

The Melbourne Press Club, and PEN Melbourne present:

Media Freedom & Democracy in Hong Kong: The Trial of Jimmy Lai

Supported by the Centre for Advancing Journalism and
The University of Melbourne

Founder of *Apple Daily*, Jimmy Lai, renowned pro-democracy campaigner and media entrepreneur is currently on trial in Hong Kong under the controversial new National Security Law, facing the possibility of a lifetime in prison.

Mr Lai has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of the persecution he has faced for his work advocating for democracy and civil liberties in Hong Kong.

Jimmy's son, **Sebastien Lai**, has been dedicating his time to traveling the world advocating for his father's release. He is now visiting Australia, along with lead counsel and civil liberties expert **Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC** and Australian-born barrister **Jennifer Robinson** to highlight his father's plight.

At this special event, jointly presented by Melbourne Press Club and PEN Melbourne, they join Centre for Advancing Journalism's Associate Professor **Louisa Lim**, to discuss the case and its far-reaching implications across the region.

Details

Cost

Free. Bookings essential.

Date & Time

Thursday 4 July 2024
5.30 for 6pm - 7pm

Location

Forum Theatre, Level 1
Arts West – North Wing
(Building 148a),
University of Melbourne, Parkville



Sebastien Lai is Jimmy Lai's son. Jimmy is a renowned pro-democracy campaigner, media entrepreneur and writer, who founded *Next Digital* and *Apple Daily*, the popular independent Chinese language newspaper in Hong Kong which was forcibly shut down in 2021. Jimmy Lai has been imprisoned in Hong Kong since December 2020, and now awaits trial which could lead to him spending the rest of his life behind bars. Sebastien is leading the international #FreeJimmyLai campaign to secure his father's release.



Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC is an award-winning human rights lawyer who has acted in many of the defining cases over the past 20 years in the UK, before the European Court of Human Rights and UN bodies. She is an expert in media freedom and journalists' safety: her cases include leading the international legal teams for Hong Kong publisher and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai; for the bereaved family of assassinated Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia; and for Maria Ressa, the Nobel Peace Prize winning journalist in the Philippines.



Jennifer Robinson is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers in London and is a member of the international legal team for Jimmy Lai. She has acted in key human rights and media freedom cases in domestic and international courts, and her board positions include the Grata Fund, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University. She is a trustee of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. In 2022, she co-authored *How Many More Women?*



Louisa Lim is an award-winning journalist who reported from China for a decade for NPR and the BBC. Her most recent book *Indelible City; Dispossession and Defiance in Hong Kong* was shortlisted for the Stella Prize, the Walkley Award and the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-fiction, and won a Citation from the Overseas Press Club of America. She co-hosts The Little Red Podcast, an award-winning podcast on China. She works as an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne, teaching audio journalism and podcasting, and has a PhD in journalism studies.

