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November 20, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio,

As you lead U.S. diplomacy with China, I urge you to press Beijing to release Hong Kong rights champion Joshua Wong. Just last week, the Hong Kong High Court sentenced Joshua to ten more years in prison on politically motivated charges of foreign collusion. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) cynically concocted this prosecution to extend Joshua's imprisonment past January 2027, when he was due to be released after more than six years behind bars for courageously defending the liberty of Hongkongers.

Joshua is a patriot who is being persecuted by the CCP for standing up to tyranny. Like you, I met Joshua during his years fighting for democracy and the rule of law in Hong Kong. The impression left by his character, poise, and resolve has stayed with me to this day.

Sadly, the CCP has long used my friendship with Joshua to accuse him of disloyalty. And it is obvious to anyone looking that Hong Kong's democratic institutions have since 2020 been transformed into instruments of CCP coercion.

Joshua's immediate and unconditional release would be a strong signal of China's willingness to forge a sustainable and cooperative relationship with the United States. I respectfully encourage you to build on the Administration's successes securing the release of other political prisoners around the world by insisting that President Xi free Joshua Wong.

Sincerely



Josh Hawley
United States Senator