



## Carole J. Petersen

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# Civil Liberties and National Security in Hong Kong

## The Continued Role of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong (NSL) has fundamentally changed the relationship between Beijing and Hong Kong. In addition to creating new criminal offenses, the NSL established powerful security institutions that are directly accountable to Beijing and not subject to judicial review in the local courts. Yet the NSL also provides for the continued application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a treaty that is incorporated into Hong Kong's legal system. Article 4 of the NSL has thus created limited space for the independent local judiciary to interpret vague language in the NSL in a manner that complies with the ICCPR. It is, therefore, too soon to write off Hong Kong as "just another Chinese city." Rather, the international community needs to find productive ways to support efforts to preserve civil liberties in the territory.

**Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 @ 12 – 1 pm HST**

**Zoom Webinar (Registration\* Required)**

\*Recording will be made available after

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