

# Government strongly condemns attacks on police officers by rioters

Police officers sustained serious head injuries after being wantonly attacked by some rioters during a public assembly in Central this afternoon (January 19). A Government spokesman strongly condemns the acts which completely disregarded law and order.

While the Police officers were discussing matters relating to the assembly with its person-in-charge, they were suddenly attacked by a number of rioters for no reason. Without any anti-riot equipment, the officers, sustaining injuries, immediately left the scene after the attacks but still continued to be assaulted by rioters with poles and other weapons. The violent attacks were outrageous.

During and after the assembly, the rioters went on a rampage in the vicinity of Central to block roads, set fires and attack Police officers. They seriously disrupted traffic in the vicinity of Central, and damaged pavement, railings and other public facilities at different locations. They hurled bricks and committed arson, posing a danger to people at the scene. Police stressed that they would not tolerate these violent acts. They will enforce the law strictly and conduct investigation to bring offenders to justice.

The spokesman emphasised that rioters invariably took peaceful public assemblies or processions as cover for vandalism and attacks. The spokesman appeals to all the participants of these assemblies and processions to dissociate themselves from the rioters and pay attention to their personal safety. They should leave as soon as the assemblies have ended according to the instructions of the police in order not to become the accomplice of rioters.