

From:

Jens Galschiot
Owner of the Pillar of Shame

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To: Hong Kong SAR

This letter has been sent to:

Security Bureau

Secy for Security: Tang Ping-keung
tang@sb.gov.hk, sbenq@sb.gov.hk

HKSAR

enquiry@1835500.gov.hk

Comr of Police

cp@police.gov.hk

Dep Comr of Police (National Security)

Mr. KAN Kai Yan, Andrew, PMSM
dcp-ns@police.gov.hk

Letter to the Hong Kong authorities, as to clarify charges and arrest warrant against me

I have become aware through the international press that The Security Bureau of Hong Kong has issued an arrest warrant against me, and that my case is purportedly to be transferred to Mainland China.

The following information is cited from the newspaper Sing Tao Daily, August 2nd, 2023:

"It is reported that the National Security Department of the police has formulated an arrest action for Jens Galschiot intending to use the "Pillar of Shame" related incident to come to Hong Kong for political disturbances, and has decided to activate Article 55 of the "Hong Kong National Security Law", and the relevant cases will be handed over to the National Security Office in Hong Kong Exercising jurisdiction to transfer its arrangement to the Mainland for trial."

I am greatly surprised to hear that there is a warrant for my arrest. I have not visited Hong Kong since 2012, and I have never committed any criminal activities in the city. My only activities in Hong Kong have been facilitating various art exhibitions, which to my knowledge is not prohibited.

On the contrary, I see myself as a victim of an abuse of power committed by The University of Hong Kong, which has seized my sculpture "The Pillar of Shame", belonging to me and constituting my private property. The sculpture has been displayed at the university for more than 25 years. I made numerous attempts to contact the university and personally offered to travel to Hong Kong to take down the sculpture and return it to Europe. However, Hong Kong University unilaterally decided on December 23rd, 2021, to remove the sculpture and store it in a shipping container.

Since then, I have tried personally and through my legal representative in Hong Kong to obtain permission to retrieve the sculpture, but this has also been unsuccessful. I view this as an unwarranted violation of my personal property, and I believe that The University of Hong Kong has wrongfully taken possession of my sculpture.

On May 22, 2023, Hong Kong authorities took possession of my sculpture from the university and used it as evidence in cases against democracy activists in Hong Kong. I also perceive this confiscation as an infringement upon artistic freedom of expression and my property rights.

Therefore, I am completely perplexed by the assertion that there has suddenly been an issuance of an arrest warrant against me, and that my case is even slated for transfer to Mainland China, a country I have never visited. If there is indeed an arrest warrant, there should logically be charges against me; however, I have not been informed of any such charges. Consequently, I kindly request clarification on the following:

- *Are there charges filed against me, and if so, what are they?*
- *Has an arrest warrant been issued or is there a plan to issue one against me?*
- *Are there any updates or clarifications regarding when Hong Kong authorities will give me back my sculpture "The Pillar of Shame"?*

I respectfully request expedited clarification on these matters.

A copy of this letter has been sent to my legal representative in Hong Kong and to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I expect a quick response to this within 14 days.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Galschiøt, August 11th, 2023