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From the President 會長信箋

To Editor/ Assignment Editor:

Response from President of The Law Society of Hong Kong to legal practitioners being put on the wanted list of the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force for allegedly contravening the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

The Law Society of Hong Kong notes that a member is among the eight persons overseas who have allegedly committed offences under the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the Hong Kong National Security Law") as stated in the arrest warrants issued by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force on 3 July under an earlier approval of the court.

The Law Society confirms that it has received complaint about the relevant acts of the member. We have already initiated an investigation into the allegations in accordance with the relevant provisions under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, as well as the complaints and discipline mechanism set out in the Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct. For the sake of fairness to the complainants and the respondents, all investigations into professional misconduct are confidential. The Law Society cannot disclose any details at this stage.

According to the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal in HKSAR v Lai Chee-ying (2021) 24 HKCFAR 33 and the judgment of the Court of Appeal in HKSAR v Lui Sai Yu [2023] 1 HKLRD 751, the primary purpose of national security law is to safeguard national security, and prevent and suppress activities endangering national security. The offences under the Hong Kong National Security Law are of a serious nature. In view of the alleged commitment of offences under the Hong Kong National Security Law and that the aforementioned case has caused great public concern, the Law Society will endeavour to process the complaint as soon as practicable in accordance with established procedures, where permitted by law and regulations.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

I would like to stress that, as a regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong, the Law Society attaches great importance to the conduct of our members. The Law Society handles all complaints rigorously and deals with them in a fair, impartial and objective manner, based on facts and evidence and in accordance with the powers conferred by existing law.

I must reiterate that, as an officer of the Court (see Section 3(2) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159 of the Laws of Hong Kong)), a solicitor should conduct himself appropriately. According to paragraph 1.03 of Chapter 1 of the Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct Volume 1, proper standards of behaviour whether in his practice or in his independent business activities are required of a solicitor as a member of an honourable profession.

C. M. Chan President of The Law Society of Hong Kong 6 July 2023



LAW SOCIETY HONGKONG

香港律師會

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From the President 會長信箋:

致 傳媒編輯/ 採訪主任:

香港律師會會長回應 有關法律執業者因涉嫌干犯 《中華人民共和國香港特別行政區維護國家安全法》 被香港警務處國家安全處通緝

香港律師會留意到,香港警務處國家安全處早前獲法院批准,於7月3日就八名 身處海外並涉嫌干犯《中華人民共和國香港特別行政區維護國家安全法》(「香港 國安法」)罪行的人士發出拘捕令,當中包括一名律師會會員。

律師會確認收到對該會員相關行為的投訴,並已根據《法律執業者條例》有關條文以及《香港事務律師專業操守指引》所載的投訴及紀律機制,對有關指控展開調查。為了對投訴人及被投訴人公平起見,所有專業操守調查均屬保密,我們在現階段不能向外界披露任何詳情。

根據終審法院在香港特別行政區對黎智英 (2021) 24 HKCFAR 33,及上訴法庭在香港特別行政區對 呂世瑜 [2023] 1 HKLRD 751 的判詞,國安法的主要目的是要維護國家安全,防範和制止危害國家安全的行為。香港國安法下的罪行是嚴重的。因有人士被指干犯香港國安法,而上述事件受到公眾廣泛的關注,因此在現行法規容許的情況下,律師會將會按既定程序盡快處理。

我必須強調,作為香港律師的監管團體,律師會非常重視會員的操守,並會秉承公正、中立及客觀的原則,基於事實和證據,根據現行法例授予的權力,嚴謹處理每 宗投訴。

讓我重申,律師身為法院人員(見《法律執業者條例》(香港法例第 159 章)第 3(2)條),應恰當地規範自己的言行。根據《香港事務律師專業操守指引第一冊》第一章第 1.03 段,不論在執業期間還是在進行獨立商業活動期間,其言行舉止都須達

The Law Society of Hong Kong

到恰當的標準,以切合其作為一個受尊重專業的成員的身份。

香港律師會會長 陳澤銘 2023年7月6日