

Hong Kong protests 'extremely dangerous,' says leader

7th August, 2019



Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam has voiced her concerns about the ongoing protests taking place in Hong Kong. She said the public disorder is disrupting life in the city and is pushing it to "the verge of an extremely dangerous situation". Her

comments came after the city was hit with more street demonstrations in which protestors fought with police for the ninth weekend in a row. The current protests also saw a citywide strike and considerable disruption to roads and transport systems. Hong Kong was brought to a standstill on Monday morning as streets were blocked and 200 flights were cancelled. Demonstrators ensured trains could not move by keeping their doors open, angering many passengers.

The protests began in March against a proposed bill to allow people to be extradited to stand trial in mainland China. They have since developed into calls for greater democracy. On July 1st, hundreds of protestors stormed the Hong Kong legislature building after breaking through glass walls and metal doors. They caused damage inside by spray-painting slogans and defacing flags and paintings. A central government spokesperson strongly condemned the latest demonstrators. He said: "Their conduct has blatantly offended the state and national dignity, wantonly trampled on the bottom line of the 'one country, two systems' principle, and greatly hurt the feelings of the entire Chinese people."

Sources: reuters.com / xinhuanet.com / bbc.com

Writing

Protests that disrupt other people's lives are bad. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

concerns / protests / disorder / dangerous / demonstrations / in a row / transport / bill / stand trial / democracy / slogans / paintings / dignity / bottom line / feelings

True / False

- Hong Kong's leader raised her voice about recent protests. T / F
- The leader said Hong Kong was on the brink of a dangerous situation. T / F
- There have been protests in Hong Kong for the past nine weekends. T / F
- Protestors prevented trains from moving by keeping doors open. T / F
- The protests are because China wants to extradite people to Hong Kong. T / F
- China wants people from the mainland to stand trial in Hong Kong. T / F
- Protestors damaged a government building by using spray paint. T / F
- Only the feelings of a few Chinese people have been hurt by the protests. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. voiced | a. halt |
| 2. ongoing | b. criticized |
| 3. verge | c. expressed |
| 4. standstill | d. attacked |
| 5. ensured | e. brink |
| 6. extradited | f. whole |
| 7. stormed | g. deported |
| 8. defacing | h. made certain |
| 9. condemned | i. vandalizing |
| 10. entire | j. continuing |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think about the protests in Hong Kong?
- Why are people angry about the extradition bill?
- How can China end this situation?
- What protests have there been in your country?
- How have the protests affected China's national image?
- What do you know about the 'one country, two systems' principle?
- What questions would you like to ask Carrie Lam?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. voiced her concerns | a. verge |
| 2. the public disorder is disrupting | b. spray-painting slogans |
| 3. pushing it to the | c. standstill on Monday |
| 4. the city was hit with more | d. trial |
| 5. Hong Kong was brought to a | e. life in the city |
| 6. a proposed bill to allow people | f. offended the state |
| 7. stand | g. about the ongoing protests |
| 8. They caused damage inside by | h. principle |
| 9. Their conduct has blatantly | i. street demonstrations |
| 10. the 'one country, two systems' | j. to be extradited |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Hong Kong?
- What do you think of protests?
- What would make you take part in a protest?
- Should protests disrupt the daily lives of other people?
- What is the 'dangerous situation' Hong Kong's leader spoke about?
- How would you feel if a protest canceled your flight?
- What advice do you have for the protestors?
- What advice do you have for Carrie Lam?

Spelling

- concerns about the ogniong protests
- usrpiitdng life in the city
- pushing it to the revge
- a citywide strike and considerable usrpiitdon
- Hong Kong was brought to a danstitsll
- Demonstrators seruned trains could not move
- allow people to be trdaeixetd to stand trial
- calls for greater mcoerdcay
- spray-painting logasns
- Their conduct has abnattlly offended the state
- national igndtiy
- the feelings of the tneire Chinese people

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. j	3. e	4. a	5. h
6. g	7. d	8. i	9. b	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Increased Tax

You think increased tax is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, immigration or global warming.

Role B – Government Corruption

You think government corruption is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): increased tax, immigration or global warming.

Role C – Immigration

You think immigration is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, increased tax or global warming.

Role D – Global Warming

You think global warming is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, immigration or increased tax.

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to protest against at the top. Change partners often and share your

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • taxes | • democracy |
| • corruption | • war |
| • equality | • immigration |
| • equal rights | • global warming |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.