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## Activists braced for stop to gatherings

THE April 5 Action Group said the Government's attempts to crack down on them was a sign that that local pro-democracy activities would soon be restricted.

A spokesman for the group, Mr Francis Lau Tze-lim, told a news conference yesterday that the patriotic passion shown during the local pro-democracy activities would be dangerous for the "colonial" Hongkong Government.

He said there were indications that the Government might soon restrict all pro-democracy activities.

"This time the Government sacrificed our group. Next will be the Hongkong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movements in China," he said.

Mr Lau said the alliance had come under immense pressure to disband.

He appealed to the public to unite and express their support for the pro-democracy movement in China.

Mr Lau said the group would try to get overseas human rights organisations to condemn the Government over the arrests of members of the group.

Five group members were arrested and charged with unlawful assembly, proposing violence at a public gathering, assaulting police officers and resisting arrest outside Xinhua's national day reception in Causeway Bay on September 29.

The arrests were cited in a letter from the political adviser to the local branch of Xinhua as an example of the Government's intention not to allow Hongkong to be used as a base for subversive activities against China.

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