

**Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association (HKBA) Against
Death Threat to Chief Magistrate Designated by the Chief
Executive to Handle Cases Endangering National Security
under Article 44 of the National Security Law**

1. On 23 November 2020, the HKBA issued a statement that deplored a malignant newspaper attack on a Court of First Instance judge who had decided against the Commissioner of Police in a case concerning policing methods and the handling of complaints against police officers.
2. The statement reminded readers that such vehement and unprincipled attacks on a judge damaged one of the pillars supporting our society under the Basic Law and that it also constituted an assault on the Rule of Law.
3. It was reported on Saturday that death threats had earlier been made to the Chief Magistrate, who had been designated to handle cases concerning national security under Article 44 of the National Security Law.
4. Making a threat to kill a person is a serious offence. The offence is aggravated if the motive for the threat is to frighten a judicial officer so that he or she might decide cases one way rather than another in the future. The HKBA condemns this most serious assault on judicial independence.
5. The HKBA is pleased to see that the Secretary of Justice has been quick to condemn the attack on the judicial officer this time.

Dated: 6 December 2020