

# Tripartite joint operation THUNDERBOLT 18 against triads and organised crime

Hong Kong Police arrested 4,283 people and seized dangerous drugs and illicit goods worth about HK\$310 million during a tripartite anti-crime joint operation mounted by the Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macau Police authorities between May 15 and August 15 this year.

The police authorities of Hong Kong, Guangdong, and Macau have spared no effort to combat triad activities and organised crimes, especially cross-boundary syndicates. The intelligence-led enforcement operation, codenamed "THUNDERBOLT 18", was aimed at curbing the illegal activities of triad societies and organised crime syndicates, neutralising cross-boundary crimes, and interdicting the criminals' source of income.

During the operation, Hong Kong Police conducted searches of some 6,300 locations including discos, amusement game centres, massage establishments, nightclubs and residential units. A total of 4,283 persons were arrested for various offences, including triad-related offences, drug offences, managing vice establishments, breach of conditions of stay, illegal gambling, criminal damage, wounding and possession of arms or ammunition without license.

The arrested persons included 2,227 men and 2,056 women, aged between 12 and 72. Amongst them, 1,259 were Mainlanders and 219 were non-ethnic Chinese.

During the operation, Hong Kong Police seized dangerous drugs and psychotropic drugs worth about \$90 million, including cannabis, ketamine, cocaine, ice, heroin and midazolam, etc. Police also seized over 205,800 obscene and pirated DVDs valued at about \$3.7 million. Other seizure also included large batch of weapons and imitation firearms, and about 150,000 rolls of contraband cigarettes.

Hong Kong Police would continue to maintain close liaison and exchange intelligence with the Mainland and Macau police authorities with a view to interdicting cross-boundary triad activities to uphold the public confidence in law and order.