

**Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association condemning damage to the
Court of Final Appeal and High Court Buildings**

The Hong Kong Bar Association deplores in the strongest possible terms the acts of arson and vandalism at the Court of Final Appeal and High Court buildings yesterday evening (8 December 2019).

It is ironic that on a day that the International Human Rights Day (10 December 2019) was being commemorated, the very institution which administers justice, protects the rule of law as its key guardian, and upholds fundamental rights and freedoms, is being attacked.

People who commit such acts are not genuine protestors but criminals. They must be brought to justice. Their acts cannot be defended or justified in any manner whatsoever, and were not committed in the exercise of any rights in a civilized society governed by the rule of law.

As shown by the many thousands of people who participated in the march yesterday, views can be most powerfully conveyed through peaceful means.

HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION
9 December 2019