

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Send birthday wishes to Lee Cheuk Yan in Prison

I hope this email finds you well. This is Mung Siu Tat, the former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU). Since the forced disbandment of the HKCTU, I have relocated to the United Kingdom. Despite the Hong Kong labour movement is now facing unprecedented oppression, we are grateful for your support during such time of adversities.

Lee Cheuk Yan, the former General Secretary of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, perhaps many of you have known for a long time or worked closely with, has been sentenced to long term imprisonment for participating in peaceful demonstrations. 12th February this year will mark Lee's 65th birthday. Although he will spend this important day in prison, we are convinced that he is not alone, as we are all standing by him.

We sincerely invite all comrades from the labour movement to writing Lee a birthday card or sending him messages of warmth, blessings, and solidarity.

As of now, Lee Cheuk Yan has been sentenced to a total of 20 months in prison for his participation in various peaceful demonstrations and rallies from 2019 to 2020. However, his final sentence is still undetermined as there are still two cases that have yet to be ruled by the court. Now being prosecuted for "Inciting Subversion of State Power" in violation of the National Security Law when he acted as the chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, it is likely that Lee may face harsher sentences in future.

In his letters from prison, Lee stresses that prisons cannot restrain conscience. He has no regrets about going to prison for exercising Hong Kong people's right to freedom of expression and assembly. As stated by him in one of the prison letters,

"I saw my ideal crumbling but I will continue the struggle even though darkness is surrounding us. It is an ideal for which I am prepared for any sanction."

The birthday card or message of solidarity written to Lee Cheuk Yan can be emailed (if necessary, the file can be attached after scanning) to "jeffreying19990929@gmail.com" or mailed to "Attn. Kitty, PO Box 78923, Mong Kok Post Office, Hong Kong" (return address shall be written separately, not on the birthday card or letter).

In Solidarity,

Mung Siu Tat