

China asks US to stop meddling in Hong Kong

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BEIJING: China on Sunday asked the United States to stop meddling in Hong Kong's political affairs in the name of democracy and not to harm the territory's stability as well as undermine Sino-US relations.

The US should not interfere in the internal affairs of Hong Kong, which is now under Chinese sovereignty, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said reacting sharply to a US State Department Spokesman's latest comment on the development of democracy in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The United States "should stop interfering in Hong Kong's internal affairs and not to do anything harmful to the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and to Sino-US ties," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Kong Quan said.

Hong Kong, formerly a British colony, was handed over to China on July one, 1997 and Beijing has promised not to change the existing social system in the metropolitan city for 50 years.

Hong Kong affairs were an internal issue of China, and the Chinese government firmly opposes any foreign government interference in the affairs of Hong Kong in any form. Hong Kong's political structure must develop in a gradual and orderly manner according to the basic law (mini constitution) and the actual circumstances in Hong Kong, said the spokesman, stressing that it is in the long-term interests of Hong Kong people.