

Fear of eroding freedoms in Hong Kong

Steps by the Chinese and Hong Kong governments in recent years have raised fears among residents that the freedoms they enjoy in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory are being eroded

■ **2003:** Proposed changes to Hong Kong's security laws bring thousands onto the streets in largest protest since British colony returned to China in 1997



■ **2014: Umbrella Movement** protesters demanding direct elections for Hong Kong's leader, lay siege to government headquarters for 79 days but fail to win any concessions

■ **2015:** Five people working for city bookshop that published material banned on mainland China go missing – they appear later on China's state-run TV confessing alleged crimes

■ **2017:** Chinese President **Xi Jinping** warns Hong Kong not to cross "red line" over sovereignty during swearing-in of city's new leader **Carrie Lam**

■ **Sep:** Chinese police allowed to operate in new station linking Hong Kong to China's high-speed rail network – first time Chinese criminal law is enforced in territory

Hong Kong bans **Hong Kong National Party (HKNP)**, which advocates independence for territory, on national security grounds

■ **Jan 2018:** **Gui Minhai** (below), one of Hong Kong booksellers arrested in 2015, detained again while travelling on train with two Swedish diplomats



■ **Feb 2019:** China announces plans to create **Greater Bay Area** encompassing Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong province on mainland to spur economy

■ **Apr:** Hong Kong court finds nine leaders of 2014 Umbrella Movement guilty of public nuisance crimes

■ **Jun:** Hundreds of thousands protest in Hong Kong against extradition bill that would see residents wanted in China for specific crimes sent there for trial

