

Activists aim for united protest

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A democratic united front plans to petition Beijing in July against the provisional legislature.

Founded by more than 50 activists, the United Front Against the Provisional Legislature aims to send a 20-strong delegation to Beijing on July 1 to hand over a petition.

A territory-wide campaign to collect the signatures will begin tomorrow.

Announcing the formation of the united front, spokesman and legislator Andrew Cheng Kar-foo said: "The date July 1 has a very symbolic meaning as it marks a year before Hong Kong is returned to China."

Though members of the Alliance in Support of the Patriotic and Democratic Movements in China are included, Mr Cheng said: "We will do our utmost to arrive in Beijing, or you can say 'break into' Beijing, to reflect the views of Hong Kong people."

The alliance has been branded subversive by Beijing. Mr Cheng said members were not worried about being detained.

The united front, made up of 15 organisations, 16 legislators, 12 municipal councillors and 17 district board members, is self-funded.

There would not be an at-

► Legislator Lee Cheuk-yan's application for a home return permit has been rejected.

Mr Lee, detained for a few days in Beijing during the 1989 democracy demonstrations, said: "I am heartbroken to hear my right to return to my homeland is not recognised."

But he said he appreciated the efficiency of the Chinese travel agency which had given him the reply in two days and returned his application fee.

The application was made early this week, with the aim of joining the united front's trip to Beijing.

It was the first time he had applied since 1989. His permit expired two years ago.

tempt to make an application to Xinhua (the New China News Agency).

Member and legislator Tsang Kin-shing said: "I have tried to approach Xinhua many times in the past few years. It closed the door and refused to see us.

"We therefore did not make an application to it because [we] do not want to see it thwart our move."

Other members include the Democratic Party's Dr Yeung Sum, Cheung Man-kwong and independents Emily Lau Wai-hing and Elizabeth Wong Chien Chien.