

FIVE ST ANDREW'S HILL

Ben Keith 5 St Andrew's Hill London EC4V 5BZ

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Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files via EMAIL only: <u>CCF@interpol.int</u>

Jürgen Stock, Secretary General, INTERPOL 200 quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France **via EMAIL only**

Re: URGENT - Access to information and deletion of data re: WILLIAM BROWDER

I represent Mr William Browder, a British citizen and the leader of the Global Magnitsky Justice campaign, and urgently write to ensure that INTERPOL does not process, delete and block from any future processing any and all data concerning him circulated by Hong Kong authorities by way of Red Notice, diffusion, or any other use/misuse of INTERPOL communications channels.

Hong Kong prosecutors publicly announced on 2 January 2024 their allegation against Mr Browder of 'co-conspiring' with Jimmy Lai, the founder of a Hong Kong's pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, purportedly against the 'national security' of Hong Kong¹. The public announcement was made by Hong Kong prosecutors during the ongoing trial of Jimmy Lai, who faces illegitimate and patently political charges in relation to his political speech and political advocacy for international sanctions against Chinese and Hong Kong human rights violators.

The trial of Jimmy Lai and allegations against his purported 'co-conspirators', including Mr Browder, have been publicly denounced as illegitimate and political, contrary to fundamental international human rights standards, by major international and national government

¹ <u>https://rsf.org/en/hong-kong-jimmy-lai-pleads-not-guilty-evidence-brought-against-him-highlights-arbitrary-nature-his</u>

bodies, including the UK Government, the EU authorities and the US Government², as well as international human rights organisations.

In these circumstances and based on the nature of the allegation against Mr Browder, any proceedings and requests concerning him from Hong Kong authorities are <u>clearly political</u> <u>and contrary to Article 3 of the INTERPOL's Constitution</u>, which prohibit any activity of political character.

In addition, any processing of data by INTERPOL would expose Mr Browder to significant risk that his fundamental human rights would be breached. It would risk him being arbitrarily detained, politically persecuted, tortured and imprisoned in clear breach of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 2 of INTERPOL's Constitution.

Given the public nature of the announcement by the Hong Kong authorities concerning Mr Browder, please publicly confirm that no data about him is stored or processed in any INTERPOL communications, and that any requests, including bi-lateral requests, notices and diffusions, will be preemptively and pro-actively blocked.

Given the repeated multiple attempts by Russian authorities to similarly misuse INTERPOL communication channels for their politically-motivated proceedings targeting Mr Browder, please publicly confirm the same.

Taking such immediate action is manifestly in public interest and would serve to safeguard the integrity of INTERPOL and INTERPOL procedures.

(3) Denouncement letter to UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron from members of the UK parliament concerning the collusion allegation by Hong Kong authorities against William Browder: <u>https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58ecfa82e3df284d3a13dd41/t/6596baea1cb3b819f15a6c8c/17043770</u> <u>71688/Letter+to+Lord+David+Cameron+on+Targeting+of+Ben+Rogers%2C+Luke+de+Pulford+and+Bill+Browd</u> <u>er.pdf</u>

(4) Denouncement of the Hong Kong national security proceeding against Jimmy Lai and the collusion charges by the EU diplomatic service (the European External Action Service)

(5) Denouncement of the Hong Kong national security proceeding against Jimmy Lai and the collusion charges by the US State Department:

https://www.state.gov/trial-of-jimmy-lai-under-the-hong-kong-national-security-law/

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ (1) Denouncement of the Hong Kong national security proceeding against Jimmy Lai $\,$ and the foreign collusion charges by the UK Foreign Secretary

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-jimmy-lais-national-security-trial

⁽²⁾ Denouncement letter to UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron from Liz Truss, former British prime minister, and article in Politico.eu, concerning the collusion allegation by Hong Kong authorities against William Browder: <u>https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-liz-truss-urges-foreign-secretary-david-cameron-get-tough-china-over-sham-jimmy-lai-trial/</u>

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/hong-kong-statement-spokesperson-start-national-security-trial-againstjimmy-lai_en

⁽⁶⁾ Denouncement of the Hong Kong national security proceeding against Jimmy Lai and the collusion charges by the U.S. Congressional Executive Commission on China:

https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs'-statement-on-the-trial-of-entrepreneur-anddemocracy-advocate

Given the exceptional circumstances surrounding Mr Browder, failure to act in response to this request would constitute a breach of your duties under INTERPOL's Constitution and rules, and would create a real risk of harm to Mr Browder in violation of his human rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

I look forward to your urgent reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Veit

Barrister with litigation rights