



Umbrella Movement - a Photo Diary

By Kennedy Wong
Undergraduate Student, UBC



Dear friend,

Today is the third year commemoration of Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong. On September 28th, 2014, I was a social work student at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I participated in the student strike and the Umbrella Movement. I still remember the first smell of tear gas, the fear of shooting and the panic of the crowd.

This is an album that consists of photographs and some excerpts of my diary. As a photography beginner, I tried to document some sceneries that did not commonly report by media. And I hope the photos and my words, in a perspective of a student participant, would bring readers to another angle of the movement.

Nowadays, Hong Kong people are still living under fears. In these years, we have bookstore owners and workers who sold anti-communist China books to Mainland Chinese people that were kidnapped by the police of Chinese government in Hong Kong territories. We have a fear of free speech in public, as speaking of the political reform in public could ruin one's career or even threaten the life of one's family. We have a fear of free assembly and protest, as we have 16 activists or student leader, such as Joshua Wong, are in jail, and more and more similar court cases are pending.

I hope you will like the photographs and support our fight of democratization in Hong Kong.

Kennedy
September 28th, 2017

Day 01

Class Boycott
September 22th, 2014

「點解我要罷課？」

其實我是被社區的民生處境，尤其看見基層市民的無奈而被感召的。

今日罷課活動之後，在社工系內有debriefing

教授在我那組提到：

「民主不能解決所有問題、它只是公民社會的一部分。

我們應該思考罷課以後、佔中以後，如何塑造一個公民社會。」

對我而言，自由、人權、尊重、信任、利他精神這些民主以外的素質和精神、

甚至信仰精神，應該是爭取普選之外，這個星期值得深思的問題。

罷課的日子，讓我反思，挑戰我們自己。當我們要求社會改變的同時，

我們應該先要求自己改變。



“Why do I have to join the class boycott?”

By the time I was in the street community, I had seen the struggle of lower class in the society. Their life touched me, so I chose to join the class boycott.

After the boycott assembly, we have a debriefing session in the social work department.

A Professor mentioned, “Democracy cannot solve all the social problem, it merely just a portion of civil society. After joining the boycott, or even the upcoming occupying movement, we have to think of how to build up a civil society.

In my perspective, besides fighting for democracy, freedom, human rights, respect, trust, and altruism are something that we should also think of in this period.

The student strike gave us a space to reflect and challenge ourselves. When we are asking society to become more liberal, we must have to tune our mind as liberal first.



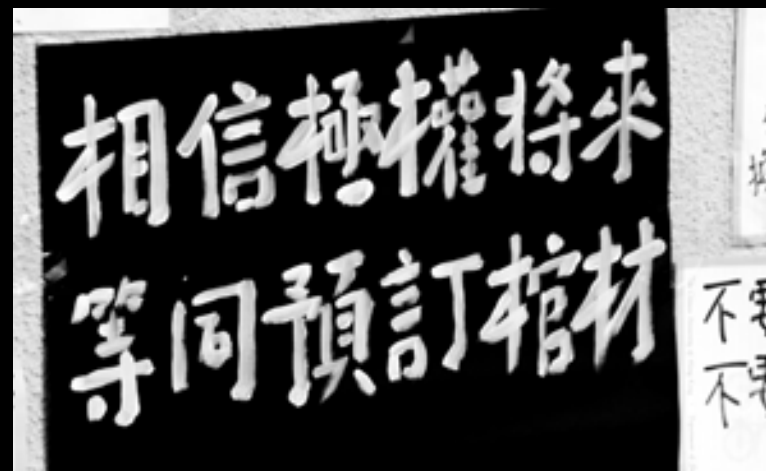
▲ Bear the Historical mission, Get back the future of our city Consolidation. Discussion. Action People in the Chinese University of Hong Kong Walk together on the road of political reform.



Steer our own destiny ▶



◀ Hand over our future to totalitarian equates to buying your own coffin



Day 02

Class Boycott
September 23th, 2014

在這個社會上，
沒有一個單獨的方案能夠說服所有人。
而係一個諸人的年代，每個人都講不同的故事。

在香港這個context下，有民主1.0、民主2.0、
還有不同的說法
在今日仍然未民主1.0的年代，
所以政治慢慢會變成公民討論的妥協，
而要達到這種共識的妥協之前，還需要很長的磨合和信任。

塑造公民社會的包容性是重要過爭取民主



In a society,
there is no grand theory that could fit all the people.
As diversity exists, different people are living in their own way,
they have their own story.

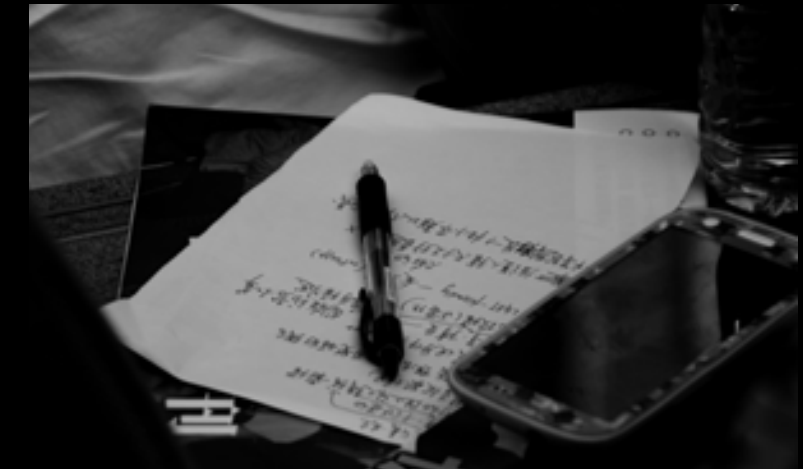
In the context of Hong Kong, we have different proposals for political reform,
namely the democracy 1.0, democracy 2.0 and even some progressive proposals.
As we are still not yet having the democracy 1.0 (the first stage of democracy) in our electoral system,
we might have to find a way out to accomodate the diversity of pro-democrats.
It takes time and trust to build up a proposal with consensus.

Building up a civil society with inclusiveness,
is more important than fighting for the democracy.



◀ No reason to vote for a rotten orange

Protect Endangered Species, HK People



◀ There are different kinds of lectures in the Tammar Park. I participated in some classes such as feminism, social media studies, social movement studies, manga studies etc. Lecturers taught a self-chosen topic that they are interested in. Also, students engaged in class actively. I can tell that this phenomenon is not common in Hong Kong education.



Day 03

Class Boycott
September 24th, 2014

罷課來到第三天，我繼續在添馬公園上公民課堂。今天特別深刻的是，邵家臻教授講“情感動員”這個社會運動的課題。我們今天也許許多時候都會用負面的言辭來表達我們的訴求，也會被建制的人用相似的方式去對民主運動提出質問。但我們要的的確確去想一個問題，就是抗爭是不是一定沒有正面的情緒呢？

藝術家黃國才，在另一堂中提出了可行的方向，我們要用幽默表達悲傷、憤慨和負面情緒等、而且，藝術是一個表現現實的方法。也許我們都是在掙扎，不論是學生在考試和學制中沉淪、社工在制度和資源中深陷、打工仔在薪酬和上車中熬著。

這個社會、社區似乎缺少了一份正面的能量，一份你、我和每一個香港人都可以互相鼓勵的能量。一份用柔和的手法表達心裏的辛酸的素質。要建立公民社會，個人想象與創造的空間絕不可少。



It was the third day of the class boycott; I stayed in Tammar park to attend the civil lecture. We had a professor talking about “emotional mobilization” in a social movement. He said, “Nowadays, we usually use a lot of negative discourses in our protest culture.” On the other hand, we are also challenged by pro-government haters in a similar way. But we have to think of one question, is it impossible to have positive emotions/ feelings in our protest culture?

A visual artist, Mr. Wong, proposed a way out in another lecture. He said, “we could use humor to express our sadness, anger or other negative feelings. Moreover, art is always a way to reflect the reality.” Maybe we still have a lot of struggles in our life, no matter we are students who struggle in the spoonfeeding educational system with a lot of exams, or we are social workers who work very stressful under our current system, or we are an employee of a business firm who struggles in low income and expensive housing cost.

Positive energy is scarce in our community. But we, as a Hong Konger, can support each other by sharing our hardship together in a peaceful way. If we have to build up a civil society, a public space for imagination and creativity is essential.



▲ Fight for Democracy

◀ Medical Students
Come out

Save our Hong Kong by ourselves
Hug our freedom in rainstorm



Register for community action ▶



Strike today
◀ Occupying Central on the 1st of October



Build our farm ▶
Hong Kong will resurrect



Day 04

Class Boycott
September 25th, 2014

今天Professor Baig 借小數族裔講民主及公民參與的問題,她講到:
If there is only an Equality of outcome, without an equality of process.

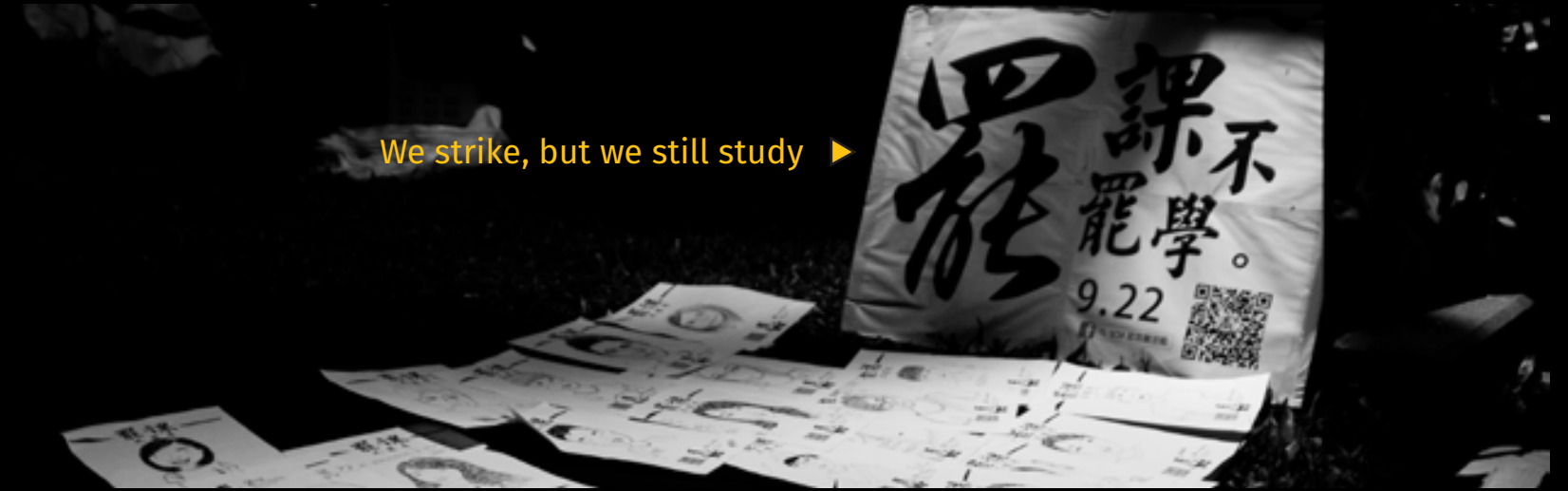
It is not a genuine equality

如果民主只是“by the majority”, 整個制度就會出現問題了,
因為民主是應該包含大多數人的理念、價值觀和取向的制度。

當我們講民主, 如果只是與我們這些“香港人”互相討論,
並以膚色、地位、取向、年齡、價值觀或信仰等等凡與自己不同的人劃界的話,
其實我們並沒有實踐民主下的公民社會意識,
也沒有遵行民主社會下的人權、自由、平等等不同的價值。

如果人權只是individualize 緊每一個人的權利, 只是個人的防護罩,
其實我們的社會都只是多數人欺壓少數人的政治。
反之、人權之體現, 應該貴乎人與人之間的互相尊重和平等機會。

因此民主、人權、自由和平等應該是息息相關, 缺一不可。



We strike, but we still study ▶

Today, Professor Baig shared her thoughts of the participation of ethnic minorities in democratization and community. She said,
“If there is only an Equality of outcome, without an equality of process.
It is not a genuine equality.”

If the democratic system is only ‘by the majority,’ problem exists.

Democracy should include most of the ideology, values, and orientations in the society.

If we barred the people by race, class, orientation, age, values, and beliefs in our discussion of democratic reform, we are not working out the civic values of democracy, nor the values of human rights, freedom, and equity, etc.

If the human right is only concerning individual right, this is merely a bubble.
The society is still oppressing the minorities.

In another word, to actualize human right, we should build up mutual respects and equal opportunities in our community.

Hence, democracy, human right, freedom, and equity are all correlated.
None of these are neglectable.



▲ Disobedience
no compromising

◀ I am a teacher,
I care Student Strike

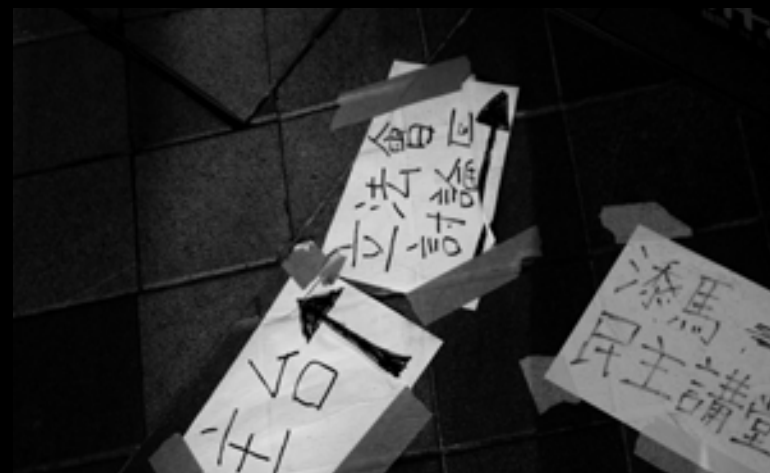
Temporary student library



Protest at night ▶



Temporary directions
for public civic lectures



Student Prefects ▶



Day 05-06

Class Boycott and occupying public square
September 26-27th, 2014

12個小時前我在這個地方聽課，和平集會，
聽著教授學者痛心疾首，一些教授團隊被政府邀請研究退休保障，
為香港做了許多研究，因為研究結果不利商家和政府，全部被政府無視。
民生政策一拖再拖，多個研究提議無效，
老人民生寸步不進，溫和的學者最後唯有走上街頭。
12個小時後，在這裡，手無寸鐵的學生被防暴警察包圍，
被推撞，拉開雨傘直噴胡椒噴霧。
這一刻，我覺得好心痛。

警察，請你們不要強行搶去學生的雨傘，然後直接把你的胡椒噴霧射向他們的眼睛。
這個劑量的胡椒噴霧足以傷害主要器官，請你們停止以此方式清理示威者。他們已經熬
過一晚，對於被警察圍堵，學生們也沒有作出任何暴力抵抗。
現場已有多位朋友中招，你們的行為令人相當痛心。



12 hours ago, I was here attending a lecture, a peaceful assembly.
A professor shared that a research team was hired by the government to write up a policy proposal of
universal pension.
At the end, the proposal does not favor the business owner and government, and thus, was entirely
abandoned by the government.
We could see that in recent years, promised welfare policies were delayed, social policy researches
were ignored, elderly life have had no improvement. Hence, scholars had no choice but to protest.

12 hours later, Joshua Wong and some student leaders led the crowd to break in a 'locked and
guarded' public square. Some of them successfully climbed over the gate and reached the public
square, some did not. Then Unarmed students in public square and outside the square were sur-
rounded by riot police. They were pushed, beaten up, pulled off their umbrella (their shield) and
sprayed by pepper spray directly on their faces. The concentration of pepper spray could damage
their main organ. And the police are using unnecessary forces to clear up the crowd.

Student had been surrounded by police for a whole night without violent resistances. There were a
lot of my friends who got sprayed. It is a heartbreaking scene.



▲ Rushing to building up road block to resist the police car diving into the crowd

◀ students used umbrella to shield their face upon the pepper spray by riot police
So the media termed 'Umbrella movement'



Under the banner of celebrating the 65th anniversary of China ▶



▶ Student leaders, like Joshua Wong, were surrounded by the police after some of them successfully broke into a 'locked and guarded' public square.

The police asked students to leave. ▶
But they insisted to stay and protect those student leaders in public square.





Day 07

Umbrella movement
September 28th, 2014

**Police Warning:
Disperse.
Or we Fire**





▶ Tear Smoke was thrown to the crowd. People were running away immediately. At the same time, on the other side, more tear smoke was thrown to the direction of people who were running away, such as MTR station (underground train station)

▶ Tear gas was thrown to areas with escaped people, for example, a public park, where food truck, elderly and other people were there.

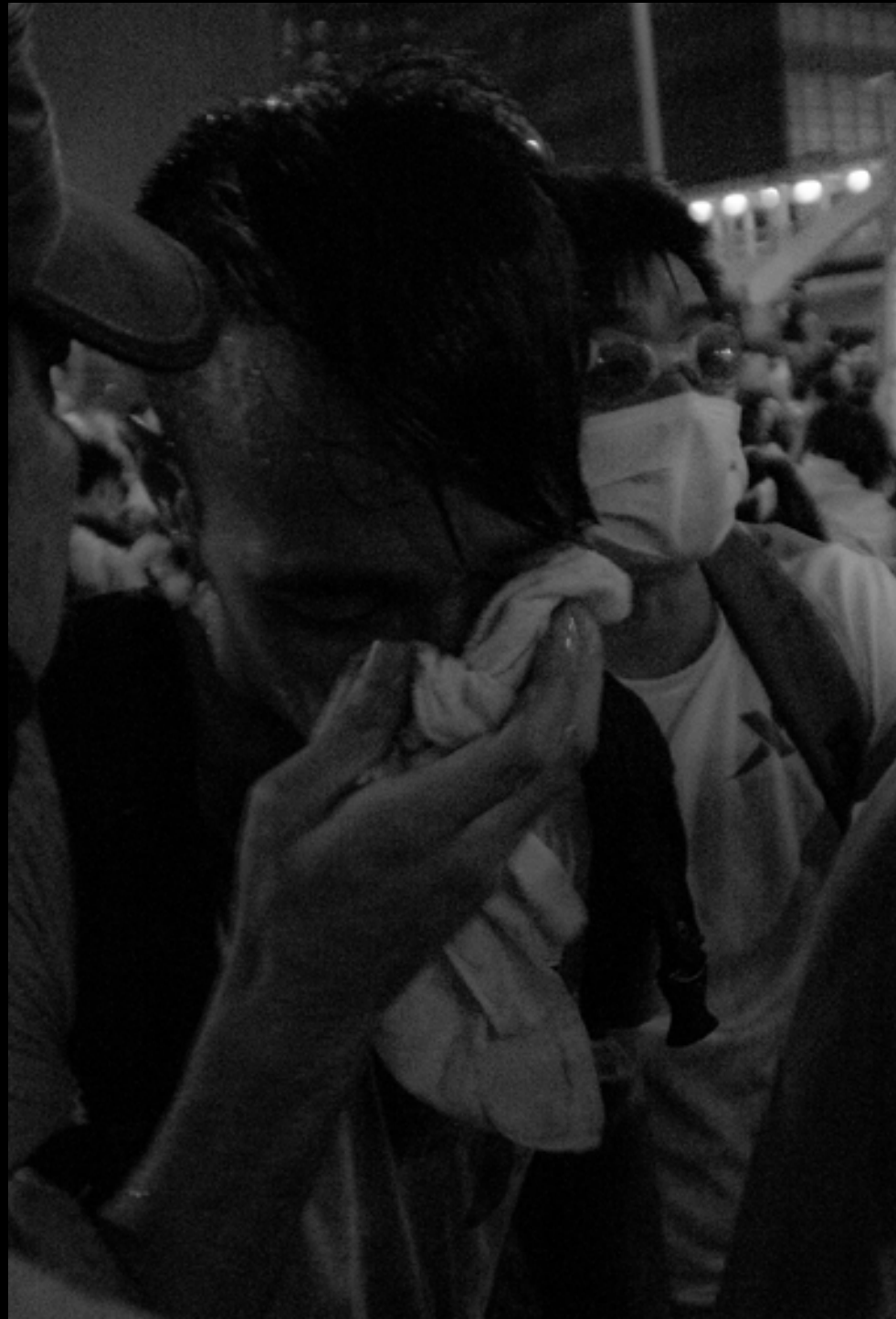


▶ temporary first aid stations were set up by medical and nursing students



▶ people formed lines to transfer materials such as face mask, water, knapkins to the frontline. Also, a clear walk way set up for people who are injured.





▶ People were unarmed and vulnerable on the frontline, as a way to demonstrate the violence of the police.

On the frontline, People wrapped themselves by food wraps, wore goggles and face mask. The pro-government media still reported the crowd as 'violent' and 'dangerous'



▶ People started to resist the police by setting up the barriers



▶ they even build up a complex road block to resist the police truck to drive in





Day 08 - onwards

The community

Umbrella movement
September 29th onwards, 2014

After a series of conflict and protest,
the government stopped their action to clear
up the crowd.
People were occupying roads and sidewalks.
They built up a community in there.



▲ People were bringing their pet to the community, living with different people.

◀ The Umbrella Man statue

▼ This wall should not be built to bar the enemy but for the children to stay inside



► Cheerful words were written on some cards and tighted to the wall by yellow ribbons



◀ people started to use their creativity and build art statue with words on memo pads

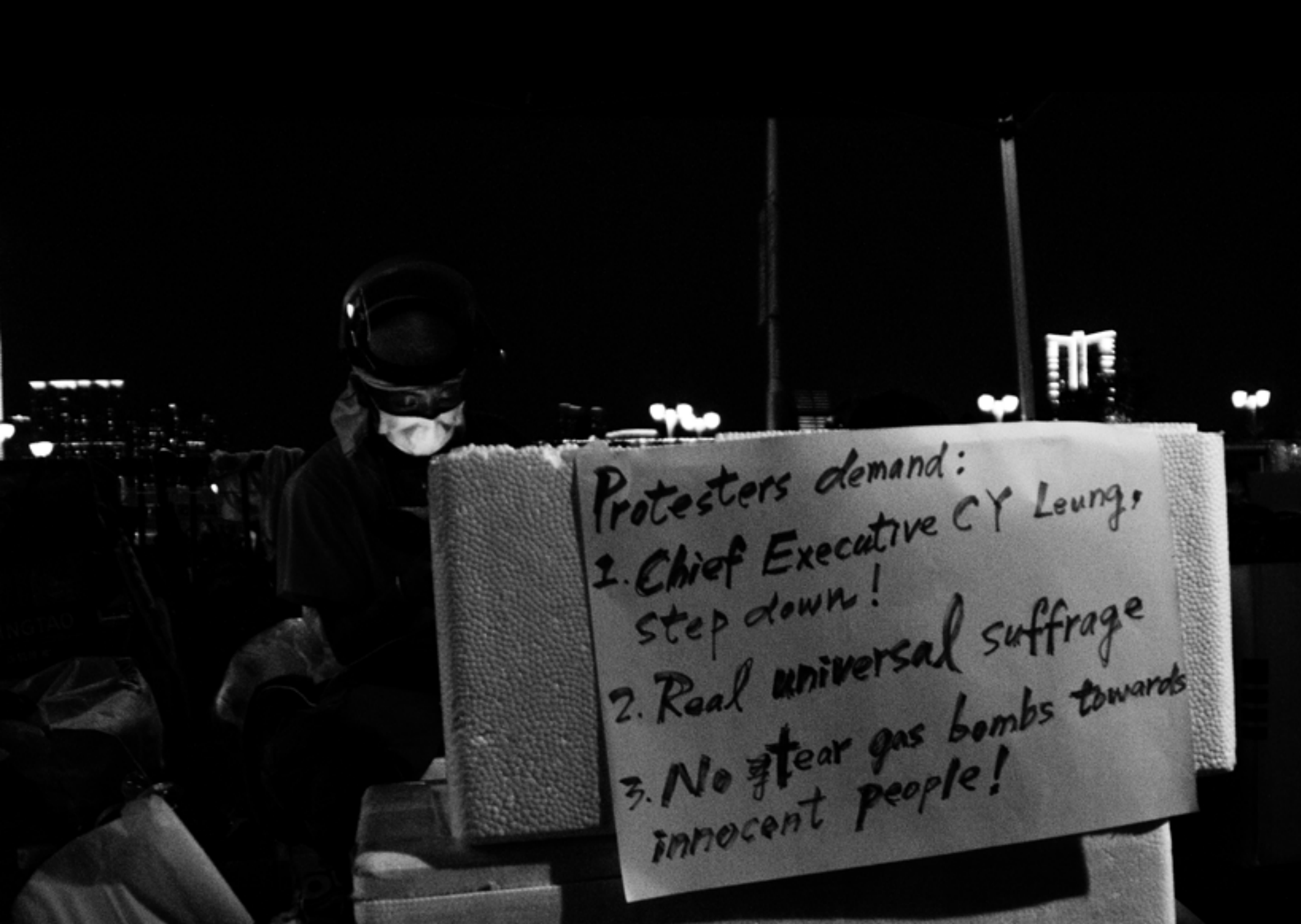
► Newspapers were posted on a big board. People share the news together.





並肩
STAND BY YOU <http://occupier.hk/standbyyou/>
xx_McArthur (Scotland) :
Go for it Hong Kong! Go
get your democracy! xx





Volunteers collected garbages, clean them and sort them out. ▶



◀ Prayer Center for religious group



我敢直入骨鏗

▲ I ask for True democracy



因為你們都在
我們才有希望

香港人 加油

◀ We still have hope, because you are here.
Cheer up! Hong Konger.