

Tripartite joint operation “THUNDERBOLT 2021” against triads and organised crime

Hong Kong Police arrested 2 320 people and seized cash, dangerous drugs and illicit goods worth about HK\$390 million as well as bookmaking records worth about \$3.6 billion during a tripartite anti-crime joint operation, codenamed “THUNDERBOLT 2021”, mounted by police authorities of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao in two phases from June 6 to July 11 and from August 16 to 30.

The police authorities of Hong Kong, Guangdong, and Macao have spared no effort to combat triad activities and organised crimes, especially cross-boundary syndicates. The intelligence-led enforcement operation “THUNDERBOLT 2021” aimed at curbing 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 at about 2 000 locations including bars, amusement game centres, cyber cafes, party rooms and residential units. Hong Kong Police also smashed various illegal gambling establishments, vice establishments and drug distribution centres. A total of 2 320 persons were arrested for various offences, including triad-related and drug-related offences, robbery, illegal immigration, illegal gambling, bookmaking, criminal damage, blackmail, wounding and possession of offensive weapons. A total of 1 616 men and 704 women, aged between 11 and 84, were arrested. Among them, 85 were Mainlanders and 140 were non-ethnic Chinese. Hong Kong Police seized dangerous drugs and psychotropic drugs worth about \$370 million, including cannabis, ketamine, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and midazolam.

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