

## CHAPTER 9

### INCIDENT DAY – MONDAY 1 JULY 2019

#### **Introduction**

9.1 This Chapter deals with the events on 1 July, the third Incident Day in a trilogy of events marking protests against the Fugitive Offenders Bill that occurred at the Legislative Council (LegCo) Complex, after 9 June and 12 June. 1 July was the day when violent protesters succeeded in storming the LegCo Complex in the late afternoon and later vandalised the building, including in particular the main chamber, computer server rooms, desks and rooms designated for Members. After the damage to the LegCo Complex, there were accusations from some media<sup>1</sup> that the Police was using an “empty city strategy (空城計)” to entrap the protesters or had intentionally allowed the protesters to enter and damage the LegCo Complex, so as to turn the public sentiment against them.

9.2 This incident, along with those on 9 June and 12 June, were directly related to violent protesters’ attempts to break into the LegCo Complex and Police handling of the events stemming from these attempts. The three incidents were closely related. The purpose of this Chapter aims to inform the IPCC of the facts of the incidents relating to 1 July, when protesters finally broke into and vandalised the LegCo Complex. It would help the IPCC discharge its statutory function under section 8(1)(a) of the IPCC Ordinance in examining complaints relating to or stemming from attempts to break into the LegCo Complex on 9 June and 12 June. At the same time, the opportunity is taken to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Police under Section 8(1)(c) of the IPCC Ordinance to address the public concern.

#### **Public Order Events before 1 July**

9.3 The events surrounding the LegCo Complex on 9 June and 12 June have been detailed in Chapters 7 and 8. On 9 June, those who opposed the Fugitive Offenders Bill laid siege to the LegCo Complex and later in the evening, clashed with the police officers at police cordon line at the Complex, until daybreak the following day. Between 10 and 12 June, the day scheduled for the Second Reading of the Fugitive Offenders Bill, calls for action to disrupt the meeting had been widely circulated on the internet, and an ultimatum appeared in the internet that if the Government did not withdraw the Bill by 15:00, protest action would escalate.

---

<sup>1</sup> Sing Pao (2019-07-02). 防暴警施發催淚彈 示威者四散. Retrieved from <https://www.singpao.com.hk/index.php?fi=news1&id=104489>  
The Standnews (2019-07-02). 【佔領立法會】警突全撤 被指「空城計」讓示威者闖入 盧偉聰否認刻意設陷阱. Retrieved from <https://thestandnews.com/politics/佔領立法會-警突全撤-被指-空城計-讓示威者闖入-盧偉聰否認刻意設陷阱/>

On 12 June, tens of thousands of people flooded to Central Government Complex (CGC) area and occupied the major thoroughfares outside the LegCo Complex and in Admiralty from morning to midnight, almost bringing the traffic between the east and west side of Hong Kong to a standstill during this period. As the Government did not withdraw the Fugitive Offenders Bill by the deadline of 15:00, violent protesters hurled bricks, iron rods and other hard objects at police officers guarding cordon lines surrounding CGC.

9.4 Between 12 June and 1 July, a number of significant events took place. On 15 June, the Chief Executive announced that the Government had decided to suspend the Fugitive Offenders Bill.<sup>2</sup> On Sunday 16 June, Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF) launched another procession with some two million people, on CHRF's estimate<sup>3</sup>, flooding the streets. Despite the large turnout, the procession concluded peacefully at CGC without any clashes.<sup>4</sup> On 17 June, the Police management assured the public that those had not engaged in any violent acts during the Public Order Events (POEs) on 12 June need not worry about committing a riot offence.<sup>5</sup> On 18 June and 19 June, the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Security (S for S) publicly apologised for the Government deficiencies in processing the Fugitive Offenders Bill.<sup>6</sup> On the nights of 21 June and 26 June, several hundred to several thousand protesters laid siege to Police Headquarters (PHQ) after taking part in rallies earlier. The Police did not take any dispersal action and only stood guard inside PHQ, allowing the protesters to disperse in their own time. There was no physical confrontation between the protesters and the Police on both occasions, although the exterior of PHQ was defaced with slogans and CCTV cameras were disabled or actually broken; laser lights were also used to shine on police officers inside PHQ who could be seen from the street. Police officers and civilians inside PHQ were unable to leave till the early hours of the following morning after the siege.<sup>7</sup> The POEs concluded,

<sup>2</sup> The Government of HKSAR Press Release (2019-06-15). Opening remarks by CE at media session. Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/15/P2019061500707.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Police figure: 338 000

<sup>4</sup> SCMP (2019-06-16). As it happened: A historic day in Hong Kong concludes peacefully as organisers claim almost 2 million people came out in protest against the fugitive bill. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3014695/sea-black-hong-kong-will-march-against-suspended>

<sup>5</sup> News.gov.hk (2019-06-17). Police chief clarifies "riot" term. Retrieved from [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2019/06/20190617/20190617\\_224726\\_031.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2019/06/20190617/20190617_224726_031.html)

<sup>6</sup> Government Press Releases (2019-06-18). Opening remarks by CE at media session (with photos/video).

Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/18/P2019061800812.htm?fontSize=1>  
Government Press Releases (2019-06-19). Transcript of remarks by S for S at media session. Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/19/P2019061900772.htm?fontSize=1>

<sup>7</sup> Ming Pao (2019-06-21). 【逃犯條例・不斷更新・短片】接近凌晨零時 警總外人潮未散. Retrieved from <https://news.mingpao.com/ins/港聞/article/20190621/s00001/1561076224064/> 【逃犯條例-不斷更新-短片】接近凌晨零時-警總外人潮未散

SCMP (2019-06-21). Hong Kong extradition bill protesters besiege police headquarters into Friday night after day of mobile rallies. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3015614/hong-kong-extradition-bill-protesters-besiege-police>

with no violent incidents or clashes between the protesters and the Police.<sup>8</sup>

9.5 It was against this background that the events on 1 July unfolded. A Chronology of the events on this day appears as Annex to this Chapter.

### Events on 1 July

9.6 1 July was the anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR. A number of events were organised for the day. The flag-raising ceremony and celebrations were held at the Golden Bauhinia Square and Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) respectively that morning. Similar to previous years, CHRF also launched the 1 July procession from Victoria Park to CGC that afternoon. Since 29 June, the Police had received intelligence that some protesters had planned to disrupt the flag-raising ceremony, block the major thoroughfares near HKCEC and mount attacks on the LegCo Complex in order to press the Government to withdraw the Fugitive Offenders Bill. The Police deployed around 350 officers to secure the Golden Bauhinia Square and HKCEC, 1 100 officers to manage the 1 July procession and 200 police officers to defend inside the LegCo Complex.

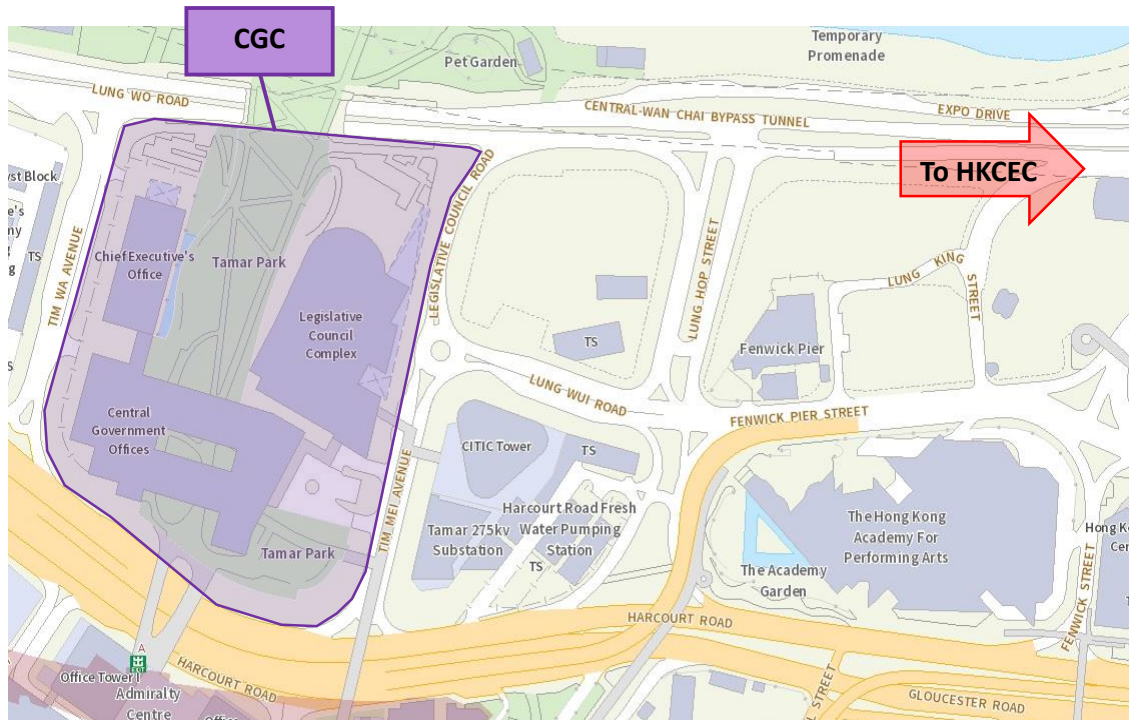
9.7 The Police adopted a two-tier command structure to run these operations. The policing objectives on 1 July for protection of CGC did not change from those on 9 June and 12 June, i.e. to protect the integrity of CGC, namely to ensure that CGC could function as intended and persons using CGC are safe. Unauthorised entry into CGC and violent or illegal acts to impair the functioning of CGC would not be tolerated. The policing approach was, as before, to prevent the preventable, manage the unpreventable and engage the unacceptable.<sup>9</sup>

9.8 HKCEC is about 600 metres from the LegCo Complex. Connecting the two complexes are Lung Wo Road along the waterfront, and Lung Wui Road extending to Fenwick Pier Street and Convention Avenue. Given their proximity to CGC, these roads together with Harcourt Road and other thoroughfares in Admiralty were targets for frequent blockade by protesters on 9 June and 12 June (see Maps 9-1 and 9-2).

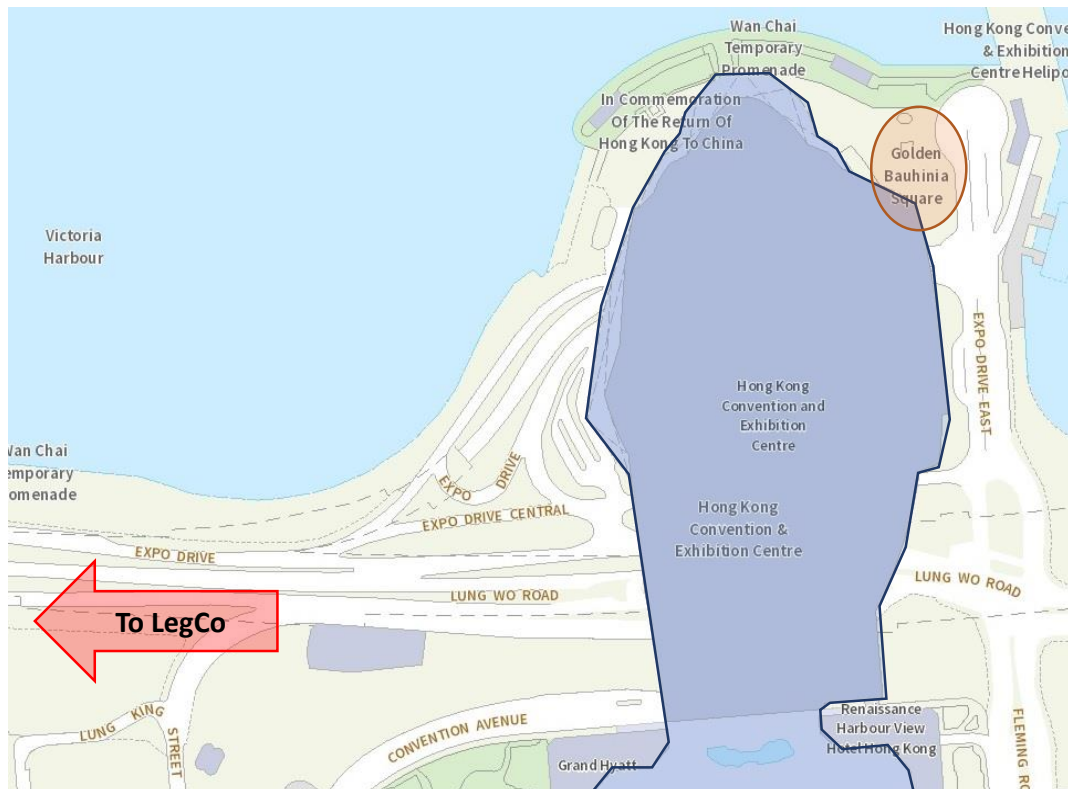
---

<sup>8</sup> SCMP (2019-06-21). As it happened: How Hong Kong extradition bill protesters continued siege of police headquarters into Friday night. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3015463/hong-kong-extradition-bill-protesters-occupy-road-leading>  
SCMP (2019-06-26). Siege of Hong Kong police headquarters ends without clashes after 6-hour drama by extradition bill protesters. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3016238/hong-kong-police-under-siege-again-protesters-surround>

<sup>9</sup> Source: HKPF



Map 9-1: CGC area and around  
(Source of base map: Lands Department)

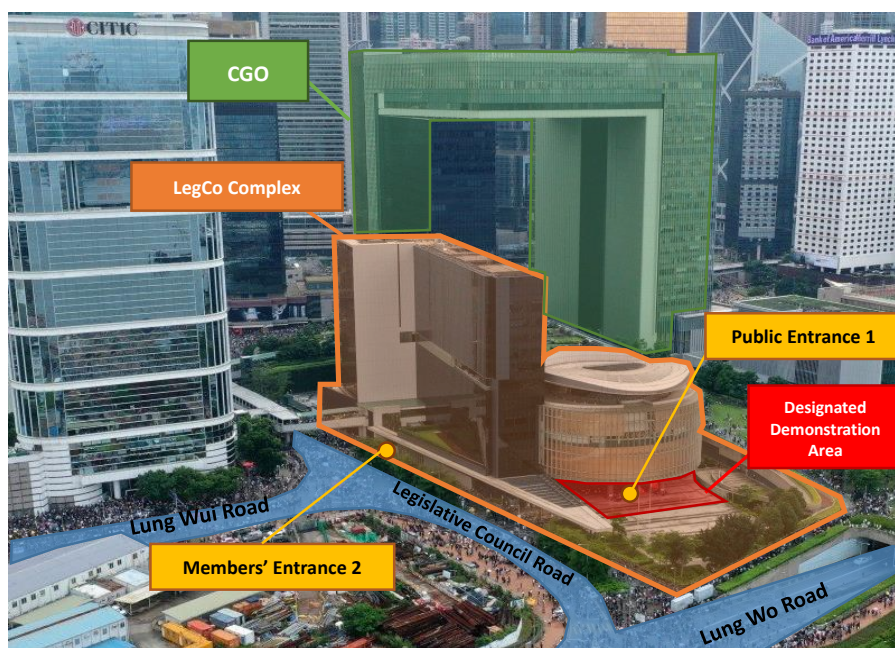


Map 9-2: HKCEC, Golden Bauhinia Square and around  
(Source of base map: Lands Department)



9.9 In the small hours of 1 July, protesters started gathering outside the LegCo Complex. They later walked over to HKCEC and occupied Lung Wo Road, Lung Wui Road and Fenwick Pier Street near HKCEC. In the early morning, there were sporadic clashes between some protesters and the Police at these spots. According to the Police, they withdrew from these areas around 10:44 to avoid confrontation. The protesters continued to occupy those roads.

9.10 Around 13:17, some protesters started using metal rods and a cart loaded with objects to smash the glass panels repeatedly near Members' Entrance 2 of the LegCo Complex (see Graphic 9-1). They managed to break the glass but the police officers standing guard inside successfully warded them off. As a result of the events at the LegCo Complex, at 14:45 CHRF changed the finishing point of the procession from CGC to Central. At 14:54, some violent protesters at the LegCo Complex threw unknown objects emitting powdery smoke towards police officers. Some officers reported to have been injured by the powders, causing them breathing difficulties and redness on their skin. Fire Services Department (FSD) later examined the unknown objects and confirmed at 17:30 that the powders contained acidic and poisonous substances.



Graphic 9-1: CGC area, with indications of CGO, LegCo Complex and its Members' Entrance 2, Public Entrance 1 and the Designated Demonstration Area  
(Source of base image: SCMP)

9.11 Around 17:00, protesters moved to Public Entrance 1 and tried to smash the glass panels there (see Graphic 9-1). Around 17:30, they broke the glass panel and at around 21:00 pried open the roller shutter behind the glass panel. They then threw or shot some objects that emitted a billowing white powdery smoke at the police officers inside. As a result, the police

officers inside the LegCo Complex retreated to the adjacent Central Government Offices (CGO), leaving the LegCo Complex unguarded. After entering the LegCo Complex, the violent protesters remained inside for about three hours, causing very substantial damage with a subsequent repair cost of about \$40 million.<sup>10</sup> The Police took dispersal action in the vicinity of the LegCo Complex around midnight, by which time most of the protesters had left the LegCo Complex.

9.12 A total of 20 police officers were injured on 1 July. Hospital Authority did not record any casualty in relation to the incident on 1 July.

9.13 As at 29 February 2020, the Police had arrested 44 persons (39 male and five female) in connection with the incident on 1 July for various offences, including “Unlawful Assembly”, “Riot”, “Assault on Police Officer”, “Obstructing Police Officer”, “Wounding with Intent”, “Possession of Instruments Fit for Unlawful Purposes”, “Possession of Part I Poison”, “Failing to Carry HKID Card”, “Criminal Damage”, “Conspiracy to Criminal Damage”, “Offence by Persons Entering or Remaining in Precincts of Chamber”, and “Endangering Safety of Person or Property under Section 48 of Cap 448C (Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order)”. Among them, 13 persons had been charged in Court pending trial, 23 were still under police investigation and eight had been released.

9.14 The storming of the LegCo Complex on 1 July was an unprecedented event. Some media reports accused the Police of using an “empty city strategy (空城計)” to deliberately entice protesters to enter and vandalise the LegCo Complex.<sup>11</sup> The public also questioned the Police tactics and deployment to defend the LegCo Complex on 1 July, which were substantially different from those on 9 June and 12 June.

### **Sources of Information**

9.15 For the purpose of its study of events on 1 July, the IPCC has scrutinised the following materials:

- (a) Documents provided by the Police in respect of police deployment and operation, prior intelligence received, use of police weapons and casualties involved in the incident day.

<sup>10</sup> RTHK (2019-10-18). 梁君彥稱立法會維修費約4千萬 下星期三四發黃色警示. Retrieved from <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/ch/component/k2/1484918-20191008.htm>

<sup>11</sup> The Stand News (2019-07-02). 【佔領立法會】警突全撤 被指「空城計」讓示威者闖入 盧偉聰否認刻意設陷阱. Retrieved from <https://thestandnews.com/politics/佔領立法會-警突全撤-被指-空城計-讓示威者闖入-盧偉聰否認刻意設陷阱/>

- (b) Operational Orders related to Operation TIDERIDER provided by the Police.
- (c) Information obtained from meetings with the Police.
- (d) Footage recorded by the Police pertaining to the 1 July operations. A total of six video clips of one hour and four minutes long were viewed.
- (e) News reports and news footage produced by different television companies, newspapers and media. A total of 68 news reports and 138 video reports of 120 hours long were examined.
- (f) Footage and photos provided by the public in response to IPCC's appeal.
- (g) Press statements obtained from the websites of Information Services Department (*news.gov.hk* and *info.gov.hk*), the Police (*police.gov.hk*) and LegCo (*legco.gov.hk*) concerning the incidents on 1 July.
- (h) CITIC Tower CCTV footage provided by Property management of CITIC Tower to the IPCC, including 141 CCTV clips consisting about 152 hours in relation to 1 July.
- (i) Information obtained from a site visit to the LegCo Complex by the IPCC Secretariat staff.

### **The Events**

#### **Events between 12 June and 1 July**

9.16 After 12 June, a number of significant events took place before 1 July. They are as follows:

- After 12 June, the public continued to call for the withdrawal of the Fugitive Offenders Bill. CHRF organised another public procession on 16 June and appealed to people to show up to voice their condemnation of the Fugitive Offenders Bill.
- On 15 June, in view of general public sentiments against the Fugitive Offenders Bill, the Chief Executive announced that the Government had decided to suspend the

Fugitive Offenders Bill.<sup>12</sup>

- On 16 June, CHRF launched a public procession walking from Victoria Park to CGC (see Image 9-1). According to CHRF's estimate, two million took part in the procession. Despite the Chief Executive's announcement on 15 June, some members of the public were still worried that the Government would revive the Fugitive Offenders Bill in the future.<sup>13</sup> There were also strong public sentiments against the Police for using force on the protesters on 12 June and characterising the situation that day as a riot. In the public procession, some protesters demanded the Government to withdraw the Fugitive Offenders Bill, the Police to retract the characterisation of the incident on 12 June as a riot, the Police to account for their excessive use force on 12 June, and the unconditional release of those arrested on 12 June. The procession was generally peaceful apart from some hundreds of protesters remaining in the area outside CGC after the event and occupying Harcourt Road from midnight to the early hours on the following day. There was no confrontation between the protesters and the Police.<sup>14</sup>



Image 9-1: CHRF procession held on 16 June 2019

(Image source: HK01)

<sup>12</sup> The Government of HKSAR Press Release (2019-06-15). Opening remarks by CE at media session. Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/15/P2019061500707.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Hong Kong Economic Journal (2019-06-17). 陳景生:政府不撤回修訂逃犯條例不智. Retrieved from <https://www2.hkej.com/instantnews/current/article/2164248/陳景生%3A政府不撤回修訂逃犯條例不智>

<sup>14</sup> SCMP (2019-06-16). As it happened: A historic day in Hong Kong concludes peacefully as organisers claim almost 2 million people came out in protest against the fugitive bill. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3014695/sea-black-hong-kong-will-march-against-suspended>



- On 17 June, the Police management clarified that the remarks made on the riot on 12 June were aimed only at those whose behaviour amounted to riotous acts. Other protesters who took part in the public order events but did not engage in the violent acts need not worry that they had committed riot (“我當日所說，其實是指某些人的行為已經涉嫌干犯暴動罪，所以當日參與公眾活動的其他示威人士，如沒參加過任何暴力行為，他們不用擔心會觸犯暴動罪。”).<sup>15</sup>
- On 18 June and 19 June, the Chief Executive and the S for S openly apologised for Government deficiencies in processing the Fugitive Offenders Bill.<sup>16</sup>
- On 19 June, the Federation of Students and five university student unions announced that if the Government did not respond to demands made by the public by 17:00 on 20 June, they would escalate their actions and initiate a non-cooperation movement at 07:00 on 21 June.<sup>17</sup> In support of this call by the student unions, many people dressed in black sat in silence at the designated demonstration area at the LegCo Complex in the small hours of 21 June. By 10:00 that day, more than a thousand people had gathered at the designated demonstration area. At 11:00, the protesters decided to escalate their action and walked out to Tim Mei Avenue and Harcourt Road. They used water-filled barriers (not those used by the Police) and traffic cones to block the eastbound and westbound lanes of Harcourt Road (see Image 9-2). Afterwards, many of them proceeded to PHQ and laid siege. More people later joined the siege of PHQ with thousands of them at its peak (see Image 9-3). Some protesters threw eggs at the building, obscured CCTV cameras installed on the boundary wall and spray-painted slogans on the walls of the building. Laser lights were also shone on police officers visible from the street. The Police did not take any dispersal action but only guarded inside PHQ. Most of the protesters left in the small hours on the following day. Again, the Police did not have any physical confrontation with the protesters.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> News.gov.hk (2019-06-17). Police chief clarifies "riot" term. Retrieved from [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2019/06/20190617/20190617\\_224726\\_031.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2019/06/20190617/20190617_224726_031.html)

<sup>16</sup> Government Press Releases (2019-06-18). Opening remarks by CE at media session (with photos/video). Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/18/P2019061800812.htm?fontSize=1>  
Government Press Releases (2019-06-19). Transcript of remarks by S for S at media session. Retrieved from <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/19/P2019061900772.htm?fontSize=1>

<sup>17</sup> RTHK (2019-06-19). 大專學界促撤回修例撤暴動定性撤控並追究警方濫用暴力. Retrieved from [https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/ch/component/k2/1463752-20190619.htm?archive\\_date=2019-06-19](https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/ch/component/k2/1463752-20190619.htm?archive_date=2019-06-19)

<sup>18</sup> Ming Pao (2019-06-22). 萬人圍警總 快閃堵政府 3 大樓 G20 前夕冀國際施壓 民陣發起周三中環集會. Retrieved from <https://news.mingpao.com/pns/要聞/article/20190622/s00001/1561141004409/萬人圍警總-快閃堵政府3大樓-g20前夕冀國際施壓-民陣發起周三中環集會>

CBS News (2019-06-22). Hong Kong protesters end police headquarters siege. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hong-kong-protesters-end-police-headquarters-siege-today-2019-06-22/>



Image 9-2: On 21 June, protesters used water-filled barriers and traffic cones to block Harcourt Road  
(Image source: RTHK)

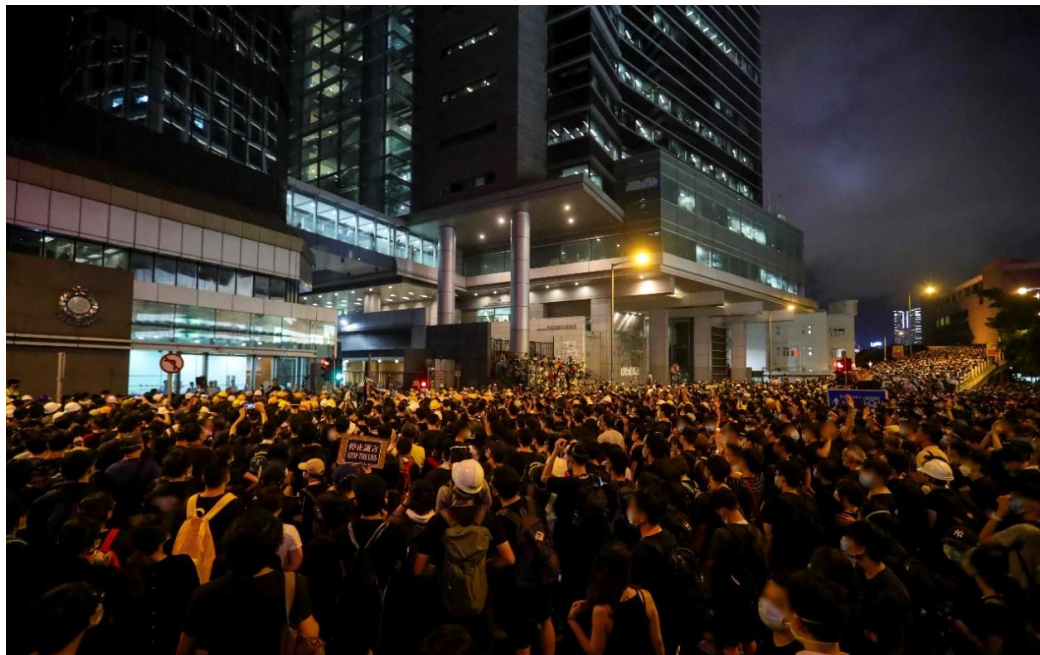


Image 9-3: Protesters laid siege of PHQ on 21 June 2019  
(Image source: SCMP)

- On the evening of 26 June, CHRF launched another rally at the Edinburgh Place in Central with around 10 000 participants (see Image 9-4). Participants in the assembly called for the Chief Executive to respond to their demands. When the assembly concluded around midnight, over a thousand participants walked to PHQ and once again

laid siege to the police complex (see Image 9-5). Similar to 21 June, the Police only guarded inside PHQ without taking proactive action. The protesters gradually left the location in the small hours of 27 June. Around 03:00, when only around 200 protesters remained outside PHQ, the Police dispersed them in the direction of Wan Chai. The event concluded peacefully without any violent clash that night.<sup>19</sup>



Image 9-4: CHRF rally at Edinburgh Place on 26 June 2019

*(Image source: Ming Pao)*

<sup>19</sup> Ming Pao (2019-06-27). 喚 G20 關注集會後 千人再圍警總 噴漆撬字擲蛋 警拉閘按兵不動. Retrieved from [https://news.mingpao.com/pns/港聞/article/20190627/s00002/1561574385071/喚\\_g20\\_關注集會後-千人再圍警總-噴漆撬字擲蛋-警拉閘按兵不動](https://news.mingpao.com/pns/港聞/article/20190627/s00002/1561574385071/喚_g20_關注集會後-千人再圍警總-噴漆撬字擲蛋-警拉閘按兵不動)  
SCMP (2019-06-26). Siege of Hong Kong police headquarters ends without clashes after 6-hour drama by extradition bill protesters. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3016238/hong-kong-police-under-siege-again-protesters-surround>





Image 9-5: Protesters laid another siege of PHQ after CHRF rally on 26 June 2019

*(Image source: SCMP)*

### Clashes before the Flag-raising Ceremony

- Around 03:00 of 1 July, hundreds of protesters gathered at the designated demonstration area of the LegCo Complex. Since 04:52, some of the protesters had blocked the roads near the HKCEC, including Lung Wo Road, Lung Wui Road and Fenwick Pier Street. There were stand-offs between those protesters and the Police until around 07:10 (see Images 9-6 and 9-7) (source: media reports).







Images 9-6 and 9-7: In the small hours of 1 July, protesters and the Police were in stand-off near the HKCEC  
(Image source: RTHK and HK01)

- Around 07:10, there were clashes between some protesters and police officers near Fenwick Pier Street (source: HKPF). Police officers used batons and OC foam to contain the protesters at Harcourt Road near Tim Mei Avenue (see Image 9-8). From 07:30 onwards, the situation became a stand-off again between the Police and protesters (source: media reports). Some violent protesters threw bricks, balloons containing suspected corrosive liquid and objects emitting smoke at police officers. 14 police officers were injured. At 10:44, police officers were instructed to withdraw (source: HKPF).



Image 9-8: At around 07:20, police officers used OC Foam and batons to disperse protesters  
(Image source: HK01)

### Charging on the LegCo Complex at Members' Entrance 2

- Around 13:17, some 50 protesters had gathered at the LegCo Complex and started to crash repeatedly into the glass panels at Members' Entrance 2, with a loaded metal cart (see Image 9-9) (source: HKPF and media reports). At 14:51, the protesters succeeded in breaking one of the glass panels. The police officers inside used OC foam on the protesters near the broken glass panel (see Image 9-10) (source: media reports and live video footage). At 14:54, the protesters threw some unknown objects emitting powdery smoke towards police officers. Some officers reported to have been injured by the powder, causing them breathing difficulties and redness on their skin. FSD later arrived and examined the objects (source: HKPF). The protesters there did not force entry but continued to hit other glass panels with hard objects until around 16:10. During the whole process, the police officers remained on guard inside the LegCo Complex behind the glass door at Members' Entrance 2 (source: media reports). At 17:30, FSD confirmed that the powder emitted from the unknown objects contained an acidic and poisonous substance called "P-phenylenediamine dihydrochloride" (source: HKPF).
- At 14:59, the Police formulated a sweeping plan, intending to push the protesters away from the LegCo Complex towards the east. Headquarters Command and Control Centre (HQCCC), however, decided not to execute the sweeping plan (source: HKPF).



Image 9-9: Around 13:17, some protesters started charging the LegCo Complex, including using a metal cart  
(Image source: HK01)



Image 9-10: At 14:51, the metal cart used by the protesters broke through one of the glass panels  
(Image source: HK01)

### CHRF Procession

- At 14:45, the procession organised by CHRF started off at the Victoria Park (source: HKPF). As some protesters were trying to force into the LegCo Complex, CHRF announced that the procession would not finish at CGC. The procession would head straight to Chater Road in Central (see Map 9-3). The head of the procession arrived at the finishing point in Central at 15:52 (source: HKPF). Since 16:10, many protesters started detouring from Queensway and proceeded to the LegCo Complex area (see Image 9-11) (source: media reports). The whole procession concluded at 21:20 (source: HKPF).



Map 9-3: Planned and diverted route of CHRF procession  
(Source of base image: SCMP)





Image 9-11: Since 16:10, protesters started detouring from Queensway and proceeded to the LegCo Complex

*(Image source: HK01)*

### **Charging on the LegCo Complex at Public Entrance 1, Police Retreat and the Storming of the LegCo Complex**

- Around 17:00, over a thousand protesters were in the area outside Public Entrance 1 of the LegCo Complex (see Image 9-12). Many of them started smashing the glass panels at the entrance (source: HKPF and media reports). The Police deployed 200 more officers to the LegCo Complex as reinforcement (source: HKPF).



Image 9-12: At around 17:00, some protesters attacked the glass panels near Public Entrance 1

*(Image source: HK01)*



- Around 18:30, some of them broke into the building and moved forward to the roller shutter installed right behind their entry point and tried to pry open the roller shutter (source: HKPF and media reports). Around 400 police officers were on guard inside the building (source: HKPF).
- At 20:39, over 2 000 protesters had gathered outside LegCo Complex. Someone (believed by the Police to be among the protesters) from outside the LegCo Complex tampered with the electricity supply box installed right outside the LegCo Complex and disrupted the power supply to some parts of the building (source: HKPF). Lights suddenly went off in some parts of the building (see Image 9-13) (source: HKPF, media reports and live video footage).



Image 9-13: At 20:39, lights went off in some parts of the LegCo Complex  
(Image source: RTHK)

- At 20:47, the violent protesters had already pried open part of the roller shutter. They threw objects that emitted a powdery smoke through the broken roller shutter into the area where the police officers were on guard (see Image 9-14). HQCCC considered the situation at the LegCo Complex was not suitable for dispersing protesters and instructed officers to retreat at 20:51 (source: HKPF). The police officers left the LegCo Complex through a passage to go to the adjacent CGO (see Image 9-15) (source: media reports and live video footage).



Image 9-14: At 20:47, smoke-emitting objects thrown towards the Police inside the LegCo Complex  
(Image source: HK01)



Image 9-15: At 20:51, police officers retreated from the LegCo Complex to the adjacent CGO  
(Image source: Cable TV)

- At around 21:00, hundreds of protesters entered the LegCo Complex and vandalised the premises (see Images 9-16 to 9-17) (source: media reports).



Image 9-16: At 21:00, violent protesters entered the LegCo Complex  
(Image source: *Ming Pao*)



Image 9-17: After 21:00, violent protesters occupied the LegCo Complex  
and vandalised the premises  
(Image source: *HK01*)



- At 21:35, the Police senior management gave instructions for the formulation of a plan for the situation inside the LegCo Complex. Between 22:00 and 22:32, the Police senior management instructed police officers to proceed to the Police College for briefing (source: HKPF).
- At 22:21, the Police announced on the internet that they would conduct dispersal actions very shortly. At 23:40, the Police arrived in the vicinity of the LegCo Complex for the dispersal actions (source: HKPF and media reports).
- At 00:02 on 2 July, the Police advanced towards the protesters at Lung Wo Road with a black warning flag indicating “WARNING TEAR SMOKE”. Violent protesters threw bricks, umbrellas, hard objects and eggs at the Police. The Police started to disperse the protesters in the vicinity of the LegCo Complex with rounds of tear gas fired near Lung Wui Road and Lung Wo Road (see Image 9-18) (source: HKPF). The violent protesters inside the LegCo Complex started to leave. They and other protesters retreated to Admiralty Centre via Tim Mei Avenue and Harcourt Road. Up to around 00:41, protesters started to disperse and leave Admiralty area (source: HKPF). After that, the Police entered the LegCo Complex around 01:00. All the protesters had already left (source: media reports).



Image 9-18: At 00:02 of 2 July, the Police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters in the LegCo area  
(Image source: HK01)



### **Complaints against Police**

9.17 The incident on 1 July did not give rise to any Reportable Complaint (RC) but there were ten Notifiable Complaints (NCs). The ten NCs include two about excessive use of force on the protesters; two about the Police failure to take appropriate action to stop the protesters from damaging the LegCo Complex; one about inappropriately conducting stop and search on citizens and vehicles; and one about failing to display insignia by some police officers. The remaining four were about other improper police demeanours such as being impolite to protesters.

### **Police Response**

9.18 In response to the events of this day, the Police management had made various observations to the IPCC. The Police response is set out below:

9.19 The plan of the Police was to defend from inside the LegCo Complex. There was no plan to do sweeping outside the LegCo Complex as 1 July was a public holiday and there was no meeting and no staff working in the LegCo Complex. This was unlike the situation of 12 June where there was on-going business with a meeting scheduled in LegCo.

9.20 Two major events, namely the flag-raising ceremony at the Golden Bauhinia Square and the public procession staged by the CHRF, were held in the morning and afternoon respectively. Since 29 June, there had been heated online discussions summoning protesters to replace the national flags with black flags, prohibit guests and officials from attending the flag-raising ceremony and mount attacks to iconic locations such as CGC, Government House, PHQ, and Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, etc.

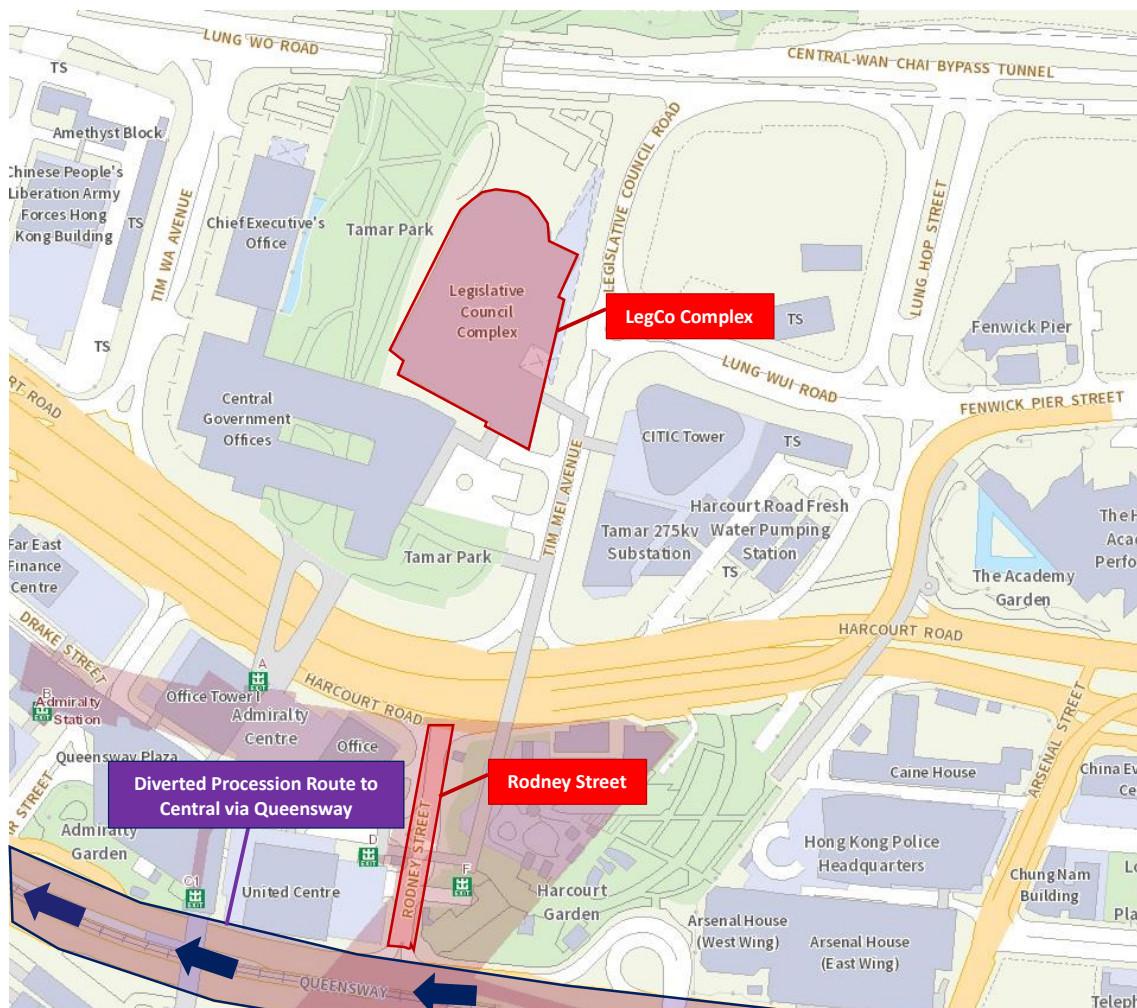
9.21 Due to the heated discussions on prohibiting or disrupting the flag-raising ceremony, the Government arranged sea routes for the officials, guests and staff to proceed to the Golden Bauhinia Square. Manpower from six local police districts was therefore deployed to safeguard the assembly points for the attendants. Marine Police were deployed to safeguard the waters near Golden Bauhinia Square and the coastal area. Police resources were tied up as protesters started their action early in the morning to disrupt the flag-raising ceremony.

9.22 At 13:17, many protesters surrounded the LegCo Complex and they started to damage the glass entrance and threw smoke bombs of unknown substances at police officers who were guarding inside the Complex. The number of protesters around CGC increased rapidly. However, the presence of reporters and LegCo Members caused significant difficulties in mounting immediate dispersal or arrest action. Such action might trigger the escalation of violence by the protesters that would endanger the reporters, LegCo Members and

other public members there.

9.23 At around 14:54, some violent protesters used ‘smoke bombs’ to attack police officers defending the LegCo Complex. Although the Police reinforcement was ready for sweeping, around 150-200 protesters started to block Harcourt Road at 15:08. Information revealed that some protesters would attack Government House and PHQ. Subsequently, at around 15:52, the procession reached Central area and the number of participants rapidly rose to 38 000 at 16:30. Meanwhile, ambulance and FSD officers arrived at CGC to convey injured police officers to hospital and to examine the suspicious gas or powder from ‘smoke bombs’. FSD later found the powder from ‘smoke bombs’ contained an acidic and poisonous substance called ‘P-phenylenediamine dihydrochloride’.

9.24 There were already a large number of protesters occupying Lung Wo Road, Tim Mei Avenue, Lung Wui Road and the section of Harcourt Road outside Admiralty Centre (see Map 9-4). They were subsequently joined by over tens of thousands protesters detoured from the procession route at Rodney Street upon incitation by protesters. If the Police conducted the sweeping operation, police officers could be trapped in the intersection of Tim Mei Avenue and Harcourt Road and might trigger off a major battle with more protesters flooding into the area from the Causeway Bay/ Wanchai direction. Having regard to public safety, HQCCC decided against sweeping action. It was assessed that any escalation of violence might endanger innocent people like peaceful protesters, FSD officers, ambulance officers and reporters at the scene. Hence, the Police did not take dispersal or arrest action in that situation.



Map 9-4: CGC area, Rodney Street and the diverted CHRF procession route

(Source of base map: Lands Department)

9.25 At around 20:51, over 3 000 protesters were gathering at the designated demonstration area of the LegCo Complex. They besieged the LegCo Complex and attempted to forcibly enter the building, while thousands of other protesters remained around CGC. The crowd continued to build up as the protesters of the CHRF procession continuously joined in after reaching their destination. There were only two options left: to stay and protect the building; or to withdraw. If the officers were to stay and protect the building, they could only use batons to disperse the crowd which might cause serious injuries. In the indoor environment, the Police could not use the same forms of force for controlling a situation in more open space. The situation got worse as some protesters had tampered with the electrical box of the LegCo Complex and tried to cut off the electricity supply causing some lights to go off. Given the power failure, it was not known whether the fire service installation remained functional. The area was a closed area without good ventilation so that ‘smoke bombs’ thrown by protesters might endanger officers on the spot. Having considered the escalated violent tactics of the protesters and the limitations of the local environment, police officers retreated

from the LegCo Complex for the officers' safety and avoidance of severe casualties.

### **IPCC Observations**

9.26 The IPCC notes the Police response at paragraphs 9.18 to 9.25 and also that the protesters did not target the LegCo Complex between 12 June and 1 July amid the Government's suspension of the Fugitive Offenders Bill:

- (a) After the announcement made by the Chief Executive on 15 June about suspending the Fugitive Offenders Bill, on 18 June and 19 June, the Chief Executive and S for S had publicly apologised for the Government deficiencies in processing the Fugitive Offenders Bill.
- (b) After the clash on 12 June at the LegCo Complex, the violent protesters did not target the LegCo Complex.
- (c) Even though the 16 June procession had an estimated turnout of two million<sup>20</sup>, it concluded at CGC without any violent incident.
- (d) The sit-in rally on 21 June at the designated demonstration area at the LegCo Complex was peaceful. During and after the event, the protesters made no attempt to enter the LegCo Complex or cause any damage to it. Instead, the protesters laid siege to PHQ.
- (e) After the rally on 26 June, the protesters again went to PHQ instead of CGC. The protesters did not target the LegCo Complex.
- (f) 1 July was a public holiday and annual celebration day. All Government officials and LegCo Members were invited to attend the celebration at the HKCEC.

9.27 The IPCC takes note of the Police response that the Police deployments for the defence of the LegCo Complex were the result of intelligence based risk assessment, and that the tactics adopted were the result of changing circumstances faced by the Police on that day. But unfortunately, the risk assessment had turned out to be flawed. The primary objective of Operation TIDERIDER was ensuring the integrity of the LegCo Complex. It is regrettable that this objective was not achieved. The IPCC considers that insufficient thought was given to the vulnerability of the building to a successful break-in, which did happen later that day, resulting in serious vandalism of the interior and internal facilities of the building. With

---

<sup>20</sup> Police figure: 338 000



hindsight, the objective of protecting the LegCo Complex could have been achieved had the Police has taken early measures to contain and protect the LegCo Complex, such as utilising stronger protective barriers. It is observed that this has now been done (see Images 9-19 & 9-20).

**Recommendations by IPCC under Section 8(1)(c) of IPCC Ordinance**

9.28 The IPCC recommends that, based on the lessons learnt from this episode, the Police management should conduct the following reviews:

- (a) The Police ability to mobilise and allocate manpower to deal with several major POEs simultaneously;
- (b) The Police ability for timely assessment (including ability to collect intelligence) and identification of potentially risky targets including those of symbolic or strategic importance to the HKSAR, in particular the LegCo Complex, in the light of possible escalation of violent protests;
- (c) The Police ability to assess risk (including identification and evaluation of potential vulnerability) and identify risk mitigation of each major potential target, for instance, the glass panels and doors and the electricity supply box at the LegCo Complex, better utilisation of stronger protective barriers, such as water-filled barriers that had been deployed during the visit of the Vice Premier in 2011 and subsequently deployed on 21 July and thereafter (see Images 9-19 & 9-20);
- (d) Risk mitigation measures identified for each target at risk and regularly review in the light of changing circumstances;
- (e) The strategic effectiveness of setting up cordon lines inside the LegCo Complex as opposed to outside the Complex, allowing the external perimeter of the building to be breached and refraining from taking dispersal action until midnight; and
- (f) The general tactics to lessen confrontation, where protection of targets at risk are concerned.



Image 9-19: Water-filled barriers at LegCo Complex on 1 October  
(Image source: Ming Pao)



Image 9-20: Water-filled barriers outside Mong Kok Police Station on 30 September  
(Image source: RTHK)