

# Retracing the Siege of Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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CS 895 - Web Archiving Forensics  
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October 31st, 2022

# Hong Kong Protests Against Mainland Extradition



<https://origins.osu.edu/article/hong-kong-protest-china-extradition-umbrella>

# Over 600 Total Wiki Citations

2019–2020 Hong Kong protests		[hide]
Part of democratic development in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong–Mainland China conflict		
<b>Causes</b>	Extradition bill (Murder of Poon Hiu-wing) · Hong Kong–Mainland China conflict · Umbrella Revolution	
<b>History</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	2019 March–June · July · August · September · October · November · December
		2020 January · February · March · April · May · June · July · August · September · October · November · December
		2021 January · February · March · April · May · June · July · August · September–November
	<b>Incidents</b>	12 June · Storming of the Legislative Council Complex · Yuen Long attack · Hong Kong Way · Prince Edward station attack · Siege of Chinese University of Hong Kong · Siege of Polytechnic University · 2020 detainment of Hong Kong residents at sea by China
<b>Tactics and methods</b>	<b>Elections</b>	2019 District Council election · 2021 Legislative Council election (pro-democracy primaries · disqualification controversy · postponement · mass resignations · mass arrests)
	<b>Deaths</b>	Chan Yin-lam · Chow Tsz-lok · Luo Changqing
	<b>Musical</b>	Umbrella Songs · Protest songs
<b>Reactions</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	Hong Kong independence movement · Hong Kong flag · Hong Kong emblem
	<b>Other</b>	2019 March–June · July · August · September · October · November · December
	<b>Prohibition</b>	2020 January · February · March · April · May · June · July · August · September · October · November · December
<b>Related articles</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>	COVID-19 · Memorial
	<b>Siege of Chinese University of Hong Kong</b>	12 June · Storming of the Legislative Council Complex · Yuen Long attack · Hong Kong Way · Prince Edward station attack · Siege of Chinese University of Hong Kong · Siege of Polytechnic University · 2020 detainment of Hong Kong residents at sea by China
	<b>Siege of Polytechnic University</b>	2019 District Council election · 2021 Legislative Council election (pro-democracy primaries · disqualification controversy · postponement · mass resignations · mass arrests)
		

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_the\\_Hong\\_Kong\\_Polytechnic\\_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_the_Hong_Kong_Polytechnic_University)

# Renewed Fervor Over Death of Student Chow Tsz-lok



<https://web.archive.org/web/20191119022259/https://edition.cnn.com/2019/11/07/asia/hong-kong-protester-death-intl-hnk/index.html>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191115170041/https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/15/asia/hong-kong-protest-university-fortress-intl-hnk/>

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Photo: Viola Kam/United Social Press.

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A clash after midnight at the Austin Road – Chatham Road South junction, which h

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- Hong Kong dissident Nathan Law says Britain new home

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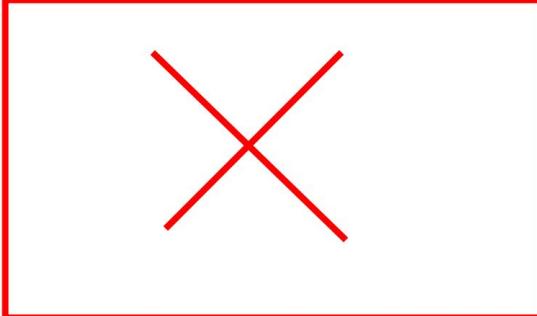


Photo: Tam Ming Keung/United Social Press.

The Police have repeatedly appealed to members of the public to leave immediately and to avoid travelling to the area. Officers will carry on with the dispersal operation and warn citizens not to enter or stay in the campus, or they will risk committing the offence of 'Taking Part in a Riot,' the force said in a statement.

Hong Kong police accused of 'altering history and erasing facts' in account of last year's Yuen Long mob attack  
18:22, 26 August 2020

Exiled Hong Kong activist Nathan Law calls on Italy to raise security law concerns during Chinese official visit  
13:33, 26 August 2020

Two Hong Kong democrats arrested over 2019 protests; Lam Cheuk-ting detained over alleged 'rioting' during Yuen Long mob attack  
10:13, 26 August 2020

#### 2019-2020 PROTEST MOVEMENT

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# Far Cry From Home

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The Hong Kong Polytechnic University at Hung Hom on November 17. Photo: Studio Incendo.

Police representatives told the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) that only reporters who can show press credentials will be allowed to leave. Otherwise, everyone leaving the university will be arrested on suspicion of taking part in a riot.

**Hong Kong Free Press HKFP** · Nov 17, 2019  
@hikfp · Follow  
Replying to @hikfp  
Prolific protest organiser Civil Human Rights Front's vice-convenor Figo Chan is heading to the outskirts of PolyU, with convenor Jimmy Sham still injured from last month's attack on him.  
#hongkong

<https://hongkongfp.com/2019/11/18/hong-kong-polyu-campus-surrounded-police-warn-live-ammo-may-used-protesters-set-fire-armoured-vehicle/>

# Same Story, Different Day

20191117133002/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/17/fire-rocks-and-teargas-fly-in-day-of-battle-at-hong-kong-university

n.com/world/2019/nov/17/fire-rocks-and-teargas-fly-in-day-of-battle-at-hong-kong-university

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Hong Kong

## Fire, rocks and teargas fly in day of battle at Hong Kong university

Unrest continues to escalate as protesters fight police from barricaded campus

Lily Kuo in Hong Kong Sun 17 Nov 2019 07.57 EST

f t e



▲ Protesters clash with police outside Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Photograph: Adrian Abidi/Reuters

Pilot police and protesters waged a day-long battle at a university in **Hong Kong** on Sunday, as police fired teargas and a water cannon at protesters shooting molotov cocktails, arrows and rocks from the barricaded campus.

After overnight clashes outside Polytechnic University, which demonstrators have taken over since last week, confrontations resumed on Sunday morning when protesters were seen throwing bricks at residents trying to clear a blockaded road.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191117133002/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/17/fire-rocks-and-teargas-fly-in-day-of-battle-at-hong-kong-university>

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Hong Kong

## Hong Kong riot police carry out dawn raid on university after battle with protesters

Police earlier threatened to use live rounds on 'rioters' who used lethal weapons such as molotov cocktails against them

Hong Kong protest latest updates: riot police storm Polytechnic University after standoff with protesters - live

Lily Kuo in Hong Kong Sun 17 Nov 2019 18.14 EST

f t e



▲ Hong Kong protesters set bridge on fire amid clashes at university - video report

Hong Kong police have laid siege to the city's Polytechnic University, where about 200 protesters are holed up after a weekend of violence which saw

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191118050445/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/17/fire-rocks-and-teargas-fly-in-day-of-battle-at-hong-kong-university>

# A Conflict of Narrative

Viewing memento at Mon Nov 18 2019 15:16:39 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)

en.people.cn

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## Hong Kong police deny raiding Polytechnic University in overnight standoff

(CNTV) 09:03, November 18, 2019 Follow on Apple News



Rioters set fire at an overhead bridge connecting the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hung Hom MTR station on Sunday. (Photo from Global Times/Web)

The Hong Kong Police Force denies accusations that it "raided" the premises of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in an overnight standoff between masked rioters.

Clarifying in a media release on Monday morning, the police slammed the rumor as "totally false."

Rioters gathered Sunday at PolyU and set fire to the flyover connecting the campus and the Hung Hom MRT station.

Till 5:30 a.m. on Monday morning, fires and explosions were still seen and heard inside

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### Tougher actions urged after police officer shot by arrow - Global Times

A police officer from the Force Media Liaison Cadre (FMLC) of Hong Kong Police Force was hit by an arrow on Sunday during a dispersal work, as calls for frontline police officers to be allowed to use tougher law enforcement measures amid malicious, potentially lethal mob attacks have been reinforced.

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### Dozens of Hong Kong protesters make daring campus breakout

Dozens of Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters dramatically escaped a two-day police siege at a university campus late Monday by shimmying down ropes from a bridge ...

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### Campus Under Siege as Hong Kong Police Battle Protesters

For days, protesters have fortified Hong Kong Polytechnic University against police. Now things are coming

 The Guardian Lean Left Mixed Factuality Independent: Scott Trust Limited

### Fire, rocks and teargas fly in day of battle at Hong Kong university

Unrest continues to escalate as protesters fight police from barricaded campusRiot police and protesters waged a day-long battle at a university in Hong Kong on Sunday, as police fired teargas and a water cannon at protesters shooting molotov cocktails, arrows and rocks from the barricaded campus.After overnight clashes outside Polytechnic University, which demonstrators have taken over since last week, confrontations resumed on Sunday morning w...

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The Guardian | 3 years ago

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<https://ground.news/article/9e943cc9-c20f-4172-9267-c33d5221a3c8>

# Escalation, Evasion, Escape of Truth

← → C web.archive.org/web/20191119144935/https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3038309/hong-kong-protests-university-campus-stand-between-radicals

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OCT NOV DEC 19 2018 2019 2020 2021 About this capture

**South China Morning Post** SIGN IN/UP

## Hong Kong protests: university campus stand-off between radicals and riot squad shows no sign of ending as thousands hit streets in bid to relieve police siege

- About 40 injured activists were allowed to leave Polytechnic University campus to get treatment, although they might still face charges later
- Dozens slip through police lines and escape under cover of night by using ropes to descend from a footbridge to a highway and ride away on motorcycles

SCMP Reporters Published: 12:44am, 19 Nov, 2019

TOP PICKS

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<https://web.archive.org/web/20191119144935/https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3038309/hong-kong-protests-university-campus-stand-between-radicals>

# Discrepancy of Ground Truth

ng-kong-protests-hundreds-surrender-to-police-after-university-standoff

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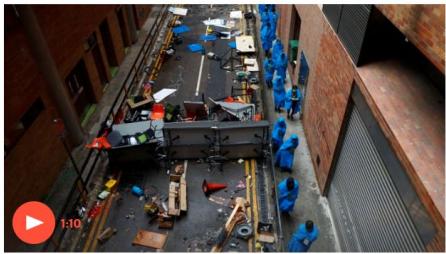
19

## Hong Kong protests: about 100 still holed up at university

Carrie Lam says 600 surrendered to authorities at Polytechnic University overnight

Hong Kong

108.33 EST



▲ Hong Kong protesters escape through sewers in attempt to leave university - video

About 100 protesters remain holed up at a university surrounded by police in Hong Kong, on the third day of the most prolonged and tense confrontation in more than five months of conflict in the semi-autonomous city.

Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive, said about 600 protesters surrendered to authorities at the Polytechnic University campus in Kowloon overnight, after police allowed two representatives to mediate between the two sides. On Tuesday, another group was evacuated to seek medical help.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191119144210/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/19/hong-kong-protests-hundreds-surrender-to-police-after-university-standoff>

?trapped-inside-polytechnic-university/11719296

I was very scared, I didn't know what would happen.  
He's scared about being arrested by the cops, she said.

Owan, who would not give his full name for fear of reprisals, managed to escape on Tuesday morning just before police blocked off the campus entrances.

But he is worried about those he left behind.

They [protesters] still have food and drink, but not sure how long they can last," he told the ABC.

Police surrounded the university on Sunday and have been laying siege to it ever since, using tear gas and rubber bullets while themselves coming under fire from protesters armed with bricks, petrol bombs and even bows and arrows.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said on Tuesday she hoped the standoff between police and protesters could be resolved, telling media there were only 100 protesters trapped inside with 600 already having left.

But, Owan alleges Carrie Lam wasn't telling the truth.

"Carrie Lam's information is not accurate, there are more than 200 people still inside the campus," he said.

'They have no way to leave'

Hong Kong Polytechnic University has been at the centre of the standoff in the past week and has seen the most intense violence in five months of anti-government demonstrations.



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<https://web.archive.org/web/20191120020419/https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-19/hong-kong-trapped-inside-polytechnic-university/11719296>

# When It Works, It's Wonderful!

hive.org/web/20191119144920/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/18/hong-kong-protests-up-to-800-trapped-as-police-lay-siege-to-university

w.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/18/hong-kong-protests-up-to-800-trapped-as-police-lay-siege-to-university

16 Sep 2022

made from scrap, officers fired further rounds of tear gas. Water cannon, engulfing the area in smoke. Several protesters were arrested.

**Robin Brant 白洛宾**  
(@robindbrant)

1345 group of protesters make a run for it, escaping along highway by #hongkong Polytechnic. Around 100 run and climb over barriers. Police fire heavy tear gas. Several protesters detained.  
[pic.twitter.com/T0Qleee4mwa](https://pic.twitter.com/T0Qleee4mwa)

November 18, 2019

The game of cat and mouse followed a night of mayhem in the Chinese-ruled city in which roads were blocked, a bridge was set on fire and a police officer was shot by a bow and arrow.

Some protesters abseiled off a footbridge to a road below, where they were met by motorbike riders helping them flee. It was unclear whether they got away safely.

**Michael Zhang 张雨轩**  
(@YuxuanMichael)

This was probably the most surreal thing I have ever witnessed in the Hong Kong protests. Protesters just attempted a daring escape through a bridge at Polytechnic University. Volunteers on motorbikes came in drives to drive them out asap. Police fired teargas.  
[#HongKongProtests pic.twitter.com/huhSo3Mxo9](https://#HongKongProtests pic.twitter.com/huhSo3Mxo9)

November 18, 2019

People have been hiding in buildings throughout the campus, said Seze Li, a 26-year-old protester from inside the university. "It's a disaster. Everyone is running around, looking for exits. We heard the protesters [trying to break the siege] are coming. We are just waiting for them," she said. Some people have escaped by climbing out of the building, she said, "but not everyone can do that".

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191119144920/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/18/hong-kong-protests-up-to-800-trapped-as-police-lay-siege-to-university>

web.archive.org/web/20210404231919/https://twitter.com/YuxuanMichael/status/1196420847017197568?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw

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1 Mar 2021 - 30 Oct 2022



**Michael Yuxuan Zhang 张雨轩**  
@YuxuanMichael

This was probably the most surreal thing I have ever witnessed in the Hong Kong protests. Protesters just attempted a daring escape through a bridge at Polytechnic University. Volunteers on motorbikes came in drives to drive them out asap. Police fired teargas.  
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179 3.0K 4.3K

Michael Yuxuan Zhang 张雨轩 @YuxuanMichael · 18 Nov 2019

This went on for a good 40 minutes before police stopped it. At least 50 or more protesters got out. The motorcycles carried around 3 passengers each coming back quickly and taking turns. Some protesters were seen limping away on the bridge after their fall. #HongKongProtest

[https://web.archive.org/web/20210404231919/https://twitter.com/YuxuanMichael/status/1196420847017197568?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://web.archive.org/web/20210404231919/https://twitter.com/YuxuanMichael/status/1196420847017197568?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

# Campus Siege Declared Over On November 29, after 13 days

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191203113828/https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/29/asia-pacific/hong-kong-university-reopen/#XeZJS9LP2X1>

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https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/29/asia-pacific/hong-kong-university-reopen/ 7 captures 30 Nov 2018 - 1 Jun 2022

## Hong Kong police end campus siege

New protests planned as government refuses to budge after local elections

KYODO, AFP-JIJI

**HONG KONG** – Hong Kong police on Friday ended their 13-day siege of a university after finding no protesters there during two days of intensive searches for anyone who could still be holed up.

Hundreds of police officers and firemen concluded their search at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Kowloon before noon. The police retrieved a slew of weapons purportedly made or brought in by protesters who had occupied the campus.

"The police would like to reiterate that we will not tolerate any kind of violence ... or illegal activities, and we will stringently follow up the investigation in a professional and impartial manner," assistant police commissioner Chow Yat-ming told reporters outside the campus.

Hundreds of anti-government protesters occupied the university earlier this month, making the nearby thoroughfare, one of Hong Kong's major arteries that connect to Hong Kong Island, unpassable.

They clashed with police around the campus most fiercely on Nov. 17, when they threw bricks and firebombs and shot arrows at police who were closing in. The police fired tear gas and deployed water cannons and armored vehicles as the violence lasted through the night.

### RELATED STORIES

- As unrest in Hong Kong continues, questions raised over Japan's plan to welcome Xi as state guest

The police then cordoned off the area and arrested hundreds of protesters for alleged "rioting." Those who were injured or ill were sent to hospitals for treatment.

The police say that in the aftermath they found around 4,000 firebombs, 1,200 gas canisters and hundreds of liters of corrosive liquid. Among the other items

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<https://web.archive.org/web/20191203113828/https://features.japantimes.co.jp/nakagin-capsule-tower/> slab-making materials, 27 bows and 200

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191203113828/https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/29/asia-pacific/hong-kong-university-reopen/#.XeZJS9LP2XI>

# 7 Protestors Jailed

Viewing memento at Mon Jan 17 2022 19:05:45 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)

archive.ph/20220118000545/https://hongkongfp.com/2022/01/17/hong-kong-court-jails-7-for-up-to-40-months-for-rioting-during-2019-polyu-siege/

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“But the court should refrain from an overly heavy sentence. Otherwise, it might create a crushing effect on the youth, who after all need to re-enter society ultimately,” Lam said.



Petrol bombs at Polytechnic University. Photo: Tom Grundy/HKFP.

The judge took a sentencing starting point of 42 months, adding two months for Chan Ting-kwan, who Lam said played a leadership role, and Tsang Sin-ye, who lit a fire before running away. Taking into account the fact that none of the defendants had a criminal history, Lam reduced all of the sentences by four months.

**See also:** [In Pictures: Hong Kong PolyU 'still besieged' a year after violent campus protests](#)

## Campus clashes

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<https://archive.ph/20220118000545/https://hongkongfp.com/2022/01/17/hong-kong-court-jails-7-for-up-to-40-months-for-rioting-during-2019-polyu-siege/>

# Ghosts of Archives Past

The screenshot shows a Wayback Machine interface with the URL <https://web.archive.org/web/20220119000619/https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-siege-11192021150742.html>. The page is from Radio Free Asia and features a green navigation bar with various language links. The main content discusses a fire at Polytechnic University in Hong Kong in November 2019. It includes several blue-highlighted quotes and paragraphs about censorship rules and film screenings. At the bottom, it says "Translated and edited by Luisetta Mudie." and has a "POST A COMMENT" button.

A fire burns near the campus of Polytechnic University early on Nov. 18, 2019. (Associated Press)

"I feel like telling everyone, let's just go back to Hong Kong together," he said. "What's wrong with wanting to go back to your own country."

"In the past, the British colonized Hong Kong and now the CCP is colonizing Hong Kong," he said. "Hong Kong people have struggled for so long and there is still no true national self-determination."

Back in Hong Kong, the authorities recently changed the law to ban the showing of films that could "glamorize" the protest movement.

The new censorship rules will likely mean that no documentaries about the protests can now be shown in the city.

In March 2021, organizers canceled a public screening of a documentary about the PolyU siege following a denunciation in a pro-CCP Hong Kong newspaper.

The Hong Kong Film Critics Society canceled the screening of "Inside the Red Brick Wall," following a number of articles in the Beijing-backed Wen Wei Po criticized the film as being in breach of the national security law.

*Translated and edited by Luisetta Mudie.*

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# They Didn't Forget, They Haven't Forgive

https://web.archive.org/web/20191028132732/https://twitter.com/yuen\_cecil/status/1188642510593150977

ecil/status/1188642510593150977

Cecil Yuen  
@yuen\_cecil  
President of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Teng Jin-guang refuses to shake hands with #HongKongProtest students who wore masks during graduation ceremony  
Video: RTHK

Beach Bum Replying to @yuen\_cecil Love this girl this is sooooo awesome she is a rock

Golden Replying to @yuen\_cecil



[https://web.archive.org/web/20191028132732/https://twitter.com/yuen\\_cecil/status/1188642510593150977](https://web.archive.org/web/20191028132732/https://twitter.com/yuen_cecil/status/1188642510593150977)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191112131845/https://i.redd.it/jmi3b8vmomv31.png>

# Why is archiving important?

What we might believe to be enduring may turn out to be fragile

Necessity of distributed information

Improvements to information infrastructure

Necessity of open communication and transparency