

Editorial

Establishmentarians Not Rising to the Occasion

NINE days after the mysterious death of Hunan activist Li Wangyang, the Hunan public security bureau has decided to set up a task force comprising experts in criminal investigation to probe into the case. The many suspicious circumstances surrounding Li's death are likely to be the focus of investigation.

Li Gang, deputy director of the Central Government Liaison Office, said earlier that his office had conveyed to the central government Hong Kong people's views about Li's death. This probably is why the Hunan public security bureau is taking over the case. In other words, the central government has directed the Hunan authorities to handle the case properly. We believe the Central Government Liaison Office took the initiative this time because President Hu Jintao is coming to Hong Kong to officiate at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Executive and the next government.

Over the past few days, Li's case has continued to

reverberate in Hong Kong. If the Hunan authorities fail to come up with a credible account of Li's death before Hu's visit to Hong Kong, the July 1 demonstration can be expected to be very impressive in scale. The Liaison Office certainly does not want to see Hu in the awkward position of being caught in the centre of the storm, which probably is the main reason why it has reflected Hong Kong people's views to the central government.

Soon after the exposure of Li's case, Michael Tien Puk-sun and Miriam Lau Kin-ye, Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC), and Lew Mon-hung, Hong Kong delegate to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), found Li's death suspicious and wrote to the NPC or the Supreme People's Court, asking for a thorough investigation into the case. Other than the three, those in the establishmentarian camp with the power to take action did their best to evade the issue. It was not until recently, when they found public

emotions running high or sensed that the Liaison Office and the central government would soon take action, that they came out one after another demanding an investigation or declaring that they had communicated to the central government Hong Kong people's feelings. Their change in stance is based more on calculation and cunning than on a sense of right and wrong, and certainly has nothing to do with the dictates of conscience.

Judging only by what was observed at the scene, one can clearly see gross injustice in Li's mysterious death. Yet for quite a while those who have the power and are in a position to speak for the people chose to do nothing other than sit on the fence. We find them really disappointing.

Under the "one country, two systems" policy, Hong Kong people have the right of independent thinking and free speech, which mainlanders are not entitled to, and which we should make good use of. As Li died mysteriously shortly after an interview with Hong

Kong Cable Television and the case has sparked a public outcry in Hong Kong, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, Chief Executive-elect Leung Chun-ying, and Hong Kong's NPC as well as CPPCC members have the duty to make all these known to the central government. This can help to clarify things and pacify Hong Kong people, and at the same time reduce the damage done to China and the central government's image in the international society. Regrettably, the establishmentarians just keep dancing to the tune of the authorities.

With the Hunan public security bureau taking over Li's case, we look forward to a report of findings that is credible and convincing, or Hong Kong people will not be pacified. At the same time, the findings should be published in mainland China to show the central government's commitment to the rule of law, which may serve as a lesson to unruly local authorities.

聲檔 english.mingpao.com/critic.htm

明報 社評

2012.06.15

揣摩中央意旨看風駛艇 權力中人未善用兩制空間

湖南民運人士李旺陽離奇死亡9日之後，湖南公安廳終於組織有經驗的刑偵專家調查，有理由相信李旺陽之死的諸多疑點，會是偵查重點。

關於李旺陽之死，中聯辦副主任李剛表示已經向中央反映了李案的意見，湖南公安廳出面介入調查，應該與此有關，也就是說中央責成湖南當局妥善處理李案。而中聯辦這次出手，相信與國家主席胡錦濤即將來港訪問，並主持特首和政府換屆有關。

近日，李案在香港社會繼續發酵，若胡錦濤訪港之前，就李旺陽之死，仍然未有一個使港人信服的交代，相信今年七一遊行的場面，將會極為可觀。為免胡錦濤訪港期間被捲入風眼，處境尷尬，相信是促使中聯辦向中央反映李案的主要原因。

港區人大代表田北辰、劉健儀，政協委員劉夢熊在李案揭發之初，認為死因有可疑而去信全國人大或最高人民法院，要求徹查，除此以外，其他有權力建制派中人都左顧右盼，近日大概基於民情洶湧，或許嗅到中聯辦和中央有所行動之後，他們才陸續出來要求調查，或表示已向中央反映云云，這種轉變蘊含計算和機心，已非單純的是非之心，更遑論良知驅使了。

其實，李旺陽離奇死亡，單就表面環境情況，箇中有重大冤情，已經彰彰明甚。在這種情況下，有身分、有權力的人仍然採取觀望態度，不為民請命，使人失望。

在一國兩制之下，港人所享有獨立思考和言論自由等空間，與內地人民不同，港人理應珍惜和善加利

用。就李旺陽事件，因為他在接受本港有線電視訪問後離奇死亡，而港人群情洶湧，所以，特首曾蔭權、候任特首梁振英、一眾港區人大代表和政協委員，其實都有責任如實向中央反映情況，一則搞清楚事件，平息民情，再則可以減輕國家和中央形象在國際社會所受到的損害。可惜，建制權力中人行事，只知看風駛艇。

至於今次公安廳介入李案，期望拿出一個可信、有說服力的調查報告，才可以消解港人怨憤；另外，調查結果不單向港人交代，也應該在內地公告周知，傳達中央依法治國的決心，以收阻嚇地方胡作非為之效。

Glossary

reverberate /rɪˈvɜːbəreɪt/
to have a strong effect on people for a period of time over a large area

dictate /ˈdɪkteɪt/
something that needs to be obeyed; a guiding principle

**dance to the tune of somebody/
dance to somebody's tune**
If you dance to somebody's tune, you do whatever this person instructs you to.