

## **Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association**

### **Release of Lawyer Mr Wang Quanzhang Pending Trial**

1. The Hong Kong Bar Association (HKBA) refers to an Open Petition Letter initiated by the Human Rights Commission of the Geneva Bar Association dated 10 December 2018 and supported by a number of national lawyers organizations across the world concerning the detention of lawyer Mr Wang Quanzhang (“the Petition”). The HKBA understands that Mr Wang Quanzhang was among the mainland legal professionals interrogated and/or detained in 2015 for alleged offences ranging from “subverting state power” to “disruption of court order”. According to the Petition, Mr Wang was taken by the police on 3 August 2015 and was charged in January 2016 for allegedly “subverting state power”. He has been held incommunicado for over three years without any form of due process, and there are concerns over risks of further deterioration of his health condition while in detention.
2. On related occasions, the HKBA had previously issued two statements respectively on 18 July 2015 and 31 March 2017 calling upon the relevant Mainland authorities to conform to due process and to respect established fundamental human rights of PRC legal professionals and citizens.
3. The HKBA trusts that the relevant Mainland authorities, prosecutors and judges responsible for the conduct of the trial are fully aware of such established entitlements and calls upon them to ensure their full and proper implementation. Given the length of detention of Mr Wang, the HKBA urges that Mr Wang be released as soon as possible pending trial.

**HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION**

**Dated: 18 December 2018**