



**Remarks by Sebastian Lai
Accepting his father Jimmy Lai's
Honorary 2025 Bradley Prize**

**Delivered at the 21st Annual Bradley Prizes Ceremony
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AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY:

Members of the Board of the Bradley Foundation Distinguished Prize winners, ladies and gentlemen. As you can see, I'm not Jimmy Lai. Instead of being here with you, wonderful people accepting this prestigious award, my father sits in a maximum-security jail in Hong Kong as a Category A prisoner.

He's in jail in Hong Kong for the same reason he's being celebrated here. For courage in the face of oppression. He campaigned peacefully for democracy, despite the threat to his business and life, he used his newspaper to further these rights in Hong Kong. Then the hammer came down in the form of the Beijing imposed National Security Law in 2020, and everybody knew that he and his colleagues would be targeted.

Did he flee to keep campaigning abroad? Or did he stay to stand with many who couldn't leave act as a lightning rod for all of those who face persecution for our shed belief of freedom? As you'll know by now, he chose the latter. At 77, he has spent the last four years in a maximum-security jail in solitary confinement facing multiple sham allegations. In court one day, after a particularly heated exchanges exchange with the National Security Law judges, my father said, "In the end of the day, the truth will come out in the kingdom of God, and that is good enough for me." To this day, he is defined to this day, even with his newspaper destroyed, he is shining a light on the oppression of this island that many of us used to call home.

Why take the risk? You might ask. You see in the inaugural edit editorial on June 20th, 1995 of his newspaper, Apple Daily, two years before the UK handed the city back to China, it read, "Are we not afraid of changes after 1997? We are afraid, but we refuse to be intimidated by fear."

They say that a brave man lives in the heart of millions while a coward dies every day. But why settle? Why settle just for having my father in our heart? If by working on his release, we could have him here among us? Here's to the men and women who refuse to be intimidated by fear, and here's to freedom. Ours now and my father's, hopefully soon. Thank you.

