

July 13, 2015

To all editors.

### PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) condemns the attack on two photographers and a reporter last night by an unruly group gathered at the Low Yat Plaza following Saturday's brawl over a disagreement in a smartphone store between a customer and the shop's employees.

The journalist involved were present last night around midnight to cover the gathering at the plaza by some 200 citizens in an apparent continuation of Saturday's incident.



At about midnight, a group of men attacked several members of the media who were covering the incident.

Sin Chew Daily crime reporter Chan Woei Loon who is also the secretary of NUJ-Sin Chew Branch was among the two other photographers Calvin Foong Yi Kian from Kwong Wah and Sam Kar Haur from China Press who were assaulted by the group. He was attacked when attempting to protect the cameraman from the mob.

Chan was brought to a nearby clinic for treatment while another was given on-site medical attention.

NUJ strongly urge the police to investigate without delay and take prompt action against these group of troublemakers as there was absolutely no reason for them to physically harm the journalists.

The reporters were assigned to cover the event and the group could have surely identified them as members of the press on duty.

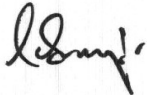
This is a clear indication that the thugs were there to stir up trouble and apparently creating attempts to racialise the mall brawl by attacking the journalists from the Chinese Press..

We will not condone such act of violence and inflicting injuries on journalists as these incidents would create a unhealthy trend where media workers are attacked while carrying out their public duty.

Nobody can take the law into his or her own hands. As working journalists covering such social events, they are called to uphold their professional duties. These kinds of act would interfere with press freedom, preventing them from carrying out their duties effectively.

We also call on reporters and photographers especially NUJ members, covering possible "social unrests" to adhere to guidelines in our safety handbook.

Those assigned to cover such event have to get prepared for any eventuality and the book provides key guidance on the do's and don'ts.



**CHIN SUNG CHEW**  
President