

The Chinese regime's intensifying efforts to thwart global scrutiny of its human rights abuses pose an "existential threat" to the international system, *Human Rights Watch* (HRW), said in an annual [report](#) documenting human rights conditions around the world.

China's government sees human rights as an existential threat. Its reaction could pose an existential threat to the rights of people worldwide.

"No other government flexes its political muscles with such vigor and determination to undermine the international human rights standards and institutions that could hold it to account," Kenneth Roth, HRW's executive director, wrote in the report, released on Jan. 14.

Roth experienced this firsthand on January 12<sup>th</sup> when he was denied entry to Hong Kong, where he was due to unveil the report.

"I had hoped to spotlight Beijing's deepening assault on international efforts to uphold human rights," Roth said in a statement on Jan. 12. "The refusal to let me enter Hong Kong vividly illustrates the problem."

## Sanctions

In December, Beijing announced sanctions on HRW and other U.S.-based nonprofits in retaliation to the United States enacting the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which supports the city's protest movement and threatens to impose sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials involved in rights abuses in the city.

In a section on Hong Kong, the HRW report said Hong Kong police used "excessive force" to disperse protesters, including by "beating those subdued on the ground." It added that police have "increasingly restricted freedom of assembly" in the city.

The communist regime, the report noted, has undermined international institutions designed to protect human rights, such as the United Nations, where it uses its veto power to block measures that support persecuted groups worldwide. It has also worked to block international groups from independently examining human rights conditions in the country.

The Chinese government's use of the social credit system, repression of Uighur muslims and crackdown on Hong Kong protesters presents an "existential threat" to the world..

In a 652 page global report heavily focussed on the Chinese government, the advocacy group said, if not challenged, Beijing's actions "portend a dystopian future in which no one is beyond the reach of Chinese censors" and "an international human rights system so weakened that it no longer serves as a check on government repression".

Mr Roth said global leaders "should stop pretending that quiet diplomacy suffices" and strongly criticised UN secretary general António Guterres for a lack of public advocacy on human rights issues.

"Unless we want to return to an era where people are pawns to be discarded according to the whims of their overlords the Chinese government's attacks on human rights must be resisted," he said.

[\*\*Read full HRW Report here\*\*](#)