

Reflection on Liberal Studies Talk - "The June Fourth in the Eyes of Mass Media"

The roles of Journalist in 1989

(Yau Ho Laam, 2D)

Photos reflect the history of what happened in 1989. Take the photo of the 'Tank Man' as an example. We can see bravery of the man, challenging several tanks - the powerful state apparatus. However, what is more important is the journalist - and their unseen courage. Even if they had taken out their cameras from a far distance, the army could have attacked them, thinking that they were a threat.

Is reporting the truth to let readers know what is happening in society a threat or a crime that needs to be punished with violence, or death? Even when Mr Poon, ex-RTHK executive producer of Hong Kong Connection, went back to Tiananmen a few years ago to have an interview with a weiquan lawyer who has been through the protests, he still needed to take great care to ensure all the professional equipment be returned to the hotel safely and that the interview could be conducted without attracting notice. In fact, they were still surrounded by many policemen.

Luckily, there are currently regulations protecting the freedom of press in Hong Kong. However, due to recent cases like the dismissal of Commercial Radio host Li Wei-ling, Ming Pao management's decision to assign a Malaysian to take up a senior post as principal executive editor at the paper, there are signs which indicate possible interference in news reporting. As the younger generation of society, should we uphold the spirit of the students at Tiananmen to fight for our voice as citizens and for a better society? As Hongkongers, we have more opportunities to understand the disappearing past, and we should 'stand up, speak loud'. If not, we will be kept silent, losing the voice we have now.

Our country is developing rapidly in economic, scientific, technological and many other aspects. When can we see Mr Democracy? We are waving hands at you.

