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## Activists hand over petition<sup>3.3</sup> to Xinhua

ABOUT 30 activists yesterday handed in a petition at the local office of Xinhua News Agency.

The petition was in protest against the suppression of student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

The protests were triggered by mainland students mourning the death of former party chief, Mr Hu Yaobang.

The petitioners, calling themselves a group of supporters of China's democratic movement, hoisted banners and shouted slogans.

They accused the Chinese authorities of depriving the people of their constitutional rights.

"Students and workers are entitled to demonstrate as the law grants the people freedom of speech and association," said the group's spokesman, Mr Leung Kwok-hung.

Mr Leung said they were against Beijing security officers using force on the demonstrators and arresting unarmed students.

He also accused the Beijing security officers of threatening Hongkong journalists.

He said the action was a blow to press freedom.

The group later handed a petition to an official of the agency demanding the release of the arrested students.

Mr Leung called on local students and other concerned groups to support the students in Beijing.