



ADVISORY #18

CIVIL UNREST IN HONG KONG

STATUS DECLARATION LEVEL: **PREPARE**

The AIG Travel security team recommends a Prepare posture in response to recent developments. The Prepare advisory level indicates that the situation may escalate and that precautionary measures – including planning for a possible departure from the location – should be implemented in the event of a significant deterioration in security conditions (Please note: A decision on the payment of a security evacuation claim will be made by the Respective Claims Office and will be based on the Terms, Conditions, and Exclusions of the policy.)

CURRENT STATUS

As of 18 November 2019 AIG Travel maintains an Advisory at the Prepare status for Hong Kong due to continued civil unrest associated with withdrawn controversial government legislation, police brutality and anti-China sentiment. The intensity and violence of protest actions has escalated in recent days. University campuses have been sites of particularly fierce confrontations between protesters and security forces. On 18 November security forces used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons in attempts to disperse hundreds of demonstrators at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in the Hung Hom area of Kowloon. Protesters have been employing gasoline bombs and other projectiles against police. Approximately 40 injured demonstrators were permitted to depart the campus to receive medical treatment. Security personnel stated that those who remain on campus apart from accredited journalists may be subject to arrest.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel connecting Hong Kong Island to Kowloon has been closed due to vandalism to toll booths and bridges. Approximately 116 people were injured over the course of protests on 18 November. In

COUNTRY: HONG KONG
DATE ISSUED: 18 NOVEMBER 2019, 22:00 GMT
IMPACTED ZONE: HONG KONG

NEXT ADVISORY UPDATE SCHEDULED: 21 NOVEMBER 2019, 22:00 GMT

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addition, police have arrested at least 400 people since the evening hours of 17 November. On 17 November People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers reportedly monitored developments on the campus from their base. On 16 November PLA soldiers left their barracks and cleared debris from the vicinity. To date, PLA troops have been confined to their barracks amid the local security response.

Multiple Mass Transit Railway (MTR) stations will remain closed due to vandalism. MTR operations on 19 November will cease throughout the territory at 23:00 local time (15:00 GMT). However, the Airport Express service will run normally between Hong Kong, Kowloon, Tsing Yi, Airport and AsiaWorld-Expo stations beginning 19 November. In addition, in-town flight check-in service at Hong Kong and Kowloon stations is set to operate normally, though officials advise passengers to allot at least 90 minutes prior to scheduled flight departures to utilize the service.



**AIG Travel
global security
services**

For operational support, including secure transportation, meet-and-greet services and close protection, please contact our global security team at aigtsoc@aig.com.

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OUTLOOK AND FORECAST

Widely disruptive anti-government protests will likely continue in the near to medium term and may intensify further. There is heightened potential for demonstrators to continue to target transportation infrastructure across the territory. Protesters will likely also persist in targeting commercial centers such as Central, Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui. Security forces will continue to maintain a strong presence across the territory to deter additional unrest. MTR and bus service disruptions are set to continue in areas impacted by vandalism and protest actions. In addition, daily business operations are set to be adversely affected due to the diffuse nature of protest actions. A continuation of political violence remains possible in the near term and could become more severe ahead of local elections on 24 November.

POTENTIAL RISKS

- Closure of land borders or Hong Kong International Airport (VHHH/HKG) should violence escalate significantly in wide portions of the territory.
- Violence due to clashes between protesters and police.
- Declaration of a State of Emergency, martial law or curfew if authorities perceive loss of control.

- Looting, vandalism and similar crimes.
- Large-scale military deployments of security forces.
- Widespread disruptions to air or ground transportation due to demonstrations.
- Limited access to vital goods and services, including food and water, in areas affected by extended protest activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Individuals are advised to closely monitor the situation via local media and consular sources. Those with interests in Hong Kong and access to the AIG Travel website are advised to sign up for Alerts.
- Travelers should avoid large crowds and demonstrations due to the potential for violence.
- Those with upcoming travel to Hong Kong should re-evaluate travel to the country at this time, until overall conditions improve.
- Individuals should not attempt to bypass official or unofficial roadblocks. Adhere to the instructions of local officials.
- Restricting street-level movements is advisable, and secure transportation is advised for any necessary movement.
- In preparation of potential departure, travelers should prepare an emergency go-bag to include important documents, emergency contact list, medications, charged mobile phone and food and water.

STATUS LEVEL DEFINITIONS

STAND-BY: AIG Travel recommends a Stand-By posture in response to recent developments. A Stand-By advisory level includes the close and consistent monitoring of developments due to the potential for overall conditions to deteriorate or change quickly.

PREPARE: AIG Travel recommends a Prepare posture in response to recent developments. The Prepare advisory level indicates that the situation may escalate and that precautionary measures – including planning for a possible departure from the location – should be implemented in the event of a significant deterioration in security conditions.

EVACUATE: AIG Travel has evaluated the situation as warranting an Evacuation from affected areas as noted in the advisory above. Contact should be established with security support personnel and preparations for a departure should be implemented. (Please note: The decision on payment of any specific security evacuation claim will be made by the Claims Office and will be based on the Terms and Conditions of the policy.)

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