

## Police urge the public not to take part in unauthorised assemblies

Police notice that someone has been calling on members of the public to take part in unauthorised assemblies in Yuen Long today (July 21). Police reiterate that anyone participating in such events may have committed the offence of “taking part in an unauthorised assembly” in accordance with the Public Order Ordinance and be liable to a maximum penalty of five years’ imprisonment. Besides, engaging in public gatherings will also increase the risk of transmitting the virus in the community and may commit certain offences under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation regarding prohibited group gatherings.

Police fully understand the public’s concern about a violent incident that took place in MTR Yuen Long Station on July 21 last year. Police reiterate that the Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North has all along accorded high priority to the case. As of now, 37 people aged between 18 and 61 have been arrested. Among them, seven have been prosecuted for offences including “rioting” and “conspiracy to wound with intent”. Since some of the cases have already been brought to court, and Police investigation and planning are also underway, it is inappropriate for Police to disclose too many details of the case at this stage. However, Police pledge to thoroughly investigate the case and make further arrests when the time is ripe.

In view of the severe pandemic situation, members of the public should cut down on social gatherings and practice social distancing to reduce the chance of contracting or spreading the virus. For the sake of public health and public safety, Police call upon everyone to refrain from taking part in prohibited group gatherings and unauthorised assemblies. Police do not condone any illegal acts and will take resolute action to enforce the law, including issuing summonses and making arrests.