

Press release of the Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”)
On the violent attacks on members of the public in Yuen Long on 21 July 2019

The HKBA condemns the violent and indiscriminate attacks on ordinary unarmed passers-by, rail passengers and members of the press at the Yuen Long West Rail Station and its vicinity on Sunday night by an organized group of gangsters.

Hong Kong residents enjoy the fundamental rights to security of the person and freedom of movement. It is the first duty of any responsible Government, above all else and without exception, to protect the lives, safety and well-being of its citizens.

The past few days have seen numerous media reports about the incident on Sunday. Those reports raise what appear to be genuine questions on issues such as the ability of the Police to provide prompt and effective protection to citizens, the action or inaction of the Police in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, and the role of the Police or some of its senior officers in the attacks.

The HKBA recognizes the importance of due process and procedural fairness to all persons, against whom serious allegations have been made, especially when the allegations are made in the media.

These include the proof of allegations with proper evidence and a right to present one’s own case in response. To afford such fairness to everyone concerned, including the Police, and given the gravity of Sunday’s events, the HKBA repeats its call on the Hong Kong Government to set up an independent commission of inquiry to carefully examine, among other matters, the administration of the Police Force in the past few weeks and to make recommendations to prevent the reoccurrence of such incidents.

24 July 2019

HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION