rule of law, civil rights, the other on...the opposite. China merely had to wait to inflict its fascistic totalitarian system until 2047.

But the Chinazis couldn’t wait. I say “Chinazis”; it was at this march in Hong Kong that I first saw and heard that epithet.

And it fit. Because while hanging on to many stupid totalitarian aspects of communism, the CCP long ago instituted a much more fascist, mercantilist economic system. With some freedom to make money. Money is universally good, apparently.

Jack boots and tiger chairs and concentration camps are now only there if anybody forgets who is in charge. Or the CCP says so.

I had seen posters about a Global March Against Totalitarianism being held today. Hey, *that* I’m very much against. You?

But where was it going to be? I knew next to zero about the city.

And when? After all, I had a flight leaving Hong Kong in the early evening, headed to Taiwan for the 2019 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy being held in Taichung.

Somehow, watching young people and conversely

observing police, I stumbled upon the march. Moments later I was handed a poster of Tankman from June 4, 1989, with the words: “CCP Evil Dictatorship Party.”

As I walked, a sense of peace came over me and I felt deeply honored to be with these heroes, mostly young people but of all ages, standing up to the largest evil on our Earth today. With their frail bodies. And gas masks. And their powerful goodness.

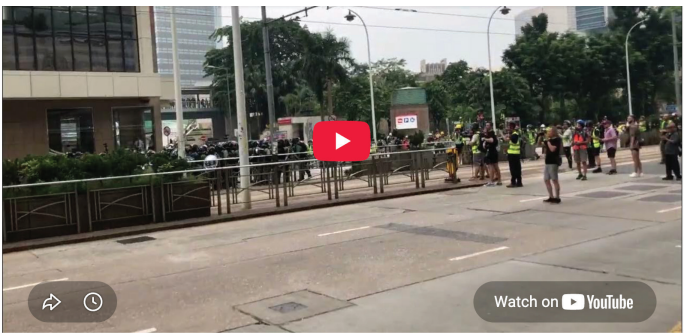
On September 29, as I marched, the Extradition Bill had still not been withdrawn. Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Beijing’s puppet, would not fully remove it until October 23.

I respect protesters who clearly state their demands for change, as did these Hong Kong protesters. Often chanting: “Five demands! Not one less!”

Five Demands of Hong Kong Protests

1. Complete withdrawal of the extradition bill from the legislative process.
2. Retraction of the “riot” characterization for protests.
3. Release and exoneration of arrested protesters.
4. Establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into police conduct and use of force during the protests.
5. Resignation of Carrie Lam and the implementation of universal suffrage for Legislative Council elections and for the election of the chief executive.

As afternoon shadows loomed longer, I had to grab my luggage and get to the airport for my flight. I walked back against the line of marchers for quite some time, until I entered an intersection without many protesters and with riot police standing across the street from me.



Moments later tear gas canisters were hitting all around me and gas was spraying out — oops! I’m not really prepared.

But I held my breath and ran to get away from the gas. My eyes burned like someone had hit them with a chemical agent, don’t you know! Luckily, I had a bottle of water and poured that into my eyes.

The few protesters who were around rushed to help me, telling me to “breathe,” in English, and providing yet more H2O for my pulsating pupils.

I rushed to get back to the hotel and then to the airport; wearing a very wet t-shirt I made my flight to Taipei.

But those Hong Kong protesters stay with me. The best people on the planet. Against the brutal and powerful CCP, they knew they stood little chance to prevail. But they refused to go down without speaking out, standing up and fighting back against the death of their freedom.

In November 2019, after months of protest and increasing violence in response to systematic police brutality, there were local elections in Hong Kong, where voters could express their views. The dramatic results showed Xi Jinping and the CCP just how infinitesimal their support was among Hongkongers.

“Pro-democracy candidates won almost 90 per cent of seats in local elections,” reported the *BBC*. “The result is being seen as an outright rejection of Carrie Lam’s leadership and a huge show of support for the anti-Beijing protests that have been going on for months.

“The Chinese government has responded to the landslide victory for pro-democracy candidates in the Hong Kong elections by emphasising that the city will always be ruled from Beijing,” the *BBC* noted, “and has warned against further protests.”

There were further protests, but soon COVID-19 would serve the CCP’s sinister interests by clearing the streets and undercutting the protest movement. Beijing, realizing they had no support in Hong Kong, decided on a total clampdown and passed a National Security Law — not through the Hong Kong legislature but in Beijing, with zero input from Hong Kong.

That law has murdered all political rights in one of the world’s most wonderful cities. Some day, let us hope and pray, Hongkongers will again be free.

Reprinted from [StoptheCCP.org](#) September 29, 2023. *Stay tuned for an update, this weekend, on what’s happened since.*