

Government strongly condemns radical protesters' extreme acts

A Government spokesman today (October 2) strongly condemns rioters for their extreme violent acts yesterday (October 1) in various districts across Hong Kong, saying that such acts pose a serious threat to the safety of members of the public and seriously undermine social order. They warrant the society's most severe condemnation.

Recently, there had been online orchestration of violent acts in various districts across the territory on October 1 and it incited people to go on a rampage and attack police officers. The ever escalating violent attacks caused multiple injuries and a few cases in which police officers were required to use their revolvers. The Commissioner of Police has publicly said that in the open fire incident in Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, the life of the police officer involved was under serious threat and that in accordance with the police guidelines, appropriate force has to be deployed if police warning does not work. A man suffered a gunshot wound was sent to hospital. According to the latest information of the Hospital Authority, the current condition of the man is stable.

Many people took part in the unauthorised meetings and processions in various districts in Hong Kong yesterday. These turned out to be very dangerous riots. The violent protesters set fires inside MTR stations, threw petrol bombs at many places, vandalised shops and public properties, and blocked many thoroughfares causing serious obstruction to fire fighting and ambulance work. The mob also seriously damaged the premises of the Cheung Sha Wan and Tsuen Wan Government Offices. In addition, they challenged the national sovereignty by burning national flags in Central and Causeway Bay. For public safety and to restore social order, it was necessary for the Police to use appropriate force to take disperse and arrest actions resolutely.

The spokesman said: "The riots in various districts in Hong Kong on October 1 were planned and organised, leading Hong Kong to a chaotic and panic state. This reflects that the nature of the issue has already changed. What the society does not want to see is students being stirred to break the law. We appeal to parents and teachers to advise young children and students not to participate in unauthorised public meetings and processions, and stay away from violence."