



Statement of The Law Society of Hong Kong on Judicial Intimidation

1. The Law Society notes from media reports that the Chief Magistrate and his family members received a death threat last week. The Law Society strongly condemns the act of intimidation against a judicial officer.
2. Judicial intimidation is not only a serious criminal offence, but also an abhorrent threat to judicial independence and the rule of law.
3. The constitutional role of our judges and judicial officers is to apply only the law. Article 84 of the Hong Kong Basic Law states that judges and judicial officers shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. The Judicial Oath taken by all judges and judicial officers requires adherence to the law and the safeguarding of the law without fear or favour.
4. The impartial administration of justice without fear or favour by our judges and judicial officers in strict compliance with their Judicial Oath has brought about high public confidence. Such confidence will not be shaken by any malicious intimidation attempt to pressurise and influence them in the decision-making process.
5. Yet, for their protection and to uphold judicial independence and the rule of law, the criminal act of judicial intimidation must be stopped immediately. The Law Society urges the law enforcement authorities to investigate thoroughly and bring the culprit(s) to justice as a matter of priority.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

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