<u>Eight suspects returned to Hong Kong</u> Police Force

The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) received eight suspects by batches from the Mainland authorities at the Shenzhen Bay Port today (March 22). Under the Reciprocal Notification Mechanism, the HKPF received on August 28 last year a notification from the Mainland law enforcement agencies regarding the detention by the Mainland authorities of the abovementioned eight male suspects and four other persons who were suspected of illegal crossing of boundary in Mainland waters, in which two of them were returned to Hong Kong in December last year.

The cases involved by the eight male suspects in Hong Kong are as follows:

A 31-year-old man was arrested in Admiralty on September 29, 2019 and was charged with rioting and assaulting police officer. He was released on court bail pending trial and not allowed to leave Hong Kong, but he then fled Hong Kong.

A 19-year-old man was in suspected connection with a conspiracy to commit arson case in Wan Chai happened on September 30, 2019 in which someone was found manufacturing petrol bombs inside a unit on Lockhart Road. After investigation, five males were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit arson with intent. They were released on court bail pending trial and not allowed to leave Hong Kong, but then the 19-year-old suspect and two other suspects in the case fled Hong Kong.

A 19-year-old man was arrested in Yau Ma Tei on November 18, 2019 and was charged with rioting and possession of offensive weapons. He was released on court bail pending trial and not allowed to leave Hong Kong, but he then fled Hong Kong.

Three men, aged between 21 and 24, were arrested in Wan Chai on December 8, 2019 and were charged with conspiracy to shoot with intent to do grievous bodily harm. They were released on court bail pending trial and not allowed to leave Hong Kong, but they then fled Hong Kong.

A 30-year-old man was arrested in Sheung Shui on January 16 last year and was charged with making explosives. He was released on court bail pending trial and not allowed to leave Hong Kong, but he then fled Hong Kong.

A 30-year-old man was arrested on August 10 last year for collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security and other offences. He was on Police bail pending further investigation and was requested to surrender his travel documents and restricted from leaving Hong Kong, but he fled afterwards.

HKPF states that the eight suspects were returned after completion of

legal proceedings by the Mainland authorities. The six cases happened in Hong Kong are handled by National Security Division, Commercial Crime Bureau, Crime Hong Kong Island Region, Crime New Territories North Region and Crime Kowloon East Region respectively.