

HONG KONG

SOCIAL PROTEST

STARTING DATE: 9 JUNE 2019

TRIGGER Draft law allowing extraditions from Hong Kong to China.

- GOALS** Summed up into “Five Core Demands”:
- The resignation of Hong Kong’s Chief Executive Carrie Lam.
 - Universal suffrage for the appointment of the Chief Executive and members of the Legislative Council.
 - An independent investigation into police violence.
 - The release of all demonstrators who were arrested since the protests began.
 - The withdrawal of the term “riot” used to describe the 12 June demonstrations.

STATE OF PLAY

- No demands have yet been met, on the contrary Hong Kong’s government has tightened its political stance (through the enactment of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance).
- Protests therefore continue on a weekly basis, most often in the districts of Central, Wan Chai, Admiralty, Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Sha Tin.
- Growing police crackdown on protesters.
- Radicalisation of demonstrators, use of lethal means.
- Violence between pro-Chinese and pro-democracy activists.

IMPACTS: IMPORTANT



- Around 1,500 injured since the beginning of the protests.
- More than 3,000 people arrested during that period.



- Economy has fallen into recession.
- Tourist sector heavily impacted.
- Banks, shops and businesses vandalised.



- Around 50 metro stations were damaged since the beginning of the protests.
- Metro services are affected by earlier termination of service and/or temporary suspension to allow for repair works since 4 October.
- The sit-in protests outside Hong Kong international airport on 9-13 August prompted the cancellation of some 1,000 flights.
- Main roads are regularly blocked, including Nathan Road, Gloucester Road, Hennessy Road and Tim Mei Avenue.

Please refer to our analysis on Hong Kong for more detailed information.



POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR ESCALATION

- Further intensification of violence between the army and protesters as well as between pro-Chinese and pro-democracy activists.
- Inability of the police to contain the demonstrations.
- Implementation of drastic measures under the emergency protocol including curfew, media censorship, systematic ban on demonstrations or restrictions on the use of internet.
- Interference by the local government in the upcoming elections through groundless rejections of applications by pro-democracy candidates.
- Indications of a potential involvement by China (statements expressing distrust in Carrie Lam’s ability to handle the crisis, strengthening of the military contingent in Hong Kong and at its borders).

POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR DE-ESCALATION

- Political dialogue between protesters and the local government.
- Granting of some of the protesters’ requests, such as conducting an independent inquiry into police violence.
- Loss of momentum of the movement due to the lack of unified voice.
- Reforms aimed at enlarging civil rights for Hong Kong citizens.