

24 April 1989

Activists call for democracy on mainland

A GROUP of human rights activists staged a protest outside China's representative office in Hongkong yesterday, calling for democracy on the mainland.

Calling themselves the April 5 Action Group, they also renewed the call for the immediate release of political prisoners including leading democrat, Wei Jingsheng in China.

They say Chinese citizens should be entitled to freedom of speech, assembly, demonstration and strike.

They condemned the move by Beijing authorities to suppress the demonstrations in Beijing last week as unconstitutional.

In a letter addressed to the Chinese National People's Congress standing committee, they urged the Chinese Government not to arrest and prosecute the demonstrators.

The letter was handed to an official at the New China News Agency's (NCNA) Wan Chai headquarters after

a march by about 10 members from a sit-in at the Star Ferry concourse in Central.

The protesters then staged a sit-down protest outside the NCNA office until late evening.

Spokesman Lau Wing-kam said they fully supported the demonstrations by students in China, adding that democratic development on the mainland and in Hongkong should go hand in hand.