



# Human Rights Now

**Human Rights Now**

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Item 4: General Debate

Speaker: RANGTA, Malvika

## **Transcript of Oral Statement on Hong Kong**

Thank you, Madam President.

This month has seen the 100th arrest in Hong Kong under the National Security Law, including 55 opposition candidates and supporters arrested in January for their political activities. Unfair procedures have also been alleged, such as not providing accused persons adequate time and facilities to prepare for their defense.

It has been reported that only one arrest under the law involved an allegation of violence and that more than four-fifths were accused of participating in what should be protected political activities, such as displaying banners, posting support on social media, and organizing activities for legislative seats. These arrests unambiguously demonstrate the law's incompatibility with the UDHR and ICCPR.

China's National People's Congress is also currently passing some drastic changes to Hong Kong's electoral system which will greatly dilute and replace pro-democracy Legislative Council members and give the Election Committee powers to vet candidates for their "patriotism", effectively barring pro-democracy candidates. These changes are inconsistent with international standards for democratic elections and a significant step backwards from the Basic Law's aim of "universal suffrage" and "high degree of autonomy". They may also facilitate new laws further cracking down on civil and political rights.

Human Rights Now appeals to the international community to make all efforts to prevent grave breaches of human rights in Hong Kong and to see that its Basic Law and international obligations are respected.

Thank you.