

Hong Kong : an historical strike

Hong Kong had the largest strike day in its history on Monday August 5. This is all the more noteworthy because:

- strikes are usually very rare in Hong Kong,
- striking for political reasons is not allowed by law, and therefore subject to possible sanctions.

Such a determination reflects the scale of the crisis facing the former British colony, which was handed over to China in 1997:

- Its inhabitants are strongly committed to the preservation of freedom of expression and organization, which are seriously threatened by a draft amendment to the Extradition Act.

If it were adopted, anyone present in Hong Kong could indeed be prosecuted on the continent, i.e. by courts strictly subordinated to the power of Beijing.

- Getting the executive and legislative powers finally elected by universal suffrage is also one of the five priority demands of the vast majority of Hong Kong's people.

Hong Kong has been largely paralyzed:

- Hong Kong's two key sectors were particularly affected: air transportation and the banking sector.
<https://scmp.com/business/bankingfinance/article/3021465/standardchartered-hang-seng-bank-close-branches-citywide>
<https://scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3021565/hong-kong-international-airport-plays-catch-after>
- A large number of public servants were also involved. As part of the preparation for this day, 40,000 of them had previously gathered on Friday August 2, after work.
- The strike seems to have been less followed in public transportation. However, traffic was nevertheless severely disrupted following operations to block rail transportation, major streets and road tunnels.
- In the middle of school holidays, the education sector, unfortunately, could not play the role it could have played: teachers represent the majority of the members of the HKCTU trade union centre, which called for a general strike.
- Several mass rallies were also organized. Violent clashes with the police have occurred again and many people have been arrested.

Solidarity with this courageous fight is more necessary than ever