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Asia - Hongkong

Journalist stabbed

Newly-fired newspaper editor stabbed on Hong Kong street

26 February 2014

Reporters Without Borders is appalled to learn that **Kevin Lau**, a journalist who was fired a month ago as editor of the Hong Kong-based daily *Ming Pao*, was badly injured in a stabbing attack yesterday.

"This clearly premeditated attack must not go unpunished," said Benjamin Ismail, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Asia-Pacific desk. "The attack highlights the overall decline in freedom of information in Hong Kong, which includes a decline in the safety of journalists."

The attack took place in broad daylight in Chai Wan, the district where *Ming Pao* is located. Lau was getting out of his car when a man riding pillion on a motorcycle dismounted, stabbed him several times in the back and leg, and then fled with his accomplice on the motorcycle.

Lau was rushed to a hospital in a critical condition and underwent an operation. Doctors later said his life was no longer in danger.

Ming Pao announced on 7 January that Lau was to be replaced as editor by **Chong Tien Siong**, a Malaysian journalist who used to edit the *Nanyang Siang Pau*. Lau's removal, blamed on the newspaper's criticism of the Chinese government in Beijing, prompted an outcry in the media community.

Yesterday's stabbing echoes the June 2013 attacks on *Apple Daily* employees and **Chen Ping**, the publisher of the outspoken magazine *iSun Affairs*.

Hong Kong is ranked 61st out of 180 countries in the 2014 Reporters Without Borders [press freedom index](#), a fall of three places from its position in the 2013 index.

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