

Brussels, 25th of June 2026

Subject: EIBF Condemns the Arrest of Hong Kong Booksellers

The European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) vehemently condemns the arrest of two individuals in Hong Kong on allegations of “selling seditious publications and receiving funds from foreign political organisations.” While the government has not officially named those detained, local reports strongly suggest that one of the arrested is Leticia Wong, owner of Hunter Bookstore and a pro-democracy former district councilor known for her vocal opposition to violations of freedom of expression.

This arrest represents a blatant attack on the universal right to access information and ideas freely. It is also part of a disturbing pattern of escalating repression against independent voices and intellectual freedom in Hong Kong, similar to the arrest of Pong Yat-ming and three staff members of Book Punch bookshop earlier this year.

Defending the right to publish, sell, and access books without fear of censorship or persecution lies at the heart of EIBF’s mission. The arrest and intimidation of booksellers for distributing literature is not only an assault on their profession but also a fundamental violation of the principle of intellectual freedom.

EIBF President Fabian Paagman states:

“Booksellers are indispensable pillars of society, ensuring the free circulation of diverse ideas, perspectives, and debates. They are vital to nurturing a vibrant cultural landscape and informed and engaged citizens. Arresting booksellers for providing access to knowledge and literature is an unacceptable breach of intellectual freedom and an assault to the very purpose of bookselling. EIBF stands in solidarity with all those on the frontlines, defending the right to read, publish, and sell books without fear.”

EIBF demands the immediate release of the arrested booksellers and urges the international community to join us in condemning these actions. We call for global solidarity with booksellers and publishers worldwide who face repression for their essential work.



Fabian Paagman

EIBF President