

荊棘滿途 戮力不倒
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各位支持記協的朋友，各位行家：您們好！

由於疫情的關係，記協晚會延辦一年半至今才能與大家聚首，親自感謝您們在今天仍無悔無憾地支持記協。

我剛入行時，有幾次參加記協週年晚宴的機會。那些年，晚宴衣香餐影，商賈雲集議員，社會領袖，甚至官員都會出席。所見身影，盡是政治社會中持不同立場的人，來到記協的晚宴，把酒當歌，歡懷暢飲，高談闊論，熱鬧非常。

當時我認為，記協是一個跨階層，界別超越政治，黨派，利益的空間。事實亦然，我在一愛國報章開展新聞工作，不久就申請加入記協，我工作的機構，或認識的同樣在愛國報紙工作的同行，也有加入記協的。

其後我在記協，當了三次執委，一次副主席，以及現時的主席。那些年，我也有想過有否機會當記協主席？在週年晚宴致辭，和現場嘉賓，行家，同業舉杯說句「Cheers！」，想不到夢想成真，今天真的當上主席，只是此時此刻，2021年的香港已經不再一樣。

我是在六月底接任的，感謝前任主席楊健興對記協的承擔，以及對晚輩的提攜。Chris是位不輻不火的前輩，很多時外界甚至覺得他太溫文，但這位已在新聞界三十多年的前輩，面對新聞界或記協遭不公平批評，甚或不實的指控時，他都非常着緊，總會義正詞嚴駁斥。

感謝會員們支持，我和其他執委會成員在六月底當選，記得選舉結果公布後，記協前主席李月華感謝我們站出來，擔任執委會的崗位。老實說，獲得李前輩的稱讚，實在叫人汗顏。

坦白而言，今時今日找行家當執委並不容易，他們都有考慮到個人安全或前途等因素事實上，至十一月副主席一職仍懸空，這是近年罕見的，可見出任執委有相當不穩定的因素不是人人願意接任。

毫無疑問，自當選的六月以來，至執筆的十月中，這四個多月是香港新聞界翻天覆地滔天巨浪的日子。

《蘋果日報》六名編採管理層被捕，控方指控他們的罪行，包括他們的文章，評論，甚至一般的編務工作。被捕幾位都是傳媒界內經驗甚豐，備受尊敬的新聞工作者，一夜之間論為階下囚，不能保釋，喪失自由，事件震據全港，對每天仍在打拼的新聞工作者不無影響。

創刊廿六年的《蘋果日報》，亦在不足兩星期內徹底消失；數以百計新聞工作者失去工作，當中不只是處理敏感的政治，法庭，保安新聞的記者，還有娛樂，副刊，財經及

地產新聞記者，他們筆下曾為讀者提供無數消間資訊，實用文章，又或是物業消息，財經分析，今天卻不能再在新聞界的崗位上，貢獻社會。

到七月，意外在直播中拍攝一宗襲警案的記者，竟被指涉及案件，護照被扣留，電腦電話亦遭扣查。我們掌握行家的需要，據理力爭提供法律支援，幸好最終完滿解決，還行家清白，被扣留物件也獲發還。

正如六月當選時，執委會對行家及社會的莊嚴承諾，我們明知風高浪急，但新聞自由是香港賴以成功的支柱，記協自1968年成立以來，從不只看行業的需要，更重視社會責任。

香港始終需要真相，亦需要記者；前路再難行，記協會截力不倒下。面對不明的前路，此刻我們別無他求，只望一向支持記協的朋友及夥伴，繼續給我們微弱的鼓勵，這已是我們對諸君最小的期盼！

敬祝安好
朗昇

In the Face of Adversity, Shoulder to Shoulder We Stand
Ronson CHAN
Chairperson of HKJA

Dear friends, colleagues and HKJA supporters,

Greetings!

I am sorry that, because of the pandemic, the HKJA gala dinner has been postponed for one and a half years. We are able to meet you all in person just now to thank you for continuing to support HKJA today and with no regrets.

When I first became a reporter, I attended the annual dinner of HKJA for a few times. In those years, the annual dinner was a gay and lively event. It brought together people from all walks of life, including business people, legislators and district councilors, public opinion leaders, and even government officials. Even though the guests might hold different positions on social and political issues, at HKJA's annual dinner, they talked and conversed over glasses of wine in good spirits, expressing their opinions openly.

In those years, HKJA was, in my eyes, a cross-class and cross-sectoral space that transcended politics, parties and other interests. That was a fact. When I first joined the profession, I was working for a patriotic newspaper. I soon applied to join HKJA. Some of my colleagues and reporters I knew who worked for other patriotic newspapers were also members of HKJA. I was thrice elected to the executive committee of HKJA. I was once the vice-chairperson and now I am the chairperson. Many years ago, I wondered whether I would become the chairperson one day and make speeches in the annual dinner, raising my glass of wine to guests and colleagues. Now the dream has come true. I have become HKJA's chairperson but Hong Kong in 2021 is no longer the same.

I succeeded the former chairperson Chris Yeung last June. I would like to thank Chris for his commitment to HKJA and his support for junior colleagues. Chris is a senior colleague and he is always composed and calm. Many people who do not know him think he is too gentle, but the fact is, whenever the news profession or HKJA is unfairly criticised or falsely accused, he would be very concerned and would always rebuke and refute such criticisms and accusations.

I would also like to thank HKJA members for their support and for electing me and other Excom members end of last June. I remember when the result of the election came out, former HKJA chairperson Li Yuet-wah thanked us for coming forward and taking up the posts. I was embarrassed to hear the praise of a senior colleague. To be frank, it was not easy to find colleagues who were willing to join the Excom. Many people were concerned about personal safety, future prospects, etc. In fact, the post of vice-chairperson is still vacant and will remain so until November. This is not common in recent years. It shows that many colleagues perceive that becoming an HKJA Excom member could make one's life precarious. That is why not everyone is willing to join.

The four months since I was elected till mid-October when I wrote this article was undoubtedly the most earthshaking and difficult period of our profession.

Six editors, reporters and managers of Apple Daily were arrested. They were charged for articles and commentaries they wrote and even for their daily editorial work. The arrested were all veteran and respected journalists. All of a sudden, they were detained, lost their freedom and were refused bail. The incident sent a shock wave throughout Hong Kong and certainly had a big impact on news workers who are still struggling in the frontline every day.

Apple Daily, which began publishing 26 years ago, ceased operation completely in less than two weeks. Hundreds of news workers lost their jobs, including reporters covering sensitive news on politics, court, crimes and security as well as reporters covering entertainment, business and economy, property market and reporters for the supplement pages. They had been providing readers with information for leisure or other practical Information such as real estate news, financial analysis, etc. Now they cannot contribute to the society like they did when they worked in the news industry.

Last July, a reporter accidentally filmed the assault of a police officer. To everyone's disbelief, the police treated the reporter as if she was involved with the assault, Her passport, computer and mobile phone were all confiscated for investigation. When we learnt about what happened, we fought for her right and provided her with legal support. Fortunately, the case was resolved satisfactorily. The reporter was proved innocent and she got her things back.

When the Excom was elected last June, we made a solemn promise to our colleagues and the society. We know that it is a turbulent time, but freedom of the press is one of the pillars of Hong Kong's success. Since its establishment in 1968, HKJA has attached importance to its social responsibility as much as to the needs of our colleagues. Hong Kong needs both truth and reporters. No matter how difficult the road is ahead, HKJA will do our utmost to continue to stand high and shoulder to shoulder, In the face of an uncertain future, we have no other request from our friends and partners other than your encouragement. Our humble wish is to continue to receive words of encouragement even if they may be soft and low.

My best wishes to you.

Ronson