

Fugitive Offenders Ordinance

This law has been in force since 1997, but China, Macau and Taiwan were excluded from it. The Hong Kong government proposed to include China, Macau and Taiwan into this Ordinance for 46 offences (later changed to 37 offences) where the penalty is 12 months or more (later amended to 7 years). These offences are not applicable to political, religious, racial or nationalities offences.

By definition, fugitive means a "suspected criminal" or a "convicted criminal"

Procedure For Extraditing A Fugitive

The corresponding country requisition for extradition of a fugitive must make an application to the Chief Executive and the decision whether to extradite or not will be made by the Department of Justice. The fugitive may then appeal against the decision to the court, which decides whether to allow the extradition to stand or not. The fugitive may then seek a Judicial Review against the court's decision by a higher court.

With the passage of this law, the Chinese authorities can come to Hong Kong to gather evidence and then charge this suspect for a crime.

This "Fugitive Offenders Ordinance" was suspended (not withdrawn) by the Hong Kong Government after mass protest by Hong Kong people. The matter is just left hanging with no resolution in sight.

After this very technical talk, there was sharing by Rev. Fr. Tsang, Francisca Lo, Denis Chang, Derek Ku, Gabriel Chung and Joyce Chang.