



Hong Kong: Following Raging Violence, 600 Students Give Themselves Up to Police While 100 Demonstrators Remain Under Siege

The 5-month old Hong Kong protests were initially triggered by a bill allowing extradition to mainland China. The bill was withdrawn in September, but anti-government demonstrations continue. Over the past week, Hong Kong authorities have fought with students at various universities. Police raided the occupation of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) by protesters, and some of them battled against police with petrol bombs, bricks, arrows and other weapons. Police were authorized to use live rounds on students using lethal weapons. Some 600 students have walked off campus, due to ill-health and hypothermia after being blasted by water cannons, giving themselves up to police; they face 10 years in prison for protesting. Another 100 demonstrators remain inside, surrounded by police.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was another focal point of conflict with the police. CUHK hosts the Hong Kong Internet Exchange (HKIX) that allows users to exchange information locally without routing through any other country. Communists in Beijing can either shut down the internet or monitor internet communications if it takes control of HKIX.

It's like something out of a movie.

After a three-day standoff, roughly 100 students remain trapped inside the campus of Hong Kong's Polytechnic University. For more than a day, police have had the campus surrounded, and have warned protesters that there's only one way out – in handcuffs.

Despite a potential 10-year prison sentence (laws against rioting, which are being applied to the protesters, carry heavy penalties), some 600 students have already walked off campus into the waiting arms of police. Some surrendered because they were in ill-health after hypothermia set in. Of the 600 who left, 400 were above the age of 18 and were immediately arrested, while the 200 minors were stopped, then sent home. They could still face charges pending further investigation, the NYT reported.

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Additional sources:

<https://nypost.com/2019/11/18/hong-kong-civilians-step-in-to-save-students-trapped-in-violent-protests/>

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/hong-kong-police-officer-shot-arrow-fiery-university-standoff-rages>

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