

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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**ALANNA LESLIE:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today, we're off to New Zealand, Botswana and India.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** But first...

Over the past few years we've told you about the ongoing protests in Hong Kong, as pro-democracy activists contest increasingly repressive laws being passed by China.

The national security law was passed in July last year and according to its many critics in Hong Kong and elsewhere, it has effectively banned protests and freedom of speech.

It also caused a lot of Hong Kongers to flee the country for fear of being arrested.

**EXILE:** Right now, all of my friends are either being arrested, being charged or going to face a court trial, in prison already or in exile.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** The person we'll hear from next is one of those exiles.

We've made their voice anonymous and can't tell you anything personal about them because the national security law is seen to pose a threat not only to the individuals themselves if they speak to foreign media, but also their families.

Here's what they had to say to us about the current situation.



**EXILE:** The Hong Kong national security legislation was actually introduced by the Chinese government in July 2020, and it basically empowers the Hong Kong government to charge anybody in Hong Kong with very serious criminal offences, including secession, sedition, treason or colluding with foreign forces.

And all of these potential criminal offences will actually lead to a potential imprisonment of up to ten years to lifetime, and also leading to the possibility of these political prisoners being extradited to mainland China.

With the national security legislation, basically, we are being deprived of the right to participate in demonstrations and rallies and also assemblies.

We also no longer enjoy the rights to express our political views online or in any public spaces because, basically, everything we say that goes against the Chinese Communist Party's wills or wishes will lead us to being charged under these very serious criminal offences.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** When did you realise that you had to leave Hong Kong and what was that decision like for you?

**EXILE:** When I was still in Hong Kong, I was a student activist.

One of the highlights of the national security legislation is the charge of colluding with foreign forces.

So that basically means that if I continue to participate in international advocacy for Hong Kong, I would definitely be charged under the national security law.

When the law came into force, I was very panicked and I was also very confused because I don't know whether I should make a decision to continue to stay in Hong Kong, and simply give up my activism or international advocacy, or whether I should be leaving Hong Kong, making better use of my connections. And then to continue my activism overseas, but then to leave my friends and family in Hong Kong.

So I thought about a decision for almost three months and I finally made the decision to leave Hong Kong. I felt like I should be fulfilling my responsibilities and that I should be going overseas and to continue to spread the word on the situation in Hong Kong.



**ALANNA LESLIE:** And what would you say is happening to the pro-democracy protesters now?

**EXILE:** Ever since the movement broke out in 2019, we have got more than ten thousand protesters arrested by the Hong Kong police force, and the situation is really, really bad and it is still deteriorating.

Right now, all of my friends are either being arrested, being charged or going to face a court trial in prison already or in exile.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Is there anything else that you would like our listeners to know?

**EXILE:** I think the battle or deeper democracy movement in Hong Kong is not just a fight between the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and the Chinese Communist Party.

It is actually a fight between protecting and defending our universal values and one of the world's greatest tyrannies.

So I think it is really important for every individual across the globe to pay attention to what has been going on in Hong Kong or has been going on to the Uighur community, the Tibetan community and all those who are under suppression of the Chinese Communist Party. Because it is really important for us to stand in solidarity and to take actions together.

And that is the only way for us to really defend all these values that we have been cherishing for so long.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thank you so much for talking to us and sharing your story. And I just wish you all the best.

**EXILE:** My pleasure. Thank you so much for taking time.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** It's been announced that no international fans will be permitted at the delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics this summer because of concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

The Olympic Games are due to start on Friday 23 July with the Paralympics beginning on Tuesday 24 August.



**ALANNA LESLIE:** New Zealand’s parliament has voted to give mothers and their partners three days of bereavement leave after a miscarriage or stillbirth.

The new law applies to parents, their partners and parents planning to have a child through adoption or surrogacy.

Here’s Labour MP Ginny Andersen, who presented the bill, speaking to WION News about why she wanted this law to be passed.

**GINNY ANDERSEN:** A member of the public who had a miscarriage and was unable to access bereavement leave, felt that this was unfair. She approached her local Member of Parliament. In turn, the idea came to me.

I drafted the bill and when I spoke about the bill there was a lot of support and that’s grown over time. There was a need there and the response has been huge.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Now to India, where lots of people are talking about... ripped jeans.

Tirath Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, attracted widespread criticism recently when he blamed ripped jeans for causing “moral turpitude” among young people.

Reporting from Mumbai, Ayushi Shah tells us more.

**Ayushi Shah:** Women across India are sharing pictures of themselves in ripped jeans on social media. And no, not for fashion reasons.

These women are protesting the sexist remarks by Tirath Singh Rawat, the newly appointed Chief Minister of the country’s northern state Uttarakhand.

In this clip, you can hear Rawat making the speech where he’s commenting on the women’s attire. He says: “You run an NGO but your knees are exposed. You go out in society and kids are with you. What kind of message are you giving society and our kids?”



**Ayushi Shah:** Naturally, his remarks received backlash as hundreds of women posted photos of themselves in ripped jeans on social media.

Bhumika Chheda was one of the many women who uploaded her photo to protest.

**Bhumika Chheda:** “This trend was a collective voice of women in India to fight the stigma of such judgmental and downright medieval age opinions.”

**Ayushi Shah:** Ginia Basu also uploaded a photo of her in a bright yellow top and ripped jeans.

**Ginia Basu:** “It is now high time that we broke through these glass ceilings of patriarchy and misogyny for a better tomorrow.”

**Ayushi Shah:** But Rawat isn’t the first politician to make remarks on the way women should dress in India.

Time and again, a woman’s outfit has been used to question her morality.

This thought, seeded deeply in patriarchy, is even more common in rural India.

For example in recent years, caste councils in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan also prohibited women from carrying mobile phones or wearing jeans.

These leaders blame ‘Westernisation’ and a woman’s attire for the moral degradation of society and increased crime on women. But young Indians don’t seem to agree.

Ayman Ujjainwala says that the system needs to change.

**Ayman Ujjainwala:** “What I wear is my choice. How do you believe in a system to ensure your safety when these are the same guys who sexualise your attire?”

**Ayushi Shah:** What may seem like a trivial matter actually reflects the ongoing tension between the more progressive younger generations in India and those who still wish to control how young people, especially young women, dress and act.



**Ayushi:** This is Ayushi Shah reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai in India.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks, Ayushi.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** That's *Wild Romance*, by Motswaferé who's from Botswana and sings in English, Tswana, Zulu and Ndebele.

Tswana, Zulu and Ndebele are languages that are part of the Bantu family of languages spoken across Sub-Saharan Africa.

He cites his musical influences as including artists like Prince and Beyoncé.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!