



Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the **Norwegian Gem** of Norwegian Cruise Line.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

The situation in Nepal is not good at present, I regret to say. The closure of the border with India has blocked all fuel, food and construction materials reaching Nepal, where supplies have started to run out and the price of goods has risen very sharply. The Chinese border remains open and some fuel will be brought in from Tibet, but the supply chain is longer and so the amount that can be supplied is less. This situation is causing concern as the winter is approaching and many still have neither food nor shelter after the earthquakes.

We Welcome

Star Cruises
Prem Bahadur Lama
Binay Gurung
Avaya Rana

Norwegian Cruise Line
Namrata Gurung
Thang Len Hao
Than Aung
Kyaw San
Soe Min Omar
Mow Kyaw Niang
Htet Paing Htung

Prestige Cruises Holdings
Bipen Lama

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 779 men and 157 women on ships, a total of 936 crew and staff under management.



GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 32 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

World Security

Economics

There is little major news at present, although there are fears that the world economy is slowing. China's growth rate dropped to 6.9% over the last year, the attempt to defeat deflation in Japan is not so far working well and Europe appears stagnant.



A Chinese market worker unloads onions in Beijing. The economy slowed in the third quarter.

Nuclear

President Obama of the U.S. now has sufficient votes now in Congress to ensure that the nuclear agreement with Iran will survive. The Iranians have ratified the agreement, which will lead to the end of sanctions when all is completed. There is no news on the North Korean nuclear programme.

Europe

The big news continues to be the refugee crisis. Syrian, Iraqi, Libyan and other migrants have walked through Greece into Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia. Hungary has closed its borders. Germany's initial welcome for the migrants has begun to alter as hundreds of thousands are trekking towards the country through Slovenia and Austria. Attempts to produce a Europe-wide division of the migrants have failed so far as Eastern European countries do not want them and as they resent what they believe is a problem worsened by Germany's earlier welcome. In Ukraine, the ceasefire agreement between the government, Russia and the eastern separatists seems to be holding, and some of the Russian 'volunteers' fighting there have been reported as leaving for Syria.

The Arab World

There has been no progress pushing back the forces of the Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria and Iraq. Russia has now intervened in Syria to support the regime of President Assad, whose forces, aided by Russian bombing, are retaking areas lost earlier to moderate rebels whilst leaving ISIS alone. Libya remains chaotic. The conflict in Yemen between Sunni government, Saudi Arabian and some Gulf state forces and Shia Muslim Houthi forces continues with a growing death toll and much destruction of an already poor country.



A man rides a bicycle near damaged buildings in Jobar, a suburb of Damascus, Syria.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

There was an earthquake on 26 October in north-eastern Afghanistan which has affected both countries, with a death toll so far unknown, although hundreds are known to have died. Taliban forces in Afghanistan have attacked a series of regional towns and temporarily took the northern city of Kunduz this month. The U.S. has been forced to decide to retain 9,800 combat troops in the country indefinitely, having earlier fixed a date to withdraw all of them. Both countries remain dangerously involved with Islamic militant forces and large areas of Afghanistan are under Taliban control.

Palestine

The situation around the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem has worsened, and a number of deaths have occurred from individual murderers on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. Stabbings and murders by vehicles being rammed into people have occurred in Jerusalem.

Asia

Chinese activity around the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, all claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, have caused tension as the U.S. sent destroyer within 12 miles of one of the bases established there by China. Chinese warships warned the U.S. vessel to leave, but were ignored. China's insurgency problems in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province and in Tibet continue. The Black Flag Movement, an ISIS-linked group, continues Muslim terrorism in Mindanao in the southern Philippines.



A satellite image of an airstrip under construction in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.



Thai security personnel investigate the site of a bomb attack by suspected Muslim militants a roadside in southern Thailand's Yala province.

The Malacca Straits

Small scale piracy continues to be a cause of concern in the Malacca Straits and nearby areas of the South China Sea.

Somalia

There are no new reports of piracy at present. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

Africa

Nigerian and Cameroon forces continue to battle Islamic militants Boko Haram in their border areas. The security situations in the Central African Republic and Mali remain disturbed. The civil war in South Sudan continues.

The Americas

There is little news of a security note this month.

Myanmar

Myanmar is preparing for elections, which will take place on 8 November. The government has signed a ceasefire agreement with many of the hill tribe rebels that have been in conflict with the central authority for many decades. Half the groups that are opposed to the government did not sign the agreement, however.

India

There is no news of a security nature this month.



Taxis wait for days to refuel at Bhadrakali, Kathmandu. The government has banned private vehicles from refuelling and rationed fuel to public transport after imports were blocked by protesters.

Nepal News

In Nepal, \$1bn impact of strikes over constitution 'worse than earthquakes'

5 Oct - Strikes, blockades and protests against Nepal's new constitution have cost the economy more than \$1bn, according to the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) – just months after the country was struck by a series of devastating earthquakes.

The president of the FNCCI, Pashupati Murarka, described the crisis as the country's worst economic disaster. "The economy has been almost completely stalled for the past two months," Murarka said. "The impact is worse than the earthquake."

Daily life in the Terai, the southern plains bordering India, has been paralysed for almost two months by a general strike called by political parties and organisations that oppose the new constitution. Schools and factories are shut, transport services have been severely disrupted, and the price of basic necessities has soared.

Murarka accused the government of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of failing to address the crisis. "The government should have created an environment to ease the situation and ensure proper security to run businesses," he said. "But

the protesting political parties are equally responsible; who gave them the right to halt our work?"

The strike – or *bandh* – was ordered by political parties and organisations representing the region's main ethnic groups – the Madhesi and Tharu – who are demanding greater representation in parliament and a re-drawing of the provincial boundaries that were set out in the new constitution, which was finalised two weeks ago.

"We are very sad that people are facing difficulties [because of the protests] but ... it's because the government has turned a deaf ear to our demands ... they have neglected the voice of more than half the population. This protest is to ensure their rights," said Laxman Lal Karna, co-chairman of the Sadbhavana party, one of the parties working for the rights of the Madhesi community, among others. "The day the government addresses our demands, the protests will be withdrawn."

At least 40 people, including children and several police, have died in violent demonstrations that began in August and escalated last month when protesters blocked the border entry points between Nepal and India, cutting off vital supplies, including petrol and cooking gas, to the

landlocked country.

Government officials have claimed that India has been providing tacit support to the protesters, by refusing to let trucks enter Nepal, a charge that India rejects. A small number of trucks are now crossing the border into Nepal, but there is little sign of them in Kathmandu, where long queues for petrol wind through the city's streets.

The government has banned private vehicles from refuelling, while petrol and diesel for public transport have been rationed. International flights to Kathmandu have been instructed to refuel elsewhere. The city's usually chaotic streets are strangely calm as some residents turn to cycling or car-pooling to get around.

The blockade has hit traders, restaurant owners and taxi drivers particularly hard. Ramesh Rijal, a 20-year-old taxi driver who had been queueing hard for petrol for two days, said: "I should leave this job and go back to my village. I'm feeling so stressed. I have no money now, but the owner of this taxi is pressuring me to get petrol. It's the government's fault. Our leaders haven't solved the issue by dialogue with the other side."

The crisis has coincided with Nepal's peak tourist season. DB Limbu, president of the

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents, said the protests had been a disaster for the industry.

"After the earthquakes, we were very hopeful there would be a revival of tourism from October onwards, but due to the strike and the blockade this has not happened. Instead, we are receiving more cancellations from tourists," he said. "This year maybe we have lost half the number of tourists who came last year ... but we are still hopeful that if the problem is solved quickly things may pick up. It will improve with permanent peace and a firm government."

Minister of information and communications Minendra Rijal said the government was working hard to ease the current situation.

has a reputation for being outspoken. Some use the phrase "Oli ko goli" to describe him – "When Oli speaks, he fires [a bullet]".

He had previously served as deputy prime minister and as a minister in previous governments even though he has a kidney condition and has had to make trips abroad for treatment to India and Thailand.

The leader of the Communist party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) received the support of many smaller parties, including their rival United Communist party of Nepal (Maoist).

Oli and Koirala were coalition partners in the last government. Koirala became prime minister in 2014, but the constitution that was adopted last month required him to step down.

along with several other small ethnic groups, want the states to be larger and to be given more autonomy over local matters.

Talks last week between the government and protesters made little progress.

Soon after the election, the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, called Oli on the telephone, congratulated him and invited him to visit India, according to a tweet from Modi's office.

The conversation between the two men is the biggest positive development in recent days between the two south Asian nations.

A statement issued by the Indian embassy in Nepal said Modi expressed the hope and expectation that Oli will support all sectors of society so that there is peace and stability in the country.

"We are confident that the government of Nepal will address the remaining political issues confronting the country in a spirit of dialogue and reconciliation," the statement said, an apparent reference to the tension with the Madhesi.

Nepal earthquake continues to drive aftershocks through the lives of women

25 Oct - A tremendous international aid effort has helped save thousands of lives in earthquake-struck Nepal. But six months on, as the rubble is cleared and the debris settles, longer term impacts are starting to emerge – not least for Nepal's women, who are facing significant challenges.

Six months ago, four-year-old Krishla was playing with her friends in the courtyard of her home when the massive quake struck. The children were crushed as walls collapsed and stones rained down on them.

An hour later, rescuers pulled them from the rubble. Krishla had serious head injuries and was in need of medical attention. Tragically, it was too late for one of Krishla's friends, who was killed in the crush.

Stories like this are all too common. Krishla's friend was one of nearly 9,000 people killed in the disaster. About 23,000 people were injured and hundreds of thousands were left homeless.

Krishla and her mum, Rama, needed food and shelter. ActionAid housed the family in emergency accommodation, supplied clothes and ensured they had enough to eat. The charity has helped 120,000



Khadga Prasad Oli outside the constituent assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"We have been engaging in diplomatic dialogue with India regarding the blockade... The prime minister has also promised to address [the Madhesi] demands," he said. "We believe that the situation will return to normal soon."

Communist party leader elected as Nepal's new prime minister

11 Oct - Nepal's parliament has elected Communist party leader, Khadga Prasad Oli, as the new prime minister, thrusting him into the centre of daunting challenges, from protests over the new constitution to rebuilding after April's devastating earthquake.

Oli received 338 votes from the 597-member chamber, defeating his predecessor Sushil Koirala, who received 249 votes.

Oli, 63, is generally popular in Nepal and

It was still undecided which other parties would join in Oli's new government.

He comes to power at a delicate time, with ethnic Madhesi and other groups in the south protesting against the new constitution in riots that have left 45 people dead. India, which has close ties to the Madhesi, is also unhappy with the constitution.

The country is facing a severe fuel shortage due to an unofficial blockade by India and Madhesi at a key border checkpoint. Fuel and cargo trucks have been stopped at the border since late last month, after the constitution was approved.

The constitution divides Nepal into seven new states, with some borders slicing through the Madhesi's ancestral homeland in the southern plains along the border with India. The Madhesi,

people, initially by providing food and emergency shelter and helping women and girls recover from the emotional trauma of the earthquake.

Despite the physical and cultural barriers, much of our work in Nepal is being spearheaded by courageous women like Hima, ActionAid's security manager, and Renu, our programme officer in one of the worst-hit areas of Kathmandu.

Thanks to their dedicated work, our response programme now includes helping to provide permanent shelter and the construction of earthquake-proof schools. Working in security, Hima is in a traditionally male-dominated world. By taking the lead, she is both ensuring the safety of our aid workers on the ground and challenging traditional views of women.

Women, especially in rural Nepal, are often marginalised in society and this exclusion has been reinforced by the earthquake.

Higher rates of illiteracy among women means their access to information, including the details surrounding their entitlement to basic services and support, is limited.

Quake damage to kitchens, food storage facilities and the loss of household equipment has made the domestic tasks that traditionally fall to women even harder. Damage to community facilities such as health posts, water supply and grain mills affect women more than men. As children's schooling is disrupted, it falls to women to provide additional childcare and, where necessary, educate children at home.

The devastating economic impact of the earthquake has put enormous pressure on already impoverished families. Six months on, Krishla's family, like millions of others, have been unable to salvage their belongings from the wreckage of their home because they cannot afford the 20,000 Nepali rupees (£125) needed to pay for the debris to be removed.

"Our home got completely collapsed by the quake," said Krishla's mum, Rama, 32. "We haven't been able to clear the debris yet. Nearly everything we own is still inside."

Her husband, Lakshman, works in a restaurant in Kathmandu, but his wages can only stretch to feeding and educating his three children, and it's uncertain how much longer he can continue this hand-

to-mouth existence.

With large numbers of men facing no choice but to migrate overseas in search of work, more and more women are being left behind to look after their families alone. Rama could soon be one of these women.

Despite these multiple challenges, Rama is remarkably resilient. She's happy her family survived and is still together. "Krishla has recovered from her injury and both my daughters have recovered from the trauma," she says.

The strength of women like Rama, and the energy of local aid workers such as Hima and Renu, give hope for the future. Renu helped to set up safe spaces for women to wash and feed their children in some of the worst affected areas of the capital.

As winter sets in, people will need help to stay warm and to continue rebuilding not just homes, but also their livelihoods.



Bidhya Devi Bhandari after voting in the presidential election at Nepal's parliament in Kathmandu.

The earthquake affected this year's harvest, so food will be in short supply. The current political crisis and fuel shortages are worsening the situation. Getting food supplies to rural areas is increasingly difficult.

The series of earthquakes, which struck Nepal six months ago, lasted only a few seconds each, but those few moments changed millions of lives. Six months on, countless families are struggling to rebuild their lives. Women are at the forefront of that struggle.

Krishla has made a full recovery from her injuries but her family, like so many others, still face a daily struggle to make ends meet and build a better future.

Nepalese parliament elects first female president

28 Oct - A communist politician who has long campaigned for women's rights has become Nepal's first female president.

Bidhya Devi Bhandari of the Communist party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) received 327 votes against her opponent's 214 in parliament on Wednesday, the speaker, Onsari Gharti Magar, announced.

The president is Nepal's ceremonial head, while the prime minister is the nation's leader.

Bhandari, 54, is deputy leader of the party led by the prime minister, Khadga Prasad Oli, who was elected earlier this month and leads a coalition government. The new constitution adopted last month required Nepal to name a new president. Bhandari is a campaigner for women's rights in Nepal and was among the politicians who pushed to secure their rights under the new constitution. The document says one-third of the members of parliament have to be women and either the president or vice-president

must be a woman.

She has been a leading political figure since her husband, Madan Bhandari, who was then leader of the party, was killed in a car accident in 1993. The circumstances surrounding the accident remain unexplained.

She also led many demonstrations against the then Nepalese monarch, King Gyanendra, that eventually ended his authoritarian rule and restored democracy.

Bhandari is Nepal's second president since the Himalayan nation became a republic after abolishing the centuries-old monarchy.

The first president, Ram Baran Yadav, was elected in 2008 and was supposed to be in office for two years. But preparing and adopting the constitution took seven years because of differences between political parties.



Donald Tsang, center, former Chief Executive of Hong Kong talks to reporters with wife Selina by his side as they leave a magistrate's court in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong News

ICAC charges Donald Tsang with misconduct

5 Oct - Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog says it has charged former chief executive Donald Tsang with misconduct, in one of the city's biggest-ever graft scandals.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said in a statement Monday that Donald Tsang faces two counts of misconduct in public office.

Tsang, 70, is the highest-ranking official to be ensnared by the anti-corruption watchdog. He was released on bail set at HK\$100,000 and was grim-faced when he arrived at Hong Kong's Eastern Magistracy for a hearing, accompanied by his wife.

Tsang has to report to the court any change of address and advise the ICAC of his itinerary if he intends to leave the city 24 hours in advance. The court also forbid from making contact with witnesses directly and indirectly.

The prosecution will call to the stand 24 witnesses in all to testify against Tsang, including seven citizens, 14 public servants and 3 ICAC officers.

Tsang will return to Eastern Magistracy on Nov 13, pending a preliminary hearing for a High Court trial.

The allegations date from shortly before Tsang left office in June 2012 and relate to a sweetheart rental deal for

a penthouse in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, failure to disclose his interest in the lease and nominating an architect doing interior design work on the flat for a government award, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said.

According to Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Tsang issued a statement saying he is innocent and has been cooperating with the ICAC for the last three years.

He said the court will clear his name for him.

In a statement, the Department of Justice said its decision to press charges against Tsang was made after a thorough and cautious consideration on relevant laws and prosecution rules.

Each charge attracts a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

While leaving the court, Tsang's wife Selina Tsang Pau Siu-Mei said her husband was a man of integrity.

"We longed for peace and tranquility in retirement, away from politics. Instead, we now find ourselves dragged into a whirlpool. Most beyond reason, over the past three and a half years, we have been harassed daily," she said.

Tsang became the subject of a corruption probe shortly before he completed his term of office in 2012. In February that year, ICAC received complaints that he

had accepted inappropriate favours from tycoons.

He admitted taking two holiday trips on private jets, and two more on yachts provided by business friends while in office. But Tsang insisted that he had paid the market price for the trips, and that there was no conflict of interest.

Tsang had also arranged to rent a luxury 6,500 square-foot penthouse in Shenzhen after his retirement, at a rate reportedly far below market price. The development is owned by mainland tycoon Bill Wong – a major investor in the Digital Broadcasting Corporation (DBC).

At the time, DBC had applied for a radio licence and was awaiting the approval of the Executive Council under Tsang. The subsequent outcry scuppered those plans.

According to RTHK, Tsang has largely shied away from the limelight since stepping down from the top job in 2012. He has attended occasional ceremonies, such as the major parade in Beijing in September to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, as well as the National Day celebrations over the weekend.

He also wrote a letter to the High Court pleading for leniency for former chief secretary Rafael Hui. Tsang's former number two was jailed for 7 and half

years for pocketing almost HK\$20 million in bribes during his years in public office.
Chief nun and mainland Chinese monk arrested amid claims of marriage scam and embezzlement in Hong Kong monastery probe

14 Oct - Immigration authorities arrested the chief nun of a Buddhist monastery in Tai Po yesterday amid allegations that she married two mainland Chinese

sham marriages. We won't rule out making more arrests," senior immigration officer Karmen Tam Kok-shan said.

About 10 immigration officers descended on the monastery yesterday and spent about four hours taking photographs and questioning people inside. They took away marriage and divorce certificates issued on the mainland, identification documents, a Buddhist

wrote. "The matter has been passed to my lawyer and I will not comment further."

On hearing of Chi Ding's arrest, Reimer said: "I hope she will feel remorse now. We don't feel happy hearing about her arrest but we hope to revive donors' confidence in the monastery."

Ting Wai Monastery, built in the 1920s, is one of the earliest Buddhist temples in Tai Po. It raised more than HK\$1.3 million on FringeBacker, a global crowdfunding platform, for renovation work this year, according to the monastery's Facebook page.

In a statement on its website, FringeBacker confirmed it still held all the money it had received from 737 backers for the monastery campaign and would keep them updated.

Police launch probe after alleged beating of Civic Party's Ken Tsang caught on camera

15 Oct - Police have launched an investigation into the alleged beating in the early hours of this morning of Civic Party member Ken Tsang Kin-chiu as pan-democrat lawmakers labelled the attack an illegal punishment.

Earlier this morning, broadcaster TVB aired video footage showing a group of plain-clothes policemen dragging a handcuffed protester away from the main crowds in Admiralty before kicking and hitting the man, later identified as Tsang.

Police launched a major clear out of the Lung Wo Road area in the early hours of Wednesday morning, using pepper spray on protesters and arresting 45 people.

"From what we have seen, Tsang was already handcuffed [with plastic handcuffs] ... and taken to a dark corner and beaten up," Civic Party leader Alan Leong Kah-kit said.



Immigration officers arrested four people at Ting Wai Montastery in Tai Po.

monks in a residency scam and pocketed donations.

Four people were arrested at Ting Wai Monastery at 2pm, including a man and a woman detained on suspicion of making false representations in statutory declarations and making false statements to immigration officers, the department said.

Sources close to the case named the four as chief nun Sik Chi Ding, 47; monk Ru Zhi, 40; a female Indonesian domestic helper, 30; and the helper's employer, also a nun, aged 40.

The helper and her employer were arrested on suspicion of breaching conditions of stay and aiding and abetting a person in breaching conditions of stay. The two nuns and the monk were released on bail last night, while the helper was released on bail this morning. Chi Ding and the monk have to report to the investigation bureau on Tuesday.

Sources close to the investigation said the monk's name was found on a marriage certificate seized yesterday, and investigators were looking for people related to the case.

"Our investigation is not over yet. We will see if there are other offences, including

academy graduation certificate, a laptop and a safe.

The authorities acted after monastery director Mary Jean Reimer, a lawyer and former actress, accused Chi Ding publicly on Tuesday of mismanagement and bogus marriages.

Reimer claimed the nun had transferred some of the more than HK\$5 million in donations to a bank account she controlled and had admitted twice marrying mainland monks to help them secure permanent Hong Kong residency. Chi Ding responded on the same day by issuing a statement saying she had reported the matter to police.

"I will not speculate on the motives behind Ms Reimer's recent acts," she



Ken Tsang appeared to have sustained severe bruising following an alleged beating caught on camera and aired on television.

"This use of power and police force is a blatant abuse of power, and from the look of it, the [officer] should at least be investigated on assault to [induce] actual bodily harm."

The director of public prosecutions should also intervene, Leong said.

A few hours after the video footage was aired, photos emerged of Tsang showing several bruises on his face.

Speaking to the media before attending a Legislative Council meeting, Secretary for Security Lai Tung-kuok said that "the personnel concerned have been transferred away from the current positions".

In a statement, police said the footage that showed officers "who are suspected of using excessive force this morning".

"Police have already taken immediate actions and will conduct [an] investigation impartially," the statement said.

Police said that the Complaints Against Police Office had received a relevant complaint and the office would handle the matter.

Just before noon today, one of Tsang's lawyers and Civic Party lawmaker Dennis Kwok said Tsang had been taken, under police escort, to Ruttonjee Hospital for a medical assessment.

Kwok said that Tsang, who was initially held in a temporary detention centre at the Police College in Wong Chuk Hang, had been punched and slapped again at the police station.

"What [the policemen] have done us clearly criminal ... and having them removed from their duty would be insufficient," Kwok said.

Independent Police Complaints Council member Eric Cheung Tat-ming said the video footage was surface evidence showing that police officers may have committed a criminal act of assault.

Occupy Central organisers have also condemned the alleged beating of Tsang.

In a statement, Occupy Central said Tsang did not resist, obstruct or pose a threat to police officers in the clear-out operation. Any person not convicted by a court of law should be considered innocent and the police officers must absolutely not resort to extra-judicial punishment, the statement said.

It added that the actions breached Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's earlier pledge: as long as protesters don't cross police lines, police will exercise maximum tolerance, and allow protesters to gather. Secretary-general of the Federation of Students Alex Chow Yong-kong called the police action unreasonable and an abuse of authority.

"You can see [Tsang] had been dragged aside, meaning that he was in police detention," Chow said, adding that it was a case of individual police officers taking out their anger on a member of the public.

"It is contradictory to the expectation of the people, who believe they are under the protection of the police," Chow said.

"Police should explain, investigate and make an apology for this matter."

Human Rights Monitor's director Law Yuk-kai said the alleged attack may breach the Crimes (Torture) Ordinance, which carries life sentences for those found guilty of inflicting severe pain on another person while performing official duties.

"Police officers are supposed to protect the citizens and they should never let their emotions prompt them do anything illegal," Law said.

Law said their observers, who had apparently put on their vests and helmets, were also attacked by the police as they monitored the clearance.

"This is totally unacceptable and they have breached the Johannesburg Principles – an international standard which gives [human rights observers] the right to monitor the scene," he said.

Law said the police's "unprofessional act" last night was an "erosion of the police force's image" and urged the police and its watchdog to investigate the case.

Tsang is also a member of the Election Committee representing the social welfare sector.

In 2012, Tsang was forcibly removed by security officials after he protested at the swearing in ceremony for Chief Executive Leung. Tsang called for the end to one-party rule just moments before former President Hu Jintao's address at the Convention Centre in Wan Chai.

Scary Moments as Macau Ferry Slams Into Unknown Object in Hong Kong Injuring More Than 100

25 Oct - A high-speed ferry shuttling passengers from Macau to Hong Kong last night hit an "unidentified object" near Lantau Island, plunging the ferry into darkness and leaving it drifting without power. More than 100 people were injured, with some flung into the seats in front of them and others falling to the floor. About 14 people suffered serious injuries.

The accident happened just before 7pm. Police were notified and launched a large scale rescue operation, helping to evacuate the ship and get passengers to safety. Water was pumped from the vessel and it was later towed into Hong Kong.

The ferry had 163 passengers on board along with 11 crew when it hit something. The SCMP reports:

"Some people sustained injuries to their jaws, arms and legs," one passenger said on the pier in Central after being plucked to safety by marine police.

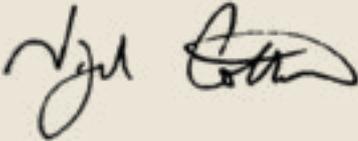
"Some could not even move. The lights suddenly went out. It was chaotic at first but then the passengers managed to calm down soon. Everyone was bleeding. I was injured on my forehead, arms and legs."



A total of 124 people were injured and sent to seven hospitals, with 70 discharged as of that morning.

Conclusion

I send all of you and your families our greetings and our wishes for a very happy Dashain to you all!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director

