

Statement supported by organizations attending the Vienna European Preparatory Assembly in defense of the 14 Hong Kong protestors

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The organizations and participants to the European Preparatory Assembly of the European Social Forum (EPA-ESF) in Vienna express deep concerns about the arrest of 14 protestors from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and mainland China, who are facing charges of unlawful assembly for the events that transpired on the December 17, 2005 near the vicinity of the 6th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference site in Hong Kong.

The 14 protestors charged were among more than 1,300 people arrested on the night of December 17 questioning the on-going negotiations within the conference site, which would undoubtedly be detrimental to the livelihood of farmers, workers, and people around the world.

We denounce also the use of force by the Hong Kong police during the night of the 17th.

Although all fourteen are released on bail, it is our understanding that the Hong Kong government has formally charged them with unlawful assembly and they are considering adding new charges. We are very concerned by the actions of the Hong Kong government and the police. A harsh sentence for the 14 would also put into question the democratic tolerance of the region, taking into account that no foreigners have been arrested in previous cases of similar demonstrations. Thus, we strongly call for the immediate release of the 14 protestors so that they can return home to their families.

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CRID- France
ESK- Basque Country
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Union syndicale Solidaire - France
Campaign Genoa 2001- Greece
Stop the war coalition - Greece
Les Alternatifs- France
Confederation Kon - Kurch
OLME (Geeck Federation of secondary sector teatchers)- Greece
ADEDY (Geeck Confederation of services publics workers) - Greece
Forum social lemanique- Suisse
Forum social suisse
Network for political and social rights - Greece
CGIL- Italie
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ATTAC - France
CADTM-Belgique
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