

Protesters in Hong Kong Fight for Democracy

Carmen Chu

BEFORE YOU READ: What is a protester? Share a time you participated in (or witnessed) a protest.

“Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes.” This quote means a lot to me. I am a U.S. citizen, but recently, I have become proud of the citizens of my home country, Hong Kong. In the past, I didn’t care about the political issues of any country. I always thought political issues were too complicated. Nowadays, that has changed. In June 2019, people in Hong Kong started protesting to make the country more democratic.

The protests started because many people opposed a new bill that would make it easier for

people from Hong Kong to be extradited to China. The protestors were so powerful, they convinced the government to withdraw the bill. But the protestors wanted more. They started calling for more democracy in Hong Kong. News stories about the protests started popping up on U.S. news channels. All of a sudden, the whole world was watching as regular people pressured their government to listen.

Supposedly, police officers were there to protect people. Unfortunately, Hong Kong police officers attacked protesters. They sprayed them with tear gas and blasted them with water cannons. They used rubber bullets. They punished the courageous protesters. Many protesters were arrested and charged with crimes, such as trespassing and rioting.

I admire the protesters in Hong Kong. They sacrificed themselves to speak their truth – “Liberate Hong Kong; revolution of our lives” – with their shaking voices. My family and I will support them by following the news and donating money to organizations that support the protesters. No matter how far away they are, I care about my people and my hometown, and I will show it with my voice and actions.



Hong Kong protesters brave heavy rain as they march against a law that would allow extradition of Hong Kong residents to China. August 18, 2019. Photo by Studio Incendo, from Wikimedia Commons.

Carmen Chu is a student in the Adult Literacy Program at Alameda Reads in Alameda, CA. She immigrated to the U.S. from Hong Kong in 2008. She became a naturalized citizen in 2013. Carmen would like to thank her writing teacher, Cecile, who inspires her.

Sources: <www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/10/hong-kong-police-are-targeting-press/599815>; <www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49317695>

