

Students
Rights

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Abuse of powers claim by students

LOCAL students are considering taking legal action against the police following the arrest of four University of Hongkong students during a protest against China National Day celebrations on Friday.

HKU student union leaders will also file a complaint against what they claim are abuses of police power with the Omelco on Thursday.

The four students were arrested for "misbehaviour in a public place" when they held up enlarged photographs of the June 4 Beijing massacre at a bus stop in Gloucester Road facing the World Trade Centre, the venue for a cocktail party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Police released the four after three hours saying

there was not enough evidence for filing charges.

Vice-president of the HKU student union, Mr Law Kwok-keung, said they would consult with their law lecturers on whether the police were empowered to bar them from showing pictures to passers-by in public venues.

One of the detainees, HKUSU Council Chairman Mr Fong Yuet-hang, claimed the police had become over-sensitive because of pressure from China.

Mr Fong said: "I'm afraid the police will be increasingly restrictive over citizens' rights as 1997 draws near."

He said he and the other three detainees had decided to hold up the photographs to remind guests going to the reception of the brutality of the Beijing leadership.