

中英社評

全城同哀悼 患難要相扶

Territory-wide condolences in Hong Kong



今日是「全港哀悼日」，全城將共同度過無言、沉痛、哀思的一天。今日全港下半旗。下半旗是一項十分莊嚴的儀式。特首梁振英前天宣布全港政府建築物旗幟今起下半旗三天；按照國家憲法規定，國家領導人逝世或發生重大人命傷亡事故下半旗，年前汶川大地震政府機構下半旗，此次國務院在獲悉特區政府下半旗的安排後，已經通知特區政府及中央駐港機構，國旗一連三日下半旗誌哀。

下半旗是中央及特區政府以最高的規格、最嚴肅的儀式對不幸在南丫島撞船事故中喪生的三十八位香港市民表達一份尊重，同時也是向他們的親屬送上一點安慰，不論罹難者的工作性質如何、社會地位高低，他們生前都是這個社會的一分子，對社會和家庭都有不同程度的參與和貢獻，政府對遭逢不幸的人不能冷漠。

同樣，對全港市民來說，絕大部分與罹難的三十八人素昧生平、並不相識，但人生的變幻是並無分別的，意外不知道何時會發生，傷痛不知道何時會降臨，任何一個個人或家庭都有可能在那一瞬間從快樂的雲端掉到痛苦的深淵中，就像三十八位死難者和他們的家人，父母帶著孩子、新婚丈夫攜同妻子，一同出海看煙花的一刻是何等的歡樂和溫馨，但一下突然而來的撞擊，三幾分鐘的時間就此天人永隔。全港市民願意在這「全港哀悼日」為不幸的人送上一份哀愁、一個簽名或一朵白花，希望這微小的一點點表示能有助亡者安息、生者慰藉。

全港下半旗三天及「全港哀悼日」之設，令人心碎，但同情不僅僅是淚水、哀思更不應只是悲傷，在這個不幸的時刻，特區政府要進一步保持冷靜，確保各項後續工作繼續有效進行，全體港人社會也要進一步保持關懷和思考。一般說法，逝者不願看見遺屬過分悲痛，相信罹難者也不會希望看到港人社會只是沉浸在嘆息和不安之中。

事件中，特區政府和港人社會都顯示出了高度的效率、責任心和質素。事發當晚，警方、消防、民安隊等的主力本來都安排到煙花會場海面去了，但撞船事故一發生，各部門立即作出調動，十多艘船艇和海上救援直升機立即趕赴現場展開救援，一艘快艇最先抵達，三名水警連衣服也不脫就立刻跳下海中救人，正在沉沒中的「南丫四號」飛出大塊碎片，一名水警頭部被擊中血流如注、一名水警小腿被擊中骨裂，但兩人仍負傷堅持救人；最近出事現場的港島瑪麗醫院，二十多名醫生、護士本來已夠鐘下班，但不須上頭命令，全部自動留守，還有正在休假的醫護也主動趕回來協助，令一向人手緊張的急症室實力大增，送來的傷者都得到第一時間的救治。還有大批社工在前兩天也全情投入輔導工作，對死傷者家屬及生還者提供「一對一」的服務……今日港人社會，需要呼喚更多的同理心與凝聚力，需要提倡更多的包容寬鬆與互諒互讓，長時期以來的政治爭拗已經削弱了這個社會的文明質素和核心價值，就讓一切從今天的「全城哀悼日」中再開始：珍惜家人、珍惜社會、珍惜來之不易的局面，不要等失去了才知道悲傷與惋惜。

今日，就讓我們以誠摯之心、無私之愛，共同悼念本月一日不幸在南丫島撞船事故中喪生的三十八位罹難者，願他們安息。 4/10/2012 大公社評

Today is a Territory-wide Condolence Day in Hong Kong. The whole city will spend the day in silence, grief and sad memories. Flags will be flown at half-mast in Hong Kong today. Flying a flag at half-mast is a very solemn ceremony. Chief Executive Leung Chun-yan announced the day before yesterday to hoist the SAR flags at half-mast at all the SAR Government's buildings for three days. According to the National Flag Law (中文原文為「國家憲法」，疑為筆誤。「國旗法」才有此詳細規定。——譯者) of our country, "The National Flag shall be lowered to the half-staff" when a state leader passes away or an unfortunate accident or disaster causing especially serious casualties occurs. A few years ago, after the Wenchuan earthquake, national flags were flown half-mast at government's buildings. This time, upon learning the SAR Government's decision on lowering the SAR flags at half-mast, the State Council has notify the SAR Government and Central Government's institutions in Hong Kong to lower the national flags at half-staff for three days as a token of mourning.

Lowering the national and SAR flags is the highest-profile and most solemn ceremony by the Central and SAR Governments to express their respect to the 38 Hong Kong citizens died in the unfortunate accident of ship collision off Lamma Island, as well as to offer their consolation to the surviving families. Whatever jobs the deceased undertook, whatever social statuses they held, they were members of this society during their lifetime, having to varying degrees participated in and made contribution to society and their families. The government must not remain indifferent to people who meet with misfortune.

Likewise, the absolutely majority of Hong Kong citizens had never met the 38 deceased in their lifetime, being total-strangers to them. But unexpected changes in life could happy to everyone. No one knows when an accident would happen and when misfortune would befall him. It is possible for any individual or family to fall down, all of a sudden, into an abyss of misfortune from the Happy Cloud, just like the 38 deceased and their families. What a joyful and tender moment it was when those parents taking their children and newly-wed husbands taking their wives out to watch fireworks on a boat at the sea! But out of a clear sky, they were forever separated between two worlds by a ship collision accident in a couple of minutes. On this Territory-wide Condolence Day, every Hong Kong citizen is willing to give condolences, offer a signature or a white flower in hopes that such small tokens could help the deceased rest in peace and console the survivors.

It is heart breaking for Hong Kong to lower flags for three days and to set such a Territory-wide Condolence Day. But sympathy is not limited to tears, and thoughts should not be confined to sadness. At this sad moment, the SAR Government must also remain cool-minded so as to see to it that the aftermath of the accident is well coped with. The whole of Hong Kong society must remain caring and considerate. Generally speaking, the deceased won't want to see their surviving families indulge in excessive sadness. It may be believed that the deceased won't either want to see Hong Kong simply steep itself in restlessness and give out signs.

In face of the accident, the SAR Government and Hong Kong society both show their high efficiency, sense of responsibility and quality. On the night when the accident happened, main forces of the police, fire fighting and Civil Aid Service were originally deployed on the sea surface where fireworks were to display. But upon the occurrence of the accident, various departments immediately make re-deployment accordingly, with over a dozen ships and maritime rescue helicopters rushing to the scene for rescue. A speed boat arrived first and three marine policemen on board immediately jumped into the sea, without even taking off their clothes, to search and save fallen passengers. Numerous shards were flying off the sinking Lamma IV vessel. One of the marine policemen was hit on the head and another suffered a bone fracture after his shank was hit. But they still held on regardless of their injuries. Over 20 doctors and nurses at Queen Mary Hospital on

Hong Kong Island, which is the nearest to the site of the accident, were about off duty. They all stayed on duty instead. Doctors and nurse off duty also rushed back, on their own initiative, to help. This greatly reinforced the manpower of the Emergency Department, which is otherwise always short of hands. As a result the injured admitted could be given medical care the soonest possible. Many social workers in past two days also threw themselves wholeheartedly into counselling service, providing "one to one" counselling to families of the deceased and injured as well as survivors from the accident...

Hong Kong society today calls for more empathy and cohesion, calls for greater tolerance and more mutual understanding and accommodation. Long-time political antagonism in this society has debased its quality of civilization and weakened its core values. Let everything restart again from today - the Territory-wide Condolence Day. Let us all cherish our families, cherish our society and cherish the hard-won situation. Let us not wait to feel sad and regretted only until we lose them.

Today, let us mourn together with sincerity and selfless love the 38 people died in the ship collision accident off Lamma Island on October 1. May they rest in peace.

04 October 2012

Words and Usage

**Mast** (noun) - A pole that holds a flag - 即「旗杆」，作此解時與 staff 同義。

Examples: To lower a flag at half-staff; To hoist a flag at half-mast; To hang/fly a flag at half-mast; Flags to be flown at half-staff... 皆為「下半旗」的意思。

**Befall** (verb) - If something bad or dangerous befalls you, it happens to you. (降臨，發生)

Examples: 1. Disaster has also befallen many golfers at this hole. 2. Although war and danger were in store, it might not befall for months to come.

**Out of a clear sky; Out of the blue** (idiom) - If something happens out of a clear sky (or out of the blue), it is completely unexpected. (意想不到)

Examples: 1. One day, out of the blue, she announced that she was leaving. 2. The invasion came out of a clear sky and caught everyone off guard.

**See to it (that)** (idiom) - To make certain (that). (確保，務必使...)

Examples: 1. We must see to it that all people are equal before the law. 2. I want you to see it that Tom never comes in here again.

**Steep oneself in sth** (phrasal verb) - To spend a lot of time doing or thinking about something. (沉浸於...)

Examples: 1. She steeped herself in the legends of her people. 2. These ancient scholars steeped themselves in poetry and painting, as well as astronomy and mathematics.

時事點睛 降半旗 哀悼逝者的禮節

下半旗 (fly a flag at half-mast) 也稱「降半旗」，是公眾表示哀悼的重要禮節。過程是先將國旗升至杆頂，然後下降到離杆頂約佔全杆三分之一處。降半旗是一個國家行為，一般是在某些重要人士逝世或重大不幸事件、嚴重自然災害發生時，來表達全國人民的哀思和悼念。期間全國各公開場合的國旗，駐外使領館的國旗均應下半旗誌哀。

下半旗為當今世界上通行的一種誌哀方式。這種做法最早見於1612年。一天，英國船「哈茲·伊斯」號在探索北美北部通向太平洋的水道時，船長不幸逝世。船員們為了表示對已故船長的敬意，將桅杆旗幟下降到離旗杆的頂端有一段距離的地方。當船隻駛進泰晤士河時，人們見它的桅杆上下着半旗，不知何意。一打聽，原來是以此悼念死去的船長。到17世紀下半葉，這種誌哀方式流傳到大陸上，遂為各國所採用。從中不難看出，下半旗這一誌哀方式自古有之，至今

已有近400年的歷史。下半旗儀式通常使用國旗，但中華人民共和國特別行政區區旗、日本都道府縣旗等地區性旗幟、團體旗、社旗、學校旗等，都可以用於下半旗誌哀。

沙特阿拉伯國旗與索馬里蘭國旗是不降半旗的國旗。理由是旗上記載清真言，清真言中含有真主之名，所以不得降半旗。

近幾年中國主要降半旗哀悼日

2008年5月19日起至21日為全國哀悼日，表達對四川汶川大地震遇難同胞的深切哀悼。天安門廣場的國旗按照國旗法規定下半旗，先伴着國歌徐徐升至杆頂，然後降到旗杆的三分之一處停止。

2010年4月21日全國哀悼活動，為青海4·14玉樹地震遇難同胞降半旗誌哀，天安門廣場、全國和駐外使領館下半旗誌哀，停止一切公共娛樂



▲ 沙特阿拉伯國旗文字為：萬物非主，唯有真主，穆罕默德是安拉的使者

活動。2010年8月15日舉行全國哀悼活動，表達對甘肅舟曲特大山洪泥石流遇難同胞的深切哀悼。

2010年8月24日，為哀悼菲律賓馬尼拉挾持香港遊客事件中的八名遇難者，香港金紫荊廣場舉行降半旗儀式。國旗與區旗升至最高之後，區旗徐徐降下至一半。

時人名句

香港醫生醫療水平高，傾聽病人感受，讓人感覺親切、放鬆。他們帶來了全新的理念，心理撫慰、物理治療乃至職業訓練都讓我們耳目一新，尤其是他們的敬業、勤勉精神更讓我們感動。

2008年汶川地震四川德陽市殘聯主席馬駿

患難見真情

汶川縣人民醫院動工剛兩個月，已經起到三層。醫院規劃4層，200張床位，9度抗震設防。所需要資金的一半，也就是3600萬元人民幣是由香港捐贈的，汶川人民的感謝發自肺腑。 四川汶川縣人民醫院院長

撞船事故發生後，中聯辦有關負責人在第一

時間趕赴醫院，探望受傷人員，並應行政長官梁振英的要求，迅速聯繫內地有關方面，派船參與救援行動，配合特區政府做好搜救工作。這充分體現了我們與香港同胞患難與共的骨肉親情，這也是中聯辦的應盡之責，我們做了應該做的事情。我們相信香港同胞在巨大的災難面前一定會堅強地面對，堅毅地前行。 中聯辦主任彭清華

快訊

理大教授講珠三角空氣污染

近二、三十年，隨著能源消耗量增加，香港和珠江三角洲（珠三角）區域的空氣質素不斷惡化，最明顯的問題是高濃度臭氧的光化學煙霧以及由細顆粒物引發的灰霾污染，產生的空氣污染問題對於人類身體健康和農作物生產造成嚴重傷害，並導致能見度降低和區域氣候變化。引致這些污染問題的原因非常複雜，涉及多方面的污染排放源和污染物在空氣中的化學轉化；此外，空氣污染物在風的作用下還可以跨境輸送。因此，在處理這些區域空氣污染問題時，必須對「污染源—化學及物理過程—受體」有一個全面及科學的認識，同時加強區域間的合作和實施聯防聯控。

香港理工大學土木與環境工程系副教授林嘉仕將概述近二十年來在香港和珠三角地區進行的光化學污染與灰霾污染的研究工作及進展，引伸基礎科學研究在了解和解決區域空氣污染的問題的突出表現，以及在香港和珠三角區域制定污染控制措施上所擔當的重要角色。

日期：12月8日（星期六）  
時間：下午2：30-3：30  
地點：香港科學館演講廳  
查詢：2732 3223  
備註：免費活動，即場入座，座位先到先得